

Man killed riding inner tube in river

June 8, 2005 | Pasadena Star-News (CA)

Author: Gema Duarte, Staff Writer | Section: News | 399 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

AZUSA -- Fast-moving water killed one man and injured another Tuesday during an inner-tube ride in the San Gabriel River, authorities said.

The two men entered the river near El Encanto Restaurant on San Gabriel Canyon Road in Azusa and rode the rough waters until they were trapped by the currents at a dam for about 30 minutes, Los Angeles County Battalion Chief John Lenihan said.

The names of the victims were not released.

One of the men was unable to hold on to the black tube as the waters pushed him about 300 yards away from the dam.

The 26-year-old Monrovia man was face-down near some bushes in the water when he was rescued around 1:10 p.m. He was in full cardiac arrest when airlifted to Foothill Presbyterian Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly before 2 p.m., Lenihan said.

His friend, a 30-year-old Duarte resident, desperately clung to the tube while rushing waters were pounding him. At one point he was forced under water for about 30 seconds. He resurfaced about 30 yards downstream, said Ed Osorio, public information officer for the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

"The second man was alert, but somewhat combative," Lenihan said.

He was transported to Huntington East Valley Hospital and later released with minor injuries.

Two onlookers tried to hand the 30-year-old man a branch to pull him to safety, but he was too disoriented to grab it, officials said.

Two men fishing on the side of the river made the 9-1-1 call to Azusa Police Department at 12:43 p.m., Osorio said. The rescue and emergency teams arrived at the area near the 1900 block of North San Gabriel Canyon Road shortly thereafter.

The men were caught in the swirling waters of a low-head dam, officials said. These dams are usually built to slow water flow to about 15-30 mph.

"There are extreme currents and turbulence created by the low-head dam that pulls water and anything in the water in a circular motion," Azusa police Sgt. Steve Hunt said. "The way the water moves under the levee makes it near impossible to escape, which is why it is so deadly.

"Residents and visitors to the area need to remember the San Gabriel River is not a recreational area, nor should people swim or play in the dangerous waters," he said.

-- Gema Duarte can be reached at (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2123, or by e-mail at gema.duarte@sgvn.com.

(c) 2005 Pasadena Star-News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

Duarte, Gema. "Man killed riding inner tube in river." *Pasadena Star-News (CA)*, sec. News, 8 June 2005. *NewsBank: America's News*, https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Aid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0EB5C98811CC858E&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/ft%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/10A9AB441E68D819. Accessed 17 July 2025.

Drowning victim was Monrovia man

June 9, 2005 | Pasadena Star-News (CA)

Section: News | 756 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

AZUSA

A man who died while trying to ride an inner tube down the San Gabriel River was identified by the coroner's office Wednesday as a 26-year-old Monrovia man.

Alex Purvis and a companion were plucked from the fast-moving water in an area near the 1900 block of North San Gabriel Canyon Road at 12:46 p.m. Tuesday, authorities said.

Purvis, who was floating face- down in the water when rescuers arrived, was taken by helicopter to a hospital, where he was declared dead.

The other man survived with relatively minor injuries.

Filing begins in July for school board race

SAN MARINO

People interested in running for the San Marino Unified School District School Board can begin pulling papers next month to run for one of three open seats.

The four-year seats are currently held by Andy Barth, Jeanie Caldwell and C. Joseph Chang. The election is Nov. 8, and candidates must file papers with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office between July 18 and Aug. 12.

Five Acres decision delayed until August

LOS ANGELES

After nearly three hours of public comment Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission decided to continue a hearing on Five Acres' request to build a storage facility and parking lot in a residential zone across from its main campus on West Mountain View Street in Altadena.

The commission will revisit the issue at its Aug. 17 meeting.

About 40 supporters of the project showed up at the hearing wearing bright green "Yes! Five Acres' stickers. The family and children services facility hosted a breakfast for the supporters before the hearing. Bob Ketch, Five Acres' executive director said he was encouraged by the testimony and number of people who attended the hearing in support of the project.

Members of the Altadena Town Council, Altadena Land Use Committee and Windsor Arroyo Neighborhood Association voiced their continued opposition to the project.

WANA vice president Tecumseh Shackelford said "Five Acres does a great job with the kids. But we don't want warehouses in a residential neighborhood.'

Commissioners said they will continue to accept written comments on the requested permit until the August

hearing. The commission meets at 9 a.m. in the Hall of Records at 320 W. Temple Street in Los Angeles, Room 150.

Senior Center director hired for full-time job

MONTEREY PARK

The director of the Langley Senior Center has been hired full-time, putting an end to a month-long dispute between City Hall and her supporters.

Beth Ryan will resume charge of the center, a position she has held in recent years as a part-time employee and volunteer, City Manager Chris Jeffers said Tuesday.

