

LOCAL

COP TALES

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wrongful death. I asked the attorney if he had seen the video of the shooting. When he asked, "What video?", I told him that a news helicopter had followed the pursuit, and the shooting was clearly visible on the recording.

A few days before Christmas that year, I was contacted by the attorney who advised the video had been shown to the family, and the family's attorneys, and the case had been dismissed. It was a nice Christmas present.

— TP

Brian Smith served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and retired as an assistant chief with the California Highway Patrol. He resides in Bakersfield. If you have a personal "Cop Tale" to share, please contact Smith at bmsmith778@gmail.com.

Eat at Fresco Mexican Grill today to aid Bakersfield Rescue Mission

BY STEFANI DIAS
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As everyone gears up for their Thanksgiving meal, Fresco Mexican Grill is asking folks to help out feeding those in need.

Visit either of the Mexican restaurant's locations (1431 California Ave. or 2402 Columbus St.) on Monday and 10 percent from your total will go directly to the Bakersfield Rescue Mission.

Through its fundraising, Fresco aims to provide a donation of 500 meals to those in need.

People can also donate directly to the mission at thebrm.org.

Stefani Dias can be reached at 661-395-7488. Follow her on Twitter: @realstefanidias.



COURTESY OF EVAN AGUILAR

Chow down on a Fresco Mexican Grill's Fresco burrito for a good cause.

IN COURT THIS WEEK

Retrial of ex-principal accused in husband's slaying to get underway today

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Trial proceedings in the Leslie Chance case are expected to start today after a mistrial was declared in her first trial earlier this year.

Chance, a former elementary school principal at Fairview Elementary School, is accused of killing her husband, Todd

Chance, whose body was found Aug. 25, 2013, off a dirt section of Noriega Road near Enos Lane. If convicted, she could face life in prison.

Prosecutors say Chance drove with her husband to Noriega Road, shot him, then left his Ford Mustang in a southwest Bakersfield neighborhood. They

allege she killed Todd Chance to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in life insurance policies.

Surveillance cameras spotted her at multiple locations as she tried to disguise herself while making her way home, according to prosecutors. Investigators believe Leslie Chance tried to

cover her tracks through information she gained after attending a "CSI" exhibit in Las Vegas about two months before the killing.

Chance was arrested four days after her husband's body was found, but was released days later when prosecutors requested further inquiry from in-

vestigators with the Kern County Sheriff's Office. She was arrested again in December 2016.

Chance, who was principal at Fairview Elementary School during the time of the shooting, was expected to receive around \$250,000 from her husband's life insurance policies, according to court documents.

WORTH NOTING | COMMUNITY

Local attorney, energy company honored at Mothers Against Drunk Driving awards gala

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Two Bakersfield-based institutions received awards at Mothers Against Drunk Driving's "Tie One On for Safety" Gala Awards held Thursday in Long Beach.

The "Pursuit of Justice Award" was presented to attorney Matthew C. Clark of Chain Cohn Stiles, and Chevron's San Joaquin Valley Business Unit received the "Corporate Champion Award."

The event annually recognizes supporters of MADD Southern California, the regional area that includes MADD Kern County.

The awards gala also kicks off the "Tie One On for Safety" campaign during the holiday season, which is MADD's longest running and most visible public awareness project combating impaired driving. MADD's mission is to end drunken driving, help fight drugged driving, support victims of these crimes, and prevent underage drinking. For more information on the campaign, including tips, go to madd.org/the-solution/drunk-driving/tie-one-on-for-safety.

"These two award recipients are community heroes who are dedicated to combating our area's DUI epidemic," said Carla Pearson, victim services

specialist for MADD Kern County. "Simply, they are saving lives."

Clark is a founding board member and organizer for MADD Kern County's Advisory Board and event planning committees, regularly speaks at local Victim Impact Panels intended to prevent repeat DUI offenses, and has done pro-bono legal work for victims of DUI crashes. He is a senior partner at Chain Cohn Stiles, which serves as the presenting sponsor for the annual "Walk Like MADD" fundraising event. Jorge Barrientos, marketing director at the law firm, is a past recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year" award for MADD California.

