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BRINGING LIFE TO YOUR DOORSTEP SINCE 1888

SEGUIN GAZETTE

Sunday, April 24, 2016

\$1.50 FACEBOOK.COM/SEGUINGAZETTE TWITTER.COM/SEGUINGAZETTE

SEGUINGAZETTE.COM

SHS grad's death ruled suicide

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COLLIN COUNTY — The Collin County Medical Examiner's Office said the 1994 Seguin High School graduate found dead after being reported missing with her three children

killed herself. "Christine Woo's cause of death was a suicide through overdose," the Frisco Police Department said in a Thursday press release. "The investigation, completed by the Frisco Police Department's Criminal Investigations

Division (CID), demonstrates that there was no deliberate plan by Woo to harm her three children." Police said Christine, 39, was found in her 2011 Honda Pilot at about 6:30 p.m. March 31 at a Target parking lot in the 8900 block of State Highway 121

in McKinney, with her three children — ages 5, 3 and 1 — who were unharmed. "All three children were found alive inside of the vehicle and were transported to a nearby hospital for evaluation," police said. According to The Dallas Morning News, Christine's

husband, Brandon Woo, reported her missing on March 29 — a day after she was last seen alive — believing there was a mandatory 24 hour wait period. Seguin resident Marla Martinez, who is a former classmate and friend, said she was saddened by the

news of Christine's death. "It has just been shocking," she said. "It's like a bad movie. I saw it initially on the Frisco Police Department's post when her cousin put it out on Facebook, and I was just in shock."

DEATH - 5A

In an age where people are more connected than ever before, Seguin police are harnessing the power of Facebook

6,963 is the number of likes Seguin PD has on Facebook

4.4 out of 5 is SPD's rating on Facebook

A NEW WAY TO FIGHT CRIME

Felicia Frazar
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Social media has become a crime-fighting tool for the Seguin Police Department. Recently, the department posted a video of a burglar taking a delivered package off a porch. Not long after, the department had identified the suspect, all thanks to Facebook, Seguin Police Deputy Chief Bruce Ure said. "We posted the video on Facebook, and in a matter of three hours, we began getting flooded with tips," he said. "We were able to identify him and interview the suspect in a matter of hours." The department's post reached nearly 8,000 people in that short amount of time, Ure said. "There were 337 reactions, likes comments and shares and 4,000 video view — 4,000 people watched our video," he said. Not long after being hired as the deputy chief, Ure took on the unofficial role of chief facebook officer, and began revamping the department's social media site. "The Seguin Police Department has had a social media site, but it has been under utilized over the years," he said. "Chief (Kevin) Kelso and I thought it would be a great idea to start using

FACEBOOK - 5A

Suspect reports to Seguin PD

Alleged Mexican Mafia member in custody after week on the lam

Felicia Frazar
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Authorities say another suspected Mexican Mafia member is in federal custody after turning himself in on Thursday.

Gary "Big John" Ortiz, 30, was detained by the Seguin Police Department after being on the lam nearly a week, Police Chief Kevin Kelso said.

"He knew that we were looking for him, and instead of drawing out the inevitable, he called us and we were able to arrest him without incident," Kelso said.

After detaining Ortiz on a federal warrant, he was taken to San Antonio and placed into the U.S. Marshal Service's custody, Kelso said.

This recent arrest brings the total up to 16 suspected Mexican Mafia members arrested as part of a large round up that began early Friday, April 15.

Nearly 150 law enforcement officers went to a dozen residents in and around Seguin, New Braunfels, San Antonio and Houston searching for the suspects, arresting 15 on state and federal charges.

CUSTODY - 8A

Candidates seek MISD board seats

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Two incumbents are facing a pair of challengers on the Marion School Board.

K.L. "Bubba" Kunde, is ending his first full three-year term, and J.C. Batey is finishing up the unexpired term left by Marir Paiz, while Mary Shmidt and Troy Arambula are ready to get in on the action.

Kunde is a Seguin native, who graduated from Marion High School in 1992. After completing his doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University in 1999, graduating

MISD - 9A

City staff develops Street Improvement Plan

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Knowing how some residents feel about current road conditions, city staff has been developing a plan, they say will help improve the streets, drainage and utility network in Seguin.

"What we have here is a draft of the street maintenance

plan that we have been working on for several months," city engineer Joe Ramos said. "If you recall, we were working under the assumption that we would be issuing Certificates of Obligations in the amount of \$5 million per year, for the next five years. So, what we did is we took some of what we previously presented to council and put

some numbers to the actual cost."

During Tuesday's meeting, Ramos presented city council with the Street Improvement Plan and Schedule that includes up to \$25 million of infrastructure improvements over the next five years.

"The Street improvement plan is a comprehensive review of roadways within

the city of Seguin which are in a range of conditions," city engineering associate Michael Sharp said. "As part of the review process drainage, roadway width and utilities are reviewed to determine what improvements are needed and to assess the projected cost for repair, resurfacing or

ROADS - 8A

Obituaries & Death Notices

The obituaries and death notices are on page 6A of today's edition and include **Monica Gabriella Gallegos**, 28; **Robert Fulton Layton Jr.**, 63; **John Claude Jones**, 74; **Alex Mata**, 85; and **Janie C. Bailey**, 87.

Today

Mostly cloudy and humid; a shower or thunderstorm in spots late in the afternoon

80°

68°

PRICE: \$1.50



Vol. 127 No. 166

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Seguin Noon Lions Club Annual Spring Fling

LAUNCH • RAFFLE • BUG RACES

PORK STEAK DINNER

\$ 12 Presale • \$ 15 at the door
(drive thru service available)

Thursday - April 28, 2016
5:00 until 7:30 pm
Seguin Guadalupe Coliseum
950 S. Austin St

PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DIETZ FLOWER SHOP, STARCKE FURNITURE, OR TRI-COUNTY A/C AND HEATING