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On the Record



San Diego County District Attorney

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DA, DEA and Police Target Gang/Drug Dealers At Meadowbrook Complex

Operation Skyline, under the guidance of the Drug Enforcement Administration, was a collaborative law enforcement effort that netted the arrests of 45 suspects, 15 pounds of methamphetamine, two ounces of heroin, one pound of cocaine, 13 guns and more than \$36,000.00.

Operation Skyline, a focused six month law enforcement undercover operation in and around the Meadowbrook Apartments in South East San Diego, was a major success. This had been an area long affected by drug and gang related violence in recent months. In response to this situation, a partnership of local, state and federal agencies initiated this operation by targeting drug dealers and gang members in the immediate complex and the neighborhood.



**DA Bonnie M. Dumanis announcing
Operation Skyline at DEA Headquarters**

The Mobile Enforcement Team targeted the Meadowbrook Apartment complex in the South East San Diego area and after several months of undercover work, arrests and now prosecutions, the neighborhood is safer. Unfortunately, many times where there are drugs there are young children. During this operation, authorities removed nine young children from homes due to harmful drug situations. The District Attorney's Office has a special Unit to deal with this problem called Drug Endangered Children.

Whenever you read about law enforcement finding drug lab, chances are they also found children living in the midst of the chemical production. That's why law enforcement agencies teamed with social workers and physicians to form a partnership called Drug Endangered Children program (DEC). The team works together to arrest and prosecute serious methamphetamine addicts and manufacturers and to protect the children who live with them.

TOXIC CHEMICALS....**TOXIC KIDS.....**

Some of the children saved from these homes are under the influence of meth from accidentally ingesting the drug or breathing secondhand smoke. We are a leader in identifying and documenting the environmental hazards children are exposed to when living with adults addicted to meth. Neglect, malnourishment, abuse and filthy living conditions are some of the risks these children face every day.

For more information visit — www.no2meth.org

Parole Denied For Murderer Brenda

It was in January of 1979 when Brenda Spencer, who was then 16 years old, went on a shooting spree at a San Carlos elementary school campus killing two people and wounding nine others. Since that time, Spencer has been locked up at the California Institute for Women in Riverside, California.

This past September, she came up for parole for the fourth time. Prosecutor Richard Sachs argued successfully that Spencer should not be allowed out. Spencer killed the school principal Burton Wragg and Custodian Mike Suchar and wounded a San Diego Police Officer and eight students.

DA Dumanis said, "Brenda Spencer shattered the lives of many innocent people and they are still healing more than 25 years later."

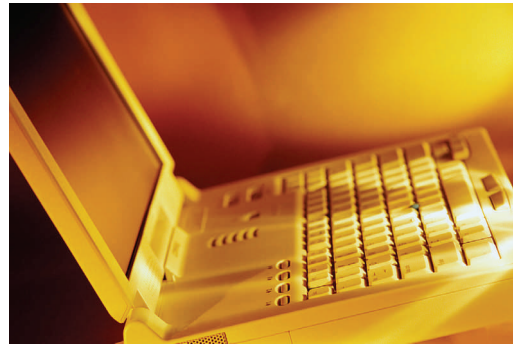
The day of the shooting, Spencer told a reporter that the reason she opened fire was because, "I don't like Mondays, this livens up the day." Approximately 36 shots were fired that day from a rifle fitted with scope, with 11 rounds hitting their target.

Spencer was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison in 1980 and was last denied parole in April 2001.

eBAY COMPUTER FRAUD ON THE RISE

The District Attorney's Computer and Technology Crime High-Tech Response Team (CATCH) has seen a significant rise in Second Chance eBay fraud schemes, and wants to warn consumer about these scams.

If you purchase items through eBay, use caution. The scam occurs in the following way:



- You bid on an item and you do not win the auction.
- You then receive an e-mail from an individual claiming to be the seller, outside of eBay. The suspects will normally have a Hotmail or Yahoo account because they are free and any information can be entered when opening these accounts (fraudulent names, addresses, etc.).
- You and the perpetrator will e-mail back and forth and agree on a price.
- The perpetrator will ask you to send the money via Western Union instead of using the usual "PayPal."
- The item is never shipped and you can not reach the perpetrator again. You contact eBay and learn the original e-mail was a fraud and since the transaction was done outside of eBay, they can not help you.

**Computer And Technology
Crime High Tech Response
Team (CATCH)
Monday - Friday
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
619-531-3660**

DA CASE FILES

In the past couple of months, we have had some very good results in the courtroom. The following is a snapshot of some of our cases.

Vasiliy Galasheve, 50, pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual battery counts for inappropriate touching women who came to him for treatment. The self described seventh-generation Tibetan healer, who practiced in the North County area of San Diego, received probation and will have to register as a sex offender for life, but will be allowed to continue working as a massage therapist.

Jose Daniel Flores, 32, of Escondido pleaded guilty to first degree murder for killing an East County nurse back in 1992. Rebecca Tassa was stabbed to death by Flores and Timothy Victor. Victor was caught and convicted in 1998 and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Alvin Irizarry, 45, was sentenced to three years in state prison for shooting his wife as she drove their van on Interstate 5. Irizarry pled guilty to the negligent discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury.

Apollo Huhn, 24, has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for his part in the 2003 murder of the owner of the Cajon Speedway. Huhn was convicted of the first degree murder of Steven Brucker during a botched robbery attempt at Brucker's El Cajon home.

Jesus D. Castillo and **Steven Mitchell Lamb**, both 19, pleaded guilty to separate charges stemming from a crime spree that involved the senseless beating of the father of a Helix High School student. Castillo pleaded guilty to attempted murder and driving under the influence causing injury. He was sentenced to nine years and eight months behind bars. Lamb pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and received seven years in prison. The victim was beaten as he picked up his son from basketball practice.

Youssef Abujawdeh, 18, of Chula Vista was sentenced to 10 years in prison for stabbing and seriously injuring a Nordstrom department store security officer who was trying to prevent him from shoplifting. Abujawdeh was one of three people who stole merchandise from the store in the Fashion Valley mall. He pleaded guilty in July to attempted murder and allegations that he caused great bodily injury to the victim. Abujawdeh was 17 at the time of the stabbing, but he was prosecuted as an adult.

OFFICE OF THE DA

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