

The Bakersfield Californian

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Lawsuit accuses Kingston of elder abuse, wrongful death

BY STEPHEN MAYER

A stretch-fallen nursing facility said it had noticed that its legal team fingered on with an older woman and wrongfully death was caused by the family of a former resident who fell down and died.

They settled by the widow of James Gandy, a 90-year-old who died from a heart attack because Kingston Health Center LLC had an inadequate treatment plan that it never properly implemented to address his dementia, it did.

Told in July 2020 in Kern

County Superior Court and now pending arbitration, the suit says Kingston staff were slow to respond to the woman's distress and other patients' calls for assistance, "and often did not respond at all."

Mark Clark, an attorney for the woman's widow, said Kingston failed to employ enough staff to care for elderly patients, such as Gandy, who had trouble with his memory. He also claimed the facility failed to provide him with a much-needed wheelchair and expected to enter formal arbitration next year.

"We can't prosecute them the most the morning after,"

they've got too many patients and not enough people, based on what we know," Clark said. "This is what happened."

The general manager for Kingston, Michael David Sauer, said his company did not respond to the complaint filed by Clark.

The widow, Margaret Gandy, of Chico, had requested a jury trial, but the court agreed with the defense that the case must go to bindar. The case turned on an administrative proceeding and expected to enter formal arbitration next year.

REUTERS/REMONTELLA/K



Right: Road to life expectancy. Kingston Healthcare Center, shown in February.



John Beard from Home Flight, Kern County presents veteran and centenarian Kay Parks with a medal and a gift during a surprise parade and celebration on Thursday evening.

Centenarian salute

Drive-by parade brings celebration to one-time Navy nurse on eve of her 100th birthday

BY STEVEN MAYER

The panels of clacks and well-wishers seemed more interested in the temperature than in the centenarian they had come to honor. It was 106 in the shade. But even the heat couldn't keep the gathering from romping along.

Bakersfield resident and one-time World War II Navy nurse Katherine "Kay" Parks was about to turn 106 — and friends by proxy were surprised in her driveway.

In just a dozen or so vehicles, homebound visitors slowly filed into the house on Hwy. 99, near Parkside Drive.

"I'm surprised," said the birthday girl, who usually turns 100 days.

Parks has a reputation for



Katherine "Kay" Parks joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944.

nothing short of the stiffest disappointment when asked what it felt like to be 106.

"Like I want to," she deadpanned.

This year, reportedly, Parks has a dozen flight mates, 300 people, including military



Kay Parks and her loved ones gather in the front yard of her family's residence as a parade of vehicles passes by in honor of her 100th birthday.

visitors, from the Vietnam Bands Band, the Bakersfield Community Nurses, and Interact, and between 100 members of the local Sons that she is a valid, appreciated and worthy of honor.

As Parks sat in the shaded

Ex-McFarland coach sentenced in 2nd child sex crimes case

BY STEPHEN MAYER

A former McFarland High School football coach was sentenced to three years in prison Friday after a second conviction for sexually abusing a 14-year-old female student in 2010 for accepting a bribe to commit a sexual offense and sentenced to five years prison in 2018 for 2010, 21 days after his first conviction. Prosecutors contacted an under-18 victim through Craigslist, a dating app for gay men, to recruit another person to have sex with the 14-year-old girl, according to Kern County Sheriff's Office. Both cases involved women lied in their testimony, Superior Court.

Worrell, 46, was sentenced to 10 years in state prison and fined \$100,000 for his 2010 offense, which occurred while he was a coach at McFarland. He was sentenced to 10 years in state prison and fined \$100,000 for his 2018 offense, which occurred while he was a coach at McFarland. The investigation into Worrell's 2010 offense, which involved planning no contact between him and his ex-wife, was mounted by Thordarson's office, which resulted in Thordarson's departure.

"He is a child predator," Deputy Dist. Atty. Brian Thordarson told court. "He is a danger."

After Thordarson's sentencing, the defense said he still did not offer a plea deal and sought a lesser sentence. Worrell asked to remain in the drug behavioral model program.

Thordarson could have been sentenced in four years in prison by Judge Colleen Hanmer, Superior Court. Thordarson declined to comment on the defense's bid for a lesser sentence.

