

Trial of guard in sexual assault case goes to jury

BY JASON KOTOWSKI
The Bakersfield Californian
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The job of correctional officers at Juvenile Hall is to provide a safe, secure environment for some of the most troubled, vulnerable youth in Kern County, a prosecutor told jurors Tuesday.

But Cesar Navejar, the prosecutor said, took advantage of his

position of authority and sexually assaulted a teenage girl in custody.

He was spotted in the area where the teen was being held even though was assigned to a different area of the facility, and his handprint was found on a window outside the then-17-year-old girl's cell.

Deputy District Attorney Kim

Richardson finished her rebuttal argument by asking jurors to hold Navejar accountable and find him guilty of charges including sexual battery and assault by a public officer.

The jury was taken to a back room to begin deliberations at 9:45 a.m. after receiving instructions from Judge Kenneth C. Twisselman II. Court will resume

at 9 a.m. today.

Navejar's attorney, Shawn B. Collins, has said the alleged victim is a chronic liar who has previously made false accusations of sexual abuse.

He noted even her own family testified against her.

Collins said Navejar's handprint was found outside the teen's window because he had

fixed a loose brick in a yard that her cell was facing.

The teen told investigators Navejar touched her inappropriately on several separate occasions in September 2014 while she was in custody at Juvenile Hall, court filings say.

She said the touching culminated in a sexual assault on Sept. 29, 2014.

No charges in fatal collision involving KCSO sergeant

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

No charges will be filed in the case of a Kern County sheriff's sergeant involved in a fatal collision with a motorcyclist last July.

In a news release Tuesday, the Kern County District Attorney's Office said KCSO Sgt. Marvin Gomez "was operating his patrol car within the parameters allowed by law" when the collision happened.

On July 14, 2015, Gomez was heading west on Norris Road at Airport Drive with his emergency lights and sirens on, the release said. He was on his way to help other deputies with a domestic

violence call. While trying to make a left turn onto Airport Drive against a red arrow, the motorcycle, which was heading east on Norris Road, struck the patrol car. Both directions of traffic had a green light.

The motorcycle, Larry Eugene Maharrey, died at the scene at 5:33 p.m.



Maharrey

"I'm very disappointed by the District Attorney's refusal to prosecute Sgt. Gomez," Paula Maharrey, Larry's widow, said in an email from her attorney. "My family is upset by the fact that the District Attorney and Sgt. Gomez are both employees of the County of Kern. It appears that one county agency is defending another, and it screams of a conflict of interest."

The California Highway Patrol Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team determined that Gomez and Maharrey did not become visible to each other until 0.87 seconds before the col-

lision, as vehicles were blocking each of their views, the DA's release said.

Because Gomez had his emergency lights and siren on at the time of the collision, the California Vehicle Code gives him immunity from any collisions that happen, the release said.

Paula Maharrey said she would like an independent agency, such as the state Attorney General's Office, to investigate the case.

"The failure to prosecute sends the wrong message to law enforcement, suggesting that they are above the law," Maharrey's attorney, Matthew Clark of

Gomez and Maharrey did not become visible to each other until 0.87 seconds before the collision.

Chain Cohn and Stiles, said in a statement. "Without question, Sgt. Gomez's conduct in this case was in violation of Kern County Sheriff's Office policy regarding emergency driving in that he failed to pre-clear the lanes of the intersection."



Kern High School District OPEN ENROLLMENT

RETURNING STUDENTS ONLY
(Current 9th - 11th Graders)

Kern High School District
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309-2924

Open Enrollment is your opportunity to apply for admission to a high school other than the one serving your student based on your residential address. Parents or guardians of returning students, entering grades 10, 11 or 12 in 2016/2017, will be able to apply for Open Enrollment.

Present 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students requesting an Open Enrollment transfer will be declared ineligible for athletics for 12 calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.

If a student chooses to go through the Open Enrollment process a second time and receives an Open Enrollment transfer, then the student will be ineligible for athletics the remainder of his/her high school career. California Interscholastic Federation (C.I.F.) Central Section transfer rules still apply.

Applications will be available at all school sites and the District Office *beginning Monday, March 14, 2016.*

All applications must be received at the Kern High School District Office or school site no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2016. Open Enrollment applications will be processed randomly.

Complete details about Open Enrollment and information about each school is available at the campus nearest you or at the District Office. If you have questions about your attendance area or other questions about the Open Enrollment process, please call 827-3157.

Sea lion pup rescued at Cambria park

THE TRIBUNE (SAN LUIS OBISPO)

A seal pup found wandering near a Cambria park Monday afternoon was corralled and taken to safety by workers from The Marine Mammal Center.

Representatives from the center were called to Shamel Community Park in Cambria around 2:30 p.m. after reports that a seal pup had wandered onto a path near the park.

Rescuers were able to net what they believed to be a one-year-old male pup

and then coax it into a crate.

The rescue took about 15 minutes, and the pup appeared to be in good health.

As a reminder, anyone who happens to see a marine mammal in distress is urged to call the The Marine Mammal Center's 24-hour hotline.

In San Luis Obispo County, call 805-771-8300.

It is illegal for unauthorized people to touch, harass or prompt a sea mammal in any way, according to the center.

2-year-old girl in critical condition after she shoots self at Sacramento County home

BY CATHY LOCKE AND RICHARD CHANG

The Sacramento Bee

SACRAMENTO — A 2-year-old girl was hospitalized in critical condition after she reportedly shot herself Monday afternoon at a south Sacramento County residence.

The Sheriff's Department received a 911 call about 1:50 p.m. from a residence in the 7600 block of Countryfield Drive reporting that the girl had shot herself, said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Tony Turnbull.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department personnel took the girl to a hospital. The girl suffered a gunshot wound to the head.

Two women were at the home when sheriff's deputies arrived, one of whom was believed to be the child's mother, Turnbull said.

Homicide detectives and other sheriff's officials were seen gathered near the house where the shooting occurred.

Turnbull said detectives were processing the scene and interviewing witnesses.

In a news release issued Monday evening, sheriff's officials said detectives were still trying to determine how the child gained access to the gun and who owned it. Accidental shootings involving toddlers have happened before in California, but they are rare.

Seven children age 4 and under were accidentally killed with a firearm in California between 2004 and 2013, according to the state Department of Public Health.

By comparison, almost 600 children in that age group died in accidental drownings during the same period.