



NATION&WORLD/ B1 SETBACK

Plan to solve debt crisis thrown into turmoil by Greek Prime Minister's call a referendum on rescue package

LIFE / D1 SUCK IT UP

Two local stores have devoted their sole attention to keeping housekeeping's favorite cleaner running



SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 156TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011

75¢

County tourism looking up



The tourism forecast for 2012 drew the attention of many South Coast residents, including, center, Santa Barbara City Administrator Jim Armstrong.

STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Sector one of few with job gains over past year

By STEVE SINOVIC
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

While California's employment picture remains gloomy, Santa Barbara County's travel and tourism industry has provided one of the few bright spots locally, picking up 400-plus jobs from a year ago — almost a 2 percent rise for this segment of the labor force.

That the county's travel industry is posting somewhat positive job numbers in recessionary times shows tourists still factor the South Coast into their travel plans.

"Although people are cutting back in other areas of their lives, they still place a high premium on the value that travel can provide," said Dan Mishell, research director for Visit California at the 2012 Travel Outlook for Santa Barbara County. Visit California is the state's tourism board, formerly called the California Travel and Tourism Commission.

The program, laden with numbers and statistics, was held Tuesday morning at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort. About 150 people attended the event sponsored by the Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Mishell was among a panel of tourism experts who told a crowd of Santa Barbara business owners, government officials and others that industry conditions will continue to improve in 2012. Mr. Mishell pointed to several reasons for the slightly positive jobs numbers, including increases in room revenues, in-state travelers and international travelers to California, the latter due in part to mostly favorable exchange rates.

International travelers are important because they stay longer and spend more on average than domestic travelers, Mr. Mishell said. Tourism has been one of the few beacons of hope in the California economy, said Mr. Mishell, who estimated that travel



Guest speaker David Bratton said the Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau is getting a good return on its investment in Internet marketing.

and tourism expenditures in 2010 totaled \$95 billion, supported jobs for 873,000 Californians and generated \$6.1 billion in state and local taxes.

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Please see **TOURISM** on A7

Cop credibility key to Lance defense case

Judge urged to toss testimony based on prior inconsistencies

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

A 45-minute hearing into pretrial motions in the Peter Lance misdemeanor DUI case saw more cross-examination of prosecution witness Heather Clark, a Santa Barbara police officer who helped with the initial stop of the 63-year investigative journalist New Year's Day.

Continuing on Tuesday what he started a week earlier in a hearing to determine whether the stop violated Mr. Lance's Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable search and seizure, defense attorney Darryl Genis tried to show an officer making prior inconsistent statements, opening the door for Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Brian Hill to discount all her testimony.

Officer Clark, a nearly six-year veteran, was partnered with Officer Bruno Peterson, who pulled Mr. Lance over just after 1 a.m.

Officer Peterson did the talking in the early stages, and later handed what would become a DUI investigation over to Officer Kasi Beutel.

All the while, Officer Clark stood on the sidewalk providing cover, first for her partner and then for Officer Beutel.

At one point she turned on a tape recorder and captured Mr. Lance's voice. Later, Officer Clark erased the recording because, in her words, it had no evidentiary value.

It wasn't until five months later, at the urging of prosecutor Sanford Horowitz, that Officer Clark filed any statement about the incident — and it was that so-called supplemental report that included the first mention of Mr. Lance supposedly making disparaging remarks about Santa Barbara Police Chief Cam Sanchez and his involvement in pending nursing home litigation.

Officer Clark testified at a DMV hearing in the Lance matter that she overheard none of the Q-and-

Please see **LANCE** on A4

Supervisors finalize ban on marijuana storefronts

By NORA K. WALLACE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Wearing a shirt declaring "I am not a criminal," Santa Barbaran Dee Wingo appealed Tuesday to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose a ban on medical marijuana dispensary storefronts.

The drug, she told them, is a viable alternative of treatment to many people. She herself, she said, was once morbidly obese, taking anti-depressants medication for high blood pressure.

Now, having obtained a medical marijuana prescription, those ailments are in check, which she admitted "doesn't fit in with the stereotypical stony, lazy person." Medical marijuana, she said, "gets me up when I'm down."

