

Man sought for shooting at car

Suspect accused of firing rifle at man in another vehicle

By **Martin Salazar**
Las Vegas Optic

Las Vegas police have obtained an arrest warrant for a 19-year-old man who allegedly fired two shots from a rifle at a man who was trying to obtain his license plate number on Monday morning.

A criminal complaint filed in San Miguel County

Magistrate Court late Monday afternoon charges Richard Conway, who resides on Union Street, with abuse of a child, a third-degree felony, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a fourth-degree felony, shooting at or from a motor vehicle, a fourth-degree felony, criminal damage to property, a petty misdemeanor and negligent use

of a deadly weapon, a petty misdemeanor.

The arrest warrant affidavit states that Las Vegas police officer Dennis Nelson was dispatched to Grand and New Mexico Avenue in reference to a man who was being shot at by another man. When the officer arrived, he found Gilbert Salazar standing on the passenger side of a

vehicle parked in the parking lot near the red caboose.

Salazar told the officer he was driving west on Independence and stopped at the stop sign at the intersection located at Independence and South Pacific, he said he turned south on South Pacific, and a silver truck came up behind him and passed him pushing him off the roadway.

Salazar told the officer he began to follow the truck in an attempt to get the license plate number to call police. He followed the car for a while and then saw it park at a residence on Union Street. He said he drove by the truck slowly, at which point "a male subject came out of the house with a rifle and fired two shots at him."

Salazar told the officer he got out of his car and hid behind it

"Mr. Salazar stated the male subject got into the truck with a female and child and drove towards him, stopping and throwing a rock at him which hit his vehicle," the affidavit states. "Mr. Salazar said the

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National recognition



Courtesy photo

A monarch butterfly rests after being released into the wild last September as part of the Mission Fly Away program developed by Debbie Pike of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. The program recently received national recognition.

Butterfly program expands

By **Mercy López**
Las Vegas Optic

A local program has caught the attention of national officials. Mission Fly Away program was recently received the National Pollinator Champion award in the education category from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department. The program teaches middle school students the importance of monarch butterflies

"It is an honor to be recognized for all the efforts the staff, volunteers and school employees do for this program," said

Rob Larrañaga, Northern New Mexico National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager. "We were able to bring recognition to northern New Mexico refuges and to the region."

The Mission Fly Away program, the brainchild of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge employee Debbie Pike, soon will start its fourth year in classrooms. The program is designed to educate middle-school students on the life cycle of the monarch, the migration path, the importance of their work in pollination and with their declining population.

"We are the only ones in the nation that had an active program before Monarchs became a big deal," Pike said.

She said that the use of glycidates in herbicides to control milkweed in fields is decreasing the population of monarchs.

"Monarchs' host plant is milkweed," Pike said. "They will not lay their eggs on anything else. In order to have this great popula-

tion migrating through, you have to have the milkweed along the way."

Pike said that in an effort to help with the declining monarch population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department has earmarked \$4.5 million for monarch programs.

"I have been watching this trend for years, and the Mission Fly Away program was developed in anticipation of the monarch population decline," Pike said. "This was going to happen eventually and we were able to see it four years ago locally."

The program has been in existence for three years and has been active in various middle schools, including Memorial Middle School, West Las Vegas Middle School, Anton Chico, Maxwell and Cimarron. Pojoaque Pueblo has been added to this year's educational program.

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City spending on overtime is down

Analysis shows \$85K drop

By **Martin Salazar**
Las Vegas Optic

City of Las Vegas employees are still putting in overtime, but the amount of overtime they worked last fiscal year is down significantly from the year before.

And the trend appears to be continuing into this fiscal year.

A city analysis of overtime payments to employees from fiscal year 2014 to present shows that the city paid \$85,509 less in overtime last fiscal year, which ended on June 30, compared to the previous fiscal year. That represents a 15.4 percent drop in overtime spending.

The report, which was prepared by city Finance Director Ann Marie Gallegos with the help of the city's departments, was provided to the City Council during last week's work session.

Overall, the city paid

out \$469,046 in overtime in fiscal year 2015 compared to \$554,555 during the 2014 fiscal year.

"The direction was

given to look at overtime and be prudent,"

City Manager Elmer



Martinez

said. "It's necessary... But at the same time, we can be more prudent."

Martinez said some overtime is unavoidable, such as when a water line breaks after hours. But he said that where departments can cut back on overtime, they are doing so. Martinez added that he had also asked the police department to fill its

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Public Safety

Bear attack reported near Wagon Mound

Submitted to the Optic

RATON — Department of Game and Fish conservation officers are still searching for a bear that attacked a 60-year-old man from Missouri who was elk hunting Thursday afternoon west of Wagon Mound.

