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Public Information
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RE: Troy Hurtado Sentenced to Prison in Jet Ski Case

Troy Hurtado, DOB: 1-31-68, of Denver, was sentenced today to two years in prison for his role in the cover-up of ownership of the Jet Ski that caused the death of 9-year-old Alyssa Jostad at Chatfield Reservoir in June, 2002. He pled guilty to attempting to influence a public official on May 2. The last of the three adult defendants charged in this case to be sentenced, Hurtado is the only one to be sentenced to prison. Each pled guilty to Attempt to Influence a Public Official (a class 4 felony). Jefferson County District Court Judge Ruthanne Polidori cited Hurtado's extensive criminal history including one prior felony and nine assaults when sentencing him to prison.

On June 23, 2002, 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.

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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 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 others convicted in this case include:

Shaw Aryan, DOB: 6-10-51, of Morrison, the owner of the Jet Ski, pled guilty to attempting to influence a public official on March 3, 2003 and was sentenced to three years probation and 300 hours of community service.

Stephen Benoit, DOB: 6-23-67, of Highlands Ranch, pled guilty to accessory to tampering with physical evidence on March 17 and on May 7 was sentenced to two years probation and 100 hours of community service.

The, now, 15-year-old female driver of the Jet Ski was sentenced to two years in the Department of Youth Corrections and to pay restitution. On April 22 she pled guilty to criminally negligent homicide.

The 16-year old passenger on the Jet Ski was sentenced to two years of probation, 100 hours of useful public service, and to pay restitution. She pled guilty to accessory to criminally negligent homicide on March 21

On June 4, the 17-year-old male, now 18, was sentenced to two years of probation. In addition to the standard terms and conditions of his probation, he must maintain full-time employment and/or a school schedule. He must undergo therapy as recommended by Probation. He must complete a water safety course and 100 hours of useful community service. He must also pay restitution. He pled guilty to accessory to criminally negligent homicide on April 22.

A fourth juvenile, a 14-year-old male, who was with the group and on another Jet Ski, pled guilty to a boating safety violation and was granted a deferred judgment.

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