



## Junior high holds talent show A4

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS



Your news, our passion.

ivpressonline.com | adelantevalle.com

Vol. 114 No. 249 50¢

**DEAF PROBE**

Why is road work done piecemeal?

ANSWER | A4

What do you want to know? Submit your question and read responses to others at [ivpressonline.com](http://ivpressonline.com)

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Brandon Alquijay aims to lead team to title B1



**Jazzercise Mom and Me classes**  
**WHEN** 4:15 p.m. April 16, 9 a.m. April 25, 6 p.m. April 30  
**WHERE** Ricochet Indoor Trampoline Park, Imperial  
**INFO** Cost is \$10 per class for Mom and child, \$3 for an additional child. For more information call 760-791-3386

**Color Fest 5K**  
**WHEN** Race begins at 8:30 a.m. April 18  
**WHERE** Bucklin Park, El Centro  
**INFO** Adults pay \$30, children 12 and younger pay \$15. Registration price for adults increases to \$35 April 4. Register at [ivpressonline.com/colorfest](http://ivpressonline.com/colorfest)

### INSIDE TODAY



**Health**  
 Heart attacks: What women need to know. B3

**Easter egg hunts**  
 Fun for the children isn't too hard to find. A4

### SMILE OF THE DAY



**"My kids make me happy."**  
 Noe Gallego, 47, El Centro

### OBITUARIES

**Elizabeth Reed**  
 92, El Centro

### TODAY'S WEATHER

# 89/50

FORECAST | A7

### CONNECT

- [/ivpress](https://www.facebook.com/ivpress)
- [/ivpress](https://www.twitter.com/ivpress)
- Mobile Site, App

### INDEX

Ably ..... B4 Photos ..... A2  
 Calendar ..... A2 Region ..... A4  
 Classified ..... B5-7 Scoreboard ..... B2  
 Lottery ..... A3 Sports ..... B9-2  
 Obituaries ..... A5 Weather ..... A7  
 Opinions ..... A6



To subscribe 760-337-3456

# In their boots

## Border Patrol citizen's academy gives firsthand look



El Centro resident Berenice Barraza rappels down the six-story tower at the Border Patrol El Centro Sector. The exercise was part of the sector's six-week citizens' academy. CHELCEY ADAMI PHOTOS

BY CHELCEY ADAMI | Staff Writer

**W**hether it was rappelling off a six-story tower, looking for trackings or firing pepperball launcher systems at targets, participants in the Border Patrol El Centro Sector's citizens' academy have been getting firsthand experience of agents' daily life.

"It's basically an opportunity to bring the community in and to let them know what our job entails," said Public Affairs Supervisory Agent Miguel Garcia.

The once-a-week, six-week-long citizens' academy began a month ago and its 18 participants have been on tours of the Southwest border region, learned about the rigorous training agents go through and completed some of their own real-life scenario training.

"A lot of people live in the Imperial Valley and see us on a day-to-day basis but don't really know what we do so the citizens' academy gives them the opportunity to really see everything that we do," Garcia explained. "It's not just working and arresting people. We're also out there as first responders, when people are in distress and in need."

SEE ACADEMY | A5



El Centro resident Priscilla Lopez shoots a pepper launcher system during the Border Patrol El Centro Sector citizen's academy.

**"I know a lot of people that say Border Patrol is just sitting in a car not doing anything but I'm learning that they do much more."**

Claudia Ramirez, El Centro resident

## 3 more officers given notice

After receiving letters of termination, officers will have a chance to appeal the decision

BY CHELCEY ADAMI  
Staff Writer

**CALEXICO** — Three more Calexico police officers have been issued notices of termination, bringing the total to six since last fall when the department received a new police chief and came under investigation by the FBI, according to a credible anonymous source.

Former police union president Rudy Alarcon, Officer Steven Garcia and Officer Steven Frazier most recently received the notice, according to various sources.

After the officers receive the notice, they are entitled to an appeal hearing with the police chief, known as a "Skelly hearing," in which they receive a copy of all materials upon which the action is based and an opportunity to respond, according to the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association.

Afterward, the chief makes the final decision regarding the termination, and after that, the officers can appeal. Interim Police Chief Michael Bostic is reportedly in the process of rendering his decision on the three officers.

Four officers were put on administrative leave at the end of October when it was announced the FBI was investigating the department for possible criminal conduct.

Three of those officers put on leave, German Duran, Frank Uriarte and Luis Casillas, have since also been issued letters of termination, been through their Skelly hearings and let go, according to anonymous sources.