Please see **DISPENSARIES** on A6

Price tag for rail project hits \$98B

By JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's high-speed rail system would cost nearly \$100 billion when the main north-south link is completed, an eye-popping figure for a state with massive annual budget deficits and a lagging economy.

Still, the business plan released Tuesday by the California High-Speed Rail Authority said the project is manageable if it's built in smaller segments over 20 years.

The plan also predicted that estimated ridership figures would make the system profitable and noted that new freeways and airport expansions to deal with the state's expanding population would cost far more.

It's too soon to know whether the \$98.5 billion price tag — more than double the previous \$43 billion cost projection — will be a deal-breaker for lawmakers, who will decide whether to move forward after a public comment period.

"Some of the numbers will look large, but the fact of the matter is this is a very large project to be accomplished over a generation, not just in the next few years," said Dan Richard, one of two appointees named to the California High-Speed Rail Authority last summer by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Officials say they have structured the project as a pay-as-you-go model that will require \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year from a mix of public funding, private investment and other mechanisms.

Financing already is available from voter-approved bonds and federal stimulus funding for the first 130-mile segment in the Central Valley.

Richard and other officials stressed the money would be spent as separate segments of the line were built and began generating operating revenue.

The business plan got tepid praise from state lawmakers

Please see **RAIL** on A6

A public service announcement about foster care is being produced in Santa Barbara by Aspiranet, one of the state's largest social service agencies. Aron Ives of Santa Barbara shoots photos of former foster child Jamie Navarro, 19, of Fresno.



THOMAS KELSEY / NEWS-PRESS

Appeal made for more foster families

Former foster children tell their stories in public service announcement

First of two parts

Filming for "Hear My Story," a public service announcement about the need for foster families in California, is taking place in Santa Barbara. The stories of four former foster youth will be shared statewide beginning in late November, with the goal of educating the public about how individuals and families can help by becoming foster and adoptive parents.

In a two-part series the News-Press is examining foster care in California.

Part one focuses on the need for foster parents.

By NIKKI GREY
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

California has 60,000 foster children but not enough foster families to care for all of them, according to a leading social service agency.

And of the foster families that are willing to open their homes, many will not accept teenagers, say officials from Aspiranet, a commu-

nity-based organization that offers services to children and families in California.

Jeannie Imelio, Central Valley regional director for Aspiranet, says when most people think about becoming foster parents, they want to care for younger children.

Every day, she said, her organization has to turn away county referrals for teenagers because there aren't enough families who will take

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Cold case slaying reopened by Lompoc police

By NORA K. WALLACE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Lompoc Police Department has reopened a murder investigation into the 2007 shooting death of a local man.

Michael Jason Spradling, 25, was shot several times in his torso and once in the head with a handgun on the evening of June 11, 2007.

Sprawled against a wall in the east alley of the 400 block of North M Street, Mr. Spradling was found by Lompoc police officers after a resident heard gunshots and called 9-1-1. Mr. Spradling died two days later at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

The investigation stalled as leads ran out. No new information emerged until recently.

"Recently, detectives have received additional information regarding this death and have developed new leads which have helped them reopen this cold case homicide," said department spokesman Sgt.

Ed Lardner. "We are confident that the person or persons responsible for

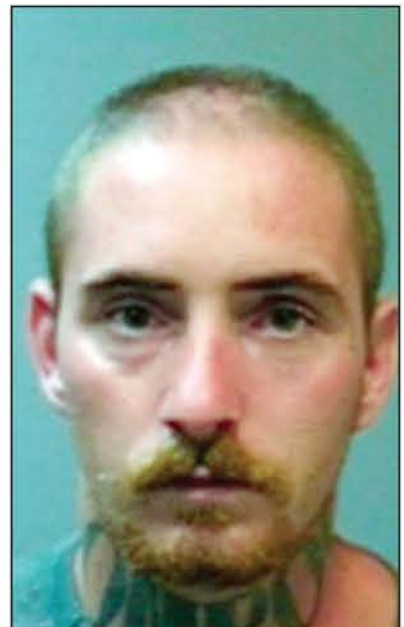
this crime will be arrested and held accountable for this crime."

