

'Not Guilty' verdict for Torres

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

A Third Judicial District Court jury found Jimmie M. Torres not guilty on a charge of murder in the first degree and all other felony counts after deliberating approximately 2 1/2 hours last Thursday.

Torres was also found innocent of felony menacing with a real or simulated weapon putting another person at risk, first degree assault and illegal discharge of a firearm in a case that entered the county district court system last Oct. 27. The trial started last Monday.

Former District Attorney Lee Allen Hawke originally charged Torres with criminal attempt to commit murder in the first degree after an Oct. 24, 2008 incident, a class 2 felony, 2nd degree assault, a class 3 felony, felony menacing, class 5 and violation of a protection order; a class 2 misdemeanor. Current district attorney Frank Ruybalid was the prosecuting attorney on the case. Defense attorneys were Patrick McCarville and Albie Singleton.

The last charge has been plea bargained down to a violation of a restraining order, a class 2 misdemeanor.

Torres is scheduled to appear in District Court Oct. 26 on that charge.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

09-09-09

Baby Boy Gulley

Vanessa Vezzani-Gulley and Leland Gulley
Aguilar, Colorado

09-10-09

Baby Girl Espinoza

Mickenna Martin & Richard Espinoza, Jr.
Trinidad, Colorado

09-16-09

Baby Girl Marshall

Pauletta and Mark Marshall
Raton, New Mexico

THIS WEEK'S MENUS

Trinidad School District No.1

Eckhart-F Peak Elementary
Monday, September 28
Macaroni/Cheese, Green Beans, fruit choice, Hot Roll, 1/2 pt Milk

Tuesday, September 29
Ham Sandwich, Veggie stix/dip, Chilled fruit
Cup, Potato Chips, 1/2 pt milk

Wednesday, September 30
Frito Pie/Garnish, Buttered, Corn, Fresh Fruit
Choice, Hot roll, Milk

Thursday, October 1
Baked Ham, mashed potatoes, Buttered peas,
Pudding delight, Milk

Friday, October 2
Manager's Choice
Homecoming
Dismissal- 1:PM

Primero School

Monday, September 28
Rigatoni w/meat sauce,
Rolls, Green Beans, Pear,
Halves, Milk

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Sisters bring joy and prayer to Trinidad

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alms and by making vestments and sacred vesture for churches.

The Poor Clare Nuns are a religious Order, founded by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi in the thirteenth century. They live in community, embracing joyfully a life of poverty, chastity, obedience and contemplative prayer. The Sisters live a hidden life cloistered in Papal enclosure. Only with direct permission from the local bishop may they ever venture outside the walls of their Monastery. Special permission was given the Sisters to visit our area for a week of prayer and rest. Thus, it was blessedly unusual to have these Franciscan women present in our midst. For one week, the Sisters prayed especially for the people of the Trinidad Area. They enjoyed our local mountains and three of them climbed the famous Stonewall near Monument Lake. Unfortunately, to the disappointment of the Sisters, they never saw a bear but heard many other animals while they were in prayer late at night.

The Poor Clare Nuns have since returned to the close quarters of their tiny monastery and resumed the order of their life. They are available and readily take requests for prayer. One can ask for that support by looking at their website: www.capuchinpoorclares.org. Donations to support their lifestyle can be sent to:

Poor Clare Nuns, Monastery of Our Heavenly Father, 806 E. B St., Pueblo, Colorado 81003.

There are some things we all have to do...but don't really want to do.

Every 3 months or so, we have to go to Denver to take care of some personal business. We try to avoid trips to the city unless it's absolutely necessary,



Mike and Darlene Jordan
Special to the Chronicle

but these trips are unavoidable and generally not for fun.

We had to make the trip again last week. Normally it's a one-day trip up and back, but this time it would entail an overnight stay, so we decided to turn this particular lemon into lemonade, as the saying goes. With a night in the big city, there's a lot to do, right?

Naturally, we started with our entertainment for the drive. We've found that long drives seem to go much faster if we're listening to something interesting. In our case, that usually means a book on tape. We've listened to dozens of them over the years, and for this trip we selected something truly entertaining and not too deep, Patricia Cornwell's novel Cruel and Unusual, about a Virginia state medical examiner and a twisted mystery involving mistaken identity. A three hour drive seems like about half that when you're engrossed in a good yarn.

We always take a book on tape, though, so we still needed

GET OUT THE MAP

Lemons to Lemonade

something to make this trip special. We'd have some time in the afternoon on day 1 to do some shopping and take care of a few errands but that isn't really "special," so we resorted to the TV for inspiration before we left and decided that our special evening in the big city would involve...the Beatles.

Boomers that we are, 60's music has a special place in our hearts and the Beatles sit on top of that particular stack of tunes. So, when we saw the ads on TV for the show Rain...a Tribute to the Beatles, we were delighted to discover that it was playing at the Buell Theatre in the Denver Performing Arts Center during the time we'd be there. Darlene went online...she got us seats in the 5th row.

