

U.S. economy nearly stalled in first quarter



Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni resigns



LET'S GO

We take a look at what's happening at the Santa Barbara Public Market on West Victoria Street

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 158TH YEAR

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

75¢

Mallory's dad calls for special prosecutor

By **SCOTT STEEPLTON**
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

District Attorney Dudley won't publicly commit



NEWS-PRESS FILE

Matt Dies

District Attorney Joyce Dudley is mum about any plans to seek a special prosecutor to look into the activities of Rep. Lois Capps, Mrs. Capps' staff and other federal officials in the wake of the death of 27-year-old Mallory Rae Dies, who was struck down in a DUI hit-and-run by an aide to Mrs. Capps in December 2013.

The request came in the form of an April 30 letter from Mallory's father, Matt Dies, accompanied by a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures asking Mrs. Dudley "the chief law enforcement official in the county, to call for the appointment of a special

prosecutor by the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate."

Circulated by the foundation known as Vow4Mal.org, the petition also asks that Mrs. Capps "tell the truth" about a number of allegations raised in a recent series by investigative journalist Peter Lance and published by the News-Press.

They include the insistence by Capps staffers that Raymond Victor Morua III, 32, was "on a frolic of his own" and not on the job representing the congresswoman when he got drunk at a Santa Barbara Independent party the night of Dec. 5 before running down Mallory on Ana-

capa Street shortly after midnight; an alleged "scheme" by Mollie Culver, Mrs. Capps' district director, in the days after the incident to get Mr. Morua into a federal treatment facility, "something they never would have done if he was 'on a frolic of his own'"; offering conflicting stories about the day Mr. Morua was fired; and Ms. Culver's alleged forging of two U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs forms to make it appear Mr. Morua had signed them.

Then there's the matter of what appears to be an attempt by Mary Beth Walker from the House Office of General Counsel—the taxpayer-funded

attorney for Mrs. Capps and her staff—to induce the district attorney to "segregate" what Ms. Walker called "sensitive official information" from Mr. Morua's office iPhone.

In a strange move for the district attorney, she responded to a News-Press question about the merits of Mr. Dies' request sent to her alone via email, with an email that she also copied to Mr. Dies, calling him "an extremely intelligent man and a grieving father."

"He has every right to make whatever request he deems appropriate."



NEWS-PRESS FILE

Joyce Dudley

Please see **REQUEST** on A8

4 homes damaged by fire

A firefighter was injured and four homes sustained significant damage in a late Wednesday afternoon fire on Dara Road in Goleta, authorities said.

The firefighter was taken to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital but the extent of his injuries was not available late Wednesday evening, said Mike Eliason, spokesman for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

The fire in the 600 block of Dara Road was reported at 4:49 p.m. and the first firefighters at the scene found a home with smoke and flames erupting through the roof, Mr. Eliason said.

Gusty wind and direct flame contact spread the blaze to two neighboring homes before more engines could reach the scene, and a fourth home took damage from radiant heat and smoke.

The fire was extinguished at 5:55 p.m. The three homes that burned suffered major damage, while the fourth had moderate to heavy damage from smoke and heat, Mr. Eliason said.

All occupants evacuated the homes safely and the Red Cross was at the scene to offer assistance.

The cause of the fire was not known and investigators remained at the scene Wednesday evening.

—Merrill McCarty



KEITH CULLOM/NEWS-PRESS

Damage is extensive at one home in the 600 block of Dara Road in Goleta.



KEITH CULLOM/NEWS-PRESS

Flames billow from a home.



STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

An injured firefighter is treated.

Heat wave sweeps county

Highs in 90s expected before cooling starts over weekend

By **ELIZABETH HAMILTON**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A heat wave sweeping through Santa Barbara County this week is expected to continue today and Friday before cooling begins over the weekend.

South Coast highs reached the low 90s Wednesday and temperatures are expected to be in the upper 80s today, said Stuart Seto, weather specialist at the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

North County highs also reached the 90s. Santa Ynez saw a high of around 90 Wednesday and a high in the mid-90s is expected today, he said.

Highs should normalize in the lower 70s by Sunday. Santa Barbara County usually sees highs around 69 degrees in late April and early May, Mr. Seto said.

