

Man's family stunned by his arrest in 1979 murder

Sister says suspect has never mentioned name of Dawn Koons, woman he's accused of strangling

BY JASON KOTOWSKI
jkotowski@bakersfield.com

The sister of the 60-year-old long-haul trucker accused in a brutal 1979 killing said the family is stunned by his arrest and their hearts go out to the family of the slain woman.

Despite some prior brushes with the law, Prentice Foreman is "very kind" and a hard worker, his sister, Phyllis



Foreman

the victim, and that he burglarized her apartment.

Willis, 63, said she's never known Foreman to be violent. He's worked as a trucker for at least 15 years, she said.

When asked about the allegations,

Willis, said Friday outside a Kern County courtroom following Foreman's arraignment on a charge of first-degree murder with special circumstances that he raped or attempted to rape the victim, and that he burglarized her apartment.

she said, "Well, innocent until proven guilty. Thirty-nine years? Wow, that's a really old case."

Willis said her brother has never mentioned the name of Dawn Koons, the 18-year-old woman he's accused of strangling in Koons' apartment nearly 40 years ago. She said he lived in the same apartment complex as Koons in the 2200 block of Real Road.

During the brief court hearing, Kern County Public Defender Pam Singh entered a not-guilty plea on Foreman's

Please see **FOREMAN** | A3

\$1

Hyundai Holidays Sales Event

BAKERSFIELD HYUNDAI

2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

\$14,995 NET COST
MORE THAN 5 AT THIS OFFER

5 YEARS MSRP - \$340 DEALER DISCOUNT - \$1000 MSRP
\$10,000 CASH
\$1000 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
\$5000 MSRP FINANCE BONUS CASH (MSRP FINANCE WITH 3.9% APR STANDARD RATES)

All financing and leasing requires credit approval. Please do not include government fees and taxes, any license charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge and any other available financing charge. See dealer for details. Ends 12/31/18.

Assurance America's Best Warranty 36 Month/50,000 Mile Powertrain Warranty

(661) 836-7321
BakersfieldHyundai.com
¡HABLAMOS SU IDIOMA!
5300 Wible Road Bakersfield, CA 93313

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Liberty grad **Jordan Love** takes off as freshman QB at Utah State
SPORTS | B1

ANIMAL CARE
Woman raises money for shelters with pet ornaments
LOCAL | A3

PREP SPORTS
TBC's Trevor Horn shares his wish list for 2018
SPORTS | B1



FELIX ADAMO / CALIFORNIAN FILE

Tatyana Hargrove looks down toward the table as attorney Neil Gehlawat of Chain Cohn Stiles speaks during an August news conference held regarding her arrest.

Lawsuit filed against city on behalf of woman attacked by police K-9

BY JASON KOTOWSKI
jkotowski@bakersfield.com

A lawsuit was filed Friday against the City of Bakersfield alleging excessive force and civil rights violations in the arrest of a young woman who police mistook for a much larger machete-wielding man.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court's Eastern District of California, seeks compensatory and punitive damages, among other things, alleging that police falsely arrested Tatyana Hargrove. One of the officers released a K-9 on her during the June 18 incident.

"The officers claimed they mistook the 5 foot 2 inch Hargrove for a 30-year-old, 5 foot 10 inch black male, who was reported to have been brandishing a machete at the nearby Grocery Outlet earlier that day," the lawsuit states.

Hargrove was 19 at the time. City Attorney Ginny Gennaro said the city has not been served with the suit and she hasn't seen it.

"As with all litigation," she said, "we will vigorously defend the city, and in all likelihood the matter will be sent to (Fresno-based attorneys) Marderrosian & Cohen for legal representation."

Hargrove had faced two counts of resisting

Please see **HARGROVE** | A3

Santa's watching...



FELIX ADAMO / THE CALIFORNIAN

ABOVE: Santa Claus, portrayed by Matt Jacobs, is checking the Catholic Charities parking lot and he's checking it twice for any late arriving kids for Friday's Christmas for Kids giveaway event. Catholic Charities of Bakersfield gave toys to 200 needy children. **LEFT:** Three-year-old Venessa Mancilla thinks about what to ask Santa. She left with a new doll. **BELOW:** Jovinni Brown, 3, gets his chance to talk to Santa.