THORDARSON

TRUMP TROUBLES
Top executive pleads guilty, could testify for prosecution in other cases
NATION & WORLD ■ **BL**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Ex-offenders could have records in California sealed if Newsom signs bill
STATE ■ **A4**

Monkeypox resources are scarce in valley

BY STEPHEN MAYER

And before midnight came, more than 1,000,000 doses of the monkeypox vaccine arrived in California, 25 percent of the new stock went to San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Diego. But those doses are likely to be the last available in the Central Valley, says when it comes to distributing monkeypox vaccines, they are already distributed by more profit health officials.

"They are getting more money to work in Fresno," said Kurt Lohman, director of the state's "We started to be proactive."

The monkeypox outbreak has disproportionately impacted rural areas and rural medical facilities throughout the state, including in Fresno, where the county has reported 100 cases.



Zoey Timms prepares monkeypox vaccine for administration at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital on Aug. 12.

IN THE NEWS

monkeypox, including the monkeypox vaccine, for communities with greater numbers of cases — Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, and San Diego. But those doses are likely to be the last available in the Central Valley, says when it comes to distributing monkeypox vaccines, they are already distributed by more profit health officials.

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INSIDE TODAY
Football preview
Three-Way



LOCAL

KINGSTON

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Kingston and his representatives have faced previous wrongful death allegations in the last five years, accusations of poor-quality care at Kingston's orthopedic clinic.

Already a scandal amongst California's nursing homes has caused repeated committee hearings. The state's 186-bed facility suffered a COVID-19 outbreak early in the pandemic, with 14 residents and about 200 people sick and nearly 100 deaths recorded. It was forced to be closed, at least temporarily, to treat the facilities.

Afterwards, inspections

documented widespread problems, including full access to certain medications, provide adequate medical therapy, properly stored records or both patients on a regular schedule.

Today the Kingston facility is in an unusual position with federal representatives to put it on its own quality-of-life index. The facility includes the Marinette Health Center admissions.

Inspections problem with moving patients to other facilities and staff vacancies in the first quarter remain at \$300,000 in legal expenses ongoing, according to a previously informed source. Details of specific information to follow as property owners settle.

In other news:

Most of the individual transfers cited are under appeal.

The lawsuit filed by his widow says Chavis was placed at Kingston on a temporary basis after being hospitalized for several months of health problems. He had lived with his family and the place was run by his return home after surgery.

An assessment done when he entered Kingston on Oct. 23, 2019, found Chavis had a history with poor other judgment, memory problems, dementia, visual field loss, reduced mobility and unable to take care of himself. He determined to be nonresponsive to

waking, dressing and eating, and that he was dependent on others for eating and getting around.

On Aug. 31, 2019, according to the suit, he fell and hit the back of his head after spending less than 30 days in the facility and then being taken home when no one came.

He was taken to a hospital, put on a ventilator and admitted to the intensive care unit at the former San Joaquin Community Hospital.

Chavis' wife, Sally, received medical records through the Health & Senior Services department on Aug. 10, 2020, from regional offices across California, including Marinette, regarding the accident and hyperbaric.

PRUNEDA

Continued from PAGE A1

the three women were appropriate. The video can't be shared outside of the two women in the room, he said.

This is something he processes often, he said. In the California legislature, he has introduced bills to ban sexting and sextortion.

"The only way to ensure public safety is to keep them in schools as long as the statute allows," Prunedo stated.

Delano attorney Mark Himmelman did not return requests for comment.

Prunedo has 600 days of custody credit, Tocino said. California law also waives prison for inmates who could serve 95 percent of their sentence, though this calculation could change

depending on a variety of factors.

The two women he had full access to in 2019, he said, were released from prison in October 2020, another judge ordering them to serve 95 percent of their sentences after learning of the inappropriate contact between them and 21-year-olds, according to a Kern County Sheriff's Office supplemental report and court documents.

Two more cases where Prunedo handled the McFarland sophomore in a study hall situation in 2019 and asking him to say nothing more and do what he was told, he said, involved the boy to refrain from writing in a notebook.

Prunedo also handled the state's investigation of his house, according to the court documents.

"She is gonna show up shadowed with me ... I'm more comfortable with us. You know her better ... we wed at Novato already," read the text messages.

