



Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

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PRESS RELEASE

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DRUNKEN TEEN PARTIES LEAD TO PROSECUTION OF PARENT

District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today his office is filing charges against a parent who allegedly presided over at least two parties where her children and their friends consumed alcohol with her knowledge.

Ellenie Catherine Blagg, 56, of Oroville, is charged with two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minors from the incidents, which occurred in July and August of this year. During the July party, one teen became so intoxicated he had to be taken to the hospital. The parent of that teen alerted authorities.

“This isn’t a case of a parent allowing their own child to sip wine at dinner, or have a drink of beer in their own home,” said Ramsey. “This is an adult parent who not only allowed her own kids to drink to the point of intoxication, but knowingly permitted their underage friends to drink to the point of passing out. It is absolutely reprehensible.”

Noting the recent history of high-profile alcohol-related cases in Butte County, Ramsey remarked, “I don’t know what more it will take to get the message out that irresponsible alcohol consumption kills people. We depend on the adults in our community, especially the parents, to help educate the children to the dangers that are there, and here you have what has to be the pinnacle of parental irresponsibility.”

Blagg’s arraignment date in Butte County Superior Court is December 1, 2006. She faces up to two years in county jail and fines up to \$15,000 on the charges. Ramsey noted the potential punishment brings to mind the recent campaign by the Butte County Office of Education and the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health entitled “**Parents who host, lose the most.**” The campaign seeks to educate parents about the dangers of hosting teen alcohol parties.