Same-sex couple involved in suit against bakery discuss case after last week's setback

BY JAMES BURGER
jburger@bakersfield.com

Every time Eileen and Mireya Rodriguez-Del Rio are back in the news, things get chaotic.

It happened last week when the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing's discrimination case against Tastries Bakery had a court hearing, the first in a series of legal clashes over the bakery's deci-

sion not to make the Rodriguez-Del Rio's wedding cake.

Facebook posts. Stares. Questions at work.

Why not just go somewhere else for a cake? Are they just trying to cash in with the lawsuit? Is this just a ploy to close down a good Christian business?

Please see **TASTRIES** | A3



HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Mireya and Eileen Rodriguez-Del Rio went to Tastries Bakery for a wedding cake. They were eventually refused service by the owner, Cathy Miller.

2017 LOOKING BACK

In Sunday's edition of *The Californian*, our reporters and editors will present readers with a package of articles, photographs and videos that puts a bow on 2017 and offers a glimpse of what lies ahead in 2018.

- Top stories of 2017
- Best photos of 2017
- The year on video
- Quotes of the year
- 10 moments in sports
- Herb Benham's Christmas

And there's more to come in the days ahead.



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

392-5777, 800-953-5353 or customer@bakersfield.com



60/35

Complete forecast | A8

TO REPORT A NEWS TIP

395-7384, 800-540-0646 or local@bakersfield.com

LOCAL

Woman raises money for animal shelters with pet ornaments

BY JOSEPH LUIZ
jlui@bakersfield.com

Pets deserve special treatment at Christmas time, too, and Bakersfield resident Jessica Tuck isn't letting people forget it.

Tuck, who runs an online side business called Rustic Wagon Decor, is making custom tree ornaments that feature the names of pets. Money raised from the ornaments will be used to purchase toys and food for the animals at the Bakersfield Animal Care Center and Pet Matchmaker Rescue.

"It's something that's close to my heart," she said. "I love my dogs (two of which are rescues) like they're my children. Just knowing I'm doing something to help dogs like them is a great feeling."

Besides her two rescues, Rig and Molly, she has two other dogs.

Tuck said she got the idea to sell the ornaments this year after she made a few for her Christmas tree.

"My tree had ornaments I made with all my family's names except the dogs," she said. "I made them and after I added them to the tree, I realized that they might sell well."

And sell well they have. Tuck said she's sold around 180 ornaments so far, with an ultimate goal to reach 300 by the end of the year. If she reaches that goal, that would give the shelters \$600 each worth of toys and food.

"It's been amazing. I was shocked that I had gotten that kind of response, but people really want to help the animals," she said. "I will continue taking orders until I run out."

Tuck said she plans to give the toys and food to the shelters by New Year's Day.

Morgan Sokolow, director at Pet Matchmaker Rescue, said she loves the ornament



Jessica Tuck works on a pet-name ornament. Her work supports two local rescues.



Tuck has four dogs of her own, two of them rescues.

idea. "I think it's amazing," she said. "It's a really creative, clever way to give back to the community and give

back to the animals that don't always get acknowledged around Christmas." Sokolow said that because the organization

HOW TO BUY

If you would like to purchase an ornament in honor of a pet or a person, email Jessica Tuck at whatcanimakeyou@gmail.com. They can also be purchased through Facebook and Instagram under the name Rustic Wagon Decor. Pet ornaments are \$4 and people ornaments are \$6. Tuck accepts payment by cash, the Android Cash App and Venmo, a PayPal service. Ornaments can be picked up or delivered.

— which is run through a private residence and aims to bring animals and new owners together — has a lot of dogs that are waiting for their forever homes, they go through a lot of toys and supplies.

"People are getting something out of (having the ornaments), but the rescue is benefiting from it at the same time. It's a win-win," she said.

