

OC News

OC Teacher Commits Suicide

El Dorado High School Photography Teacher found dead in classroom

By CLAIRES LEWIS

Placentia – Students at El Dorado High School had a devastating shock when they went to their photography class on the morning of Mon., Mar. 2.

Placentia Police Officers

see OC page 3

IE News

Former Ontario Police Officer Arrested

STAFF REPORTS

Ontario – On Nov. 8, 2014, investigators from the Ontario Police Department received information that one of their officers, Tyler Stone, 30, of Rancho Cucamonga, had an inappropriate relationship with a juvenile female. The Sheriff's Department immediately

see IE page 3



Elaborate marijuana grow operation in Pomona

PHOTO COURTESY: POMONA PD

Pot Bust In Pomona Nets \$1 Million

STAFF REPORTS

Pomona – Officers from the Major Crimes Task Force followed up on a tip of a "marijuana grow" operation located at 2713 N. Towne Ave., an indus-

trial area in the City of Pomona. According to the Pomona Police Department, when Officers arrived, they smelled a strong odor of marijuana emitting from the business. Officers subsequently wrote a search

warrant for the location.

On Fri., Mar. 6, at approximately 1 p.m., Officers served the search warrant and located a sophisticat-

see Grow page 9

Special Olympics Coming To West Covina



PHOTO COURTESY: LA2015.ORG

STAFF REPORTS

West Covina – On Tues., Mar. 10, the City of West Covina announced they will host the entire Special Olympics Delegation (which includes athletes and coaches) from Nippon (Japan) as part of the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program. Before the World Games begin

see Special page 3

Shooting At Willie White Park

STAFF REPORTS

Pomona – On Sun., Mar. 1 at approximately 3:20 p.m., the Pomona Police Department received a "Victim of a Shooting" call at Willie White Park, located at 3065 Battram Street. Upon arrival, Officers observed a male African-American victim near the playground area suf-

see Park page 8

Hacienda Heights Teacher Arrested

Los Altos teacher investigated for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a student

STAFF REPORTS

Hacienda Heights – Special Victims Bureau Detectives have arrested a Los Altos teacher for having a sexual relationship with a student at the high school.

David Park, 37, of Chino

see Teacher page 9

Our Featured Businesses

Walnut Hills Optometry

STAFF REPORTS

Walnut – For many years, Walnut Hills Optometry (WHO) has taken great care of the vision needs of its community, serving patients from Walnut and Diamond Bar, to Chino Hills and Rowland heights. Because of the quality of service provided, as well as the trusting care given by the doctor, patients travel

see WHO page 9



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Apex Lawyers, Inc.

By CLAIRES LEWIS

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see Apex page 8



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Did You Know?

By K.P. SANDER

This Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) was founded on March 12, 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. Low, who was inspired after a meeting with Robert Baden-Power – the founder of Scouting – reportedly telephoned a cousin, saying, “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah [Georgia], and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!”

Low was correct in her projections, and the youth organization was born. GSUSA – just like the Boy Scouts of America – strives to empower girls with the values of honesty, fairness, courage, compassion, character, sisterhood, confidence, and citizenship through activities such as camping, community service, and earning badges through the acquisition of various skills.

Wikipedia states that Low held the first official Girl Scout



Juliette Gordon Low (C) with two Girl Scouts

PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

troop meeting in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, and 18 girls were present. Low had always envisioned an opportunity for girls to get out and serve their communities, and learn life skills that would help sustain them by way of self-reliance and resourcefulness.

In 1915, the organization was officially incorporated and National Headquarters were moved to New York City. By 1920, there were nearly 70,000 members, and by 1923, there were branches in every state of the union. Overall, more than 50 million American women have participated in the GSUSA.

Girl Scout Promise: “On

my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.”

Girl Scout Law: “I will do my best to be Honest and Fair, Friendly and Helpful, Considerate and Caring, Courageous and Strong, and Responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.”

While the Girl Scouts are known far and wide for their cookie sales, their promises are filled with sage advice for everyone to live by.