While residents seek respite in the cool indoors, county public safety officials are watching weather conditions.

If humidity levels drop and Santa Ana winds pick up, conditions would be ripe for fire, said county Emergency Manager Joe Guzzardi.

"We're definitely paying attention," he said. "Anything could happen at any moment."

The Office of Emergency Management has an employee monitoring the weather situation and staying in contact with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department at all times because of the heat wave, he said.

The National Weather Service issued a red flag

Please see **HEAT** on A8

Rancho Cucamonga wildfire grows to 800 acres

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — A wildfire driven by surging Santa Ana winds sent a choking pall of smoke through foothill neighborhoods on Wednesday, forcing the evacuation of at least 1,650 homes and the closure of at least seven schools.

No homes burned, but the smoke prompted mandatory evacuation orders for several areas of town nestled at the base of the San Bernardino National Forest east of Los Angeles.

Leo Lemelin, 67, and his family busily loaded several cars with belongings as they prepared to leave.

"We're trying to pack up every-

thing we can into our cars from 45 years of marriage and eight grandchildren," he told the Riverside Press-Enterprise.

More than 500 firefighters battled the flames near this city of 165,000 people.

The fire was reported about 8 a.m., grew to 200 acres by noon, quadrupled in size within a few hours and continued to grow as it roared through dry brush, fire officials said.

Gusts of 60 mph or more prevented firefighting helicopters from taking to the air, CalFire spokeswoman Liz Brown said.

"They are not able to get off the

Please see **WILDFIRE** on A8



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke from a wildfire can be seen in Rancho Cucamonga on Wednesday. Schools and homes were evacuated as dry, gusty winds fanned a smoky wildfire in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.

Sexually violent predator to remain under guard

By **ANGEL PACHECO**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A sexually violent predator living in North County will remain under constant supervision for at least a second year, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Tibor Karsai, 61, was released into Santa Barbara County in April 2013 under the supervision of the state-contracted Liberty Healthcare, which has been making sure Mr. Karsai attends his treatment appointments and has kept him under around-the-clock guard.

With the terms of his conditional release up for review each year, Placer County Superior Court Judge An-



Karsai

gus Saint-Evens on Wednesday followed Liberty's recommendation to keep Mr. Karsai under watch for another year.

Liberty officials believe Mr. Karsai still

has unresolved issues and that he would likely take part in sexually violent behavior without ongoing treatment, said Michael Carrozzo, a Santa Barbara County deputy district attorney who attended the Placer County hearing.

Please see **PREDATOR** on A8



INSIDE

Business B6-7
California A4
Classified C6-8
Comics D4

Crossword D2
Dear Abby D2
Local A2-4
Lottery A2

Movies D3
Nation/World B1-5
Obituaries B2
Sports C1-5

Sudoku D2
TV D4
Voices A6-7
Weather B8

OUTSIDE

Sunny, hot
Coast: 88/63 Inland: 92/54
COMPLETE FORECAST B8

MARKETS

Dow Jones 16,580.84 (+45.47)
Nasdaq 4,114.56 (+11.02)
GAS PRICES BUSINESS B6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A firefighter sprays down brush as he battles a fire burning in Day Creek near the Etiwanda Preserve in Rancho Cucamonga on Wednesday.

More than 500 firefighters battle flames

WILDFIRE

Continued from Page A1

ground, so we are fighting this with ground resources right now," she said.

Classes were canceled at Los Osos High School about an hour after the fire started.

"We're evacuating 'cause there's high winds and there's a fire right up there," student Shane McHale told KTTV, pointing to the mountains.

The fire erupted in the midst of a

heat wave that sent Southern California temperatures soaring into the 90s in some areas.

Los Angeles International Airport recorded a high of 87 degrees, breaking the record for the day of 86 that was set in 1996.

At Long Beach Airport, the high of 92 broke a 1996 record by 2 degrees.

Valley areas could see triple digits. High temperatures were expected through Saturday, with humidity in the single digits.

The heat was accompanied by

winds gusting to 80 or 90 mph in some mountains and valleys, prompting the National Weather Service to issue red-flag warnings of extreme weather conditions into Thursday night.

Utilities reported about 8,000 people lost power because of wind-related problems such as downed power lines.