"We're happy to have her back," Jeffers said.

Ryan and her supporters said City Hall tried to force her into retirement in retaliation for her support for two candidates in the last City Council election.

Kidd named V.P. at Cancer Center

DUARTE

Larry R. Kidd has joined City of Hope Cancer Center as vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nurse executive.

Kidd will oversee patient care operations and services, including nursing, social services, community education, patient care, pastoral care and nursing research. Kidd will also have oversight of clinical coordination for City of Hope's new Helford Clinical Research Hospital, set to open this summer.

Kidd is a former hospital operations improvement consultant for The Camden Group, a health care consulting and management firm. Kidd has also served as chief nurse executive, patient care leader and director of hospital operations at Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles Medical Center, and prior to that, was chief nurse executive of Alameda County Medical Center.

McKinley group to get free museum entry

PASADENA

McKinley School students, alumni and staff will receive free admission to the Pasadena Museum of History on Saturday to view a current exhibit featuring work by Franklin Tolles Chamberlin.

McKinley School, once a junior high school and now an elementary school in the Pasadena Unified School District, is home to a mural completed by Chamberlin under the auspices of the depression-era mural program of the federal government.

The mural, designed for the school library, is entitled "Modern Education/School Activities" and was painted between 1934 and 1942. The mural is still at the school.

The exhibit is free to McKinley students, alumni and staff from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Chamberlin is one of 49 artists featured in the Museum's current exhibition, "Nature's Palette: Garden Views, Vistas & Fantasies: 1880-2005," on view through June 26.

In addition, current students from McKinley have been invited to display examples of their nature-inspired artwork on easels in the entry portico of the Museum on Saturday.

:From staff reports

(c) 2005 Pasadena Star-News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

- **Citation (mla Style)**

"Drowning victim was Monrovia man." *Pasadena Star-News (CA)*, sec. News, 9 June 2005. *NewsBank: America's News*, https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Asid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0EB5C98811CC858E&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/ft%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/10A9FFA3B5217CD2. Accessed 17 July 2025.

Officials to patrol off-limits river

June 30, 2005 | Pasadena Star-News (CA)

Author: Ben Kelly , Correspondent | Section: News | 424 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

AZUSA -- Weeks after a man drowned trying to raft down the San Gabriel River in an inner tube, Los Angeles County officials met Wednesday at the spot where he died to warn people to stay clear of the river.

"Your chance of survival in these flood channels is your choice to stay out," said Jim Hughes, lake aquatics manager for the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

"You stay alive by staying out."

Officials said they will patrol along the river this weekend, reminding residents that the waterway is off limits.

Because of heavy winter rains, the San Gabriel River is wider and faster than in previous years. That makes the river potentially deadly, officials said.

On June 7, Azusa police officers found Monrovia resident Alex Purvis face down in the river, at the San Gabriel River Levee near the Azusa Bike Path and Information Booth.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Authorities believe Purvis tried to raft the river in an inner tube. A second man who was with Purvis was pulled to safety after he also fell from his inner tube.

Hughes said recreational swimmers should stay within the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, where five lifeguard towers watch over swimmers.

Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States, county parks officials said.

The San Gabriel River is unpredictable, officials said, because it serves as a means of quickly moving water out of the Los Angeles Basin. Dams release water at various quantities and at various times.

However, officials have no way of warning the public when or in what quantities the water is being released.

"The dams upstream are going to have to release water," said Derek Elleri, the senior lake lifeguard for county parks and recreation.

"The public isn't going to get a warning if there is water coming down."

In addition, low head dams are scattered throughout the river. Known by officials as "drowning machines," the small dams cause water to create a circulating effect, potentially trapping and pinning anyone caught under them, Elleri said.

On Wednesday, San Gabriel River water was traveling at about 300 cubic feet per second, officials said. But during the peak of the rainy season, the water was flowing at 40,000 cubic feet per second and overflowed its banks at some points, said Hugo Maldonado, a supervising lifeguard for the county.

"The water level can change in an instant," he said. "It's very hazardous."

columnist :Ben Kelly can be reached at (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2236, or by e-mail at svintern@sgvn.com .

(c) 2005 Pasadena Star-News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

- **Citation (mla Style)**

Kelly, Ben. "Officials to patrol off-limits river." *Pasadena Star-News (CA)*, sec. News, 30 June 2005. *NewsBank: America's News*, [https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Asid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0EB5C98811CC858E&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/fmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/10B0EB840C3EC018)

[2004&rft_id=info%3Asid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0EB5C98811CC858E&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/fmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/10B0EB840C3EC018](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Asid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0EB5C98811CC858E&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/fmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/10B0EB840C3EC018). Accessed 17 July 2025.