SEE CALEXICO | A5

EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH APRIL 29

## Cultural diversity draws viewers to IVC gallery

BY MICHAEL DUKES  
Staff Writer

A diversity of cultural artistic expression bloomed on the grounds of Imperial Valley College on Thursday afternoon. Drawn by the far-reaching sounds of indie-folk played over iPod speakers, students filtered through the whitewashed halls to look upon the submitted works of two Bay Area artists with backgrounds as rich and varied as their chosen mediums.

"I think it's important to have (exhibits) like this," said IVC art major Desiree Gastelo, 23, "because it brings culture into small towns like ours. It puts the people who come to view them in contact with styles and pieces they might never have come across."



Students view "Calling to Home of Peace," an acrylic painting on canvas by artist Salma Arastu, during an exhibit featuring two San Francisco Bay Area artists Arastu and Jon Fisher at Juanita Salazar Lowe Art Gallery at Imperial Valley College in Imperial. JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

Indeed, the artwork of Berkeley-based Salma Arastu may certainly be described as exotic for a place like the Imperial

Valley, but through her usage and stylistic depictions of Islamic benedictions, she crosses cultures and fascinates viewers

from worlds and oceans apart. "It's beautiful. Even though it's (based on) words and even though I don't know what they mean, it all flows together in the way she placed it," liberal arts major Teri Diaz, 21, said of a piece entitled "Full of Bounty to Mankind."

Arastu incorporates daily Muslim prayers in Arabic calligraphy in her multilayered acrylic tapestries. Born into the Sindhi Hindu tradition in Rajasthan, India, she later embraced Islam through her marriage. Arastu has exhibited her paintings internationally for over 40 years, has almost as many solo shows to her credit and has published three books of poetry and art.

"I find myself yearning to find infinite possibilities ... and I just want to plunge myself into the pleasure of contemplating the abstract flow of the swelling lines, and from compositions of lines and fields within given space and enjoy the celebration of calligraphy," Arastu said.

Fischer's efforts, on the other hand, resemble something in between the silent movie era, old-time comic strips and the pre-cinema locomotion studies of 19th century English photographer Eadweard Muybridge. Screenprinted on 38 individual pine lumber panels, "Interview with Monica" presents a creative approach for display.

SEE GALLERY | A5

# Man reported missing 66 days ago found by Coast Guard

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A man whose family reported him missing at sea more than two months ago was found floating on the overturned hull of his sailboat 200 miles off the North Carolina coast on Thursday, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Coast Guard officials in Portsmouth, Virginia, said they received word from a German tanker about 1:30 p.m. indicating they spotted a man and his sailboat approximately 200 miles

east of Cape Hatteras.

A Coast Guard helicopter crew from North Carolina flew to the ship and airlifted Louis Jordan to a hospital in Norfolk, Virginia, said Lt. Krystyn Pecora, a spokeswoman for the Coast Guard's 5th District office. She said Jordan, 37, had a shoulder injury, but she did not have any additional information about his condition.

Chief Petty Officer Ryan Doss said Jordan's 35-foot sailboat had lost its mast

and capsized. The tanker crew said it found Jordan sitting on the hull.

Doss said it was not known where or how long the boat had been capsized, but said Jordan told them he ate fish he caught to survive.

"We won't really know what happened to him out there until we talk to him," he said.

Jordan had been living on his docked sailboat at the Bucksport Plantation Marina in Conway, South

Carolina, until January, when he told his family he was "going into the open water to sail and do some fishing," said his mother, Norma Davis, of Jacksonville, North Carolina. The family had not heard from him since, she said.

"We expected him to come back and he did not return," Davis said in a telephone interview. "We knew something happened. To us it's just a miracle. We're just so thrilled that he was found alive."

Davis said Jordan's father, her ex-husband Frank Jordan, spoke to their son after he was recovered by the Coast Guard and that in addition to injuring his shoulder, he was dehydrated.

"It's amazing," she said. "It's been very difficult not knowing anything and I just feel like all of our prayers have come true. They've been answered."

Jordan had spent months sanding and painting his docked 1950s-era, single-masted sailboat in

Conway, where marina manager Jeff Weeks said he saw him nearly every day. Jordan was the only resident in a section of about 20 boats docked behind a coded security gate, Weeks said.

"You'll probably never meet a nicer guy," Weeks said. "He is a quiet gentleman that most of the time keeps to himself. He's polite. I would describe him as a gentle giant," measuring 6-foot-2 and weighing 230 pounds.

## CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

### Baby born in Los Angeles courthouse

A woman has given birth in the hallway of a downtown Los Angeles courthouse.

The woman was walking down a hallway of the main civil courthouse on Thursday when she began experiencing labor pains. She gave birth before paramedics arrived and without assistance.

