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## Their day in court

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Posted: Friday, December 14, 2012 12:00 am | Updated: 6:03 am, Thu Nov 14, 2013.

By EMILY SHAPIRO

The trial of a Woodville man suspected of shooting and killing his wife is expected to start Dec. 18 in Visalia.

Eleazar Alcantar, 50, is charged with fatally shooting his wife, Maria Ceballos Alcantar, 38, in Woodville on May 21 due to an apparent domestic dispute. He then kept sheriff's officers at bay for four hours.

His trial date is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Dec. 18 in Dept. 2 of the Visalia Courthouse. His is one of nine homicide cases in the Orange Belt working through the Tulare County court system — five are scheduled to go to trial in the next 12 months, including three within the first half of 2013.

The time between when a crime happens and when a defendant goes to a trial varies.

"It's a case by case basis," said Shani Jenkins, assistant District Attorney for Tulare County. Jenkins said a number of factors are involved which include when the case is filed and court crowding issues.

In a case from 2007, Louis Rodriguez, 22, who allegedly shot Xavier Taylor, 19, is scheduled for a jury trial at 9 a.m. on April 2, 2013 in Dept. 6 of the Visalia Courthouse.

Taylor was found unresponsive, inside a grey Ford Taurus, on Oct. 5, 2007 in the area of Olive Avenue and G Street. He had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. A passenger was shot, survived and fled the scene. The second victim then contacted the police. Taylor was pronounced dead at Sierra View District Hospital.

Other pending cases.

- Parrish Jones, 30, of Porterville, Raquel Espinoza, 25, of Porterville, Eric Jimenez, 28, of Strathmore, and Matthew Campos, 23, of Strathmore, are suspects the March 28 killing of Jorge Ayon. Campos and Jimenez have a preliminary hearing on Feb. 1, 2013 in Dept. 5 of the Visalia Courthouse. Jones and Espinoza pled nolo or to an agreement without admitting responsibility, to harboring, concealing and or aiding someone in a felony. They will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 11 in Dept. 5 of the Visalia Courthouse.

- Danielle Downing, 26, of Farmersville, has a preliminary hearing set for at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 14 in Dept. 2 of the Visalia Courthouse. She is accused of murdering her newborn daughter in October 2011.

- Rafael Mendoza, 29, attacked his lawyer John Shepard in court in November and cut the public defenders face. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 25, 2013 in Dept. 6 of the Visalia Courthouse

- Nathan Hunt, 22, and Josua Stepp, 24, have a preliminary hearing set for 8:30 a.m. April 4, 2013 in Dept. 12 of the Visalia Courthouse. Hunt and Stepp are suspects in the death of 20-year-old Michael Avalos last September in Lindsay. Avalos's remains were found burned in a burned out car on Sept. 14 at Avenue 224 near Road 236 in the Lindsay area.

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- Emigdio Guzman Ojeda, 48, is charged with first degree murder in the shooting death of his ex-wife Flor Ojeda, 48, of Porterville, outside her home on Aug. 2, 2011. Afterward, he fled the scene and barricaded himself into his own home. The police were able to talk him out of his home where he was apprehended by Dodge, a Porterville Police Department K9 dog. His jury trial is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Feb. 11, 2013 in Dept. 5 of the Visalia Courthouse.

- Armando Gonzalez, 23, and Juan Covarrubias, 23, were arrested as suspects in the fatal shooting of Samuel Guzman on Oct. 4, 2008. A third suspect, Jose Anguiano, 22, was apprehended by the US Marshals Service on the western coast of Mexico in 2009 and was turned over to the PPD.

Gonzalez' and Jose Anguiano's trial date is set for 8:30 a.m. Jan. 9, 2013 in Dept. 6 of the Visalia Courthouse.

Covarrubias has a sentencing at 8:30 a.m. March 12, 2013 in Dept. 4 of the Visalia Courthouse.

- Joseph Aaron Ulloa, 25, is charged with murder and child abuse of his 3-month-old son, Jackson Uolla, which occurred in October of 2010. His trial date is scheduled for 9 a.m. Sept. 30, 2013 in Dept. 6 at the Visalia Courthouse.

Contact Emily Shapiro at 784-5000, ext. 1050, or on Twitter @EmilyShapirogar

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Posted on Friday, December 14, 2012 12:00 am. Updated: 6:03 am.

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