The Spies Inside Your Phone

By GINNY GRIMSLEY

You just had a flat tire along a dark country road. Luckily, you downloaded a flashlight app into your cell phone and now can put it to use. But that flashlight, handy as it is, may be just one of many doors you unwittingly opened to let spies take up residence inside your phone.

“Most free flashlight apps are creepware,” says Gary S. Miliefsky, CEO of Snoop-Wall (www.snoopwall.com), a company that specializes in cybersecurity. Creepware is malware that spies on you and your online behavior, and could pass along information to others.

For example, Goldenshores Technologies, the company behind the popular “Brightest Flashlight Free” app for Android phones, agreed in 2013 to settle the Federal Trade Commission’s charges that the software secretly supplied cell phone locations to advertising networks and other third parties.

The problem doesn’t begin

and end with flashlight apps, though. Many seemingly innocuous apps that people carry around with them on their mobile devices have the capability to eavesdrop on their activities.

“Consumers trust first and verify never,” Miliefsky says. “As a result, most of their Smartphones are infected with malware that they trust in the form of some kind of useful app or game.”

Miliefsky offers these tips for ousting those spies inside the phone:

- First, assume you’ve already been compromised. It’s nice to think all is probably well, but most likely it’s not. Somewhere in the phone the spies are at work and it’s time to take the privacy behaviors and privacy policies of these apps more seriously.
- Verify the behavior and privacy risks for apps before installing them. Do some research and ask the question: “Why does this app need GPS, microphone, webcam, contacts, etc.?” Most apps don’t

need these ports unless they want to invade your privacy, Miliefsky says. Find an alternative before installing risky apps.

- Do a Smartphone version of spring cleaning. Delete all the apps you don’t use that often. Replace the apps that take advantage of too many of your privacy settings, such as GPS, phone and text message logs, with similar apps that don’t.
- Turn off WiFi, Bluetooth, Near Field Communication and GPS except when you need them. That way, Miliefsky says, if you are at a local coffee shop or in a shopping mall, no one can spy using nearby (proximity) hacking attack. They also can’t track where you were and where you are going on GPS.

- Check to see if your email has put a tracer on you and your phone. “If you use a Google email account and have an Android phone, you’d be surprised that even with your GPS off, it’s tracking your every move,” Miliefsky says. You need to go into the phone’s settings to turn off that tracking

Stabbing Death In Baldwin Park

STAFF REPORTS

Baldwin Park – On Thurs., Feb. 26, at approximately 5:25 p.m., Officers of the Baldwin Park Police Department responded to the 4700 block of Maine Avenue regarding a “person down” call. They found Juanita Solares, 18, sitting on the porch suffering from stab wounds to the upper torso.

Further investigation ultimately led officers to the nearby residence of Solares’ ex-boyfriend, Kenneth Williams, 31. Officers found Williams on the floor of his garage, suffering from a stab wound to the upper torso. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Detectives have learned that Williams met Solares in the parking lot of Yum Yum Donuts at 4351 Maine Avenue, and forced her into his car. He took her to his residence, against her will, punching her in the face as he drove. After Williams parked inside his garage, he continued to physically assault her, striking her in the face again.

Solares ultimately exited the vehicle, and was stabbed multiple times by Williams in the garage. She ran to a neighbor’s house after seeing Williams lying next to his car, unresponsive. He suffered what appeared to be a self-inflicted stab wound to the chest. A knife, believed to have been used in the assault, was recovered at the scene.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500. If you prefer to provide information anonymously, you may call “Crime Stoppers” by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477), or texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

feature, he says. In your Android phone, go to “settings,” then “location.” Select “Google location reporting” and set “location history” to off.

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PHOTO COURTESY: FACEBOOK.COM

Jillian Jacobson

OC teacher commits suicide

OC from page 1

stated that students found the classroom door locked, and assuming their instructor, Jillian Jacobson, was late, went to the next classroom to ask that teacher to open the door. What they saw when the door was opened was a horrifying scene: Jacobson was found in the classroom, hanging from the ceiling.

Staff quickly responded, calling 911, and getting the teacher down in hopes of reviving her. When paramedics arrived, resuscitation attempt were made, but to no avail. Jacobson was pronounced dead at the scene.