The hunter climbed a tree to try to escape the attacking bear, but received bites to his foot through his boot when the bear climbed up after him. He was taken to the Alta Vista Regional Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Officers used dogs to

search for the offending bear soon after the attack, but rain caused the scent to deteriorate and the bear was not found. A trap was set in the area, but later removed.

Officers will continue to search for the bear to test it for rabies. Bear hair was found at the attack site and will help in identifying the offending bear.

The hunter said he was eating lunch under a tree stand when a sow and cub came to the water hole where he was hunting. He

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Sports

Breaking through: Cards cage lions 21-12, Dons ground Hawks 35-14

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National

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"We got a national award and it is great for our local refuge," Pike said.

The program was created in an effort to teach students the life cycle of Monarch butterflies and about their rapidly declining population. The first teacher aboard this program three-years ago was Memorial Middle School science teacher Melissa Vigil.

Larrañaga said, "This program is a benefit for the students and for the Monarchs. It brings awareness and does good things for insects in general and specifically for the Monarchs."

Tuesday, Pike and a pair of refuge interns picked up the 350 Monarchs in their chrysalis stage and will deliver them to the area students within the next few weeks. The students will receive their Monarchs at their chrysalis stage as watch as they morph into



Courtesy photo

From left: Conrad Chavez, Pauline Handy, Philip Garcia, Richie Garcia, Debbie Pike and Rob Larrañaga of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge display their national award for the Mission Fly Away program.

beautiful yellow and orange butterflies. From there they will tag and release them at the refuge, east of Las Vegas. After their release, a Monarch Watch device can track them as they follow the migratory path south.

Pike said several Monarchs will

be released during the upcoming Concert for the Birds at noon on Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge.

Due to the program's receiving national recognition, several other refuges have joined the flight to save the Monarchs.

Bear

From Page 1

took photographs and video of the bears before the attack and said he had seen five other bears that morning. The hunter fell 15 feet from the tree at one point but was able to climb back up. He also had a pistol and had fired a warning shot and four other shots from the tree at the bear, but it would not retreat. He radioed his guide to help him after the attack ended. The guide told officers that the hunter was nearly to the top of the 50-foot tree when he arrived.

The incident was the fourth this year resulting in injuries and the second this week in which a bear attack resulted in injuries to a human.

Last Wednesday, a female bear with a cub attacked a runner on a trail near Los Alamos. The runner was treated at a

Santa Fe hospital. The search for that bear was suspended Friday because dogs could not find a scent.

If you encounter a bear: Stop, and back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, as the bear may consider that a threat. Do not run. Make yourself appear large by holding out your jacket. If you have small children, pick them up so they don't run.

Give the bear plenty of room to escape, so it doesn't feel threatened or trapped.

If a black bear attacks you, fight back using anything at your disposal, such as rocks, sticks, binoculars or even your bare hands. Aim for the bear's nose and eyes.

If the bear has not seen you, stay calm and slowly move away, making noise so the bear knows you are there. Never get between a mother bear and her cubs.

Overtime

From Page 1

budgeted positions to cut down on overtime in that department.

According to the analysis, the city police department pays out the most overtime. Police staff earned \$212,411 in overtime in fiscal year 2014 and \$205,470 in overtime last fiscal year.

Coming in second is the city's fire department, which paid \$94,001 in overtime in fiscal year 2014 and \$81,533 in overtime last fiscal year.

Coming in third is the city's water department, which paid its employees

\$75,636 in overtime in fiscal year 2014 and \$54,591 in overtime in 2015.

The city spends a significant amount of money on overtime for the Fourth of July Fiestas and the annual biker rally, but overtime spending on those events has dropped for each of the last three years. Part of the savings for this year's Fiestas was due to the fact that the event was only three days compared to four days for the two previous fiscal years.

Still, the drop in overtime for those events has been significant. The police department paid out \$22,262 in Fiestas related overtime for fiscal

year 2014, \$20,638 in fiscal year 2015 and just \$13,133 this year.

Public Facilities and Community Development, meanwhile, paid \$24,494 in overtime for the Fiestas in fiscal year 2014, \$19,153 in fiscal year 2015 and \$16,600 this year.

For the Rough Rider Motorcycle rally, the city police department spent \$9,374 in overtime in fiscal year 2014, \$8,283 in fiscal year 2015 and \$6,740 this year.

Public Facilities and Community Development paid out \$1,250 in rally related overtime in fiscal year 2014, \$650 in fiscal year 2015 and \$315 this year.

Shooting

From Page 1

vehicle left the area as he was talking to police."

The officer interviewed a woman who was walking with a child. She told police her boyfriend, Richard Conway, was driving the truck during the incident. But she told the officer she did not see him shoot at the other driver.

The officer found a spent .22 Remington shell casing near the area where Salazar reported the shots were fired from. Police obtained an arrest warrant for Conway because they weren't able to find him on Monday.

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