

Host of underage-drinking party pleads guilty

Woman fined \$300, given probation

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FALLBROOK — A Fallbrook woman who hosted a party for her teenage children where there was underage drinking was placed on three years' probation after pleading guilty to violating the county's social host ordinance, authorities said yesterday.

Deborah Gibney, 47, also was fined \$300. Gibney is required to take parenting classes and attend a Mothers Against Drunk Driving victim panel, Sheriff's Department officials said.

"The successful prosecution of Deborah Gibney sends a message to those who are thinking about hosting an underage drinking party. Don't!" Sheriff Bill Gore said in a statement.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor charge of delaying, resisting or obstructing an officer from his duties, Deputy District Attorney Robert Eacret said.

Gibney pleaded guilty Feb. 9 to violating the county ordinance in connection with a party she threw last June at her Fallbrook home to celebrate the end of the school year. Most of those attending were students from Cathedral Catholic High School.

She was arrested after she drove a severely intoxicated girl to Fallbrook Hospital and hospital staff members called deputies. Gibney gave deputies a false story and was arrested after she tried to leave, Gore said.

Some partygoers told investigators that Gibney had been reluctant to call 911 when the girl became ill.

Sheriff's investigators went to Gibney's home on Greenacres Road and found widespread underage consumption of alcohol, Gore said.

The case was the second time prosecutors had charged someone with violating the ordinance since it was passed in 2003. The ordinance requires hosts to verify the age of guests, supervise minors and control access to alcohol.

Another North County mother is awaiting trial in a separate case.

Sheri Windbigler, 45, is accused of being in charge of a party in December 2008 attended by her son's friend, who later died in a drunken-driving crash.

Windbigler has been charged with violating the county ordinance. Her trial is set for March 24 in Vista.

Sean Walker Jordan, 19, was killed that night when his Toyota Tacoma went off state Route 76 near Sweetgrass Lane in Bonsall.

Shane Seal, a friend of Jordan's who also had a party that night, pleaded no contest earlier this month to furnishing alcohol to a minor, said Deputy District Attorney Dan Owens.

Seal was sentenced to three years' probation and a \$500 fine. He also must complete 24 hours of community service at an alcohol treatment program and attend a MADD victim panel.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/feb/18/host-underage-drinking-party-pleads-guilty>