Sokolow said efforts like this can have a major positive impact on the organization outside of just the items they will receive.

"I appreciate that she supports our mission," she said. "It helps bring some awareness to people of what we do."

Ultimately, Tuck said helping the shelters and making people aware of animals that need help is her primary goal.

"They're the ones that can't help themselves," she said.

Tuck said she plans to make the pet ornaments again next year. She makes ornaments with people's names as well.

Joseph Luiz can be reached at 661-395-7368. Follow him on Twitter: @JLuiz_TBC.

FOREMAN

Continued from PAGE A1

behalf. Judge Michael G. Bush denied her request to ban the media from photographing Foreman.

The judge said the case by its nature is going to generate significant publicity, and he doesn't believe publishing images of Foreman will deny him his right to a fair trial.

Prosecutor Gina Pearl said a decision has not been made whether to seek the death penalty.

In 2012, detectives conducted a periodic review of the Koons case and turned up what they believed were new leads. Semen taken from the crime scene was retested and in October

returned a hit matching Foreman's DNA profile, according to a probable-cause declaration.

Detectives arrested Foreman on Wednesday at his residence in the 2300 block of South Union Avenue.

Foreman was questioned just weeks after Koons' naked body was found Jan. 16, 1979, in her bathtub, according to the declaration. She was last seen the night of Jan. 12.

Foreman told investigators he was with his girlfriend during the time frame in which the killing occurred.

He's next due in court Jan. 5.

Jason Kotowski can be reached at 661-395-7491. Follow him on Twitter: @tbcbreakingnews.

HARGROVE

Continued from PAGE A1

arrest, one count of willfully interfering with a police K-9, and two counts of assault on a peace officer in connection with her arrest. All charges were later dismissed.

Attorneys with Chain Cohn Stiles and the Law Office of Thomas C. Seabaugh, which represent Hargrove, have said the case is not just about obtaining justice for Hargrove, but holding police accountable for their actions and bringing about better training for officers.

The incident occurred when Hargrove, riding her bicycle home, was stopped by Officers Christopher Moore and G. Vasquez, according to the complaint. Moore drew his handgun and pointed it at Hargrove as he questioned her.

The officer asked if she'd been at the Grocery Outlet, then demanded she hand over her backpack, the lawsuit states.

"She asked Officer Moore if he had a warrant, and in response the officers violently retaliated," the lawsuit states.

Vasquez grabbed her off the bike, punched her in the face and threw her down, according to the lawsuit. Then Moore, "for no reason," released his K-9, Hamer, who bit Hargrove's leg as she screamed for help.

Hargrove was arrested and kept in jail overnight before her parents bailed her out.

Moore's written account of events differs in several re-

spects. He wrote in his report the description he received of the suspect was "black male, white shirt, carrying a pink backpack." He said he thought Hargrove was the male suspect.

A detailed description of the suspect that included height, weight and that the suspect was bald didn't come until about an hour after Hargrove was contacted.

Hargrove was uncooperative from the beginning, Moore wrote, and when Vasquez attempted to detain her she interlaced her fingers behind her head while straddling the bicycle.

Vasquez grabbed her hands, lost his footing and fell to the ground, according to Moore's report. Hargrove landed on top of him. The K-9 was then deployed.

Hargrove soon went public with her story. A video regarding her side of the incident was posted on the Bakersfield NAACP's Facebook page and racked up more than 8 million views.

The NAACP said Hargrove was targeted for her race. BPD said it was a case of mistaken identity. Police Chief Lyle Martin later called Hargrove's parents to apologize and tell them his department will strive to do better.

On Aug. 2, District Attorney Lisa Green dismissed charges against Hargrove, noting both sides handled the encounter poorly.

Jason Kotowski can be reached at 661-395-7491. Follow him on Twitter: @tbcbreakingnews.

TASTRIES

Continued from PAGE A1

When the news broke last week, and the media wrote about the legal setback, they opted not to respond immediately to requests for comment.

They try to stay off social media. They watch their back in the mall. And they support each other.

