

## NMSP investigate homicide in Villanueva

Written by Staff Reports

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The New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau is investigating a shooting at 6 CRB 29D that occurred in Villanueva, New Mexico Dec. 12.

According to a Dec. 14 press release, Investigations Bureau agents learned at approximately 7:15 p.m., New Mexico State Police officers were called to 6 CRB 29D in reference to a shooting which had just occurred. When officers arrived, they observed a male lying face down on the ground with a wound consistent with a gunshot.

The deceased male was identified as Alejandro Rodriguez, 39. Investigators learned that earlier in the day, Gary Hicks, 59, of Ribera, N.M. and a 43-year-old male were returning from cutting wood when the male observed Rodriguez's vehicle parked outside his cousin's residence. The male stated he knew, and investigators later confirmed, that Rodriguez had an active restraining order prohibiting his contact with the female homeowner.

The 43-year-old male confronted Rodriguez outside the residence and an argument ensued. Moments later, he heard a gunshot and Rodriguez fell to the ground. Rodriguez was pronounced dead at the scene by the Office of the Medical Investigator. The investigation revealed Hicks was the shooter and he was charged with an open count of murder.

This incident remains under investigation by the New Mexico State Police.

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