

CONCEALED

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Four more claim police misidentified them as gang members

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Action stems from police press conference last year

The number of people alleging Santa Barbara police misidentified them as gang members during a 2013 press conference will grow to 10 today, as an attorney plans to file a claim for four more people each seeking \$1 million.

At the Nov. 20 press conference at police headquarters, Santa Barbara Police Department officials discussed the gang-focused Operation Falling Dawn and displayed numerous mug shots of the 68 people they arrested, cited or referred to the District Attorney's Office for

prosecution.

In January, Whittier attorney James Segall-Gutierrez filed a complaint with the city alleging six of his clients have signed affidavits contending they aren't and have never been part of a gang.

The attorney will be back in Santa Barbara today to file a second claim for four more clients on the same basis.

The city has denied the first claim, which led Francisco Romero, an attorney assistant in the civil rights division of Mr. Segall-Gutierrez's

practice, to believe the second will be rejected as well.

If the city does reject the second claim, the four new claimants will be consolidated with the others in a federal lawsuit that is expected to come later this year, Mr. Romero said.

Sergio Sanchez, who was part of the original claim, earlier this year pleaded no contest to possession of cocaine for sale and being armed with a gun, and admitted that he acted to benefit the Eastside gang.

But Mr. Romero said they will still

move forward with Mr. Sanchez and all of their clients, and that Mr. Sanchez's plea was taken to avoid harsher punishment.

"They're just taking the plea," said Mr. Romero.

Police spokesman Sgt. Riley Harwood previously told the News-Press that the description of the photographed individuals wasn't limited to gang members and gang associates during the media conference.

They were also said to be people who took part in crimes related to the gang investigation, which could

have involved purchasing a stolen item from a gang member.

"There's a story behind each of those individuals," Sgt. Harwood said.

Mr. Segall-Gutierrez contends that by releasing the photographs and names during the press event, police Chief Cam Sanchez ruined lives and publicly slandered his clients.

In a statement, Mr. Segall-Gutierrez said the recent dismissal of more than half of the defendants in Santa Barbara's proposed gang injunction highlights that the city and its police department have neg-



RAFAEL MALDONADO/NEWS-PRESS FILE
Police Chief Cam Sanchez

Please see **CLAIM** on **A7**

Teacher of the Year

Allison Heiduk of Vieja Valley Elementary named county's best

By ELIZABETH HAMILTON
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Santa Barbara County Education Office has selected Vieja Valley Elementary School third-grade teacher Allison Heiduk as the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Heiduk accepted the honor Thursday from Bill Cirone, county superintendent of schools, at the county Board of Education meeting.

"Allison is devoted to what she calls 'the three C's model of education' — community, curriculum and communication," said Mr. Cirone.

"Walking into Allison's classroom," he said, "you might find her wearing a pink hat and a purple suede belt teaching the foundation of good writing; or she might be in the front of the room dancing to the latest chant to teach a new topic. This is a classroom where learning is motivating and challenging."

Mrs. Heiduk, who has been teaching for more than 22 years, began her career in the Belmont School District, where she taught kindergarten, first and fifth grades. In 1995 she began teaching in the Hope School District, and has been teaching third grade at Vieja Valley since 2009.

Mrs. Heiduk earned a bachelor's degree in political science from

Please see **TEACHER** on **A10**



Allison Heiduk, Santa Barbara County's Teacher of the Year for 2014-15, is introduced Thursday by county Superintendent of Schools Bill Cirone.

STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

DA sends some Morua information to US attorney

By KYLE HARDING
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley confirmed Thursday that she has sent some information on the case of Raymond Victor Morua III to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Dudley said she forwarded the information to André Birotte Jr., the U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, at the request Matt Dies, father of Mr. Morua's victim in a fatal hit-and-run collision in December on Anacapa Street.

Ms. Dudley said she did not send any case files to Mr. Birotte and did not elaborate on the nature of the information she sent.

"If they ask for (the case files), certainly I will (provide them)," Ms. Dudley said.

On Wednesday, Ms. Dudley received a letter from Mr. Dies accompanied by a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures asking her to call on the Department of Justice to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the activities of Rep. Lois Capps and her staff after Mr. Morua, a Capps aide, struck 27-year-old Mallory Rae Dies, who died several days after the collision.

