

DISTRICT COURT, EL PASO COUNTY COLORADO		DATE FILED: February 7, 2022
Court Address: 270 South Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		
People of the State of Colorado v. Joel Hollendorfer, DOB 11/19/1975, 5'11", 195 lbs., white male, brown hair, blue eyes, SSN . driver's license Colorado, Defendant		▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
El Paso County Sheriff's Office Case Number: 2012-12983		Case/File Number: <i>22CR714</i>
		Division: Criminal Ctrm:
ATTACHMENT A		

The following Affidavit is submitted to the Court to document the probable cause in support of a request for the issuance of an Arrest Warrant for **Joel Hollendorfer (DOB 11/19/1975)**.

This offense is fully documented in El Paso County Sheriff's Office case report **2012-12983** detailing the offense(s) of: **C.R.S. 18-3-103 Murder in the Second Degree, a class 2 Felony; C.R.S. 18-8-610 Tampering with physical Evidence, a class 6 Felony;** .

The facts set forth within this affidavit are based upon information Your Affiant has gained from this investigation, Your Affiant's personal observations, Your Affiant's training and experience, and/or information related to Your Affiant by other law enforcement officers. Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing an arrest warrant, Your Affiant has not included each and every fact known to him/her concerning this investigation, but has set forth only the facts that are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that evidence of a crime has occurred.

With the victim(s) identified as:

1. Kara Nichols (DOB May 20, 1993)

On October 14, 2012, Deputy Ayyad of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office spoke to Mr. Paul Nichols who resides in Chicago, Illinois, who wished to report his daughter, Kara Nichols, as a missing person. Kara's address given was 6710 Mission Road, in Colorado Springs, County of El Paso, Colorado. Paul advised Deputy Ayyad, Kara has a history of heroin use and had recently been in rehabilitation. Paul said his son, Terrance "Terry" Nichols, lives in Colorado Springs and was the last known person to have contact with Kara on October 9, 2012.

Deputy Ayyad contacted Terry and he stated he received a call from Kara around 11:45 pm, on October 9, 2012. Kara told him she was going up to Denver for a modeling assignment. Terry said he talks and/or text with Kara every day, and has not heard from her since that time. Terry said he tried calling Kara on October 10, 2012, but her cell phone was either shut off, or the battery was dead because the call went straight to voicemail. Terry said he went to her house on Mission Road on October 11, 2012 and spoke with her roommates. They reported she had

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not been home since going to Denver on October 9, 2012. Terry Stated Kara's cell phone charger, laptop computer and other necessities were still in her room at the house.

A media release was completed by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and aired by local news stations asking for assistance in this case.

Detective Tammy Gugliotta was originally assigned this case on February 4, 2013.

Detective Gugliotta determined Kara was working as an escort and placed ads on "Escort" is a term commonly used in place of prostitute. Merriam -Webster website defines prostitute as "a person who engages in sexual intercourse in exchange for pay". was a classified advertising website where escorts commonly placed ads seeking clients of "johns" to buy their services. Detective Gugliotta located a presumably placed by Kara Nichols on October 9, 2012 at 7:28 pm, which advertised herself as a "Sexy New Blonde in Town-21" on Colorado Springs The advertisement showed a picture of Kara Nichols wearing lingerie, advertising she is "Sexy New Blonde in Town! %100 Real, Here for short time only come get me while you can ;)." It further stated: "Call for

Kara Nichols used the cellular number Upon reviewing Kara Nichols cell phone records, there were eight (8) cell contacts between Kara Nichols and on October 9, 2012, between 9:58 p.m. and 11:08 p.m. Kara Nichols last used her cell phone at 11:59 p.m., and Detective Gugliotta was not aware of any contact with Kara after 11:59 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, Tammy Avery – EPSO Volunteer #1308 left a message at to contact Detective Gugliotta at (719-520-7228) in reference to this case.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at approximately 4:54 p.m., Detective Gugliotta received a return telephone call from When asked, the gentleman calling identified himself as Joel Hollendorfer DOB: 11-19-75. Detective Gugliotta asked if this phone number belonged to him on October 9, 2012. Joel said it did. Detective Gugliotta told Joel she was investigating a missing person case and his phone number was on the missing female's cell phone records the night she went missing.

Joel stated he was seeking escort services on the night of October 9, 2012. He said he answered an ad for a girl named He said they texted and spoke several times that night, but he was looking for an "incall" (where he goes to her location), and only did "outcalls" (where she goes to their location). Joel said he never met with on the night of October 9, 2012. Detective Gugliotta confirmed Kara used the name on her advertisement.

