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RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A VICTIM'S VOICE WILL BE HEARD

SCHOOL GANG INTERVENTION PROGRAM UNVEILED

WOMAN GUILTY OF THANKSGIVING DAY MURDER

A Lake Elsinore woman was found guilty of the murder of her boyfriend on Thanksgiving Day 2005.

After less than a day of deliberating, a Riverside County jury convicted Amalia Catherine Bryant of murder.

Judge Timothy F. Freer ordered Bryant to return to court in Murrieta in January, 2010, for sentencing. Bryant faces 16 years to life in prison.

Bryant and the victim, Robert Golden, returned to their Lake Elsinore apartment after visiting relatives on Thanksgiving. Bryant put the couple's twin sons to bed and Golden got on the computer, then an argument began between Bryant and Golden.

During a physical fight that ensued, Bryant stabbed her boyfriend in the chest with a knife, causing massive blood loss and killing him. When police arrived Bryant admitted stabbing the victim.

The subsequent criminal investigation revealed that Bryant found out that Golden had previously planned to leave her. Bryant also believed that Golden had been cheating on her.

The case, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sam Kaloustian.

"The jury made the right decision that Amalia Bryant is a murderer and correctly saw that she was the aggressor in the fight that ultimately led to the victim's death," Kaloustian said.

Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco, Riverside Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Richard Miller, Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach and local clergy leaders have launched a gang prevention pilot program at Longfellow Elementary School in Riverside.

"We are seeing younger and younger children getting involved in gang activity," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "Our purpose is to prevent children from choosing the gang lifestyle that only results in the destruction of lives."

The program, called STAR (Success Through After School Resources), is a collaborative venture involving law enforcement, the faith-based community, educators, and community partners designed to help children at the earliest educational levels resist the lure and temptation of gangs, drugs, and criminality by providing after-school resources that will inspire and foster personal, social, and career success, as well as academic and educational achievement.

The program will take place at Longfellow Elementary School which is located in the East Side community of the City of Riverside. At Longfellow Elementary, 91% of the students are classified as socio-economically disadvantaged, and 68% of the students are classified as English learners. The program will serve 80 children from kindergarten through 2nd grade.



The District Attorney's Office has committed the first \$65,000, which comes from criminal defendants through asset forfeiture funds, to ensure the development and implementation of the STAR program. The Riverside Unified School District has committed to providing daily supervision, quality control, regular assessment of the STAR program and staff, staff training, curriculum improvements and modifications, snacks for the STAR participants, and use of facilities at Longfellow Elementary School.

Elementary School.

Because family poverty can be associated as a risk factor for youth gang involvement, poor academic achievement, and as a hindrance for upward socio-economic mobility, the Riverside Opportunity Center will provide parents of students participating in the STAR program with employability training and increased opportunities for job placement.

The program is a collaborative effort between various community partners such as the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, the Riverside Unified School District, the Riverside County Office of Education, the Riverside Police Department, the Riverside Opportunity Center, The Reverend Jerry Louder (New Jerusalem Christian Center), The Reverend Paul Mumford (New Joy Baptist Church), and the Riverside Clergy Association.

MAN CONVICTED OF ROBBING AND KILLING CAB DRIVER FOR \$80

A Riverside County jury convicted Christopher Guy Jasso of first-degree murder with a special circumstance of committing the murder during the commission of a robbery and found true the allegation that he used a firearm. The jury will now be asked to consider the death penalty for Jasso.

In September 2003, Jasso and his co-defendant, Fabian Perez, developed a plan to rob someone. While driving around in the City of Indio, they couldn't find anyone to rob.

They then crafted a plan to rob a cab driver. Jasso called a cab and when it arrived he entered as the passenger. Jasso shot the cab driver twice in the head and took his wallet. Jasso and Perez fled with \$80 and left the victim to die at the scene.

Jasso and Perez had originally been charged together. Judge Richard Erwood severed the cases in March of this year. Perez is currently awaiting trial. Perez also faces the death penalty.