Sgt. Lardner said Detective Sgt. Lane Middleton has been looking at all the department's closed murder cases "with a new, fresh set of ideas and he's re-interviewing people and trying to get closure for the families of these victims. What is important is that nobody forgets when someone gets murdered."

Detective Chip Arias, who is handling the case, said it was never completely closed.

"We have talked to numerous people and were able to get more information," the detective said. "Michael Spradling was a known gang member and the homicide is gang-related. We are asking for the public's help so all information can be turned over. It has been over four years and there has got to be more witnesses who may be willing to talk now as opposed to back then. We are close."

In 2007, Mr. Spradling's aunt, Santa Barbaran Linda Tuomi, called out to his killer or killers in letters to the editor, seeking answers to why the unarmed man was shot to death in



Michael Jason Spradling was shot to death in 2007.

an "ambush." She asked for help in putting

those responsible behind bars.

"I know they may be afraid of retaliation or being called a snitch," she wrote. "But, please, they need to know that is how these murderers keep their power, through fear and intimidation. Any help will be greatly appreciated."

On Tuesday, Ms. Tuomi talked to Lompoc police, who told her the case has new leads.

"I'm grateful they started looking at it again," she said. "I didn't expect anything because it's been so long. This is good. OK, get the guy. I don't want vengeance, but I would like him to hurt like my family's hurt."

Several times a year since her nephew's death, Ms. Tuomi said, she would call the police, offering up tips and bits of information she and other family members had heard.

The son of her youngest sister had been hoping to leave the gang life, especially after having served time in prison, Ms. Tuomi said.

"He looked after his cousins who were younger, to make sure they didn't do what he did," she said.

This time of year is difficult for

her, as her birthday is in December and Mr. Spradling would always remember her special day.

"Michael always sent me birthday cards, no matter if he was in prison or where ever," she said. "Now it's always something missing around my birthday. ... He would just call me from time to time to update me, to find out how I was doing."

Ms. Tuomi said she would be grateful if someone comes forward and offers new information.

"He's got aunts and uncles and cousins in Lompoc wanting somebody to take responsibility for his murder," Ms. Tuomi said.

Last month, the Lompoc Police Department detective bureau announced an arrest in another cold case, James Francis Miles, 70, is accused in the 2000 killing of his roommate, David Wayne Anderson.

Anyone with information about Mr. Spradling's death is urged to call Detective Arias at 875-8159 or email him at aarias@ci.lompoc.ca.us.

email: nwallace@newspress.com

Rabies found in cat

SANTA BARBARA A cat that died in the 400 block of Las Palmas Drive last week was found to have rabies, county officials said.

The cat was a domestic short-hair black female and was about a year old, a county news release said. Anyone who owned the cat or knows someone who owns such a cat should contact Disease Control at 681-5280.

According to the release, rabies is known to be endemic in bats in the area and can infect cats, dogs and humans. Anyone who is aware of animals exhibiting ill or strange behavior should contact Animal Services at 681-5285. For more information, go to www.countyofsb.org.

—Morgan Hoover

1,800 riders expected in Solvang cycling event

By NORA K. WALLACE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol officers will staff key intersections in the Santa Ynez Valley on Saturday to aid the thousands of bicyclists expected for the 24th annual Solvang Prelude ride.

The SCOR Cardiac Cyclists Club is hosting the event, which includes rides of 35, 50 and a Metric Century, or 63 miles. About 1,800 riders are expected. The rides start and finish at Riverview Park, 151 Sycamore Drive, in Buellton. Most of the routes incorporate roadways in Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez.

SCOR, or Specialized Coronary Outpatient Rehabilitation, is a nonprofit recreational bicycling club that promotes bike riding as therapy for people after heart surgery and angioplasty, or those suffering from heart disease. Money raised from the event will help heart-related projects — such as Camp Bon Couer, Camp Del Corazon on Catalina Island, and Camp Taylor — which aid children with congenital heart disease.

