



DEPUTY ARRESTED FOR SEX WITH TEEN

Explorer ride-alongs suspended for 60 days

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA AND BROOKE EDWARDS
STAFF WRITERS

VICTORVILLE • A Victorville deputy was arrested for having sex with a teen Explorer, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials said Thursday.

Stemming from an anonymous tip, Anthony Benjamin, 30, of Beaumont, was

“Obviously it's a priority for the sheriff for children to feel safe. If there is an area of this (Explorer) program that needs to be changed or reevaluated, he is more than willing to make that happen so that children and their parents will feel safe.”

CINDY BACHMAN • SHERIFF'S SPOKESWOMAN

arrested at 12:30 a.m. Thursday for oral copulation with a person under 18 and penetration with a foreign object with a person under 18, according to records.

Benjamin worked as a deputy at the Victorville Sheriff's station and had been with

the department for more than five years, according to sheriff's officials.

Officials said the incident between the 17-year-old Explorer and the deputy took place during a ride-along.

Benjamin was released on bail early Thursday morning

and was placed on administrative leave, according to sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman.

Sheriff Rod Hoops announced during a press conference Thursday

SEE BENJAMIN • PAGE 7

Ex-CIA chief says bin Laden capture delayed for years by debates

BY LESLIE WILLIAMS HALE
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Former CIA Director Porter Goss said Osama bin Laden's capture and killing could have happened years ago if not for setbacks caused by near-constant debates about the means by which the American intelligence community gathers information.

Goss, head of the CIA from 2004 to 2006 and a one-time U.S. representative for Southwest Florida, credited the Obama administration with the persistence to see through with bin Laden's capture.

But he said the development could have happened years ago if not for setbacks caused by near-constant debates about the means by which the American intelligence community gathers information.

SEE GOSS • PAGE 7

FIERY BIG-RIG CRASH SHUTS DOWN I-15



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEA LINT

CRASHED AND BURNED: Thick black smoke rolls from two tractor-trailers that burned on southbound Interstate 15 near Stoddard Wells Road on Thursday morning. Officials closed three lanes of the freeway to clean up the burned trailers.

Firefighters got blaze under control in half an hour

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA
STAFF WRITER

APPLE VALLEY • Two big rigs crashed and burst into flames, shutting down a portion of southbound Interstate 15 near Stoddard Wells Road on Thursday morning, California Highway Patrol officials said.

Though the fire was extinguished by about 8 a.m., lanes

of the freeway remained closed for several hours for cleanup.

One tractor-trailer was pulled over onto the right shoulder of the freeway at about 7:30 a.m., so the driving team could change drivers. A second tractor-trailer traveling south drifted onto the shoulder and struck the first big rig, Officer Joaquin Zubieta said.

Officials shut down at least three lanes of the freeway so San Bernardino County Fire and Apple Valley Fire Protection District firefighters could extinguish the flames. They worked for about half an hour before they were able to get the blaze under control, according to SBCFD Battalion Chief Tracy Carleton.

Both vehicles were destroyed, Carleton said.

One of the drivers in the first tractor-trailer did suffer cuts to his hands and feet, but no other serious injuries were reported.

Black smoke could be seen as far away as Hesperia, according to witnesses.

CHP officials will be investigating the incident.

>>FINDER

HIGH DESERT



Spill shuts down Highway 395

Page B1

STATE • NATION • WORLD

Pakistan warns U.S. not to stage more raids

ISLAMABAD • Pakistan's army broke its silence Thursday over the U.S. commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, acknowledging its own "shortcomings" in efforts to find the al-Qaida leader but threatening to review cooperation with Washington if there is another similar violation of Pakistani sovereignty.

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NEWS Single defender shot at SEALs

WASHINGTON • The Americans who raided Osama bin Laden's lair met far less resistance than the Obama administration described in the aftermath.

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WEATHER > Page D6

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Page edited by Ray Armenta/daic



JAMES OUGG, DAILY PRESS

TAKES OFFER: Rosondra Clay was given a suspended four-year sentence and five years of supervised probation for involuntary manslaughter of her disabled son who starved to death.