Detectives are reported as saying that they believed Jacobson, 31, of Anaheim, took her own life, although they were unable to find any suicide note.

Jacobson had been a teacher at El Dorado since 2008, and her expertise was not only in photography, but art education, ceramics and glassworks as well. With a master's degree in Educational Leadership, she was known to be an inspiring and caring instructor.

It is reported that Jacobson's own father committed suicide just four years ago, and that she was struggling with that, although she never let it interfere with her teaching.

The school is said to be reeling from the events surrounding Jacobson's death, and Kevin Lee, Assistant Superintendent of Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, said counseling and crisis intervention teams have been made readily available to students, and would continue to be.

Hundreds of students left flowers, candles and notes for the popular teacher at the school's gates, and at her classroom door.

If you need help, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255, or visit <http://www.suicidpreventionlifeline.org>. With help, comes hope.

Special Olympics coming to West Covina

Special from page 1

on July 25, more than 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will be welcomed to communities throughout Southern California. Special Olympics Nippon (Japan) will spend July 21-24 in and around West Covina as they become acclimated to the time zone and weather, participate in activities prepared by West Covina volunteers, and enjoy American cuisine.

The Host Town program in West Covina is collaboration between the City of West Covina and numerous business and non-profit groups. Special thanks to Fairfield Inn & Suites West Covina for donating the hotel rooms for our visitors; Knights of Columbus #3851 (Father McGuire Council) and Plaza West Covina, owned and operated by Starwood, for their generous financial contributions; and West Covina Service Groups for helping donate meals and serve as the volunteers for Team Japan's visit. Together they will welcome the Special Olympics athletes and coaches and provide them food, housing and entertainment.

"The Host Town program gives each community an opportunity to showcase to the world what makes them special, but more importantly to provide citizens with a better

understanding of intellectual disabilities that will lead to acceptance and inclusion for all," said Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of LA2015. "Long after the World Games are over, the memories of those three days spent at Host Town will leave a lasting legacy for Special Olympics Southern California and everyone who was touched by our athletes. We are thankful to all participating Host Towns and their tireless volunteers for opening their doors – and their hearts – to our athletes and coaches."

"Serving as a Host Town for the Special Olympics World Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community and I am proud of the outpouring of support from our businesses and non-profit organizations. It is wonderful to see our community come out so strong for this wonderful event," said Mayor Fredrick Sykes. "Over the course of the next several weeks, West Covina will be finalizing the activities for residents to come and show their support for Special Olympics Nippon before they compete in the World Games. I hope you come out and be part of history in West Covina," McClenahan continued.

To learn more about how you can get involved with the West Covina Host Town program, please visit the City of West

Covina's website, www.westcovina.org, and www.LA2015.org/Host-Town/West-Covina.

The Host Town program has been an important element of the Special Olympics World Games since 1995, and the experience has left a lasting impression on the local communities in Ireland, Japan, China, Greece, South Korea and the United States, all of which have previously organized Host Town programs as part of the Special Olympics World Games.

About the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015: With 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 – Aug. 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthu-



Special Olympics
**WORLD
GAMES**
LOS ANGELES 2015

siasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUp-LA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Former Ontario police officer arrested

IE from page 1

placed Stone on administrative leave, and on Dec. 9, 2014, began an investigation into possible criminal acts.

Detectives from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBSD) Crimes Against Children Detail assumed the investigation and discovered Stone met the victim while he was on duty and later developed a sexual relationship with her. The illegal acts occurred in the city of Ontario and at Stone's residence in the city of Rancho Cucamonga.

On Dec. 22, 2014, Stone resigned from the Ontario Police Department.

According to SBSB, the District Attorney's Office issued a warrant on Feb. 19 for Stone's arrest for two counts of Oral Copulation of a Minor, one count of Unlawful Sex with a Minor, and one count of Annoying/Molesting a Child.