This was an awesome show. We had both seen Beatles tributes before, most recently aboard the Rio Grande Scenic Railway last summer when they had a touring group perform in their open-air venue halfway up La Veta Pass. That group was fun...Rain was spectacular. The group performed music from each era of the Beatles' somewhat short time in the limelight as a group, from The Ed Sullivan Show in 1964 through the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band "psychedelic" era and until their

breakup in 1970 after the recording of Abby Road.

They might as well have been the real thing. Every song was "album perfect," including songs that the Beatles themselves never performed live. Mike swears that the guy who plays and sings as Paul McCartney is a clone.

The Denver Performing Arts Center is a destination all to itself. It's a complex of several theatres and concert venues of varying sizes with shows ranging from touring Broadway musicals, quirky, off-Broadway plays, classical concerts, and intimate theatrical presentations. There are several restaurants within the complex (fairly pricey), and dozens more in the surrounding "theatre district" of downtown Denver.

We had enjoyed a larger than anticipated lunch earlier in the day, so we opted for an appetizer and a little dessert before the show at the Limelight Supper Club directly across from the doors to the Buell Theatre. The appetizer was OK, but the bread pudding was to die for. It was also interesting to watch all of the theatre goers arriving for the show, posing for pictures with the top-hatted doorman, and wearing all manner of clothes from jackets and ties to jeans and t-shirts.

Denver is truly blessed to have such a world-class performing hearts venue. Don't miss it if you have a night or two to spend in the city. You'll have a great time at a great facility, and for us it was a great way to turn an necessary trip into a "date"...yeah, yeah, yeah!

Until next time...get out the map!

New EMTs in NM

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exam to earn credit for the EMT course.

Sunday afternoon at the Des Moines EMS Building, ten new EMT-B trainees passed their exams, earning the right to take the New Mexico state EMS licensing exam in December. Those that pass there will be new EMTs for Folsom, Capulin, Grenville, and Des Moines. Their instructor, Des Moines paramedic Jan Pryor, has a sterling record: her students almost always pass the state exams, which include both written and practical components.



Test proctor Phillip Bramblett evaluates EMT-B trainees Scott Warner and Kevin Towndrow as they work a "scenario" in which a bar fight has resulted in a fatality and a stabbing. James Siddaris effects lifelessness on the floor while Debbie McDonald copes with a (fake) knife in her back.

THE FINE PRINT

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La Casa - Fiesta

Meeting for all members - Wed. 6:30 p.m. - La Casa in Jansen.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Planning Commission

On Monday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m., the Las Animas County Planning Commission will host a work session regarding possible changes to the Las Animas County Master Plan and the Las Animas County Land Use Guild. This public meeting will be held at the Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 First Street. Copies of the draft land use regulations and the master plan addendum are available for review at Trinidad Public Library and the Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Office. For more information, please contact Robert Valdez, Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Director at 845-2561.

Fall Recycling Event

Friday, Oct. 2, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sat., Oct. 3, 8 a.m. - noon. Waste Connections, 2600 Road, will collect cardboard, paper, steel/tin cans & plastic for this FREE service period. Some items in these categories are not allowed, so please see flyers around town for specific instructions or call ReGroup at 719-845-8218 or email writer@hessarts.com. The LAC Rehab Center, one stop past UPS on Freedom Road, will extend it's hours to be open for this event to collect electronics. Info: Rehab Center, 846-3391, x122. Fees apply for electronics; email terihansford@scdds.com to receive the electronics fee chart by email. Fees charged are for LAC Rehab Center disposal costs.

NOAH'S ARK

Low cost Spay/Neuter Clinic - Sat. Oct. 3. Call 680-2385 between 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday-Friday to get an appointment for your dog or cat.

SCRT

"Broadway Bound" hosts trip to Denver Oct. 10-11. Agenda includes musical "Wicked", shopping and the

Denver Art Museum. Call SCRT, Trinidad: 719-846-4765 or Shuler Theater, Raton: 575-445-4746.

VFW
Veteran Motorcyclists - Eligible to be a member or are a WFW member - come ride with the "WFW Warriors." Info: Bob @ 859-0743 or Robin @845-1625
Senior's Inc.
Looking for a Volunteer to work with the SMP Fraud Program. Call Alberta or Nina at 719-846-4414 for more information.

Carnegie Library
Month of September - "Amnesty Days @ the Library." Return items to checkout desk...NO FINES / no matter how long overdue...only if items are returned in good shape.

District Health Dept
The Las Animas-Huerfano Counties Health Dept is anticipating a busy flu vaccine season. We are looking for individuals who can give us their time, talent, and effort to help keep our population healthy. We are especially interested in nurses and people with a health care related background. If you are interested please contact Kristy at the Trinidad office (719) 846-2213.
Electronics Recycling

Recycle electronics at the rehab center, one stop past UPS on Freedom Road, M-W-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For other recycling opportunities, pick up ReGroup's green and white bookmark at the library.

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