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NEWS RELEASE
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PERRIS MAN CONVICTED OF THREE RANDOM MURDERS

The next phase of the death penalty trial set to begin on Tuesday

MURRIETA – Jurors have convicted a Perris man of the brutal stabbings of three random victims.

On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, after less than a day of deliberations a Riverside County jury found David Rey Contreras, DOB: 3-16-88, guilty on all counts. Contreras was convicted of three counts of murder and the jurors found true the enhancements on all three counts that he personally used a deadly weapon, that being a knife. The jury also found true a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders. That special circumstance allegation makes Contreras eligible for the death penalty, which District Attorney Mike Hestrin is seeking in this case.

The next portion of the death penalty trial, the penalty phase, will begin this Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in front of Judge John Monterosso at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta. The same jurors who convicted Contreras during the guilt phase will now hear testimony and determine if Contreras should be sentenced to death or to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Jurors found Contreras guilty of the December 2012 murder of a man whose body was found in a Perris field and the February 2013 murders of a woman and her daughter in Nuevo. Based on the evidence, it is believed that all three murders were random and that Contreras had no connection to any of the victims.

Contreras was convicted of the Dec. 29, 2012, murder of Jose Apreza, 53, of Perris. Apreza was reported missing by his wife that same day after he took his dog out for a walk early that morning and never came back home. Apreza's body was later found in a large open field in the area of Evans Road and Orange Avenue in Perris. Apreza was stabbed about two dozen times.

Jurors also found Contreras guilty of the Feb. 4, 2013, murders of Maria Gonzalez, 51, and her 25-year-old daughter, Consuelo Gonzalez. The two women left their Nuevo home about 5 p.m. to go for a walk. A short time later, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department received a call of a stabbing on Central Avenue, between Ramona and Rosary avenues. Deputies found both women lying in the street. Consuelo Gonzalez was pronounced dead at the scene and Maria Gonzalez died while being transported in an ambulance to a nearby hospital. Coroner's autopsies showed both victims had multiple stab wounds to their bodies.

The case, SWF1302049, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon.

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