Stone turned himself in on the evening of Feb. 19, and was booked at the West Valley



PHOTO COURTESY: SBSB

Former Officer, Tyler Stone

Detention Center. His bail was set at \$150,000. Stone posted bail and was released from custody. His arraignment date has not been set.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact Detective John Everman or Sergeant Dana Foster at (909) 387-3615. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

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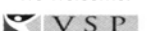
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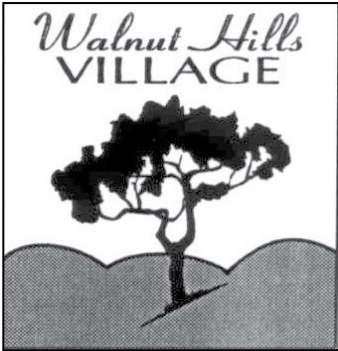
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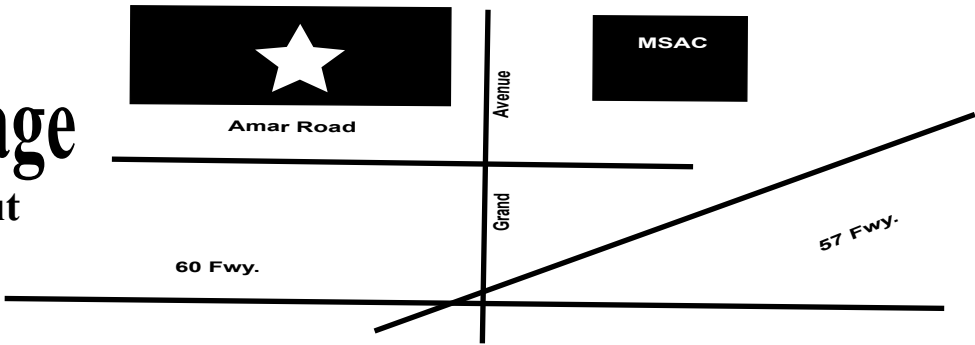
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March Madness

By PASTOR MARK HOPPER

The highlight of the college basketball season is “March Madness.” This is when 64 college teams are selected to participate in the annual NCAA basketball tournament.



During the month of March, these 64 teams will be reduced to the Final Four and only one will be crowned the champion. It is an exciting month. I have told you that when I was in high school, I played baseball and ran cross country; but, my favorite sport in school was playing basketball. I am not very tall and I wasn’t very fast, but I loved to play basketball. Unlike baseball and cross country, there were usually a lot of people at a high school basketball game. There were cheerleaders, lots of fans, and usually a small “pep

band” that filled our school gym with noise and energy. It was loud and crazy and lots of fun. I played point guard on the team. My job was to set up plays and pass the ball to my teammates near the basket. I was also expected to play defense and prevent the other team from getting a fast break and easy bucket at our end of the court. Basketball is fluid; it keeps moving. Plays and opportunities develop quickly and it was fun to work with other members of our team to score a basket. Baseball is different. It is a slow paced game where you wait for the pitcher to pitch and the hitter to hit. A baseball game can last for hours. A basketball game is a lot faster and a lot shorter. One of my favorite movies is, “Hoosiers.” It is about a basketball team from a small town in Indiana that makes it to the state finals. In one scene, the coach tells a player, “Don’t

shoot the ball unless you are right under our basket and no one else is around!” I think that is what my high school coach said to me. I think he preferred that I pass the ball and shoot as little as possible. I think I usually scored about 4 points a game. I do remember scoring 13 points one time, but most of them were on free throws! March Madness is almost here. College teams from around the country will be competing for the national title. For a few short weeks, basketball will capture the attention of the sports world and fill our TV screens with many memorable moments. I hope you can enjoy it. I know I will. Pastor Mark Hopper is from the Evangelical Free Church of Diamond Bar, 3255 South Diamond Bar Ave. Sunday services are 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (909) 594-7604 or visit www.efreedb.org.

Dreams Become Reality When You Believe In Yourself

By NANCY STOOPS

We all have dreams for our life. Why is it that some of us turn our dreams into reality and some of us just keep dreaming? Why do some of us find the motivation to make our dreams come true and others just give up? I believe we are all capable of getting what we want from our lives. I also think we all have the potential to grow into somebody that we are proud of being. I think what sets a person apart is they believe they can, or they believe they can’t. I find it very sad when I see somebody with a vision of what their life could be, yet they think they can’t ever obtain the life



they are supposed to have. This person somehow has never been taught to believe in themselves, and gets cheated out of the life they should have had. This is where really effective parenting is so essential. We also need to help those not so effectively parented to reach for the sky as well. We need to not give up on our dreams, ourselves and each other. Dreams can become our wonderful reality if we create a plan with the correct steps. Think about every other goal that you have met and the plan that was made up of baby steps. I promise you that if you have a dream and want it to become your reality, all you have to do is trust yourself and take the steps that turn dreams into reality. The first step is having the faith and trust inside yourself to believe that you can do it.