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MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE POLICE CHIEF CHARGED WITH 8 FELONIES

On December 2, 2009, the District Attorney's Office filed 10 counts against Kevin Harold Segawa which include the crimes of bribery, perjury and misappropriation of public funds. The filing of charges come after a 13-month investigation into Segawa's actions while police chief of the Mt. San Jacinto College Police Department.

"We take public integrity seriously, especially for those who have been entrusted with the authority to enforce the law," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "The public must be able to trust that those who have the authority to enforce the law in our community are not misusing that authority to benefit themselves."

Segawa is charged with the following: one felony count each of bribery and destruction or secreting of a police report, two felony counts each of perjury, misappropriation of public funds, and filing a false public document as well as one misdemeanor count each of destroying or concealing evidence and failure to file an arrest citation with the court.

Also charged in the case is Morgan Allen McComas, owner of Pirot's Towing in San Jacinto. McComas is charged with one count of offering a bribe to a public officer and two counts of being an aider and abettor in the misappropriation of public funds.

The evidence shows that Segawa received various gifts, loans and benefits as police chief of the Mt. San Jacinto College Police Department as part of a business relationship with McComas. While Segawa was the police chief, college police officers towed about 1,200 vehicles. Although an informal tow rotation existed involving three other companies, 85 percent of the tows were directed by officers to Pirot's while the remainder of the tows were split between the other companies, Pirot's Towing may have received \$200,000 to \$500,000 in potential profit from those tows. Some of the gifts and benefits Segawa received

from McComas include a used motorcycle, rims and tires for his personal pickup, about \$75 in food and drinks for Segawa and his wife at a party, tickets for a box seat at a racetrack event, and approximately \$120 in free lunches at a restaurant in 2007.

A fee for a dispatch radio license for MSJCPD and repairs to the interior of a damaged MSJCPD vehicle with a combined value estimated at \$1,100 were paid for by McComas with money the college should have received from the tow company. College officials said they were unaware of that financial agreement between Segawa and the owner of Pirot's and that funds to pay for the license and vehicle repair were available had Segawa followed policy. Those crimes led to the misappropriation counts against both defendants.

Segawa failed to disclose any of the gifts on California Fair Political Practices Commission forms, as required by law. These acts lead to perjury and filing a false public document counts.

The two counts of destruction or secreting a police report and destroying or concealing evidence involved Segawa's actions after the supplemental report to an arrest that portrayed Segawa in a negative light was never filed. Investigators found that the supplemental report was received in Segawa's e-mail and later deleted.

Also in 2008, Segawa arrested an illegal immigrant who was selling ice cream from a cart in Menifee, not on the college campus. Segawa wrote the man a ticket, seized the cart and all the ice cream, then turned the man over to immigration officers who deported him. Segawa took the ice cream to his home and gave what would not fit in his own refrigerator to a neighbor. Segawa never filed an arrest report with his department's records division and no citation or report was ever sent to the DA's Office for review. By law, Segawa is required to file a signed and served arrest citation with the court or formally request it be dismissed. Neither was done by Segawa..

FUGITIVE CHARGED WITH MURDER, REMAINS AT LARGE

The District Attorney's Office has charged Angel Esparza, 26, with murder for killing a 16-year-old boy in the City of Coachella. Esparza faces charges of first-degree murder with a special allegation that he used a gun during the commission of a crime and an enhancement for a prior felony conviction. Esparza remains at large.

On Wednesday, December 3, 2009, officers from the Coachella Police Department responded to the report of a man down in the City of Coachella. Upon arrival, the officers found Angel Luna, of Coachella, deceased from multiple gunshot wounds.

During the investigation, detectives discovered Luna had gotten into an argument with another male. The argument escalated into a shooting, leaving Luna dead.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Coachella Police Department at (760) 863-8990 or the Riverside County Sheriff's Central Homicide Unit at 760-393-3523. Tips can also be processed anonymously through CRIME STOPPERS at (760) 341-STOP.

Information resulting in an arrest and conviction can result in a reward of up to \$1,000.

"This is another example of gang violence that plagues our communities," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "Its killing our youth, we have to stop it, and we will."

Angel Esparza has also been named to the Riverside County's Most Wanted Fugitive list.