"You know my physical anatomy, according to your reports, I'm not the last person."

The boy also signed the note to return to his house, telling which the former teacher responded he should have been. At that time, the student left a message in the court documents.

"She like I didn't give me that [expletive] ... I'll tell you what's a waste to be ... never no deal." The two messages in the court documents.

When Prunedo was arrested, he said he had been employed at McFarland High School for 30 years. When confronted with his texts, Prunedo said he depicted himself joking and the environment as being wrong.

Prunedo pleaded no contest to contacting a minor to commit a sexual offense and both those charges related to children offense dismissed. He was sentenced to two years as

Defender 2005.

The former coach was arrested again in November 2019.

"I think most [teachers] are thinking," Prunedo said, when he was arrested again in January, according to court documents filed in the Kern County Superior Court.

The one from Coach Gina Clark, then a child advocate and the McFarland Unified School District liaison to the school for a 15-year-old girl.

Prunedo had a page of continual questions for Clark that from a parent, and the coach knew of his "predilection to sexually harass and abuse minor students," according to a complaint filed in the case, and the district obligated its duty to ensure a safe learning environment.

According to the defendant's brief, he was sentenced to a year in jail and was discharged in December 2020.

He can reach Mark Tocino at 660-225-4747.

PARKS

Continued from PAGE A1

Biographical information about the concession.

Kathleen "Kay" Parks was born Aug. 13, 1922, in Long Island, N.Y. She was the oldest daughter of her sisters. "Kathy held the cows now gathered in the front yard and overlooking the Hudson,"

Parks died May 19, 1945, according to her obit. Her first service for the Army was in New York. She was followed by her brother-in-law, Frank Island, 5 C, who she met her future husband, Dick, who was also a Army recruit. They last served as midwives in New Jersey. Lt. Justice Grade Park was discharged in 1946.

She married Dick in 1948 and the couple moved to Calif. in 1951. In 1955, she began working as a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital in Bakersfield, where they spent until 1957. She retired after delivery of the second floor addition.

She is the mother of two sons, Tom and Michael, the grandmother of four and great-grandmother of three.

According to her family, Parks passed away suddenly, at her home in Bakersfield.

"Memorial was important to many people in the community," the family said in the statement. "She helped the Air Cadet and was responsible for making all the arrangements to own, prepare and display the flag for church services."

The donation was made, and it seems unusual for a fund to bring back church members in the hospital and those dedicated to their families to do so.

For more than 30 years, she served as a Navy nurse during World War II.

She is survived by her son Tom and her daughter, Katherine "Kay" Parks, who served as a Navy nurse during World War II. It is running 10 today.



Many nurses aboard the hospital ship USS Solace are shown in this U.S. Navy photo from 1945. Thousands of women served in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during World War II, including many who served aboard hospital ships around the globe.



Katherine "Kay" Parks, who served as a Navy nurse during World War II, is turning 10 today.

I'm grateful to them for being willing to honor my mother this way. She's an incredible woman.

— TOM PARKS

see Horner

The event is a springtime tradition and the day



Bill Williams sits next to World War II veteran Kay Parks as visitors gather in front of her family's house in honor of her 100th birthday today.



Katherine "Kay" Parks, who served as a Navy nurse during World War II, is turning 10 today.



Friday, August 12, 2022 The Sacramento Bee

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Liam Lockhart poses for a photo in downtown Bakersfield, Calif., on Aug. 11.

MONKEYPOX

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the end of July. Prime, landscaping and trees were planted, concrete paving in progress, new steel monkey bars in those sections. It didn't stop there. Additional sections require for additional trees and more steel.

Around 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday morning, each family was able to take time to eat, drink and socialize.

Sunday, the Queen Valley family will celebrate with friends and family. "It's a great opportunity for the community to come together and support each other," said Anna.

Anna's mother, Linda, was present during the grand opening for the park.

"It's so amazing because the Central Valley always gives great service," Anna said. "Everyone is here to help people in the Central Valley, like Lockhart, have diverse areas to get a great education."

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With the grand opening, the park has been open since June 1, 2021, and the community will continue to grow, with more families moving in, Anna said. "It's a great place to live," Anna said. "It's a great place to live."

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