Never lose sight of the already wonderful you, and think of your plan as just adding to that wonderful person! This article was written by Nancy Stoops M.A., M.F.T. Nancy is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has a private practice in Diamond Bar and is currently accepting new clients; she is also a motivational speaker who can inspire your employees or group members. Nancy runs free family support groups, including a group on loss for seniors, and groups on how to manage anger. For more information about any of these services feel free to contact her at (909) 229-0727, or via email at nancyjstoops@verizon.net. Nancy’s books, “Midnight the Therapy Dog,” and “Live, Heal and Grow,” are available at Amazon.com.

Straight Talk With Danice

By DANICE AKIYOSHI, N.D.

Dear Dr. Akiyoshi: Both of my parents passed away two years ago. My sister was very dependent on both of them. Now that they’re gone, she looks to me to entertain her at every holiday and birthday, as if she were still a child, and bail her out financially when she makes stupid mistakes. She never pitches in for anything that doesn’t directly affect her. She makes comments like “mom and dad would want you to take care of



me. I’m the baby of the family and you make more money than me,” (she is 47). Neither of us is married, but I don’t want her to think that she can lean on me for the rest of her life. -Fed Up in Walnut Dear Fed Up: Your sister has a sense of entitlement. Make it clear that you have no interest in acting out the role of her parent or spouse. I’m guessing that your parents did her a major disservice by allowing her to arrive into middle age with this degree of emotional immaturity. Make it clear that your role is that of a sibling and not a caretaker. Be honest about the fact that you no longer even see her as

enjoyable company because of the way she takes you for granted. If you have feelings of guilt, or have trouble standing up to her manipulation tactics, I would be happy to assist you. -Danice Akiyoshi, N.D. Danice Akiyoshi is a Naturopathic Doctor and the head of Candid Coaching Service. She offers personal coaching services relating to all types of issues and concerns. This is a letter she received from an anonymous reader. To send a question to Danice, email her at straighttalk@candidcoachingservices.com. You can also visit her website at www.candidcoachingservices.com.

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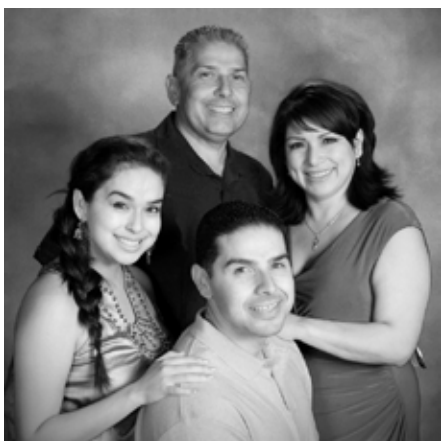
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WCUSD Approved Dual Language Program

By COLLEEN HAWKINS

West Covina — On Tues., Mar. 10, the West Covina Unified School District (WCUSD) Board of Education approved the implementation of a Dual Language Immersion Program beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

Dual Language Immersion programs provide students with the opportunity to become biliterate as a result of their K-12 educational experience. Students whose primary language is English and students whose primary language is Spanish are paired together beginning in kindergarten with the goal of providing them instruction in each language. Students who experience a Dual Language Immersion program have a strong grasp of their individual primary language, acquire a mastery of

a second language, and will potentially gain understanding of a third language. By becoming biliterate - able to read, write, think, and communicate in two languages - students are better prepared for the College and Career Readiness skills necessary to be competitive in a global economy.

Following the meeting, WCUSD Board President, Jessica Shewmaker, stated "We are all very excited to offer new and challenging educational opportunities for the students of West Covina. We know that having the ability to become biliterate is an opportunity that will serve our students well and help them reach a successful future full of new options."