Investigations Volunteer Mark Oldfield was assigned to review Kara Nichols cell phone records for Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Mark is a former Reserve Police Officer for the City of Santa Clara, CA and Senior Manager of Special Programs Security for Lockheed Martin. Mark was also trained in Land Navigation from the US Army.

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Based upon the AT&T Mobility Usage (with cell location) data for Kara Nichols phone (Dated Oct. 2012). Investigations Volunteer Mark Oldfield was able to track the movements of this phone during the evening hours of Tuesday, October 9, 2012, to its last known usage during the early morning hours of Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

The tracking was possible by converting the decimal latitude and longitude provided by AT&T to standard degrees/minutes/seconds. Once these are converted, they precisely plot cell towers. Additionally, AT&T provided the degrees of which the device, in this case the cell phone, was from the cell tower, this is also known as the azimuth degrees.

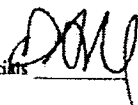
Example: At 11:18 pm (Kara's phone records) AT&T stated Kara's cell phone hit: 38.8377 104.69825 at 45 degrees. Once converted to degrees/minutes/seconds it equates to 38 50' 15.7194" N 104 41' 53/7" W. This location is the cell tower located at 360 Command View, Colorado Springs CO. (located just off of Space Village Ave). Additionally, AT&T states Kara's cell phone was located 45 degrees from the tower during the incoming phone call at that time. By utilizing Google Earth you can enter both the lat/long and determine the cell tower(s) this phone utilized and further plot out the possible route by utilizing the azimuth degree(s) location from the tower. (#1 below)

Using this method Mark Oldfield determined that Kara Nichols left her residence at 6710 Mission Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado at approximately 11:16 pm and travelled the following route:

1. Galley Road to Peterson Road south to State Highway 24 and then east bound.
2. Turned north bound on Marksheffel Road from 24.
3. Continued north bound on Marksheffel Rd. to Woodmen Rd.
4. Turned west bound onto Woodmen Rd. from Marksheffel Rd.
5. Turned north bound onto Black Forest Rd from Woodmen Rd.
6. Turned north/east onto Vollmer Rd. from Black Forest Rd.
7. Turned east onto Burgess Rd. from Vollmer Rd.

By further breaking down Kara's phone records it revealed a total of six (6) calls/texts were sent/received from 11:34 pm to 11:41 pm coming off of the Woodmen Tower location at 15 degrees. Based on the cellular phone activity Kara's phone was at the intersection of Woodmen and Black Forest Road, El Paso County, Colorado at 11:33 pm, which is consistent with Joel's well-traveled route to Burgess Road.

Detective Gugliotta and Mark Oldfield travelled this entire route. Based upon this location Mark Oldfield and Detective Gugliotta traveled seven (7) minutes northeast on Vollmer Road, El Paso County, Colorado from Woodmen Road, El Paso County, Colorado. This seven (7) minute route on Vollmer Road took Mark Oldfield and Detective Gugliotta to the intersection of Vollmer Road and Burgess Road.



The next entry on the AT&T mobility usage records indicated that at 11:42 pm (60 seconds from the Burgess/Vollmer Intersection) Kara's cell phone was hitting 340 degrees off of the Falcon tower. A sixty (60) second eastbound drive took Mark Oldfield and Detective Gugliotta to the address of 9665 Burgess Road. Based upon an analysis of the provided records, Kara Nichols cell phone no longer provided a signal after arriving in this area.

Through further investigations of Sheriff's Office records, Detective Gugliotta obtained information through the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles, in which Joel Hollendorfer listed the 9665 Burgess Road, El Paso County, Colorado as his address. El Paso County Sheriff's Office calls for service, also associates the Burgess Road address as Joel's residence. Detective Gugliotta also checked the El Paso County Assessor's Office, which list the owners of the property as John and Betty Hollendorfer, who are Joel's parents.

On October 2, 2014, Detective Gugliotta obtained a search warrant for 9665 Burgess Road. The search warrant was executed on October 15, 2014. The search was conducted by multiple El Paso County Sheriff's Office deputies, members from NecroSearch International, Colorado Bureau of Investigations, the Colorado Springs Police Department Metro Crime Lab, and dogs specifically trained in the detection of human remains – commonly referred to as "cadaver dogs". Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was used, and numerous locations were annotated in the NecroSearch report as having been disturbed. Betty Hollendorfer walked the property with members of the search team and pointed numerous locations where horses and other animals had been buried over the preceding approximately thirty (30) years. The Hollendorfers purchased the property in approximately 1985. Ultimately, none of the possible horse and animal burial locations were excavated in 2014.

