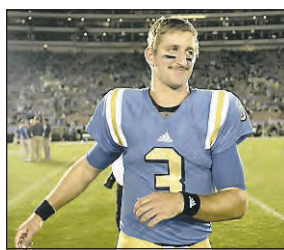


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COLONIES CORRUPTION TRIAL

NOT GUILTY

DEVELOPER, TWO FORMER OFFICIALS ARE ACQUITTED IN YEARSLONG CASE

By Joe Nelson and Richard K. De Atley
Staff Writers

SAN BERNARDINO » Three of the four defendants in the San Bernardino County-Colonies corruption case were found not guilty of all charges Monday, after a marathon trial that lasted nearly eight months.

Rancho Cucamonga developer Jeff Burum and two former county officials — former Supervisor Paul Biane, and Mark Kirk, former chief of staff for then-county Supervisor Gary Ovitt — were charged with bribery, conflict of interest and improper influence in an alleged scheme to get county approval of a \$102 million court settlement in favor of a developer.

"I'm grateful to the jury," Burum said afterward. "The jury gave up part of their careers and lives for eight months. I'm grateful to my friends and family for sticking by me in the belief this would be over eventually. Nobody should have to go through seven years of waiting to defend themselves. Nobody."

The verdicts were read in the packed San Bernardino courtroom of Judge Michael A. Smith. Jurors for the three began deliberations late Wednesday afternoon, met all day Thursday and had Friday off. Word came that verdicts had been reached by mid-morning Monday.

"Jury, this finally concludes your service. Normally I'd just say 'thank you' — you deserve more than that," Smith told the jury, to applause in the courtroom. "That's not for your verdict, that's for your service. We

COLONIES » PAGE 9

INSIDE

- A look at the nine felony charges against the defendants in the Colonies case. **PAGE A8**
- "It was all unanimous from the beginning," says one of the jurors who spoke after the verdict. **PAGE A8**
- Timeline of events from 1999 to Monday's verdict. **PAGE A9**



PHOTOS BY RACHEL LUNA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Developer Jeff Burum, center, and his attorneys, Jennifer Keller and Stephen Larson, react as Burum is found not guilty of all charges in the Colonies corruption case at San Bernardino Superior Court on Monday.

Mark Kirk, left, the former chief of staff for former San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt, and his attorney, Peter Scalisi, react after Kirk is found not guilty of all charges in the Colonies corruption case.



Former San Bernardino County Supervisor Paul Biane, right, shakes hands with defense attorney Stephen Larson after being found not guilty of all charges in the Colonies corruption case.

WEATHER

Southern California cranks up the heat

By Brian Rokos
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[@Brian_Rokos on Twitter](https://twitter.com/Brian_Rokos)

An afternoon of extreme weather in parts of Southern California on Monday brought record-setting temperatures, isolated thunderstorms that dropped up to 2 inches of rain and winds strong enough to topple trees.

The dangerous heat, which

prompted warnings that people could risk heat-related illness if they don't limit their outdoor activity, is expected to peak today or Wednesday. People who don't have a good place to cool off can take advantage of cool centers — places like libraries and community centers that welcome the public to use their air conditioning during intense heat waves.

Lake Elsinore hit 114 degrees

HEAT » PAGE 5

TROPICAL STORM HARVEY

Houston mostly paralyzed as floodwaters rise

By Michael Graczyk and David J. Phillip
The Associated Press

HOUSTON » Floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes Monday, and people could be heard pleading for help from inside as Harvey poured rain on the Houston area for a fourth consecutive day after a chaotic weekend of rising water and rescues.

The nation's fourth-largest city was still mostly paralyzed by one of the largest downpours

in U.S. history. And there was no relief in sight from the storm that spun into Texas as a Category 4 hurricane, then parked over the Gulf Coast. With nearly 2 more feet of rain expected on top of the 30-plus inches in some places, authorities worried that the worst might be yet to come.

Harvey has been blamed for at least three confirmed deaths, including a woman killed Monday in the town of Porter, northeast of Houston, when a large oak tree dislodged by heavy rains toppled onto her trailer home.

A Houston television station reported Monday that six family members were believed to have drowned when their van was swept away by floodwaters. The KHOU report was attributed to three family members the station did not identify. No bodies have been recovered.

Police Chief Art Acevedo told The Associated Press that he had no information about the report but said that he's "really worried about how many bodies we're going to find."

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