

Murder arrest

Ledesma charged in June 2019 fatal wreck

By [Brian Knox](#) / Published on December 18, 2020

A Chico man is facing a murder charge stemming from a fatal wreck near Chico in June 2019.

In a grand jury indictment unsealed this week in 271st District Court in Decatur, Jesse Michael Ledesma, 41, has been charged with the first degree felony charge of murder.

Ledesma was the driver in a wreck June 3, 2019, that resulted in the death of Elizabeth Sutton, 38, also of Chico.

According to the indictment, Ledesma was intoxicated and committed "an act clearly dangerous to human life...that caused the death of **Elizabeth Sutton**."

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety crash report, Ledesma was charged with intoxication manslaughter following the wreck. District Attorney Greg Lowery explained that because Ledesma was driving while intoxicated with at least two prior driving while intoxicated convictions, that made the new DWI a felony. And since Sutton died while Ledesma was allegedly committing a felony, the charge increased to murder.

Lowery said he could not comment further on pending cases.

According to the DPS crash report, Ledesma was driving west on County Road 1470 northeast of Chico at a high rate of speed around 2:30 a.m. in a 2008 Ford F150. When the truck crested a small hill east of County Road 1560, Ledesma apparently lost control, and the truck went into a skid. The pickup skidded off the roadway and struck a tree.

Ledesma was thrown from the truck while Sutton remained in the vehicle, which caught fire and was completely destroyed by flames, according to the report.

Sutton was pronounced dead at the scene.

Ledesma was flown to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth with serious injuries and later released.

The DPS report lists speed and the influence of alcohol as contributing factors in the wreck.

Wise County Jail records show Ledesma was booked into jail Dec. 9. He was indicted for murder in July.