

# SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COMMUNITY News

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## OC News

### Toll Roads: Thousands Of Violations?

STAFF REPORTS

**Orange County** – The website, [www.thetollroads.com](http://www.thetollroads.com), states, "Sign up and drive today! With the end of cash toll collection, now all drivers enjoy a nonstop,

see OC Page 3

## IE News

### UPS Driver Accused Of Stealing Guns

STAFF REPORTS

**Riverside** – A United Parcel Service driver was arrested on Fri., July 25, on federal gun trafficking charges for allegedly stealing dozens of guns going through the shipping company's Ontario hub, and providing them to an associate who sold the weapons in underground transactions.

According to the United

see IE Page 3

## New Charges For Diamond Bar Prisoners

STAFF REPORTS

**Diamond Bar** – Three Inland Empire men already incarcerated for stealing millions of dollars are now facing new federal charges based upon information recently derived regarding two more burglaries.

Laurentiu Penescu, 39, of Yucaipa; Lucian Gabriel Isaia, 33 of Beaumont; and Alceu Johnny Andreis, 46, of Banning, are currently serving various federal prison terms

from three to four-plus years for cutting through building roofs with power tools to gain access inside cement bank vaults. A BBCN Bank in Diamond Bar was burglarized in 2012, and the group failed to break in to a Citibank branch, also in Diamond Bar, in 2013. They also hit an East West bank in Rowland Heights in 2011.

The trio pleaded guilty to

see Charges Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY: LA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## West Nile Mosquitoes Found In Walnut

STAFF REPORTS

**Walnut** – On Fri., July 18, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District identified two samples of mosquitoes caught in traps at Creekside Park that tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the second finding in San Gabriel Valley over

the past several weeks.

According to the SGV Mosquito and Vector Control District – or the Vector Inspectors – WNV is present in the San Gabriel Valley every year. You can help to eradicate this disease from the area by taking an active stance against it through prevention. The Vector Inspectors recommend that you walk

around your property and dump out any accumulated water in buckets, barrels, old tires, pots, and other containers. Report any green and stagnant pools, ponds and fountains, as they can breed thousands of mosquitoes weekly; and report all dead birds to [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

WNV is primarily transmitted

from bird to bird by mosquitoes. In some species it is nearly always fatal. The presence of dead birds in a neighborhood is often the first indication of WNV activity.

WNV originated in Africa and was first recognized in

see Nile Page 4

## La Puente Girl Runs For Charity

STAFF REPORTS

**La Puente** – 12-year old Blanca Ramirez is running for charity. She has a goal to become the youngest person ever to run seven marathons on seven continents...before her next birthday.

It sounds more than ambitious, but Ramirez is nearly half way there already. She has run marathons in Africa, Asia and the United States, and is looking forward to running in South

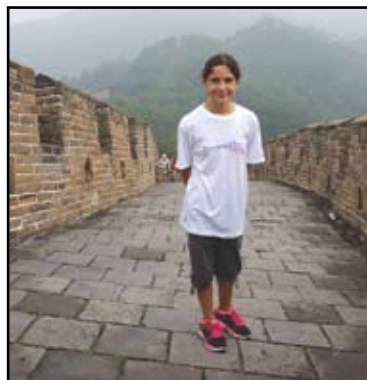


PHOTO COURTESY: OPERATION SMILE

Blanca Ramirez at the Great Wall of China.

America this month, Australia in November, and Europe in early 2015. That just leaves Antarctica, which is scheduled next March.

Ramirez took to running as a family affair, but then she had the idea to globalize her running for charity. She runs to benefit Operation Smile, one of the largest surgical organizations in the world, and also the largest volunteer-based medical charity providing free cleft surgeries. They have provided over 220,000 free

surgical procedures to children with cleft lip, cleft palate, and other facial deformities. Every three minutes a child is born with one of these conditions, which makes it difficult to eat, speak, hear and breathe properly.

Ramirez' effort to raise awareness for such a worthwhile cause is definitely something to smile about. You can follow her journey and find out more about Operation Smile by visiting Team Blanca at <http://teamblancausa.com/#operationsmile>.