"We're not sure if anyone is going to lash out at us," Eileen said.

LAWSUIT

Fair Employment and Housing lawyers asked Kern County Superior Court Judge David Lampe last week to issue a temporary restraining order that would require Tastries owner Cathy Miller to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples, or not make wedding cakes at all.

Lampe ruled against the request, and denied the restraining order.

But the issue is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 2 for a hearing on a preliminary injunction — a more robust discussion of whether the

bakery should be required to make cakes for couples like Mrs. and Mrs. Rodriguez-Del Rio while the full trial proceeds through court.

Under the California Unruh Civil Rights Act law a business that offers service to the public cannot deny service to a customer based on factors such as race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

But Miller claimed, back when the issue exploded into the news in August, that she was following the tenants of her faith and conscience by refusing to participate in a ceremony she believes is morally wrong.

Miller is being defended by the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund, which issued a statement last week calling the lawsuit an assault on Christians and their beliefs.

RESPONSE

The Rodriguez-Del Rio family is not sorry, they said, that they vented on Facebook in August that they'd been denied a cake by Tastries for their Oct. 7 wedding celebration.

It was that post that triggered the heated debate and led eventually to the two women filing a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and housing.

But they say they're paying a price for having their names and pictures out there.

Eileen Rodriguez-Del Rio said she has been stared at in the mall and the post office, an unsettling experience.

Those looks, and Kern County's conservative bent, make them worry about their safety. And comments on social media, Eileen said, "They're just very ugly."

She's rarely on Facebook anymore.

People are calling their

motives into question, assuming they're doing this for money or to piggy-back on the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision in a similar case out of Colorado.

Eileen said she didn't even know about the Colorado case when she posted her frustration and was hurt about the Tastries situation on Facebook.

The two women's attorney, Patricia Ziegler-Lopez, said there are financial penalties if the Department of Fair Employment and Housing wins its case.

But Eileen and Mireya say that's not why they're going through with the complaint.

"We're doing it because we

were discriminated against and it's not right and it's not fair," Eileen said. "It's not about the money. It wasn't about the cake. It was that our rights were violated."

So, when their case goes back to court in early February, they'll deal with the negative Facebook posts, the stares in the mall and the worry that someone might be mad enough to strike out against them.

WEDDING

One of the biggest criticisms of the Rodriguez-Del Rios dispute was that they were already married when they walked into Tastries to talk about a cake.

"Last August, two LGBT activists entered Tastries purportedly wanting a wedding cake, even though they had gotten married the previous December," reads the press release from Miller's law firm.

The two women had indeed married in a ceremony several months earlier.

"All we had was a commitment ceremony with our moms and our families," Eileen said. "We planned a celebratory wedding. Every bride should have their dream wedding."

James Burger can be reached at 661-395-7415. Follow him on Twitter: @KernQuirks.

PROBATE Don't let your kids suffer the headache of probate!

PROBATE IS EXPENSIVE AND TIME CONSUMING
AVOID PROBATE!
Pass your assets upon death

- Privately
- Quickly
- Without court supervision

Why sit in a group seminar when you can have a personal consultation?
Call for your free consultation today!
(applies to new estate plans only)
And don't forget to ask about our Senior discounts!

Law Office of Rosetta N. Reed
4900 California Ave. | Tower B, Ste. 210
(661) 377-1869
www.rosettanreedlaw.com
Coupon expires 12/31/17



LIGHT HER FIRE THIS CHRISTMAS



don hall JEWELERS

3720 Gosford Road, Suite A
Gosford & White Lane next to Apollonia Dental

832-5200

Saturday and Sunday
10am - 5pm

Tile From Around The World
Bill Ray

TILE

Ceramic Tile Center, Inc.

BUY DIRECT AND SAVE
WE MAKE CERAMIC TILE AFFORDABLE

REPLACE YOUR OLD STAINED GRANITE KITCHEN COUNTER TOPS WITH "JUMBO TILE"

(661) 366-3255 www.billraytile.com
6301 E. Brundage Ln.