

REGIONAL NEWS

Trinidad man indicted on federal firearm charges

Courtesy of U.S. Department of Justice
US Attorney's Office, District of Colorado
Special to the Chronicle

Julian Domingo Vigil, 32, of Trinidad, Colorado, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Denver this week for federal firearm charges, Acting U.S. Attorney David Gaouette and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Richard Chase announced. Vigil was named in a four-count indictment returned on February 24, 2009. He is charged with illegally possessing 5 firearms, including a semi-automatic rifle. Vigil is presently in state custody. A writ will be issued to transfer the defendant from state to federal custody.

Count one of the indictment alleges that on Oct. 27, 2008, Vigil possessed a HiPoint, Model CF, .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol; a Titan, Model FIE, .25 caliber pistol; and a Phoenix Arms, Model Raven, .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol, having been previously convicted of crimes punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year.

Count two of the indictment alleges that on that same day, Vigil possessed the Titan pistol, which had an obliterated serial number, in violation of federal law.

Count three alleges that on Dec. 12, 2008, the defendant possessed a Remington, Model

Wingmaster 870, 12 gauge shotgun, having been previously convicted of crimes punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year.

Count four of the indictment states that on Feb. 13, 2009, Vigil possessed a Wards Western Field, Model 87-SB-870, semi-automatic rifle, having been previously convicted of crimes punishable by imprisonment by a term exceeding one year.

It is a criminal violation of federal law for a convicted felon to possess firearms.

"The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), along with the United States Attorney's Office and the Trinidad Police Department, are committed to stopping armed drug dealers from wreaking havoc on this community," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Richard Chase.

If convicted, counts one, three and four carry a penalty of not more than ten years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine per count. If convicted of count two, the defendant faces not more than five years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the Trinidad Police Department and the ATF.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kurt Bohn is prosecuting vigil.

The charges contained in the indictment are allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL FOCUS

Retirees must make (at least) five key financial decisions



Lori Hoffman
Edward Jones
Financial Representative

When you're working, you have a financial strategy that is largely based on one goal: saving money for a comfortable retirement. You'll likely have to make many adjustments over several decades to ensure that you stay on track saving and investing. But once you retire, a new goal arises - investing so you can remain retired. To help yourself achieve this goal, you will need to make a number of investment decisions.

Which of these decisions are most important? Here are five to consider:

How much will you spend each year? Before you can pursue an appropriate investment strategy, you'll need to know about how much you'll spend each year. Estimate your costs for housing, food, travel, entertainment, insurance, gifts - everything. Keep in mind that your expenses will likely change annually, especially for items such as health care. Don't forget about inflation, which will likely cause your expenses to increase over the years.

How should you balance your investment portfolio to provide sufficient income and growth opportunities? Clearly, you'll need your investments to provide a source of income during your retirement years. At the same time, you will need some growth potential to overcome the effects of inflation, which can erode your purchasing power. Consequently, you will need a mix of income- and growth-oriented investments, with the proportions depending on your risk tolerance and your lifestyle.

How much should you withdraw each year from your investment portfolio? The answer

depends on several factors, including your retirement lifestyle, the size and performance of your investment portfolio, inflation, your estimated life expectancy and the size of the estate you'd like to leave. This decision is important, because the amount you withdraw each year will directly affect how long your money lasts.

From which accounts should you begin taking withdrawals? You may have built three different types of accounts: taxable, tax-deferred and tax-free. It may be a good idea to take withdrawals from your taxable accounts first, thereby allowing your tax-deferred accounts, such as your Traditional IRA and your 401(k), more time to compound and potentially increase in value. If you have a tax-free account, such as a Roth IRA, save it for last to maximize the compounding on money on which you will never pay taxes. (Roth IRA earnings grow tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you don't begin taking withdrawals until you're at least 59 1/2.) That said, this is just a rule of thumb.

When should you take Social Security? You can begin taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly checks will be considerably larger if you wait until your "normal" retirement age, which is likely 65 or 66. But if you need the money, you may be better off by taking Social Security at 62 and giving your tax-deferred accounts more time to potentially grow.

As you can see, you'll need a lot of expertise to successfully manage your financial and investment situations during retirement. If you don't already work with a financial advisor and a tax professional, now would be a good time to start. Once you've got your financial strategy in place, you'll be better prepared to enjoy an active, fulfilling retirement.



The Raton Ski and Snowboard Club gathers at Angel Fire earlier this month.

(Photo courtesy of Mary B. Mitchell)

Raton Ski and Snowboard Club knows how to have fun

BY TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Raton Public Schools offers middle and high school students a unique opportunity - the chance to escape school to spend a full day sliding down snow-covered mountains. The popular club is on this year's fifth ski trip today, to Angel Fire. A school bus carries three dozen students to the resort, along with teachers and chaperones, all of whom enjoy skiing or snowboarding.

For \$30, each participant gets transportation, equipment rental, lift ticket, two hours of lessons, and a full day on the mountain. Raton Middle School and Raton High School have supplemented a grant from New Mexico Game and Fish to facilitate the program. Teachers Mary B. Mitchell, Alice Fitzgerald, and Max Bryson are regulars on the outings.

Mitchell says, "We have several students who took advantage of the school program last year and now are pretty good boarders and skiers. Several of the kids have even bought Sunday passes for this year after participating last year."



Some of Raton's hottest skiers and snowboarders gather outside Raton High School this week. Left to right: Gavin Wilson, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Levi Smith, Syngen Duncan, T.J. Hall.

(Photo by Tim Keller)

Junior Kyle Fitzpatrick has gone even further: he's bought a season pass and spends his weekends snowboarding. "I love the feeling of getting on the mountain," he says. "It feels like I'm in control of the mountain. For me, it's a bigger rush to accomplish something on the mountain than it is to play school sports."

Another top snowboarder, Syngen Duncan, agrees. "I love it. It's my favorite thing to do." Gavin Wilson goes often with his family, saying, "It's fun, and it's good exercise." T.J. Hall says he gave snowboarding a try because, "I thought it all looked cool to do," and now he's hooked.

The bus leaves Raton at 6:30

in the morning and returns almost twelve hours later, giving the skiers and snowboarders eight hours of speed and freedom on the mountain. This year's season may wind down early due to a lack of snow: Raton's young skiers and snowboarders will soon turn their daydreams to next winter.



The beginner's quilting class at Luna Community College work together to make a baby quilt. Some of the students will begin making quilt blocks to donate to the Marine Comfort Quilts, which provides quilts to the families of fallen American soldiers.

(Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

Body found near train tracks in Castle Rock

DENVER (AP) - Authorities are investigating the death of a person whose body was found near train tracks in Castle Rock.

Douglas County sheriff's spokeswoman Cocha Heyden says a train engineer called authorities at about 1:30 p.m. Thursday to report seeing a body near Colorado 85 and a Castle Rock subdivision.

Heyden says it's not known how the body ended up near the tracks or whether the person had been struck by a train. The death is under investigation.

Details about the victim, including gender, were not released.

Information from: The Denver Post, <http://www.denverpost.com>

TRINIDAD POLICE BLOTTER

ARREST:

■ 2/23/09 - Crystal Reid, 21, Albuquerque, NM - Menacing

SUMMONS:

■ 2/26/09 - Ricardo Juarez-Torres, Kremmling, Colo. - Speeding 20-24 miles over the limit in a construction zone,

drove vehicle without valid driver's license

■ 2/26/09 - Daniel Davidson, Bon Carbo - Speeding 20-24 miles over the limit

PARKING TICKET:

■ 2/25/09 - Robert Martinez, Weston - Parked vehicle within five feet of private driveway