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**For Immediate Release – April 29, 2003**

**Contact:** Pam Russell  
Public Information  
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**RE:** Shaw Aryan sentenced to Probation in Jet Ski Incident

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Shaw Wali Aryan, DOB: 6-10-51, of Morrison, appeared today in Jefferson County District Court and was sentenced to three years probation and 300 hours of community service for lying to officials as part of a cover-up regarding his ownership of the Jet Ski that killed nine-year-old Alyssa Jostad at Chatfield Reservoir on June 23, 2002. Aryan pled guilty to attempting to influence a public official, a class 4 felony, on March 3, 2003.

Aryan is one of seven people, three adults and four juveniles, who were charged following the boating collision and the subsequent fraudulent activities concerning ownership of the Jet Ski involved. Alyssa Jostad and a friend were being towed in a double-tubed raft behind her friend's parents' boat when the Jet Ski, traveling in the wrong direction, made a 90-degree turn and hit the raft. A 14-year-old female was driving the Jet Ski with a 16-year-old female passenger sitting behind her.

Alyssa was unconscious when she was pulled from the water, but had a heartbeat and was able to breath with medical assistance. She was airlifted to Children's Hospital, but never regained consciousness and was removed from life support several days later.

Following the collision, the 14-year-old operator of the Jet Ski and her passenger returned to their friends on the other side of the reservoir. Before they left

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the park on June 23, members of the group were contacted, more than once, by State Park officials seeking information about the accident. When contacted, they gave false information, denying any involvement or knowledge of the collision.

The District Attorney's Office filed charges against four juveniles and three adults. The four juveniles include: the 14-year-old female driver of the Jet Ski, the 16-year-old female passenger on the Jet Ski and two other juvenile males, ages 14 and 17. The 17-year-old male drove the group to the reservoir and supervised the use of the Jet Skis. The three adults were alleged to have impeded the investigation by falsifying documents, attempting to influence a public servant and tampering with physical evidence. According to police records, one of these adults, Shaw Wali Aryan, DOB: 6-10-51, of Morrison, was the owner of the Jet Ski and is part owner of two automotive dealerships in Lakewood called Parkway Motors. He used his dealerships to process the forged ownership document and temporary license for the trailer, which was used to transport the Jet Skis. Stephen Douglas Benoit, DOB: 6-23-67, of Highlands Ranch, the manager at one of Shaw's dealerships was also charged, as well as Troy Ben Hurtado, 1-31-68, of Denver, an associate of Shaw's.

**Stephen Benoit** pled guilty to attempting to influence a public official on March 17 and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 7, at 8:00 a.m. in Division 8 of the Jefferson County Court.

**Troy Hurtado** has arraignment scheduled for May 5, at 8:00 a.m.

The **17-year-old male**, who is now 18, pled guilty to accessory to criminally negligent homicide on April 22 and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 4, 2003.

The **16-year-old female passenger** on the Jet Ski, who is now 17, pled guilty to accessory to criminally negligent homicide on March 21 and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 6, 2003.

The **female driver of the Jet Ski**, who is now 15, pled guilty to criminally negligent homicide on April 22 and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 6, 2002.

The **fourth juvenile involved**, age 14, who was with the group, on another Jet Ski, pled guilty to a boating safety violation and was granted a deferred judgment.

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