Chevron's San Joaquin Valley Business Unit, whose main office is in Bakersfield, has been an annual sponsor, and its employees are key organizers, in the local "Walk Like MADD" event, as well as MADD Kern County's Law Enforcement and Prosecutor Recognitions Awards, which honors locals for their efforts in helping stop DUI crimes. SJVBU communicates to its employees — who log thousands of miles each year on Kern County roads — through safety campaigns, including DUI-education efforts.

Local freeway and road maintenance work will require nighttime lane closures along southbound Highway 99 on Monday and Tuesday, the Thomas Roads Improvement Program said in a news release Friday.

The closures will affect the inside and outside lanes along the freeway between Highway 58 and Ming Avenue, and are expected to be in place overnight between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

On Dec. 2, a much more disruptive and long-lasting closure will begin when the contractor for the Centennial Corridor project is expected to close the south side of the Stockdale Highway/Stine Road intersection. This will prevent traffic from entering and exiting South Stine Road at Stockdale Highway, the release said.

Stine Road will be open on the north side of Stockdale Highway and no impacts are anticipated for traffic traveling east or west on Stockdale Highway at this time.

The contractor plans to begin preparatory work for the Centennial Corridor bridge that will cross Stockdale Highway. This is a long-term closure and is expected to remain in

effect through the duration of the project in late 2022. Area residents can access the neighborhood from Stockdale Highway at neighboring streets or from the south at Belle Terrace.

This schedule may be changed without notice. Please slow down and pay attention to construction and detour signage while driving through the area.

The Kern Leaders Academy, a program conducted by the Kern County Taxpayers Education Fund, has announced the graduation of its 2019 class.

The eight graduates, who come from a variety of business and service backgrounds, spent 72 intensive training hours over the course of nine weeks to learn from seasoned Kern County business and industry leaders, organizers said in a news release. KLA is designed to assist in the development of visionary community leaders who recognize that a healthy business climate leads to a strong economy, which is necessary for a vibrant

community.

"This class benefited greatly from the wisdom of the dynamic faculty made up of senior leaders from major companies and industries in Kern County," Mike Turnipseed, academy director, stated in the release.

"The program provides real-life experiences and years of combined knowledge to the academy participants," said Turnipseed, who is also executive director of Kern County Taxpayers Association. "In turn, Kern County's future business and civic progress will be greatly enhanced by these up-and-coming visionary leaders."

The KLA graduates were honored at a dinner held earlier this month at Bakersfield Country Club. They are:

- John Houchin, Realtor at Coldwell Banker.
- Andrew "J.R." Flores, program director at KERN Radio and producer for "The Richard Beene Show" and "The Ralph Bailey Show."
- Scott Knoeb, owner of Frontier Real Estate Services.
- Matthew Martin, vice

president of Western Pacific Research.

■ Christian Romo, field representative for Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez.

■ Josth Stenner, community organizer for the Kern Chapter of Faith in the Valley.

■ Heather Van Housen, chief nursing officer at Adventist Health Bakersfield.

■ Linda Willis, owner of San Joaquin Veterinary Hospital.

Graduates studied aspects of ethics, critical thinking, the economy, education, healthcare, public relations, social issues, communication, leadership, the electoral process and became well versed on important topics in federal, state, regional and local governance.

Sponsors of the 2019 Kern Leaders Academy included Wonderful Orchards, Adventist Health Bakersfield, WZI Inc., Heise Media Group, Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and Kern County Taxpayers Association.

Those interested in applying for or sponsoring the 2020 Kern Leaders Academy, contact Turnipseed at Kerntax@kerntaxpayers.org or 322-2973.

SEALED BID AUCTION

BIDS DUE FRI 12/20 5PM
PREVIEWS TUE 11/26 11-3 & BY APPOINTMENT




9500 SQ FT WAREHOUSE – 6 BUILDINGS
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Bakersfield Life Magazine, is inserted in The Bakersfield Californian on the last Saturday of each month. We celebrate the people, places, events, culture and lifestyle that make our city a place we choose to call home. See where it takes you.

BakersfieldLife

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