

Escuela classes resume Monday

By JERRY MONTGOMERY

Amid cleanups, repairs and funeral activities for a Galisteo teenager, classes at Escuela Colegio Tonantzín began on schedule Monday, strained by tensions resulting from last week's shootout at the former convent.

Hampered by efforts to get some of the school's "people" removed from jail and getting the school in operation, the first day's classes were plagued by a lack of teachers and the mess left by the incident a week ago. Others had been attending the funeral for Linda Montoya who died Thursday from wounds suffered in the gunbattle.

To avoid a "hassle," classes began only for children in the three to five age bracket and for high school dropouts, said Celina Garcia, an official at the school.

Teachers at the school were in the process of airing out rooms, and students present Monday were asked to help in the cleanup, said Ms. Garcia.

"We have cleaned out the place as much as we could under the circumstances," she said.

In the bullet-riddled front room, older students were conducting "teatro" class, rehearsing a script written and directed by Ms. Garcia, former community relations director for Model Cities, who is instructing drama classes at the school.

Several smaller children were playing in other parts of the building. Their teacher was at the funeral services.

Curriculum at the school, when finally organized after the two-week break following the summer session, will include instruction in mathematics and history, art, dance and drama. Several of the teachers have had specialized instruction in those areas through college courses.

"We had seen a lot of progress in the students in the summer session," Ms. Garcia said. "We do not stress

college degrees so much as we stress relationship with the students," she added.

Several of the students had completed work for a high school equivalency diploma, during the summer session.

Ms. Garcia added. "We have had several parents call and ask if we would be opening," Ms. Garcia said. "They asked whether they should enroll their children in public schools or let them come here. That's up to them," she said.

A sign on the front gate of the convent designates the school closed, although directors of Escuela Colegio Tonantzín had stressed that it would open on schedule despite last week's incident and efforts to shut it down.

"Things are back to normal again. I guess," said one Agua Fria village resident, apparently not much bothered by the fact that the school would be operating.