Severe winds at Ontario International Airport also caused some flights to be diverted to Los Angeles International Airport, City News Service reported.

Temperatures should be back to normal by Sunday

HEAT

Continued from Page A1

warning Wednesday for Ventura County. The warning about critical fire conditions, wind and high temperatures, will remain in effect until 8 p.m. today.

Santa Barbara County experienced 15 mph winds from the ocean Wednesday, adding humidity to the air, Mr. Seto said.

It's the Santa Ana winds, which come from the mountains to the northeast, that increase the chances of a fire starting.

"There's still an elevated fire concern, though there's no watch or advisory," said Mr. Seto. "We've been in a drought where we haven't had rain for several years, so the fuel — grass, logs and trees — are very dry and the fuel moisture content of plants and trees is low.

"So, if you get some gusty winds and low humidities — 10 to 12 percent — then they'd (the National Weather Service) probably put a warning out."

The heat spell comes just days before the fifth anniversary of the Jesusita Fire, one of the most devastating wildfires in county history, which ripped through 8,700 acres and burned 80 homes in May 2009.

The Public Health Department put out a release Wednesday urging caution and common sense during the heat.

"The elderly are more vulnerable to temperature extremes and we need to be vigilant on their behalf whenever possible," said Dr. Takashi Wada, county health officer and director of the county Public Health Department.

He recommended regularly checking on elderly friends, family members and neighbors during the heat wave; drinking cool non-alcoholic beverages; taking regular breaks in the shade or in air-conditioned rooms; and not leaving pets or small children unattended in vehicles.

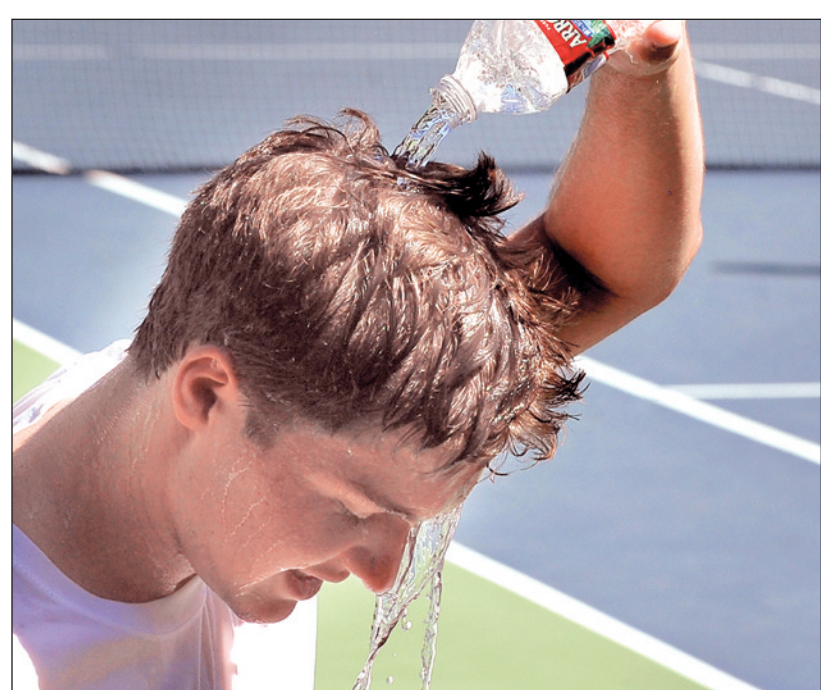
Officials warned about heat exhaustion, which has symptoms of dizziness, nausea and sweating. Signs of heat stroke include the signs of heat exhaustion as well as flushed and dry skin.

The following locations are cooling centers where people can go in a hot weather emergency:

BUELLTON

9 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Friday, Buellton Senior Center, 164 W. State Route 246, 688-4571.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Friday, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Buellton Library, 140 W. State Route 246, 688-



STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

Jordan Rodnick takes a break during a tennis match to cool down on a hot Wednesday.

North County highs also reached the 90s. Santa Ynez saw a high of around 90 Wednesday and a high in the mid-90s is expected today.

3115.

CARPINTERIA

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. today and Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Carpinteria Public Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., 684-4314.

GOLETA

10 a.m.-8 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Goleta Public Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave., 964-7878.