## FEATURED BUSINESS

### Angiel Air: Customer Service Is Their Priority

STAFF REPORTS

**SGV/Eastvale** – With the heat of summer in full swing, you want to make sure that your air conditioning is running as efficiently as possible. When there is a problem, you want it fixed fast,

see Angiel Page 5



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Did You Know?

By K. P. SANDER

On July 28, 1914, World War I began when the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots in preparation for the invasion of Serbia after the assassination of heir-to-the-throne Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. More than nine million combatants were killed during the more than four years of turmoil, which ended on Nov. 11, 1918, making it one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

At the time, it was simply called the World War, or Great War, and it included all the economic powers in the world divided into two alliances. The Allies consisted of the United Kingdom, France and Russia; and the Central Powers were Germany and Austria-Hungary. Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, and the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire and Bulgaria sided with the Central Powers.

After the Russian government



PHOTO COURTESY: REVISIONWORLD.COM

Headline announcing the end of the first World War in the Los Beach Daily Telegram on s on Nov. 11, 1918.

collapsed in March of 1917, the war headed toward a resolution when the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Germany agreed to an armistice. By the end of the war, the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires ceased to exist, with the latter two becoming dismantled. This lead to the maps of Europe and Southwest Asia being redrawn, and some independent

nations being restored and even created. As a consequence, The League of Nations was formed with the goal of preventing further global wars. Renewed European nationalism and the humiliation of Germany contributed to a rise in fascism, and any further hopes of prevention were dashed with the culmination of World War II.

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# 6th Annual Aldabella Scarpa Shoe Giveback

By GINA K. WARD

**La Puente** – Right before school officially began this year, 300 elementary school girls walked down a red carpet to receive sweet surprises: designer shoes, backpacks filled with school supplies, free haircuts, cupcakes, and much more at the 6th Annual Aldabella Scarpa Shoe Giveback Event. The invitation-only event was held on Fri., Aug. 15 at Villacorta Elementary in La Puente.

An outpouring of community support allows Aldabella Scarpa, owned by alumna Monica Gonzales, to give back to La Puente schools in

the Rowland Unified School District. Community members donated school supplies for the backpacks courtesy of California Credit Union, and in addition to the designer shoes, students received free haircuts from Supercuts West Covina, tacos from Taco Nazo, took part in craft activities thanks to Home Depot in City of Industry, enjoyed cupcakes from The Cake Mamas, entertainment by Hot 92.3 FM, dental kits from Tri-City Smiles in Hacienda Heights, and were able to visit additional sponsor-booths from SpeedZone, East Valley Health Center at Villacorta School, and Friends of the Heart for school supplies.

Additional event sponsors were Walmart City of Industry, Global Processing System, OMG Hair Accessories, Krispy Kreme (off Azusa Blvd. in City of Industry), Starbucks and Stater Brothers (off Amar Rd. in West Covina).

“We want these young girls to have an amazing, positive experience and not allow circumstances in their lives to create limits. Our community supports them and we want them to dream big,” said Gonzales.

Students were pre-selected by school staff from Hurley, Northam and Villacorta Elementary Schools, part of RUSD. For more information visit [www.RowlandSchools.org](http://www.RowlandSchools.org).



PHOTO COURTESY: REVISIONWORLD.COM

org, download the free RUSD mobile app for iOS and Android devices, or follow on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/RowlandUSD](http://www.Facebook.com/RowlandUSD).

Aldabella Scarpa™ is an entrepreneurial endeavor by Monica Gonzales in an effort to design the most fashion-

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## New charges for Diamond Bar prisoners

**CHARGES** from page 1

conspiracy to commit bank burglary and attempted bank burglary in January, although this is not the first time that

they have served time for this type of crime. Prosecutors have stated that almost ten years ago they were convicted of a series of rooftop heists in Riverside County, stealing more than \$3.5 million in cash and gems

If convicted of new charges, Penescu, Isaia and Andreis will spend decades in prison. Also convicted in this case are Dean Muniz, 47, of Fontana – who is serving ten years; and Daniel Soto, 38, of Riverside, who is awaiting sentence.

## Toll Roads: Thousands of violations?

**OC** from page 1

stress free, time saving, reliable commute on The Toll Roads.” However, the “stress free” part might be a bit of a premature tagline.