During an interview of Betty Hollendorfer, she mentioned that EPSO investigators should search the property across the street that Joel Hollendorfer had access to, 11660 Green Acres Lane, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The property owners were contacted and provided consent for EPSO and any other resources to search the property. The search was executed on October 21, 2014 through October 22, 2014. EPSO objectively placed four (4) cadaver dogs at the four corners of the approximately 20 acre property and released them. All four dogs traveled to one location which appeared to be the site of a shallow grave. The area was systematically excavated, and it was apparent that roots were dug up at the site and a hole had been dug approximately the perimeter size of a human body. However, there were no human remains recovered.

On October 21, 2014, Joel Hollendorfer was interviewed in a recorded interview by Detective Gugliotta. He confirmed looking up Nichols (), wanting to meet up with her for escort purposes, talking and texting with her. He further stated that they were supposed to meet up, but Kara never met him at this previously arranged location. He added that she was supposed to meet him near Galley and Powers at the Diamond Shamrock or Loaf N Jug, by the Waffle House, located at 1039 Space Center Drive, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. He added that he had been involved with escorts many times which is generally why his marriage ended. He also added he was deep into escorts and drugs at that time. Overall,

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he underwent a lengthy interview and denied that he ever met her nor that she entered his vehicle.

During the initial investigation Detective Gugliotta attempted on numerous occasions to contact Joel's wife, Kristina Hollendorfer. She never cooperated with the original investigation and never made a statement.

In January 2022, Kristina Palmer (Hollendorfer) was located residing in Virginia. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was asked to assist in contacting her and conducting an interview. On February 1, 2022, FBI Special Agents Brandon Prete and Michael Willis spoke with Kristina who said after Joel's father died Joel admitted to her, he accidentally killed an escort he hired. She related he told her he buried her body on his parent's property located at 9665 Burgess Road, El Paso County, Colorado, on top of an old horse grave.

According to his obituary, John Hollendorfer died on November 29, 2014.

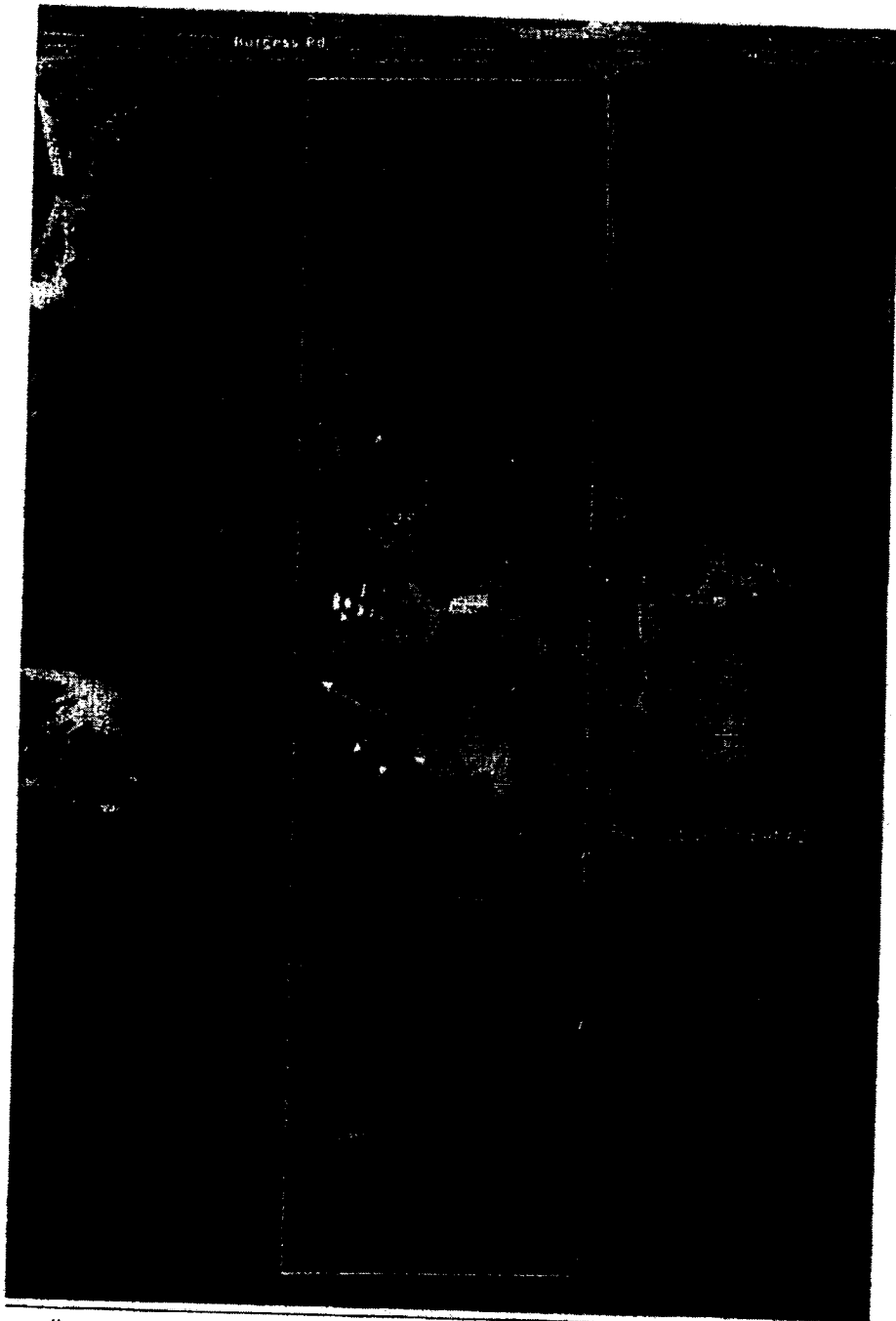
On February 1, 2022, I, Detective Kat Huston, conducted a recorded telephone interview with Kristina. During that telephone interview, Kristina related around the time of John's death Joel asked her to go for a ride with him in his new truck. She said during that ride Joel told her he needed to tell her something. She related Joel told her he hired an escort and during sex with her in his car he accidentally strangled her until she died. Joel then transported her to his parent's property where he buried her on an old horse grave with plastic bags and lime. Kristina had no knowledge of Joel ever moving the body. She related Joel told her he felt he responsible for his father's death as he had told his parents about this. Kristina related she believed Betty and John both knew he killed Kara and was covering for him.