Deputies and court staffers scrambled to bring paper towels and cardboard boxes to give the mother and new child some privacy. Onlookers cheered.

The mother and boy appeared to be healthy as they were taken from the courthouse by paramedics.

The birth, which occurred at about 11:42 a.m., was witnessed by a reporter for The Associated Press.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

### Council OKs law to deal with stinky odors

San Luis Obispo is giving the stink eye to bad smells.

The San Luis Obispo Tribune says the City Council gave final approval this week to a law regulating offensive and persistent odors. It followed complaints from residents about the smell of medical marijuana being cultivated in a neighbor's backyard.

The ordinance provides rules about enforcement actions, such as issuing citations and violation notices. The rules take effect in 30 days.

Opponents said odor complaints are trivial and the city shouldn't be spending time and tax dollars to track them down.

SAN JOSE

### Thousands mourn slain police officer

Thousands of mourners and law enforcement officials from across the country paid their respects to a Northern California police officer killed in the line of duty.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday that a solemn motorcade of patrol motorcycles slowly escorted the body of Michael Johnson from a funeral home in suburban Los Gatos, California to a San Jose arena for the memorial services.

The 38-year-old was fatally shot March 24 while responding to reports of a suicidal man with a gun.

Scott Dunham shot Johnson from a second-floor balcony with a high-powered rifle. Another officer shot and killed the 57-year-old Dunham.

GARDENA

### Missing toddler found, abduction suspect sought

Police say a 2-year-old girl has been found about three hours after disappearing from a Los Angeles-area car wash, but they are still looking for a suspect they believe abducted her.

Gardena police chief Ed Medrano says 2-year-old Stacy Lopez was last seen shortly before 5 p.m. Thursday. He says the girl's mother heard her shout to her but then couldn't find her.

Medrano says surveillance video shows a white Nissan Altima with a man inside driving through an alley behind the car wash at the time the girl disappeared, and witnesses saw a similar white car drop her off about 10 miles away in Cudahy about two hours later. The video does not show the girl being taken.

SAN DIEGO

### Officials trying to lure songbird to river

State and federal wildlife officials will spend \$3 million to make a San Diego County habitat more hospitable to an endangered songbird.

Biologists and local conservation groups are restoring native cottonwoods, willows and sycamore along the San Dieguito River near Rancho Santa Fe, in hopes of luring the Southwestern Willow flycatcher to nest there.

The U-T San Diego newspaper reported Wednesday that the program is also aimed at helping local farmers improve their conservation practices to restore habitat for the small, water-loving flycatcher. — The Associated Press

## CALEXICO

Continued from A1

The lawyer for the Calexico Police Officers Association has said in the past that they intended to appeal. The fourth officer, Gabriel Rodriguez, is reportedly still on administrative leave.

It's unclear why any of the officers have been let go, and city officials are unable to comment due to personnel confidentiality.

No criminal charges have been filed against any of the officers, but internal investigations as well as the one conducted by the FBI have not yet concluded.

CPOA President Sean Acuna said while he couldn't comment directly to the details of the letters of termination, the union was affording the officers legal representation as they go through the proceedings.

**Staff Writer Chelcey Adami can be reached at 760-337-3452 or cadami@ivpressonline.com**

## ACADEMY

Continued from A1

It also gives those interested in joining Border Patrol a better idea of what they may be getting into, he noted. Some participants are already going through the hiring process and want more information on whether Border Patrol is definitely for them.

El Centro resident Claudia Ramirez said becoming a Border Patrol agent is her "dream career" so she excitedly signed up for this year's citizens' academy.

"I love being outside, not in a little office, so that's what attracted me to doing this," she said. "I thought it was just about the laws and what to do when you see someone, but I've learned so much more."

The academy has had presentations from special tactical units such as BORSTAR and BORTAC as well as the canine unit. It will also visit with members of the horse patrol during next week's class.

"I know a lot of people that say Border Patrol is just sitting in a car not doing anything but I'm learning that they do much



**BORSTAR Commander Jose Ventura demonstrates proper rappel technique during the Border Patrol El Centro Sector citizens' academy Wednesday night. Many of the participants then dared to rappel down the six-story tower at the El Centro Sector themselves.** CHELCEY ADAMI PHOTO

more," Ramirez said. "I'm loving it every day. It makes me want to do more."

Garcia added that working in Border Patrol could mean

working in the desert, the mountains or in urban areas. Some members of the special units like BORSTAR will conduct operations around the

world at times.

Many participants in Wednesday's citizens' academy class eagerly asked agents questions such as about the rigors

or training as well as how often one can apply to special units.