In recent reports there have been as many as 17,000 violations in a single day since Orange County toll roads recently eliminated manned cash-collecting toll booths and became all electronic. Because of this transition, some of the fees are being waived for first-timers, but toll agencies are going to start enforcing penalties soon enough.

The Transportation Corridor Agency has eliminated the manpower in favor of electronic signaling for which commuters can utilize a special transponder, or pre-pay tolls online. There are always violations

that occur in the toll roads, but the new system is obviously a source of mass confusion. Many drivers have been reported pulled over on the side of the road near the electronic booths trying to figure out what to do. With an estimated 250,000 motorists using the four Orange County toll roads each day, that’s a lot of perplexity.

If you sign up for an account online and provide bank or credit card debit access, you can receive a transponder and not worry too much about it. Those without accounts are required to pay one-time tolls online within 48 hours of their usage or suffer the consequences.

The agencies are trying to educate consumers on the new system and assist with the transition. For now they are said to be waiving the \$57.50 violation penalty fee through Labor Day, as long

as the toll is paid within a 30 day time frame. They are also installing more signage, and flashing information on nearby freeway information boards to help guide those heading for the toll booths.

It makes sense that the confusion has added significantly to the number of calls coming into the toll agencies. They have temporarily increased customer service representatives to help alleviate the backlog and provide assistance.

Visit [www.thetollroads.com](http://www.thetollroads.com) to gather more information. You can pay online, or even download their payment app, One-Time Toll, to help you on your way. Just remember, don’t stop at the booth, just head on through or you’ll hold up the line. If you go through a toll booth, you’ll have to pay it in some fashion. With a little patience and education, it can be penalty-free.

## UPS driver accused of stealing guns

**IE** from page 1

States Attorney’s Office, Curtis Hays, 36, of Rancho Cucamonga, was arrested without incident by special agents with the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms). Hays was expected to be arraigned that same day in United States District Court.

The associate who allegedly sold some of the firearms – Dennis Dell White, Jr., 35, of Moreno Valley – will be summoned to appear in federal court for an arraignment in the coming weeks.

The 16-count indictment, which was filed on July 23, alleges that Hays stole a series of packages containing guns that

were supposed to be delivered to the Turner’s Outdoorsman retailer in Rancho Cucamonga. The indictment also accused Hays of stealing jewelry and mobile phones that were supposed to be delivered to other retailers. This merchandise was also allegedly given to White.

Hays purportedly provided the firearms to White, who illegally sold the weapons to other individuals, and some of the guns were then sold to others. The firearms included 12-gauge shotguns and .45-caliber handguns.

Hays and White are charged with conspiracy; six counts of theft of firearms; six counts of receipt and possession of stolen firearms; and two counts of theft, receipt, and possession

of goods in interstate commerce.

White is additionally charged with being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The conspiracy count carries a statutory maximum penalty of five years in federal prison. The weapons charges each carry a potential penalty of 10 years in prison. The stolen goods charges each carry a maximum possible penalty of five years in prison. And, if convicted of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, White could face up to an additional 10 years in prison.

The investigation into the stolen firearms was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in conjunction with the Ontario Police Department.

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# Illegal Sterilization At Chino Prison

STAFF REPORTS

**Chino** – In a review concerning female inmate sterilizations occurring between fiscal years 2005-06 and 2012-13, state auditor, Elaine M. Howle, reported on some disturbing facts discovered in some California prisons.

The June 19 audit revealed that during the aforementioned period, 144 female inmates were sterilized by bilateral tubal ligation, and the Receiver's Office of the California Correctional Health Care Services at times failed to ensure that the inmates' consent was lawfully obtained. 39 inmates received the procedure – 11 of those women incarcerated at Chino – with deficiencies in the process.

In 27 of those cases, there was no evidence that a physician signed the required consent forms asserting that the patient was mentally competent and therefore understood the lasting effects of the

procedure; in 18 cases there was a violation of the required waiting period between consent and procedure. In some cases, the physicians falsified the consent forms, indicating that the proper waiting period had passed when it clearly had not. In all there were numerous illegal surgeries and other violations of the state's informed consent law.