Circulated by the foundation Vow4Mal.org, the petition also asks that Mrs. Capps "tell the truth" about a number of allegations raised in a recent series by investigative journalist Peter Lance and published by the News-Press.

One of those is an allegation that Mollie Culver, Mrs. Capps' district director, forged two U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs forms in an attempt to get Mr. Morua out of jail and into a federal treatment facility.

Mr. Morua pleaded guilty to gross vehicular manslaughter last month and faces 20 years to life in prison. The Dies family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit



Dudley

Please see **DUDLEY** on **A10**

Fracking ban proponents turn in signatures

By KYLE HARDING
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A ban on hydraulic fracturing and other "high-intensity" methods of extracting oil and gas in Santa Barbara County will be taken up by the Board of Supervisors if a petition circulated by a local activist group is validated.

Katie Davis, co-chair of Santa Barbara County Water Guardians, told the News-Press that the group has gathered approximately 20,000 signatures since April 5.

For the measure to move forward, the petition must include 13,201 valid signatures of registered Santa Barbara County voters.

Group members dropped off boxes of signed petitions Thursday at the county elections office, which has 60 days to verify the signatures. Ms. Davis said the group checked about 10,000 signatures against the county's voter rolls and she is confident the petition will have enough signatures.

The Board of Supervisors will take up the issue after the signatures are collected, and will have the choice to either enact the ban or place a voter initiative on the ballot in November, Ms. Davis said.

Approximately 40 members of Water Guardians in blue shirts reading

Please see **FRACKING** on **A10**



Rebecca Caasem puts the first box of signed petition forms on the counter at the Santa Barbara County elections office. The petition calls for a ban on fracking and other stimulation methods at onshore oil and gas wells in Santa Barbara County.

RAFAEL MALDONADO/NEWS-PRESS

55 schools face federal sex assault investigations

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — From huge state universities to small colleges and the Ivy League, 55 schools across America are facing federal investigation for the way they handle sexual abuse allegations by their students.

For the first time, the Education Department revealed its list of colleges under investigation on Thursday — though no details of the complaints — as the Obama administration sought to bring more openness to the issue of sexual violence on and around the nation's

campuses. The schools range from public universities, including UC Berkeley, Ohio State and Arizona State, to private schools including Knox College in Illinois, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Catholic University of America in the District of Columbia. Ivy League schools including Harvard, Princeton and Dartmouth are also on the list.

The government emphasized the list was about investigations of complaints, not judgments. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said there was "absolutely zero presumption" of guilt.

Please see **ASSAULT** on **A10**



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Suit contends Capps, government knew about Morua's DUI convictions

DUDLEY
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against Mrs. Capps, the federal government and Mr. Morua. The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Los Angeles, contends Mrs. Capps and the government knew about Mr. Morua's history of DUI convictions when they hired him to a position that required him to drive. The Dies family also believes Mr. Morua was representing Mrs.

Capps at a holiday party hosted by the Santa Barbara Independent the night of the collision.

Mrs. Capps' spokesman, Chris Meagher, said Mr. Morua was attending the party as a private citizen.

Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the Department of Justice, said he could not comment on the matter.

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Schools say they have been working with government

ASSAULT
Continued from Page A1

Few details of individual cases are known, but some are. One, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, involves allegations of mishandling of a matter involving a football player. The investigation began after federal authorities received complaints related to the expulsion of Brendan Gibbons, a former placekicker. A student group examined the school's student sexual misconduct policy and last month determined the university failed to explain a yearslong delay between the al-

leged incident and Mr. Gibbons' expulsion in December. Spokesman Rick Fitzgerald says the university has been "fully cooperating."

Schools on the list, for the most part, were unwilling to talk about specific incidents but said they have been working with the federal department to be more responsive to student complaints.

"We are hopeful at the end of this there will be a resolution that will strengthen our internal processes and result in a safer community," said Dartmouth spokesman Justin Anderson. "There's always something we can learn and ways to get better."

Heiduk: 'I am extremely humbled'

TEACHER
Continued from Page A1

UCSB and a multiple-subject teaching credential from Notre Dame de Namur University in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"I am extremely humbled because there are so many deserving teachers in this county that work tirelessly day in and day out who challenge, inspire and support their students," Mrs. Heiduk said.

