

Racine County's Daily Newspaper

The Journal Times[®]

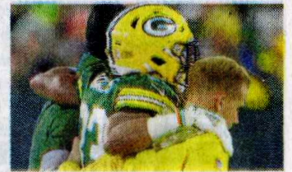
René Amado

RAM's 2020 Emerging Artist inspires teens to look deeper LOCAL, PAGE B1



Packers

Injury epidemic continues as Jones, Gary, Mercilus go down SPORTS, PAGE C1



CLOUDY, WARMER 51 • 48 FORECAST, A8

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RITTENHOUSE TRIAL | TO THE JURY

LOCAL

Kenosha woman in one-vehicle accident on Interstate 94

A Kenosha woman is reportedly in the hospital with life-threatening injuries after a one-vehicle crash late Saturday on Interstate 94 in Racine County.

According to a news release late Sunday afternoon from the Racine County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded at 11:46 p.m. to Interstate 94 southbound at the Milwaukee County line, just south of Elm Road.

A passerby observed a red car drive into the median wall and that the operator of the red car was not moving, the release said.

Upon deputies' arrival, the operator, a 39-year-old woman from Kenosha, was reportedly unresponsive and barely breathing. Deputies performed life-saving measures until the woman was transported to Ascension Hospital in Racine.

The woman was allegedly not wearing a seatbelt and sustained life-threatening injuries, according to the release. Weather may have been a factor in the incident.

Two lanes of the southbound Interstate were blocked for about 2 hours.

The accident remains under investigation.

Car hits garage, starts fire

CALEDONIA — One injury was reported after a vehicle allegedly struck a garage in Caledonia and caused a fire early Saturday morning.

According to a Facebook post from the Racine Fire Bells, the incident was reported near the intersection of highways G and H.

Upon crews' arrival, they found a garage fully engulfed in flames with an SUV allegedly involved.

The driver of the SUV reported injuries, according to the Caledonia Fire Department. The driver was transported to a hospital; a CFD spokesperson did not have the hospital's name on hand.

'Careless burning' leads to fire: RFD

RACINE — "Careless burning practices" allegedly caused a residential fire late Sunday afternoon in the 1300 block of Summit Avenue.

According to a release from the Racine Fire Department, crews were dispatched at about 5:30 p.m. to reports of a fire. The first arriving crews found a shed fully engulfed in flames at the rear of the residence.

Firefighters used chainsaws to cut through wooden fences in order to reach the fire. It was extinguished quickly.

Investigation of the fire indicated that "unattended and careless burning practices" were allegedly the cause of the fire, the release said. The homeowner was burning wooden construction debris that ignited combustible material near the shed.



KYLIE TURKOWSKI OF CASE HIGH SCHOOL

Miah Gutierrez, left, a student at Case High School, receives guidance from photography teacher René Amado, who goes by "Mr. Guzman" in class. Instead of self-portraits or having other photographs of himself taken for this story, Amado submitted photographs of him taken by his students as part of an exercise in a Case High School class — like this photo taken by Kylie Turkowski.

The teacher behind the lens

Local photographer and RAM award-winner inspiring teens to pursue passions

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RACINE — Esteban Malacara, the Case High School Academy of Business and Culinary Arts principal, has recently noticed a few students have been saving up money to buy their own cameras.

The students are taking up a hobby instilled in them by the new photography and art teacher at the school, René Amado, who goes by Mr. Guzman in the classroom.

"Mr. Guzman's ability to connect with young people, his passion for what he teaches, it comes across with his students. The way they light up," said Malacara, Amado's cousin.

As a recipient of the inaugural Racine Art Museum's Emerging Artist Award in 2020, Amado's influential work extends far in the community both as an exhibitor of his own art in galleries across the city and now as a teacher.

Getting started

But the road was long, and often times winding, for Amado before he fully committed to photography as a career.

He had been working as a printer for a large organization in San Antonio, where he lived for almost a decade. On one of



SHANIYAH CAMPBELL OF CASE HIGH SCHOOL

Koron Campbell, student at Case High School, looks into a camera during instruction from photography teacher René Amado in this photo taken by student Shaniyah Campbell. Amado said he hopes to show students that they can pursue their creative outlets as careers instead of feeling pressured to follow the mold.

his last days before quitting his job, he had 90 unopened emails of print requests to complete.

"Somebody would be at the door waiting for me, my boss would need something, I would have emails, and then the print shop would need something — my day was just making this circle around," Amado said.

After work, Amado would grab a camera and hit the streets of San Antonio. Photography was his budding hobby at the time; his father was an amateur photographer.

He didn't even have a fancy camera. He used his father's old equipment; 35-millimeter film cameras and old pocket-size, fixed-lens cameras.

"I was working downtown, I would get off of work and my job was super stressful. So I would just go, like, wander around after work with a camera," Amado said. "I just wanted to clear my head and take photos. It was like a way to unwind and relieve stress."

Amado then returned to Racine in 2017, where he was born and raised, and opened René Amado Photography.

'It can be my key'

Amado photographs events, portraits, weddings, food and fashion with an affinity for street photography; he calls himself "an introverted street photographer."

Where to view his art

René Amado's photography is on display at the Racine Art Museum's Wustum Museum, 2519 Northwestern Avenue, until Nov. 27. It can also be found at Mahogany Art Gallery, 1422 Washington Avenue. Amado's exhibit at Mahogany features 25 pieces of his work, including photographs during the protests of 2020, that support and advocate gallery owner Scott Terry's vision of Black Humanity Now.

His interest in photography began in the 1980s with his father's magazines. Being so young, he only browsed the magazines to give him something to look at — but as a teenager, he picked up a lowrider magazine and that piqued his interest even more, not only in photography but in lowriders.

Lowriders are custom cars that hang low to the road, typically expressing an aspect of a driver's identity through paint jobs and velvet seats, down to the details of the rims or the shiny trim.

They're most prominent in Mexican American communities; historically, lowriders were often Latino men from Texas or Southern California, according to research from the Smithsonian.

Lowrider culture trickled out