El Centro resident Priscilla Lopez is studying public health with an interest in immigration issues. She said she decided to take the citizens' academy to get a different perspective as part of her ongoing education.

"You usually only get the sides of immigrants and people who have been deported and not from law enforcement so I think this is a good chance to see what they do," she said. "So far it's been very educational and fun."

She said she's particularly enjoyed learning about the different units.

"I thought they all did the same thing but they have a lot more going on than most of the public knows," Lopez said. "They're the largest law enforcement agency in the Valley and employ a lot of people. We have a lot more going on here in the Valley than the general public knows. Learning about them allows you to understand more about what they do."

**Staff Writer Chelcey Adami can be reached at 760-337-3452 or cadami@ivpressonline.com**

## OBITUARIES

### ELIZABETH REED

Oct. 14, 1922 - Mar. 21, 2015

Mother Elizabeth Reed was born on October 14, 1922, to the late Mr. Jeff Brandon, Sr. and Mrs. Louvenia Brandon in Thibodeaux, Louisiana. She leaves to cherish her memory four children: Mr. Charleston Reed, Oceanside, California, Mrs. Mary Turner, El Centro, California, Mrs. Lillian Philpotts, El Centro, California, & Mr. Arthur Brandon, Bazille, Louisiana.

Viewing will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Second Baptist Church at 187 W. Brighton Ave. in El Centro. Service will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in El Centro, at 724 Orange St. in El Centro. Internment will immediately follow at Evergreen Cemetery, El Centro.

## GALLERY

Continued from A1

Psychology major Michael Castillo, 19, found the medium particularly fascinating not only for its aesthetic uniqueness, but because he himself aspires to one day own a cartoon studio.

"The bizarre colors really caught my eye — the combination and contrast of the dark, majestic purples and tinted green against the yellow background," Castillo said. "That grading effect looks otherworldly, almost psychotic, to me. And by psychotic, I mean, not part of the traditional world, not part of the traditional senses."

Born in Pennsylvania to Israeli parents of Moroccan and French background, Fischer has embraced the edge of the Bay Area art scene and sees himself as following in the tradition of artists like Andy Warhol and Ed Ruscha. Blazing a path all his own, he draws from his own genetic, cultural and stylistic mélange, and the art world is taking notice. In 2014, his work was on display at the Florida State University Museum of Art, Marin Museum of Con-



**Music major Saige Hale views screenprinting artworks of Jon Fischer during an exhibit featuring two San Francisco Bay Area artists, Fisher and Salma Arastu, at Juanita Salazar Lowe Art Gallery at Imperial Valley College in Imperial.** JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

temporary Art, and White Stone Gallery in Philadelphia. In addition to IVC, he will be exhibiting at Secession Art and Design in San Francisco this year and is developing a solo show at Vanderbilt University. Fischer currently holds an appointment as Associate Professor of Engineering Technology at the California State University Maritime Academy.

His accomplishments belie a humility and a simplistic approach to his craft.

"Interview with Monica" was originally developed for a cross-disciplinary show that was between a writer and visual artists," Fischer said. "This writer (Monica Zarazua) published a group of short stories ... and my project specifically was not so much about illustrating the story for her as creating a world for the storyteller to inhabit. Monica and I had a film shoot at different locations so it was kind of like making a movie. We

were being whimsical with a lot of different setpieces that had a nautical theme to them."

Fischer enjoys screenprinting on cheaper-quality woods for a variety of reasons, not least of which is a vague spirituality often borne from a proximity to the natural beauty of the Bay Area: "The idea was not just to use wood, but the cheapest lumber available. ... I love the way the wood looks on its own because it's organic

and kind of a step closer to nature than paper. You can get just about anything screenprinted on paper these days, but seeing something like this on the wood implies there's something human about the work."

"We just wanted to show their work because we really loved it," said gallery director Carol Hegarty. "Once I got them in the gallery, there seemed to be a common sensibility and a lot of layering in both of them. There is complexity and richness of color in both, and a playfulness I didn't really expect. There really is something about the Bay Area that is unique. ... The art is different, softer and a little more intellectual. The subject matter, especially in Salma's, is all about healing. They're just all real positive."

Open to the public and free of charge, the exhibit will run through April 29, closing next week for Spring Break and reopening April 13. For gallery hours or more information on the IVC art program, visit [imperial.edu/about/art-gallery](http://imperial.edu/about/art-gallery)

To follow the work and musings of Fischer, check out his blog at [feather2pixels.com](http://feather2pixels.com)

Check out our website at [www.ivpressonline.com](http://www.ivpressonline.com)