GUADALUPE

12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. today and Friday, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Guadalupe Library, 4719 W. Main St., Suite D, 343-1405.

LOMPOC

10 a.m.-7 p.m. today, 1-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Lompoc Public Library, 501 E. North Ave., 736-3477.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. today and Friday, Anderson Recreation Center, 125 W. Walnut Ave., 875-8100.

8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. today, 5:45 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Lompoc Aquatic Center, 207

W. College Ave., 875-2782.

SANTA BARBARA

10 a.m.-7 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu St., 962-7653.

SANTA MARIA

10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. today and Friday, Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, 925-0951, ext. 208.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Friday, Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park Ave., 925-0951, ext. 207.

8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. today and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Atkinson Community Center, 1000 N. Railroad Ave., 928-1802.

SOLVANG

10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Solvang Public Library, 1745 Mission Drive, 688-4217.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. today, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Solvang Senior Center, 1745 Mission Drive, 688-3793.

email: ehamilton@newspress.com

Wrongful death claims filed against Capps, the federal government and Morua

REQUEST

Continued from Page A1

Mrs. Dudley said.

In a follow-up message to the district attorney forwarded to the News-Press and others, Mr. Dies states that neither he nor his attorney, Robert Stoll, "has formally made ... a request" for a special prosecutor.

"I am appealing to you first as the government's chief law enforcement person in SB County since your participation would carry a significant amount of weight and make such a request difficult if not impossible to ignore," he writes.

Other attorneys, including his brother-in-law from the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Mr. Dies states, tell him they know of no "prohibition in the law preventing (Mrs. Dudley), as chief law enforcement officer of Santa Barbara County from calling on the Public Integrity Section at the U.S. Department of Justice or the House Ethics Committee to begin an independent investigation of the various crimes alleged in Peter Lance's series."

Given forgery is a state crime, he adds, "you could also begin an investigation, but that would not preclude you from asking the feds to probe the federal crimes involved include forgery and fraud on multiple VA forms."

Mr. Dies also calls on the district attorney to provide copies "of any email or reply that you sent to Ms. Walker regarding her request to you to 'segregate' information contained on Morua's cellphone," stating that the information "could contain any number of texts, emails, pictures



NEWS-PRESS FILE

Mallory Rae Dies

and other data that would be important to proving that Mr. Morua was 'on the job' for Mrs. Capps at the Independent's Holiday Bash."

He says Mrs. Capps' office, as represented by Ms. Walker, "seems to want to eat the cake and have it too."

"They act as if Morua is barely attached to them and indicate that the only way he is at the Independent party is if he purloined the invitation, but then he is carrying around 'sensitive information' on his cellphone. In their haste to distance themselves after making extraordinary efforts on Morua's behalf, they have become trapped by their own contradictory statements."

In a plea agreement with the DA's office that spared him a murder allegation, Mr. Morua pleaded guilty to gross vehicular man-

"The weight of a grieving father may not carry the same impact as that of the district attorney in the jurisdiction where much of what has been alleged occurred."

Matt Dies,

in letter to District Attorney Joyce Dudley

slaughter and faces 20 years to life in state prison.

As first reported in the News-Press, the Dies family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Mrs. Capps, the federal government and Mr. Morua.

In his letters to the DA, Mr. Dies tells her that he can and will call for a special prosecutor himself, but adds, "I truly feel that your reputation and your gravitas would go a long way towards getting a special prosecutor to look into the allegations."

"The weight of a grieving father may not carry the same impact as that of the district attorney in the jurisdiction where much of what has been alleged occurred."

Asked if she'd be seeking a special prosecutor, the district attorney told the News-Press, "I will be communicating with Matt Dies."

email: sstepleton@newspress.com

Case up for review in February 2015

PREDATOR

Continued from Page A1

A Placer County judge ordered Mr. Karsai released to Santa Barbara County, the home of his mother, following his release from Coalinga State Hospital.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office made a number of legal challenges against the order to release Mr. Karsai locally without an address.

For now, Mr. Karsai will continue wearing a GPS tracking device and living in a recreational vehicle parked in areas chosen by Liberty.

Mr. Karsai's attorney didn't argue for his release from supervision, but Mr. Carrazzo expects that to change when the case is back up for review in 2015.