Superintendent, Charles D. Hinman, Ed.D., commented, "I am pleased that the Board is continuing its efforts to provide

a range of educational opportunities to the students in West Covina. Students participating in the Dual Language Immersion program will provide them with skills to become College and Career Ready individuals when they graduate."

The program was approved to begin at both Monte Vista Elementary School and at Orangewood Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. The program will begin with two kindergarten classrooms at each school site and grow over the following years to become a K-12 program. Students will become literate in English and Spanish by the end of 6th Grade, refine and extend their understanding of English and Spanish in middle school, and extend their knowledge of languages with a third language during high school.

Principal of Monte Vista Elementary, Lilia. Gonzalez-Gomez stated after the approval, "It is with great excitement that I welcome the Dual Language Immersion program to our exemplary school. It is an outstanding opportunity to prepare our students for 21st-century demands and global participation."

Kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year began on Mar. 2. Information related to registering for the Dual Language Immersion program is provided with each kindergarten registration packet. Parents who are interested in the program should complete the information sheet and submit it to the school site prior to registering.

For Questions, contact Janet Rivera, Teacher on Special Assignment, at (626) 939-4600, x4611, or jrivera@wcusd.org

Apex Lawyers, Inc.

Apex from page 1

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Shooting at local park

Park from page 1

fering from a gunshot wound. Additional information from witnesses indicated that there was a possible second victim; however Officers were unable to locate him.

The victims, Jonathan Watts, 42, of Pomona; and a juvenile, 16, of Las Vegas, were in the park barbecuing prior to the shooting, when suspects stopped their vehicle and pro-

ceeded to fire at the crowd indiscriminately. The motive for this shooting may be gang related; however, this has not been confirmed.

Preliminary information received indicated that four male African-American suspects fled northbound in a gray or silver 4-door sedan. The victim, Watts, was transported by ambulance to a local hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his wounds and was pronounced deceased. While at



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF POMONA

the hospital, officers contacted the second victim who walked into the emergency room suf-

fering from non life-threatening gunshot wound(s).

Anyone with information re-

garding this incident should call the Pomona Police Department at (909) 620-2085. For anyone willing to provide information that wishes to remain anonymous, contact "Crime Stoppers" at 1-800-222-8477.

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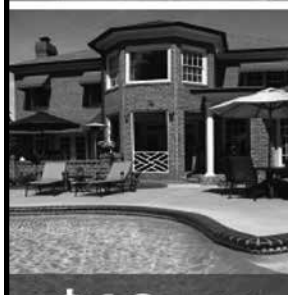
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Gang Member Sentenced To Death

STAFF REPORTS

Pomona - A Pomona 12th Street gang member - convicted of a series of kidnappings and killings in 2009 - was sentenced to death on Thurs., Feb. 19, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

On Aug. 14, 2014, a jury found that Robert Louis Caballero, 37, committed multiple murders, that the murders were committed during the course of a kidnapping and that the defendant was able to carry out the killings by lying in wait. The same jury recommended that Caballero receive the death penalty.

Deputy District Attorneys, Sarika Kim and Robert Serna of the Hardcore Gang Division, said Caballero was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder, two counts of kidnapping, one count of assault with a firearm, one count of possession of a firearm by a felon and evading an officer, and willful

disregard. Furthermore, jurors found gun and gang allegations to be factors.

Caballero's codefendant, Pete Trejo, Jr., 32, was found guilty of first-degree murder and kidnapping. Jurors also found gun and gang allegations, as well as the special circumstance allegations of lying in wait and murder during the course of a kidnapping, to be factors.

Another defendant in this case, Andrew Valenzuela, 23, was also was convicted of first-degree murder and kidnapping, along with the gun and gang allegations, and the special circumstance allegation of murder during the course of a kidnapping.

Trejo and Valenzuela were both sentenced in October 2014 to life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

On Sept. 29, 2009, prosecutors said that Caballero killed Armando Vidana, a Cherryville gang member. Vidana was shot eight times and his body was found in the street.

