To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser.
URL: http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news02/121002_news_courttv.shtml

Brandenburg interview added to Court TV series

By Joline Gutierrez Krueger
Tribune Reporter

District Attorney Kari Brandenthis week during Court TV coverage of the Linda Henning murder trial.

National coverage of the bizarre murder case that fascinated Albuquerque court watchers in October continues for a second day today on the cable TV channel.

The trial, which lasted 11 days, is being compressed into five days of TV coverage.

Along with footage from the trial, live guests today were expected to include Julie McGuire, an Aztec woman who carried on a relationship with Diazien Hossencofft, and Brian Fox, the divorce attorney who represented Hossencofft's estranged wife and the woman Henning is accused of helping to kill.

Henning, 49, was found guilty in October of felony murder, kidnapping and other charges in the 1999 death of Girly Chew Hossencofft, 36. Court TV has dubbed the case the "Desert Murder Mystery."

Court TV anchors appeared excited about the quirky nature of the case, which involved Henning's belief in UFOs and her perceived role as avenging queen who had to save the Earth by slaying alien queens with a ninja sword.

The case also featured Diazien Hossencofft, the self-professed mastermind of the murder whose extensive list of lies included his being a doctor, a dying man and someone capable of creating a son in a test tube.

"It seemed like a plot only Stephen King could conjure," anchor James Curtis enthused Monday after introducing the oddities of the case. "Hossencofft seems like one of King's characters personified."

Anchors praised Assistant District Attorney Paul Spiers for his methodical and comprehensive opening statements, coverage of which kicked off Monday's show.

They also complimented the Albuquerque Police Department and Detective Mike Fox for the quick decision to elevate the case to a homicide from a missing persons case.

But they had harsh words for FBI Special Agent John Schum for not stepping in to help Girly Hossencofft, who had sought protection from him a day before she disappeared Sept. 9, 1999.

Girly Hossencofft's body has never been found. Police were called in when she failed to show up for work at a Bank of America. Her bank manager testified that she had told them that if she turned up missing they should expect the worst and they should expect that Diazien Hossencofft was behind her demise.

Brandenburg, whose prosecutors successfully argued Henning's case, is expected to be a guest via a phone interview at 2:15 p.m. Friday, Court TV publicist Ellie Jostad said.

Also scheduled Friday is Steven Zachary, a longtime friend of Henning's from New York. Zachary was expected to proffer his theory that Henning must have been brainwashed or drugged to have changed from a compassionate and competent businesswoman into an accused killer just weeks after meeting Diazien Hossencofft.

Zachary's segment is expected to air at 11:15 a.m., Jostad said.

Henning would have become the first woman in New Mexico to receive the death penalty since statehood had the jury not opted to spare her life. Her sentencing was postponed until early next year so that she can undergo a psychological evaluation.

Dlazlen Hossencofft is already serving a lengthy sentence in a Wyoming penitentiary.

ON TELEVISION

Court TV coverage of the Linda Henning murder trial continues this week on Comcast cable Channel 55. On Dish satellite system, it's Channel 204; on DirectTV, it's Channel 203.