Mother convicted of starving son gets supervised probation

CPS continually told her disabled boy was fine

BY TOMOYA SHIMURA
STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • A Victorville mother convicted of starving her disabled son to death got off with the 359 days she served in jail while awaiting trial because evidence showed Child Protective Services repeatedly told her the victim was

doing fine. Victorville Superior Court Judge Jules Fleuret put Rosondra Marie Clay, 30, on five-year supervised probation for involuntary manslaughter following the plea agreement and a probation officer's recommendation.

Clay, who was originally charged with the murder of 5-year-old Kevin Baldwin, accepted the prosecution's offer and

SEE CLAY • PAGE 6

Officials dismantle counterfeit-cash ring

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA
STAFF WRITER

APPLE VALLEY • After nearly seven months of investigating, authorities dismantled a local counterfeit cash ring Thursday morning, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Apple Valley station officials said.

Sheriff's officials with the help of the U.S. Secret Service arrested Lenisha Goosby, 19, of Victorville, and Donald Wayne Reed, 43, and James Christopher Kyle, 30, both of

Apple Valley, at a home in the 12000 block of Cobble Stone Road in Victorville for a variety of offenses including manufacturing of counterfeit money, possession of marijuana for sales and gang enhancements, Detective Dave Burgess said.

During the execution of the search warrant at the Victorville home, investigators found about \$3,000 in counterfeit bills, equipment to create the bills,

SEE RING • PAGE 6

State bill OKs college aid for illegal immigrants

BY LIEN HOANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO • College students who entered the country illegally appear closer than ever to receiving financial aid in California.

On a party-line vote of 51-21, the state Assembly approved a bill Thursday that allows those students to collect

privately-funded college scholarships.

Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, a Democrat from Los Angeles and the author of AB130, has introduced a similar bill every year



Gil Cedillo

SEE BILL • PAGE 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE BURGESS, APPLE VALLEY SHERIFF'S STATION
CAUGHT: Sheriff's officials with the help of the U.S. Secret Service arrested Lenisha Goosby, 19, of Victorville and Donald Wayne Reed, 43, and James Christopher Kyle, 30, both of Apple Valley for a variety of offenses including manufacturing of counterfeit money, possession of marijuana for sales and gang enhancements.

RING: Officials to seek gang enhancements in some arrests

FROM PAGE 1

they were printed on real bills, they were able to use them at stores and for cash. Burgess confirmed some of those arrested were gang members and officials were going to seek gang enhancements against them, but he wouldn't confirm if the operation was a directed gang crime.

The case is still under investigation and anyone who may have information on the case is asked to contact Burgess at the Apple Valley station at (760) 240-7400 or call WeTip at (800) 78-CRIME.

Beatrix E. Valenzuela may be reached at (760) 951-6276 or at BValenzuela@VVDailyPress.com.

“They were taking real \$5 and \$1 (bills) and turning them into \$100 bills. Because they were printed on real bills, they were able to use them at stores and they would pass the pen test.”

DAVE BURGESS • DETECTIVE

“They were taking real \$5 and \$1 (bills) and turning them into \$100 bills,” he said. “Because

CLAY: Pleased guilty to lesser charge

FROM PAGE 1

Bernardino County CPS agents met with Clay, they concluded that Baldwin and Clay's other children were doing fine, Fleuret said. When Clay pointed out Baldwin was not gaining weight, CPS didn't take any action, Fleuret said.

The judge said CPS reported Clay had taken good care of Baldwin. Just 14 days before the victim died, CPS conducted an office visit and determined the child looked fine. And three days before the death, CPS agents visited Clay's house and allowed the child to stay with the mother.

“My client might have made some mistakes, but CPS did not provide her the support she should have been able to rely on,” Sanders said.

Sanders said Clay will be able to reunite with her three children, including a baby she had had right before her arrest.

Clay was scheduled to be released Thursday evening after serving 359 days in jail since her arrest. If she violates her probation terms, she could be sentenced to an aggravated term of four years in prison.

Tomoya Shimura may be reached at (760) 955-5368 or tshimura@VVDailyPress.com.

Suicide attack kills 16 at Iraqi police station

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD - A suicide bomber killed at least 16 people in southern Iraq on Thursday as the country braced for attacks from al-Qaida in Iraq in the aftermath of the death of Osama bin Laden.

The car bomber blew up his vehicle at a police headquarters in the mainly Shiite Muslim city of Hillah before 7 a.m. as the police switched from overnight to day shift.

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