On Nov. 5, 2009, Caballero was at a home with an 18-year old kidnapped female victim, his cousin David Padilla, and Lorraine Minjarez. During the visit, Caballero became suspicious of Minjarez and believed she was going to tell police that he killed Vidana.

Caballero lured Minjarez to a nearby vehicle driven by his cousin. Seated in the car was the kidnapped female victim. From that location, Caballero, Minjarez and the kidnapped female victim picked up codefendant Trejo.

During the ride, Caballero directed the driver to take them to Mt. Baldy. After they arrived, Caballero then directed Trejo to dig a grave while he strangled Minjarez. Once she was killed, Trejo buried her body and Caballero ordered the kidnapped female victim to hide the evidence.

The next day, suspicious of Padilla's loyalty to him, Caballero lured his cousin to a remote freeway overpass. Once



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF CHINO
Robert Louis Caballero

there, he directed codefendant Valenzuela to strangle Padilla while forcing the kidnapped female victim to watch. Valenzuela strangled and beat Padilla to death with rocks, prosecutors said.

Two months later, Caballero, Trejo and Valenzuela were charged in connection with the crimes.

The case was jointly investigated by the Pomona Police Department, Chino Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The defendant was arrested in 2009 by the Pomona Police Department, after a vehicle pursuit.

Walnut Hills Optometry

WHO from page 1

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Dr. Larino is proud to serve the community she grew up in. She attended Rowland Unified schools from elementary through high school, and then attended UC Irvine before receiving her doctorate degree from the Southern California College of Optometry. In 2002-2004, Dr. Larino was honored at her alma mater, Nogales High School, by being inducted onto their Wall of Fame. She is a member of the American Optometric Association, California Optometric Association, and the Rio Hondo Optometric Society, where she stays current on the latest in eye care. As a local resident, you might find Dr. Larino eating at your favorite restaurant, shopping in a local store, or attending a community event.

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WHO is conveniently located near the 10, 60 and 57 freeways, on the border of Walnut and West Covina, at 18736 East Amar Road (at the corner of Nogales Street and Amar Road, next to Papa John's Pizza). Their hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can reach them at (626) 965-3878 or (909) 594-1153. For more information visit their website at www.walnuthillsoptometry.com.

WHO looks forward to seeing you and your family soon!

Pot bust nets \$1 million

Grow from page 1

ed marijuana grow operation.

Suspect Phillip Startsman, 35, was found to be the mastermind behind the elaborate operation.

Officers recovered approximately 630 mature marijuana plants with a weight of over 300 pounds. The marijuana had an estimated street value of over \$1,000,000.

The illegal operation was found to be a hub for the distribution of marijuana to local dispensaries. Suspect Startsman was arrested and charged with Health and Safety Code violations, including Cultivation of Marijuana, and Possession of Prescription Drugs for Sale.

Hacienda Heights teacher arrested

Teacher from page 1

Hills, was arrested on Feb. 23 at his residence by Industry Sheriff's Station Deputies and Special Victims Bureau Detectives after information reported by school officials led to an investigation.

According to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the suspect has been a full-time teacher at Los Altos High School since the fall of 2009. It was there that the suspect met the 15-year old victim who was enrolled in his classroom. An inappropriate intimate relationship developed where acts were committed inside the classroom, after class, and at the suspect's home. The rela-

IN CUSTODY



PHOTO COURTESY: LASD
David Park, a Los Altos High School Teacher arrested on Feb. 23.

tionship spanned between the months of Sept. and Nov. 2014. Park had also worked as

a "walk-on" football coach in 2007/2008 at Ruben Ayala Chino Valley High School in Chino, and at Western Christian High School in Upland.

The suspect was arrested for Oral Copulation, Lewd Acts with a 15-year old child, and Sexual Battery; bail was set at \$1,000,000.

The suspect is currently housed at Industry Sheriff's Station and was expected in Pomona Superior Court on Feb. 25.

Detectives are seeking the help of the public to identify any possible additional victims during the suspect's tenure at the various schools. Anyone with additional information is asked to call the LASD Special Victims Bureau at (877) 710-5273.

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Helpful Tax-Saving Strategies

By GINNY GRIMSLEY

Millions of Americans face a challenge in meeting their budgets every month – not just financially, but also in their time budgets, says investment advisor, Reid Abedeen.

