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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: John Goold

Date: March 22, 2007

Re: Christine Pfitzer, Case #1094338

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Christine Pfitzer, age 42, of Modesto, was ordered today to pay \$210,992.99 as restitution for embezzling from the owners of McHenry Auto Sales.

From 2000 to March of 2005, Ms. Pfitzer worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for McHenry Auto Sales. Pfitzer began taking small amounts of \$400.00 and \$500.00 here and there, but was transferring up to \$4,000.00 a month from the business directly into her Bank of America personal account by the time she was caught. The owners of McHenry Auto Sales were 87 and 73 years old in 2005. The defendant pled guilty to the felony charge of embezzlement on July 27, 2006. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the financial elder abuse case and appeared today at the contested restitution hearing. "The full depth of her embezzlement was not discovered until after she was fired, and a full audit took place. By then, she had gotten away with over \$200,000.00," Ms. Rees stated. "She took full advantage of the fact that the owners of this business were elderly, and their bookkeeping methods were outdated. She earned their trust - then she stole everything they had. One of the partners passed away while we were desperately trying to get this case to trial. I wish he could have been there today, but I hope his widow takes some solace from the Judge's ruling today."

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