

CHP investigators testify in hit-and-run case

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A hearing to determine whether Heather Lea Hulsey should stand trial on vehicular manslaughter charges in the 2006 death of Montecito psychiatrist Ronald Shlensky wrapped up Thursday with testimony from two California Highway Patrol officers who investigated the case.

Ms. Hulsey, 20, is also charged with driving under the influence and hit and run.

Officer George Orozco testified that during an interview, Ms. Hulsey's boyfriend, Andrew Millholand, reported seeing damage to the hood and front bumper of her 2004 Toyota 4Runner when she arrived at his Carpinteria home on the evening of July 27, the day Dr. Shlensky was struck.

"He described a big dent on the grill area and two smaller dents on the hood," Officer Orozco said.

The officer also testified that Mr. Millholand told him he punched more dents in the hood of the car on Ms. Hulsey's orders.

Earlier this week, Ms. Hulsey's friend Michelle Torres testified that Ms. Hulsey told her that she had been drinking the day Dr. Shlensky was killed, and that she planned to say the dents were from golf balls hitting her car. At the time, Ms. Hulsey was employed as a lifeguard at the Montecito Country Club.

CHP Officer Julie Jensen was the last witness to take the stand. She stated that on Aug. 3, 2006, she drove to a body shop in Ventura where Ms. Hulsey's car was being worked on.

Shop owner Armando Vasquez told Ms. Jensen that Ms. Hulsey's father, Frank Hulsey, had dropped off the car.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Joseph Lodge admonished Ms. Hulsey for her parents' involvement in allegedly covering up evidence.

"They both, I think, did you harm, especially your father," he said. "I do believe it's what's called accessory after the fact."

The judge told Deputy District Attorney Arnis Tolks, "I hope you people are seriously considering filing felony charges in that regard."

The case will go to Judge Brian Hill on April 5 for arraignment.

Ms. Hulsey has pleaded not guilty. If she is convicted, she could face 15 years in prison.

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