“Knowledge is power and time is often money, but what if you don’t have the time to empower yourself with knowledge? For many households, that often means losing out on thousands of dollars through tax deductions,” says Abedeen, a partner at Safeguard Investment Advisory Group, LLC (www.safeguardinvestment.com).

Abedeen offers the following strategies that may be relevant for your family this tax season.

- Take tax deductions for capital loss. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, the excess can be deducted on your tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if you are married filing separately. However, you may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use.
- Fund your retirement to the max. You can contribute up to

Newcomers Celebrates 50th Anniversary

STAFF REPORTS

SGV – On Mar. 11, the Newcomers and Friends of San Gabriel Valley celebrated their 50th anniversary with a Champagne Brunch at Claim Jumper restaurant in Monrovia.

For 50 years, the club has been bringing together women from all over SGV for friendship, fun, and philanthropy.

More than 50 past and present members attended, including Lucy Freeman, who joined in 1977, and Sharon Townsend, who traveled the farthest from Danville, which is in the San Francisco area. Ten past presidents of the club attended and were honored by current President, Elena Paules.

The group was entertained by five members, who spoke on

each of the club’s five decades – regaling with history of the club, top news stories, inventions, music, TV, and movies. Before email, the club kept their members in touch with events and activities via a phone tree. Past events brought back happy memories (and some laughter) for many club members.

Membership was mainly stay-at-home moms in the beginning, and membership dropped when they had to go to work during the recession. In 1984, they started the year with 31 members, and ended it with 163. Presently, there are over 130 members (mostly retired women, as most of the activities happen during the day).

Today, Newcomers has a monthly coffee meeting for all members. A monthly email



PHOTO COURTESY: SGV NEWCOMERS

Past Presidents from five decades and current President, Elena Paules.

newsletter is also sent out detailing club events and activities, including a book club, bridge, crafts, games, garden gals, golf, lunch bunch, Maj Jong, movie goers, Pinochle, Scrabble, a wine tasting club, tours, and travel. Most events take place monthly. A Ladies-on-the-Go group plans monthly outings chosen by members. There are five or six luncheons held by the club yearly, including programs with entertainment or enlightenment. Six tours are scheduled yearly, and have previously included Mount Wilson Obser-

vatory, Graber Olive House in Ontario, San Antonio Winery, Porto’s Bakery in Glendale, and the Nixon Library; a tour of the Norton Simon Museum is coming this April 2015.

Members can attend as little or as much as they choose, and there is something for everyone! Membership dues are \$25 yearly, and new members are always welcome!

For more information about SGV Newcomers and Friends, visit online at www.sgvnewcomers.com or contact them at sgvnewcomers@yahoo.com.

\$5,500 to an IRA in tax-year 2014, or \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older. Workers in the 25 percent tax bracket who contributed \$5,500 to an IRA would save \$1,375 on their 2014 tax bills. You’ll want to check your eligibility and understand the deadline for the 2014 deduction. If you make a deposit between Jan. 1 and Apr. 15, you need to tell the financial institution which year the contribution is for.

- Advisory fees are tax-de-

ductible. Don’t feel like spending money to save and make money? There’s a workaround. Before closing the door on the possibility, inquire with a financial expert. Most are happy to give a free initial consultation, and you don’t have to be a millionaire to make it worth your while.

- Gift assets to children. You don’t even have to file a gift tax return on an asset that’s valued less than \$12,000, which is not taxable. If the fair market value

of the gifted asset is more than \$12,000 per person per year, but less than \$1 million, there is the requirement of filing a gift tax return, but you won’t be taxed. The gift still is not income taxable to the recipient.

- Deduct a home-based office when used for your employer. If space in your home is used exclusively and regularly for a trade, you can count that as a deductible. Calculate the square footage of your home of-

fice and divide the area of your office by the area of your house. If the percentage is 14 percent, for example, that represents the percentage of your total home expenses that can be allocated toward the home office deduction. For further questions, consult a professional.

“You’ll want to be very vigilant regarding these details of these deductions,” Abedeen says. “For any questions, I seriously recommend consulting a professional.”

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