On February 7, 2022 at approximately 6:52 AM, Joel was taken into custody on an unrelated warrant. He was transported to the Office of the Sheriff (OTS) where he was advised of his rights under Miranda. Joel agreed to speak with Detective Pat Gallagher and Civillian Criminal Investigator Brig Barker. During the interview, Joel denied ever meeting Kara and being responsible for her death. Detective Gallagher and CCI Barker asked Joel to identify where horses had been buried on the 6995 Burgess Road property over the years. They provided him with an arial view of the property from Google maps. He pointed out several locations on the property. Joel was asked about a specific location, which is identified in the NecroSearch International report as "GPR site 03". He described it as a "dry patch with a high spot" and that nothing was buried there.

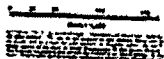
On February 7, 2022, Betty Hollendorfer was also interviewed by Detective Jennifer Arndt and CCI Tammy Gugliotta. During the interview, she was also asked to identify locations where horses were buried. She identified the area identified as GPR site 03 as where her favorite horse "Milo" was buried.

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NS-14-17
Sites surveyed with GPR
10/15/14



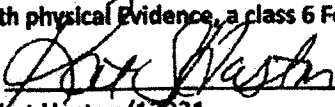
On February 7, 2022, an FBI Evidence Response Team and EPSO detectives began a search of

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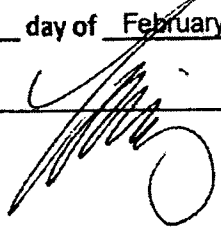
the property based on a search warrant which was issued on February 3, 2022. They searched in the area where GPR site O3 was previously identified. As they excavated approximately three (3) feet down they found black plastic which is believed to be a garbage bag. During the excavation a human hand and remains were found.

In summary, it is known Joel contacted Kara on the night of Tuesday, October 9, 2014. Through the use of cell tower information and interviews, it is believed Joel arranged to pick up Kara near her Mission Road address due to the fact Kara only did "outcalls" and did not have her own vehicle or other means of transportation. Sometime during their encounter, Joel strangled Kara until she died. Joel then transported her to his parent's property travelling the aforementioned route. Kara's cell phone goes dead, and no one has heard from or seen Kara since. Based on Kristina's interview, it is likely the remains found on the property of 6995 Burgess Road, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado are those of Kara Nichols.

I would respectfully request that probable cause be found that Joel Hollendorfer (DOB 11/19/1975), did within the County of El Paso and State of Colorado, commit in violation of the Colorado Revised Statutes 1973 as amended, the offense(s) of C.R.S. 18-3-103 Murder in the Second Degree, a class 2 Felony; C.R.S. 18-8-610 Tampering with physical Evidence, a class 6 Felony; .

Applicant: 
Detective Kat Huston/12021
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Sworn and subscribed before me this 7th day of February, 2022.

Judge/Magistrate: 

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