At 6 p.m. Friday, a dinner will be held at Day's Inn Banquet Room in Buellton. The guest speaker, at 7:30 p.m., is Kirk Nordgren of the Carmichael Training Systems' Santa Ynez facility. He will speak about optimal training and tips for peak riding performance. Tickets for the dinner and speech are \$25 and will be available at the door.

Registration for the ride will be taken from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday and from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Helmets are mandatory for all riders.

The 50-mile and Metric Century

Money raised from the event will help heart-related projects — such as Camp Bon Couer, Camp Del Corazon on Catalina Island, and Camp Taylor — which aid children with congenital heart disease.

rides begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. The 35-mile ride begins at 9 a.m.

The Solvang Prelude Cycling Festival will be held at the park from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a barbecue lunch will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The festival will include a disc jockey, cycling-related vendors and massage services.

The course will be swept for last riders at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday's rides are considered warm-ups for the annual Solvang Century and Half-Century rides. The 30th annual Solvang Century, Metric and Half-Century will be held March 10.

The 2012 Century ride will be offered in memory of Norbert Eric Beilschmidt, known as "Norby." Mr. Beilschmidt rode in Solvang Century and Solvang Prelude rides from 1991 through 2011. He rode his final SCOR Solvang Half-Century on March 12 this year, at the age of 76. Mr. Beilschmidt suffered a spinal cord injury on April 12 and died April 24. For more information on the rides, log onto www.bikescor.com.

email: nwallace@newspress.com

Halloween revelry ends with 228 arrests, 80 medical-aid calls

By MORGAN HOOVER
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

From Friday through Monday on Halloween weekend, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department made 228 arrests and 230 citations in Isla Vista, authorities said.

About 25,000 young people, many from out of town, were expected to participate in the popular Halloween festivities and parties over the weekend. Alcohol plays a major part in the celebrations. Most of this year's activity was on Friday and Saturday nights.

There were 80 medical calls, 50 search and rescue calls, 36 minor first aid assistance calls and 40 students who needed assistance to get home, said Drew Sugars, spokesman for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, in a news release said.

County Search and Rescue provided about 24 volunteers who responded to medical emergencies in congested areas on Del Playa Drive and surrounding streets. Patients who received primary care in an Emergency Medical Services tent, set up by Search and Rescue, were then transported to local emergency rooms.

It will be a number of weeks before the cost of the operation is known, but past years have cost the county an estimated \$250,000 to \$400,000.

The California Highway Patrol increased patrols between Highway



In Isla Vista on Monday, officers stop someone suspected of drinking in public.

101 and Isla Vista Friday and Saturday nights, and during that time, the CHP reported five DUI arrests and 266 citations.

At about 2 a.m. Saturday a stabbing occurred near the intersection of

Camino Pescadero and Sueno Road in Isla Vista, a 17-year-old boy was taken to the hospital for "multiple stab wounds" to his back, Mr. Sugars said. The teen was transported to the hospital with injuries that did

not appear to be life-threatening, Mr. Sugars said. The Sheriff's Department, which is investigating the incident, had no suspects as of Saturday.

email: mhoover@newspress.com

Another local investigative journalist, Robert Eringer, testifies

LANCE

Continued from Page A1

A between Officer Beutel and Mr. Lance. Mr. Genis noted that now she was saying she didn't recall the exchange.

After looking at the transcript from the hearing where she says no, the officer stuck to her new answer: "I don't recall hearing the conversation that occurred."

Yet she insists hearing Mr. Lance disparage the chief.

Pressing her on the issue, Mr. Genis asked when his client made the remarks.

Toward the end of the "contact," said the officer.

"Was it on the tape you destroyed?" asked Mr. Genis.

"Not that I recall," she replied. "I don't recall there being any statements providing any context."

Mr. Genis pressed on. "That never happened," he said, referring to the Sanchez remark.

"I heard that statement, yes," said Officer Clark.

Mr. Genis asked whether she was aware that Mr. Lance did not know about the litigation until well after the arrest.

"I overheard that statement," Officer Clark insisted.