For one case in particular for a pregnant inmate at the Chino prison, a physician filed a form requesting approval for a pregnancy evaluation and treatment. Nothing on the form indicated a request for sterilization; the woman was sterilized, regardless, during a cesarean section delivery which was performed 17 days before the woman's expected delivery date. A review of her medical records did not indicate any emergency conditions requiring an expedited delivery or sterilization.

Auditors have begun to urge federal officials to give the



PHOTO COURTESY: LA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

names of the physicians involved in the illegal surgeries to the Medical Board and the California Department of Public Health for further investigation and possible disciplinary action.

Prison advocates and former inmates say that prison medical staff targeted those who were deemed likely to return to prison in the future. The audit states that all the women who received tubal ligations had been in prison at least once

before, and were repeat offenders. The prison medical officials have denied any ill intent; however, the integrity of all these incidents is in question.

This integrity, or lack thereof, leads one to remember California's dreadful history regarding such things, labeled Eugenics. Wikipedia states that as an early leading force in the field of Eugenics, California became the third state in the United States to enact a sterilization law, forcing 20,000

sterilizations between 1909 and 1963. By 1921, California had accounted for 80% of the sterilizations nationwide. This continued until World War 2, after which the number of sterilizations began to decrease, largely due to the fallout of Hitler's eugenics movement. It is reported that Nazi Germany sought the advice of the California's eugenics leaders in the 1930s. More current reports tout the sterilization as a way to avoid welfare benefits for unwanted children.

In response to the audit, the state prison health department generally agrees with the findings, and noted that steps have since been taken to improve the situation. A bill has now been introduced that would ban all inmate sterilizations for birth control purposes. In May, the Senate unanimously approved SB 1135, and the measures are now being taken up by the Assembly.

Tiana Goegebuer contributed to this article.

# West Nile Mosquitoes Found In Walnut

**NILE** from page 1

the United States in 1999. There is currently no cure; however, most people don't exhibit any symptoms. Since 2003, there have been more than 4,000 reported infections and 145 deaths in California, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), so the threat should be taken

seriously. Symptoms include fever, headaches, body aches, skin rashes and nausea, which can present anywhere from five to 15 days after exposure, and can last several days or months.

Popular Creekside Park is the venue for Walnut's summer concert and movie series, and there are a number of precautions you can take to prevent infection during this event or any outdoor activity.

Mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn, and when enjoying warm summer evenings, be sure to wear loose-fitting long pants and sleeves, and shoes and socks. Treating exposed skin areas and outside clothing with repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, and oils of lemon eucalyptus can also be helpful, according to the CDC.

For more information, visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).



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# Back To School Safety Tips

By LASD SAN DIMAS STATION

**SGV** – The new school year is here, and the adjustment to returning to school may take a few weeks. Returning to school can be fun and exciting, with every day bringing new experiences, but it can also be difficult for some children.

Kids today are faced with far more than learning new material. Interacting with teachers and other students, bullying, peer pressure and school violence are just a few of the challenges children face. You can help prepare your children for the experiences they will face at school each day and help create a safer school environment.

Read the following tips for advice on how to protect your children, and how to teach them to protect themselves.

**Getting to School**

- Give yourself plenty of time as you and your children adjust to the new school schedule.

- Map out a safe way for your children to walk to school or to the bus stop.
- Work with other parents in the neighborhood to ensure that children in the neighborhood are supervised closely to and from school.
- Work with your neighbors and your child on identifying “safe houses” in the neighborhood; homes where your child is familiar and can ask for help if need be.
- Point out places they should avoid such as vacant lots, alleyways, and construction areas.
- Encourage your children to use the “buddy system”.
- Teach your children to never speak to strangers or go anywhere with a stranger, and let them know it’s okay to report if a stranger tries to approach them.
- Teach your children to always be aware of their surroundings. Be aware of slow moving vehicles or parked vehicles that appear to be occupied. Choose a different route or walk on the opposite side

- of the street.
- Children need to pay attention to traffic signals and use crosswalks with a crossing guard if available.
- Bus Safety**
- Make sure your children arrive at least five minutes early for the bus.
  - Make sure your children know to stand on the sidewalk while waiting for the bus.
  - Teach your children to make sure the bus driver can see them before walking in front of the bus, and to never walk behind a bus.
  - Be aware that bullying often happens on the bus. Ask your children about their bus rides, who they sit with, and what goes on in the bus. Encourage them to report any bullying behavior.
- After School**
- Have your children check in with an adult as soon as they get home.
  - Show them how to properly lock all doors and windows.
  - Make sure they know to never open a door to a stranger.
  - Establish a set of rules: who