"Being a teacher is probably the best job in the world, but with that also comes a real responsibility," she said. "We need to lead by the power of our example, so as a teacher leader and as the Santa Barbara County 2014-15 Teacher of the Year, I'm looking forward to being that teacher leader that can help continue to motivate and inspire not only students, but teachers alike."

Besides her work in the classroom, Mrs. Heiduk explains the state's new Common Core standards to her colleagues.

"I'm very excited for the Common Core," she said.

Common Core provides a set of educational goals that teachers then decide how to reach, Mrs. Heiduk said.

The focus on student collaboration

Seven county schools win honors

By ELIZABETH HAMILTON
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Seven elementary schools in Santa Barbara County were named California Distinguished Schools for 2014.

They were among 424 schools chosen statewide for their "strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student academic achievement," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said at an announcement Wednesday.

The schools are Ballard Elementary in the Ballard School District, Carpinteria Family School and Summerland Elementary in the Carpinteria Unified School District, Cold Spring Elementary in the Cold Spring School District, Mountain View Elementary in the Goleta Union

School District, Montecito Union in the Montecito Union School District, and Ralph Dunlap Elementary in the Orcutt Union School District.

The California Distinguished Schools award honors schools that have made progress narrowing the academic achievement gap, according to a County Education Office news release.

The selection process involves a written application that explains the school's signature program and a visit from county education employees to determine the validity of those programs.

For more information, visit www.cde.ca.gov.

email: ehamilton@newspress.com

lem of student motivation and getting students excited about learning. She hopes the Common Core will be a solution by allowing kids to see the relevance of what they're learning.

The county Teacher of the Year is selected by a committee comprising a former teacher of the year, a county education office administrator, a member of the county board of education and a PTA president.

Teachers can either apply for the award or be nominated.

Members of the committee observe the nominees in their classrooms and interview them.

Mr. Cirone said the committee was most impressed with Mrs. Heiduk's interactive teaching methods, inclusion in her classroom and her leadership skills.

As Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Heiduk will compete for the state Teacher of the Year award. The California winner will be considered for the National Teacher of the Year award.

Mrs. Heiduk will begin officially representing the county as Teacher of the Year on July 1, succeeding Dos Pueblos High School math teacher Kelly Choi.

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Opponents: Fracking too risky for environment

FRACKING
Continued from Page A1

"Save our water" and "Ban fracking in Santa Barbara County" showed up at the elections office on Thursday afternoon to turn in the petitions, hauling them in white cardboard boxes.

"This is something you can't buy," Ms. Davis said of the passion displayed by advocates of the ban.

Ms. Davis said fracking, steam injection and acid stimulation pose too great a risk to the county's environment and could negatively affect tourism and agriculture.

Proponents of well-stimulation techniques overstate the economic gains that come from using the methods, she said.

The methods in Santa Barbara County would be used to extract oil, not cleaner-burning natural gas, Ms. Davis added.

The ban would only apply to on-shore production, as the county does not have jurisdiction over the waters off the coast.

A coalition of groups that oppose the ban said it would drive up energy costs and put jobs in jeopardy.



RAFAEL MALDONADO/NEWS-PRESS

Boxes of petition forms are wheeled into the elections office.

In a news release, Californians for a Safe, Secure Energy Future said the petroleum industry generated more than \$502 million in labor income in the county in 2012.

Sabrina Lockhart, a spokeswoman for the coalition, said that there are no active fracking sites in Santa Barbara County, but the ban will also prevent conventional methods

of oil extraction.

Ms. Lockhart said that with the passage of Senate Bill 4 last year, California has already adopted the strongest regulations in the nation on oil production.

The state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources is working on an environmental impact report to enact regulations under SB4. The new regulations are expected in January.

Ken Oplinger, president of The Chamber of Commerce of the Santa Barbara Region, said the chamber has opposed similar bans at the state level, but has not had a chance to look at the county ban yet.

The state measures would put California's energy independence at risk and increase prices, Mr. Oplinger said.

The Water Guardians' ban was crafted in part by attorney Nathan Alley of Limestone Law & Policy Advocates. Mr. Alley previously worked for Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center.

The initiative can be read at <http://www.sbcountywaterguardians.org/initiative/>.

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