

TOP STORY

Saguache jury finds Heimberg not guilty

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A Saguache County jury found Saguache business owner Steven Heimberg not guilty Friday afternoon on all charges related to the Sept. 7, 2018, shooting death of Richard Wharton.

Heimberg faced charges including murder in the first degree, murder in the second degree, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree and unlawful use of a deadly weapon.

The seven-woman, five-man jury reached the verdict after about 8½ hours of deliberation Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Jurors announced their verdict at about 1 p.m. Friday.

In response to the outcome of the trial, Senior Deputy District Attorney Robert Willett said the jury's verdict speaks for itself.

Defense attorney James Castle, speaking for his client, said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wharton family. We hope they can heal."

Members of Wharton's family declined to comment.