

News

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor in Chief Tom Bodus at tbodus@ivpressonline.com or (760) 337-3427.

VALLEY BRIEFS

CALEXICO

Villalobos named Veteran of the Year

Rudolph “Rudy” Villalobos, 97, of Calexico, was selected by Sen. Ben Hueso, D-San Diego, as 2020 Veteran of the Year for the 40th Senate District. Hueso made the announcement on Feb. 17 via a news release, and mentioned this honor in his e-newsletter issued Friday.

“Rudy is not only a highly-decorated veteran, he is a role model for all who meet him, and has contributed immensely to the prosperity of our nation through both his military and civilian service,” Hueso said.

Hueso’s office announced the call for nominations for Veteran of the Year in November 2020 as a way to honor all the selfless contributions of veterans and service members to the community.

Nominees were eligible if they reside in, or have significantly contributed to, the 40th Senate District and have served in the U.S. military on active duty or reserves for any length of time, in any location.

Villalobos served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was highly decorated for his service.

He has earned the Victory Medal; European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (4 battle stars); Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; American Campaign Medal; Presidential Citation (Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak leaf cluster); Chinese War Memorial Badge and Ribbon; Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Good Conduct Medal.

He enlisted on Dec. 9, 1942, serving in the 8th Air Force, 96th Bomb Group, as a radio operator/gunner on a B-17 “Flying Fortress.”

Villalobos flew 32 missions during his career — 17 over France, 14 over Germany, and one over the Czech Republic. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 7, 1945.

After the war, Rudy worked for the U.S. Department of Labor in Mexico, and then the U.S. Justice Department as an immigration supervisor.

He retired after 34 years in government service.

In 2015, the Consul General of France presented Rudy with the National Order of The Legion of Honor in the rank of Chevalier for his participation in the liberation of France during World War II.

Villalobos also served as the Grand Marshall in the fifth annual Imperial

County Veterans Day Parade in 2018.

Villalobos lives in Calexico with his wife of 69 years, Maria Teresa Villalobos.

Together, they have nine children, 29 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, the news release stated.

—Vincent Osuna,
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EL CENTRO

Vandal smashes windows to 8 vehicles

Eight vehicles in the vicinity of the Holiday Inn Express and Motel 6 on Smoketree Drive had their windows broken Friday night by an unidentified man wielding a baseball bat.

Someone called El Centro Police Department about 10:56 p.m. and said a man wearing a white shirt and jeans had broken about five vehicle windows at the Holiday Inn Express, 350 Smoketree Drive.

Another caller from the Holiday Inn said the man was last seen headed across the street to the Motel 6, ECPD radio logs said.

Guests at the Motel 6 said the suspect was at a transient encampment in the area of Interstate 8 and the railroad tracks.

A police search of that area, as well as the vicinity of Second Street and Wake Avenue, did not yield the suspect, according to logs.

Vehicle reported damaged were a white Subaru Legacy, a gray Hyundai Accent, a red Nissan Frontier, a gray Dodge Caravan, a black Chevy Malibu, a tan Chevy Silverado, a black GMC Acadia and a white Ford F-150.

Unable to contact the owners at the scene, police left a case number card behind on each vehicle, logs said.

The suspect was described as a Hispanic male adult standing about 5-foot-5 and weighing about 160 pounds.

Mask request results in fight

El Centro Police responded Friday night to a report of a disturbance at a local restaurant and tavern that started over someone refusing to wear a facemask.

According to ECPD logs, the victim apparently asked another man to put on his facemask at Lovin’s Cantina, 459 W. Main St., and was rewarded with a “sucker punch” to the face. The assault resulted in an extended physical altercation that continued outside the restaurant and allegedly involved the victim being threatened with a knife.

The suspect, described as a 31-year-old Hispanic male, was gone when ECPD responded to the scene, logs said. The victim declined to pursue prosecution. He was examined by AMR personnel and advised of his options.

It was not clear from the logs whether the victim was an employee of the restaurant.

—Tom Bodus,
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Phoenix police arrest 2 women after argument diverts flight

PHOENIX (AP) — An American Airlines flight was diverted and two women arrested in Phoenix after authorities say one of the women spit on a fellow passenger who asked them to stop using racial slurs in their conversation and the other slapped his hand when he started recording them.

American Airlines said the flight from Dallas-Fort Worth to Los Angeles when it was diverted to Sky Harbor International Airport on Thursday around 5:15 p.m. because of an on-flight altercation.

When the flight land-

ed, officers with the Phoenix Police Department arrested Kelly Pichardo, 30, and Leeza Rodriguez, 29, both from the Bronx, New York, saying they verbally and physically assaulted other passengers and crew members.

Phoenix Police Sgt. Mercedes Fortune said the women were using racial slurs when a male passenger asked them to stop using the language. Pichardo allegedly spit at the man, who then began recording them.

Fortune said Rodriguez then hit the man’s hand to stop him from recording.

Rodriguez faces charges of assault and disorderly conduct and Pichardo faces a charge of disorderly conduct.

Online court records did not indicate whether the women have attorneys who could comment on the allegation on their behalf.

American Airlines spokesperson Derek Walls called the women’s behavior “disturbing and unacceptable” and said in a statement that they were placed on their “internal refuse list pending further investigation.”

The flight continued to Los Angeles and arrived without further incident.

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Vaccination for Covid-19 and Flu Are Now Available Here

CORE SERVICES

- Comprehensive Medical Examination
- Comprehensive Diabetes Management
- Covid-19 Testing Site
- Covid-19 Vaccination Site
- Yearly Flu Vaccination (September- April)
- Immigration Medical Examination
- Laboratory Services/Blood Draws
- DOT/DMV Medical Examination
- Botox Cosmetic Injection
- Sports Physical
- Medicare Home Visit
- Comprehensive Vaccination Program for Children & Adults (VFC)
- FamilyPACT

PROCEDURES

- PAP Smear
- Trigger Point Injections
- IV Hydration
- Basic Wound Care & Sutures
- Ear Lavages
- Testosterone Replacement Therapy
- Basic Pain Medication Injection
- Antibiotic Injection
- Vitamin B12 Injection

Vacunación Covid-19 y Influenza Están Disponibles Aquí

SERVICIOS PRINCIPALES

- Examen médico integral
- Manejo integral de la diabetes
- Sitio de prueba de Covid-19
- Sitio de vacunación Covid-19
- Vacunación anual contra la influenza (septiembre a abril)
- Examen médico de inmigración
- Servicios de laboratorio / Extracciones de sangre
- Examen médico del DOT / DMV
- Inyección cosmética de Botox
- Físico deportivo
- Visita domiciliaria de Medicare
- Programa de vacunación integral para niños y adultos (VFC)
- FamilyPACT

PROCEDIMIENTOS

- Prueba de Papanicolaou
- Inyecciones en puntos gatillo
- Hidratación IV
- Suturas y cuidado básico de heridas
- Lavados de oído
- Terapia de reemplazo de testosterona
- Inyección de analgésicos básicos
- Inyección de antibióticos
- Inyección de vitamina B12



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