- can come over, when homework must be done, and any chores they must do before you get home.
- Find a trusted neighbor who will allow your children to come over in case of an emergency.
  - Establish strict rules regarding Internet usage.
- At School**
- Teach your children to resolve problems without fighting.
  - Encourage your children to report bullying behavior, either as a victim or a witness.
  - Ask school officials about the safety and emergency plans for the school, all schools are required to have one.
- Bullying**
- Listen to children and encourage them to talk about their day.
  - Take all complaints about bullying seriously, if you don’t your child may not tell you next time.
  - Watch for symptoms such as withdrawal, a drop in grades, or new friends.
  - Notify the school immediately if you think your child is being bullied.

- Praise your children when they are kind to others.
  - Teach children self-protection skills; how to walk and talk confidently, stay alert to their surroundings, and to stand up for themselves verbally.
  - “IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.” Parents and children alike should be aware of their surroundings. If you or your child becomes aware of something or someone suspicious near the school, report it to law enforcement. We want to know!
- San Dimas Sheriff’s Station is one of six stations within the East Patrol Division of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. The Station’s jurisdiction encompasses approximately 276 square miles. In addition to serving the City of San Dimas, the station serves unincorporated communities of Azusa, Covina, Glendora, La Verne, Claremont, Pomona, the Los Angeles County portion of Mt. Baldy, a large portion of the Angeles National Forest (State Route 39), and portions of Angeles Crest Highway (Highway 2).*

# Angiel Air: Customer service is their priority

ANGIEL from page 1

no matter what time of day it is. Angiel Air is there for you, even after hours and on weekends.

Angiel Air, Inc. is a family-owned Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning company that takes pride in the service they provide to their customers. It is their mission to keep their customers happy and satisfied.

Angiel Air offers competitive pricing and a satisfaction guarantee, providing a complete range of heating, ventilation and air conditioning services for both residential and commercial

needs. With more than 20 years experience in the industry, they are HVAC certified, licensed and bonded.

Angiel Air started their family business in nearby Eastvale five years ago. They recommend that you don’t wait until something breaks to call them. By scheduling regular maintenance on your air conditioning and heating units, as well as the cleaning of dryers and air ducts, you not only save money in the long run, but you can ensure that your systems will provide top notch performance when you need them.

Says Jennifer Angiel, CFO of the company, “We love our

business! There is no better satisfaction than fixing an air conditioner when a customer is hot and mad, and making them feel heavenly.”

So don’t wait until you’re hot and mad. Call Angiel Air today and make sure that you’re air conditioner can endure the summer heat for you.

Call Angiel Air at (909) 923-9086, and be sure to visit their website at [www.angielair.net](http://www.angielair.net) for additional information and local discounts. Like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/angielair1](http://www.facebook.com/angielair1), and get great tips, customer reviews, and even more details.

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# Make your garden beautiful with Pruners

PRUNERS from page 1

unreachable, especially if you work with a professional in the field who loves his work.

David Hetland, owner of Pruners, is a licensed landscape artist who designs individual garden work. Pruners is a licensed, full-service design landscape contractor opened since 1997.

The difference between Pruners and other garden places is that Hetland specializes in garden restoration, “the

common-sense alternative to California gardening.”

“We’re different because of the restoration side of gardening,” Heltand said. “I work with the idea of being able to save some of what’s good and take out what’s bad.”

Hetland, who has been landscaping for over 25 years, offers a short, free consultation to analyze the damages, arrange the fix and estimate the cost.

Through garden restoration, your garden can be added on to, brought back to life, or sim-

ply be used to build a brand-new garden.

Hetland works closely with clients, on a one-on-one basis, and is able to finish the work at one time, so there are no monthly fees.

He also suggests that prospective customers ask about Pruners beautiful Koi ponds, streams and waterfalls, which are a quick way to add a tropical look to your landscape.

For more information on how Pruners can turn your average garden into a lush landscape, call (909) 468-5017.



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