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## ALEX BUCKLEY DECLARED GUILTY

*Emigration resident Alex Buckley has been declared guilty for crimes committed nearly a year ago.*

In a Snow Canyon County trial held yesterday, Buckley was charged for aggravated arson, a second-degree felony, and aggravated murder, a third-degree felony.

Alex Buckley was a junior at Bald Mountain Preparatory Academy. Originally a student from Emigration High, Alex transferred to the Academy to pursue higher education, because "Emigration wasn't as focused on academics." A student with high grades, Buckley was a prime recipient of the school's highest award, the Miller Scholarship. Witnesses testified that Alex Buckley even referred to the Scholarship as "his" and "nobody else's"

However, according to Bald Mountain Preparatory Academy's student advisor, Lupe Rodriguez, there was another student who was also eligible for the Scholarship, a fellow student by the name of Carly Walsh. "Alex and Carly were very competitive about the Miller Scholarship." Said Rodriguez, as he testified in court, "Alex especially showed a lot of distress and anger when Walsh did better than him."

Dakota Pope, a friend of Carly Walsh, saw a number of times where Alex Buckley acted with violence when Carly did better than him academically, to the point of fracturing his hand. As a result of this violence, Rodriguez and Buckley frequently met to help Alex with his anger management. Despite seeing signs of improvement, Lupe was concerned when Alex sent him an email. "My scholarship is going to be fine." The email said, "After this weekend, Carly Walsh won't matter to me at all. I...just needed to take matters into my own hands."

As Carly's GPA surpassed Alex's, he had determined that Academics wouldn't give him the Miller Scholarship anymore.

But fire would.

On May 17, 2019, a fire broke out in the Watchman Dorm, a Dormitory on Bald Mountain's school campus. The fire began outside the room of Carly Walsh, with her and Dakota Pope trapped inside. Pope escaped through the window, but Carly, as a result of a broken leg, was unable to and thus received mortal injuries from the fire. Following the fire, Carly Walsh died, and Alex Buckley was arrested.

How did the police know he was the one who started it?

On the night of May 17, Alex Buckley was working at a 7-11 gas station about a mile from Bald Mountain. While there, an anonymous customer bought a gallon of gas with cash so they couldn't be tracked. The manager of the store, Ridham Patel, was the only other person present, but he was "unable in any way to know if there was anyone in the store." The gas was held in a "loaner can," a can that 7-11 kept for customers who were unable to come to the pump for gas.

After the fire, the gas can was found near the Watchman Dorm-with Buckley's fingerprints, Emigration chief of police Emerson Burke reported.

Dakota Pope, after escaping from the window of the Dormitory, saw a person walking from the site with a 7-11 uniform on. She also stated that the person had "the build and hair color of Alex Buckley."

With this evidence, Emigration police apprehended and later arrested Alex Buckley.

The judge and jury declared Alex guilty because "The evidence was just overwhelmingly against the defense in this case."

"I want Alex to pay for what happened to Carly," Dakota Pope said as she concluded testifying in court, "and I hope he rots in jail for the rest of his life."

Team # First and Last Name

# Carolyn Norton Acquitted

RIVERTON- After a lengthy trial Thursday night, a jury found Carolyn Norton not guilty of a first degree murder charge. She was accused of killing Tim Eagan who was murdered on September 3rd, 2021.

Ms. Norton worked for Mr. Eagan's real estate company "The Flying B" as a PR representative. However, as Quinn Perry, Eagan's business partner and fellow owner of the Flying B, told the court that "right after we hired [Norton], she said she wanted to be a partner", but Eagan and Perry felt that she "didn't have the education needed". As Norton's friend Val Denison told the court though, Norton felt that Eagan "promised" her she may become a partner.

On the night of September 3rd, Eagan called a meeting with everyone who worked at the Flying B. They met at the Wicked Mine restaurant to discuss a project they were working on at Oaker Mountain. During the meeting, Norton and Eagan had a heated discussion about whether or not Norton would ever be made a partner. Finally, Norton told Eagan and Perry to "prepare for a reckoning" and left the restaurant at 6:45 to take pictures of the houses being built at Oaker Mountain. After the meeting ended, Eagan decided to leave the Wicked Mine and go take pictures of the Oaker Mountain site himself.

The next day, Eagan's body was found at the Oaker Mountain site by Officer Mickey Wilson. Wilson led the investigation into his murder and testified in Thursday's trial. Wilson told the court Eagan had been shot twice, once in the shoulder and once in the chest. Eagan carried a gun that was recovered several feet behind his body. According to the ballistics investigation, it had not been shot. Officer Wilson named Carolyn Norton as the main suspect in

the case. After interviewing Norton at her home, Norton surrendered her gun and phone to the police.

Blaine Mendoza, a white hat hacker working with the police, investigated both Eagan's and Norton's phone for evidence of where they were at the time of the murder. Through a process known as Cell Tower Triangulation, Mendoza concluded that Eagan and Norton were at the Oaker Mountain site at the same time. He told the court that "they were within view of each other" for a 10 minute period and "within that 10 minute period, [Eagan] stopped moving". With this information in hand, Wilson decided to arrest Norton.

During the trial, the defense argued that there were several holes in the prosecution's case. Amari Lewis, a ballistics expert, testified to the court that after she examined Norton's gun, she concluded that the bullets used to kill Eagan were not fired from Norton's gun.

The defense also claimed that Wilson "mismanaged" the investigation by failing to follow proper protocols with Norton's and Eagan's phones to prevent their data from being lost or changed before Mendoza was able to examine them. They also argued that Wilson ignored other suspects who also had a motive to kill Eagan. In the past, Eagan was known to take out loans with loansharks and many thought he was still taking out loans at the time of his death. If that were true, it was clear that Eagan wouldn't be able to repay the loan as both Denison and Perry testified that Eagan and the Flying B may not be able to finish their project or pay their employees. If Eagan couldn't repay his loans, he may have been killed to serve as an example.

In the end, the jury was split as some jury members decided that there simply wasn't enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Norton was the one who killed Tim Eagan. While Norton herself wasn't at the trial herself, her counsel was relieved that "an

innocent woman doesn't have to suffer any longer". Carolyn Norton was released from jail early Friday morning and has returned to her home.

*Team S05*