It will be more difficult each year to convince a judge to keep the provisions in place, and it's only a matter of time before they're suspend-

ed, Mr. Carrazzo said.

During the hearing, Mr. Carrazzo informed the judge that the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office agreed with Liberty Health-care's findings.

There may have been little Santa Barbara County officials could have done had the judge ordered the supervision suspended or lightened. The judge has a large amount of discretion in the matter, and prosecutors would only be able to appeal a decision if it were unjustifiable, Mr. Carrazzo said.

Even when Mr. Karsai is no longer under Liberty's care, he will have to follow various terms as a registered sex offender, such as letting law enforcement officials know where he is living, the prosecutor said.

"Protecting the community, victims, and their families, is an ongoing duty that our office takes very seriously," District Attorney Joyce Dudley said in a statement. "My of-

vice will continue to seek the most stringent terms to ensure that our community is safe from sexually violent predators."

Mr. Karsai was convicted of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman in 1975, earning him an eight-year prison sentence. Paroled in 1980, Mr. Karsai was convicted later that year of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in Auburn, resulting in a 26-year sentence.

In 1985 he escaped the Donovan Vocational Institution in San Diego, only to be arrested a short time later.

All conditionally released sexually violent predators receive specialized sex offender treatment, weekly drug screening and polygraph examinations, said Ralph Montano, a Department of State Hospitals spokesman.

Failure to comply could result in a return to custody.

email: apacheco@newspress.com

Pilot, plane recovered from San Francisco Bay

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND — Crews recovered the body of a pilot along with his plane's fuselage Wednesday, days after the aircraft crashed into San Francisco Bay following a collision with another small plane that managed to land safely.

A marine salvage company retrieved the single-engine plane in an operation that was shown live by at least two news outlets. The body of the pilot could be seen in the wreckage of the Cessna 210, which plunged into the water on Sunday.

Contra Costa County Sheriff's spokesman Jimmy Lee confirmed that the body was "clearly visible," and he asked members of the media not to show images of the victim, whose name has not been released.

The Contra Costa County coroner's office, which took custody of the remains at about 6:15 p.m., will identify the remains, notify the next of kin and determine the exact cause of death.

National Transportation Safety Board lead investigator Howard Plagens said the midair collision occurred when the pilot of a vintage Hawker Sea Fury TMK 20 pulled up to the left side of his travelling com-

panion flying the Cessna. The Sea Fury's pilot said he saw the Cessna going down but did not see it crash. The surviving pilot immediately focused on trying to fly his own plane to land safely, Plagens said.

"Obviously, he's still shaken up," added Mr. Plagens, who interviewed the surviving pilot twice. The Hawker suffered tail damage.

Mr. Plagens said he hopes to have a preliminary report about the crash by Friday.

Using an underwater camera, the San Francisco Police Department found the fuselage of the Cessna 210 about 4 p.m. Tuesday under 13 feet of water about 1½ miles off the Richmond shoreline east of San Francisco. Diving crews followed up about 5:30 p.m. to confirm the find.

It was not immediately clear why the planes were flying so close together during the passing maneuver.

John Cox, CEO of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems and a pilot with 44 years of experience, said the distance that pilots should maintain from nearby planes depends on whether the planes are flying together in formation.

"If they are not flying in formation, basically several hundred feet," Mr. Cox told The Associated

Press. If they are flying in formation, that distance may shrink to as little as 30 or 40 feet, he said.

The overtaking plane — in this case, the Sea Fury — is responsible for maintaining separation, but it's possible that the surviving pilot didn't see how close he was to the Cessna, Mr. Cox said.

The collision occurred late Sunday afternoon near the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Witnesses at Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor said the Cessna spiraled out of control and crashed into the choppy water. Debris was found in the bay after the collision.

The Sea Fury's pilot landed at Eagle's Nest Airport in the small city of Ione in Amador County, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said. The Sea Fury's occupants — a husband and wife — weren't hurt.

Both planes had departed from Eagle's Nest Airport to participate in the Pacific Coast Dream Machines, an annual festival at Half Moon Bay Airport that features a variety of planes, motorcycles and cars. Both planes left Half Moon Bay, about 20 miles south of San Francisco, and were on their return flight.

Smart Clips Every month in the Santa Barbara News-Press and online at newspress.com