The defense was hoping to dispute that contention by putting on the stand another local investigative journalist, and former News-

Press columnist, Robert Eringer. It was during the July 5 taping of Mr. Eringer's Channel 17 show "The American Riviera," the defense contends — and Mr. Eringer attests to in a sworn declaration — that he first made Mr. Lance aware of the litigation.

Doing so, Mr. Genis told the judge, would show Officer Clark's report "nothing more, nothing less than pure fabrication."

But because Mr. Horowitz spent about one-fifth of Tuesday's hearing rehashing asked-and-answered questions of Officer Clark, and as Judge Hill noted several times, asking irrelevant questions, time ticked away for Mr. Eringer to take the stand.

"I could not possibly know 100

percent whether he already knew," Mr. Eringer told the News-Press later in the day. "But in my mind he most likely did not know. . . he was taken by surprise."

"He seemed completely unaware of that case," said Mr. Eringer.

Despite Mr. Genis' pleas for the judge to silence Mr. Horowitz and allow Mr. Eringer to testify, the judge said anything Mr. Eringer has to say at this point is beyond the scope of the question at hand, and that is whether Mr. Lance's constitutional rights were violated when he was pulled over.

The hearing resumes Nov. 15.

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Hit-and-run trial sent to North County

Gag order remains in case involving Officer Kasi Beutel

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A Santa Barbara DUI case with a strong courtroom resemblance to the DUI proceedings of investigative journalist Peter Lance has been shipped to the North County, and those involved remained barred from publicly commenting on the matter.

While the alleged March 3 hit-and-run incident involving defendant Parker O'Sullivan hasn't received nearly the level of media attention of Mr. Lance's New Year's Day arrest, both cases share Officer Kasi Beutel, Deputy District Attorney Sanford Horowitz, defense attorney Darryl Genis and a tense courtroom atmosphere.

Moments before Mr. Lance's case resumed in Superior Court Judge Brian Hill's courtroom Tuesday morning, Superior Court Judge Clifford Anderson delivered a couple of rulings that essentially sided with motions brought by the prosecution

The defense attorney alleged members of the District Attorney's Office are posting comments on Internet blogs under anonymous aliases.

in Mr. O'Sullivan's case.

Prosecutors had proposed moving the trial to Santa Maria to escape the pre-trial publicity of Officer Beutel. The arresting officer in both cases, she has been the focus of a series of articles in the News-Press, many authored by Mr. Lance, about alleged misconduct such as the use of pre-filled DUI forms in the field.

But Judge Anderson rendered the matter moot by citing a lack of available South County courtrooms and moving the case north anyway.

The attorney for both Mr. Lance and Mr. O'Sullivan in the separate incidents, Mr. Genis commented that the ruling could be a questionable way to get around a troublesome motion for the people.

four South County trial departments, and two have been disqualified, one has recused itself and the other is in the middle of a long-term trial.

Judge Anderson also upheld a gag order that he placed on the case last month at the request of the District Attorney's Office. The judge agreed to reconsider the matter Tuesday at the request of Mr. Genis, but the result remained the same.

In the motion for a "protective order," prosecutors alleged Mr. Genis' various comments in the media about Mr. Horowitz and Officer Beutel could allegedly prejudice the jury pool and make it difficult to find an unbiased panel.

Mr. Genis' countered that prosecutors failed to show there is a danger of pre-trial publicity impinging

on their right to a fair trial and the order is actually to further the prosecution's interests.

He and the California DUI Lawyers Association, a nonprofit organization made up of more than 300 attorneys, contend the gag order clashes with constitutional rights.

But the documentation included in support of the defense motion didn't sit well with Judge Anderson, who commented with limited resources, it's less than helpful to be forced to read through offensive "tripe" not related to the case.

Mr. Genis didn't walk out of the courtroom without what he visibly held to be a victory.

The defense attorney alleged members of the District Attorney's Office are posting comments on Internet blogs under anonymous aliases. Judge Anderson instructed Mr. Horowitz to advise others of the ruling and that anonymity won't provide any protection.

email: apacheco@newspress.com