

Apple unveils the newest iteration of its popular iPad, which has no name but nine different styles



DOWN AND OUT

Cate boys soccer team has its title hopes dashed with Southern California regional semifinal defeat



NO BEEF NEEDED

Corned pork and cabbage offers a red-meat free twist to traditional St. Patrick's day menu item

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 156TH YEAR THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012 75¢

DMV follows judge, drops case against Lance

Driving privilege no longer at risk

By SCOTT STEEPLETON
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

Nearly four months after a Santa Barbara County Superior Court judge threw out a DUI case against investigative journalist Peter Lance on constitutional grounds, the Department of Motor Vehicles has decided to set aside any restrictions on his driving privilege stemming from the arrest on New Year's Day 2011.

Meanwhile, documents obtained by the

News-Press through a California Public Records Act request show the city of Santa Barbara paid nearly \$12,000 on a confidential review of the arresting officer, Kasi Beutel, pertaining to at least one of the allegations raised in a post-arrest series written by Mr. Lance and published in the News-Press — that she committed bankruptcy fraud before joining the force.

The complete report, prepared by the Sintra Group in Ventura, is being withheld from



Peter Lance

It's an investigation that Mr. Lance says he's not been contacted about. One thing is certain now: the 64-year-old is free to drive as he pleases.

the public on a variety of grounds, including assertions by Stephen Wiley, the city attorney, that it was prepared in connection with litigation and that it is part of an investigation prompted by a complaint by Mr. Lance against the Santa Barbara Police Department.

"Naturally I'm happy that DMV hearing officer Michael Windover analyzed the evidence in my case and concluded that there was no legal basis for taking my license," Mr. Lance said in a statement Wednesday. "But I'm disappointed that it took more than three months to reach the same conclusion that Judge Brian Hill did on Nov. 15, 2011 — that there was no reasonable basis for stopping me...when I was handcuffed and arrested by Kasi Beutel for a DUI crime I did not commit."

The status of his license after Breathalyzer tests showed Mr. Lance blew one-tenth over the legal limit went unresolved even after

Judge Hill dismissed the district attorney's case upon ruling that Bruno Peterson, the officer who pulled Mr. Lance over, lacked constitutional basis to do so.

DMV administrators are not bound by a Superior Court judge's decision, and the hearing into Mr. Lance's license status moved forward, with Officer Beutel appearing on behalf of the people, and Mr. Lance appearing with his attorney, Darryl Genis.

But the course changed on Tuesday with Michael Windover, the DMV administrator overseeing the protracted hearing, notifying

Please see **LANCE** on **A10**



David Attias sits between his attorneys, Jack Earley and Nancy Haydt, during a hearing in 2001. Below, a series of video stills show the apprehension of David Attias after he killed four people on Feb. 23, 2001 in Isla Vista. Bystanders watch him after he got out of his car, then sheriff's deputies arrive to take him under control. One victim is visible on the pavement to the left.



A one-time UCSB freshman who killed four Isla Vista pedestrians in a deadly crash and proclaimed himself the "angel of death" in 2001 is asking to be released from Patton State Hospital and placed in an outpatient program.

If the court finds David Edward Attias sane after he spends at least one successful year in the program, he would be released back into the community without any restrictions.

Just after 11 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2001, an 18-year-old Mr. Attias raced his turbocharged Saab along the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde Road, sideswiping numerous cars and plowing into a group of pedestrians.

Jurors found Mr. Attias guilty of four counts of murder in 2003, but the same panel found

him not guilty by reason of insanity a week later.

Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Thomas Adams ordered Mr. Attias committed to Patton State Hospital in San Bernardino.

Now Mr. Attias hopes to begin a two-step application for the judge to find that his sanity has been restored.

Deputy Public Defender Deedrea Edgar is requesting a hearing to determine whether Mr. Attias would be a danger to others. If not, he can be released to a forensic conditional release program, according to a motion she filed Feb. 23.

Doctors at Patton State Hospital and the officials of the state Forensic Conditional Release Program are recommending Mr. Attias for the community treatment.

Please see **ATTIAS** on **A10**

Carpinteria Councilman pleads no contest to DUI

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Carpinteria Councilman Joe Armendariz pleaded no contest Wednesday to having a blood alcohol level of more than .08 in a Highway 101 crash, and attorneys are working out details for the 44-year-old to be sentenced at a school.

As part of the Mr. Armendariz's no-contest plea, which is essentially the same as a guilty plea but can't be used against him in a civil courtroom, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office dismissed a separate count of driving under the influence, said his attorney, Elizabeth O'Brien.

The expected sentence will include probation and 45 days in jail, but Mr. Armendariz can apply to serve the time through the Sheriff's Department's work alternative program or electronic monitoring.

Mr. Armendariz has been interested in taking part in a sentencing program in which the judge will hand down the ruling at a school as part of a program to demonstrate for students the consequences of driving under the influence, according to Ms. O'Brien.

However, the logistics have not yet been worked out and sentencing has been put on the court calendar for April 2.

Ms. O'Brien said Mr. Armendariz's participation in the program is voluntary and hasn't affected sentencing.

Because it is a misdemeanor case, Mr. Armendariz has not been required to appear in court.

Prosecutors allege Mr. Armendariz's blood alcohol level at the time of his Dec. 2 arrest by the California Highway Patrol was .18 — more than twice California's presumed level of intoxication.

Please see **ARMENDARIZ** on **A10**



THOMAS KELSEY/NEWS-PRESS FILE

Carpinteria Councilman Joe Armendariz pleaded no contest Wednesday to driving with a blood alcohol level higher than .08 in a highway crash.

Stoker kicks off state Senate campaign

By BEN SMITHWICK
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Standing alongside a group of more than a hundred friends, family members and supporters Wednesday at the Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Garden, Republican Mike Stoker launched his campaign for the 19th state Senate District seat.

The former Santa Barbara County supervisor stopped in Santa Barbara on his way from Santa Maria to Camarillo, holding a series of press conferences to announce his candidacy.

"I believe this is the most important election in my lifetime for the state to have a chance to turn things around," said Mr. Stoker, who joins Democrats Hannah-Beth Jackson and Jason Hodge in his bid.

In his remarks, Mr. Stoker billed



himself as a bipartisan politician who would reach across the aisle to change the "status quo" in Sacramento.

State government, according to Mr. Stoker, needs to be downsized, consolidated and streamlined, a process he says has been blocked by legislators with ties to public employee unions.

"The current majority of legislators will not say 'no' to anything those powerful unions advocate and that

Please see **STOKER** on **A10**



Business B6-7
California C6
Classified C7-10
Comics D4

Crossword D2
Dear Abby D2
Local A3-5
Lottery A2

Movies D3
Nation/World B1-5
Obituaries B2
Sports C1-6

Sudoku D2
TV D5
Voices A8-9
Weather B8



Sunny and warm
Coast: 70/49 Inland: 76/38
COMPLETE FORECAST B8



Dow Jones
12,837.33
(+78.18)
GAS PRICES **BUSINESS B6**



Nasdaq
2,935.69
(+25.37)

