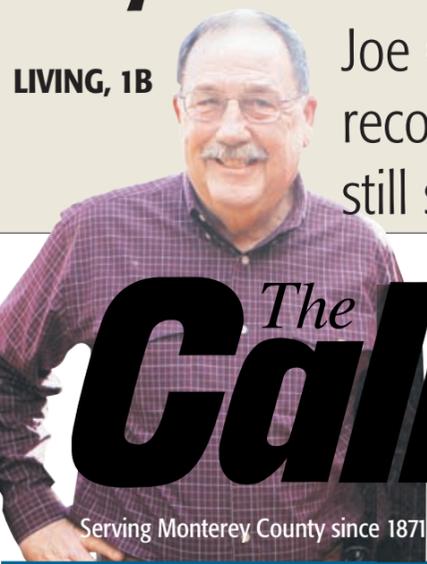


40 years and counting

LIVING, 1B

Joe Gunter, SPD's record-setting detective, still serving community



Salinas' David Estrada waiting for pro soccer career to begin, 7A

Today's forecast/11A

Partly sunny

64 high 45 low



The Salinas Californian

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50¢

County grows after five years of shrinking

1.2% increase between '08 and '09 puts figures back up to 2003 levels

BY LESLIE GRIFFY
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Monterey County grew by about 4,710 people between 2008 and 2009, or about 1.2 percent, according to U.S. Census estimates from the American Community Survey released Tuesday.

That puts the county's population at an estimated 410,370, about where it was in 2003, before five years of steady declines.

Since 2000, the county has grown an overall 1.8 percent. No further details were available about the population change.

The American Community Survey is an annual estimate of population and demographic information in communities throughout the country.

The county's growth, while slowing during the past decade, caught up to the state's estimated 1 percent growth rate last year.

State sees modest growth

The California counties with the largest population increases between 2008 and 2009 were Placer and Riverside; both saw boosts of more than 2 percent. Sierra had the largest decrease, with a population drop of 2.3 percent.

Between 2000 and 2009, California's population grew overall by an estimated 8 percent to 36.9 million people.

The U.S. Census is now gearing up for its decennial count, with questionnaires landing in Monterey County mailboxes this month. Information collected during the once-a-decade count is used to divvy up federal funds for schools and other programs, as well as to create electoral boundaries and allocate seats to the House of Representatives.

Deputies: Crow was last person to see wife

Ryann Bunnell Crow still missing 7 weeks after disappearance

BY SUNITA VIJAYAN AND KIMBER SOLANA
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Jesse Crow was the last person to see his wife, Ryann Bunnell Crow, on the day

she went missing, and he refused to allow deputies to fully search his home after her disappearance, according to court documents.

Crow told deputies he saw Bunnell Crow leave his



Ryann Bunnell Crow

Prunedale home about 5 p.m. Jan. 30 in her own car, according to a search warrant affidavit filed in court by the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

The documents released were not sealed by the court and are not part of a

request submitted last week by media outlets, including The Salinas Californian, to examine sealed documents pertaining to police searches connected to Crow.

In a statement of probable cause filed Feb. 3 regarding a possible indoor marijuana grow at Crow's property, sheriff's Deputy Michael Smith recounted the first conversation with Crow since his

wife disappeared. Smith said the conversation happened after Bunnell Crow's mother and sister followed Jesse Crow home and blocked his pickup into his driveway.

'On his way to Santa Cruz'

Bunnell Crow's family reported her missing Feb. 2

See CROW, 4A

6-year-old shot, killed



SCOTT MACDONALD

Salinas Police officers take three men into custody Tuesday on Oregon Street after a shooting in which a child was fatally wounded near Laurel Drive. Five suspects in total were taken into custody on Oregon Street.

Five arrested near scene of shootout on East Laurel Drive in Salinas



SCOTT MACDONALD

An ambulance carrying a child with a gunshot wound leaves the scene on Laurel Drive, headed for Natividad Medical Center Tuesday.

BY MARIA INES ZAMUDIO, SCOTT MACDONALD AND RIA MEGNIN
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A 6-year-old boy was fatally shot in the head while playing in his backyard Tuesday evening, Salinas police said.

The shooting was reported at 6:12 p.m. Tuesday in the 1000 block of East Laurel Drive, and officers and paramedics administered first aid at the scene. The boy was taken by ambulance to Natividad Medical Center about 7 p.m., where three paramedics and a firefighter accompanied him to a waiting CALSTAR helicopter.

TO HELP

To report information about Tuesday's shooting, call the Salinas Police Department at 831-758-7128. To remain anonymous, call the tip line at 831-775-4222 or 1-800-78-CRIME.

The boy was declared dead after being flown to a hospital. Officers contacted numerous witnesses and detectives worked at the crime scene for several hours.

After the shooting, two people were taken into custody at 6:19 p.m. in the

See HOMICIDE, 4A

Salinas man testifies he had no intention of hurting deputy

Raymond Campos accused of running over deputy in 2009

BY SUNITA VIJAYAN
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Raymond Campos testified Tuesday that he found out he ran over a Monterey County Gang Task Force officer with a car while watching the news hours later on April 10.

"I don't blame the officer for what happened; I really don't. It wasn't my intention ... bullets were flying," Campos testified. "Honestly, I thought my life was over [when I found out because they were] law enforcement officers."

Campos is accused of try-

ing to kill county sheriff's Deputy Jesse Pinon, a gang task officer, with his Ford Thunderbird on April 10 in the parking lot of 57 Natividad Road in Salinas. Police said Pinon's arm was run over by the car as Campos was making a getaway.

Pinon's partner, Salinas police Officer Jeffrey Alford, fired several shots at Campos' car, which was later found abandoned near Highway 101 and Market Street.

Campos was arrested three weeks later by U.S. Marshals in Livermore.

The jury trial of Campos and fellow defendant Michael Diaz began last week. The District Attorney's Office has charged Campos with the attempted murder

of a peace officer, assault with a deadly weapon and gang enhancements. Both Campos and Diaz are charged with possession of a controlled substance for sale with a gang enhancement and street terrorism.

Authorities said Diaz, who lives at the apartment complex at 57 Natividad Road, was later arrested after police found a safe filled with methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia adjacent to his home.

Pinon and Alford have testified they were trying to



Raymond Campos

WHAT'S NEXT

Testimony in the jury trial of Raymond Campos and Michael Diaz continues at 10 a.m. today.

stop and arrest Campos after observing him conducting hand-to-hand drug transactions with two drivers in the parking lot. Authorities have said two envelopes filled with two ounces of methamphetamine worth up to \$10,000 were found just outside Diaz's apartment.

Campos maintained Tuesday that while he is a registered Norteño criminal street gang member, he left that lifestyle when he was sent to prison in 2004 on drug- and gang-related charges.

In his testimony, he said neither encounter with the drivers involved drug transactions.

Campos testified that he went to the apartment to pick up clothes for Diaz's children. He testified that they were longtime friends and that their children frequently played together. Campos testified that the children were having a slumber party at his home that day. He testified that Diaz and his wife were having an argument when he arrived at their door. Not wanting to interrupt them, Campos testified, he turned around and walked out the door. That's when he saw a white Bronco pull up, he

See CAMPOS, 4A

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