



NATION & WORLD / A4 NOT OVER

The top U.S. general in Afghanistan tells Senate committee that President Obama should rethink troop withdrawal plan



LIFE / A6 LOVE DEBATE

Author leads forums on exploring how to reconcile spiritual beliefs with relationships

WEATHER

Sunny
Coast: 81/64
Inland: 88/57
COMPLETE
FORECAST A8

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 160TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

75¢

Officials warn about El Niño floods

By SARAH MCCARTHY
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Preparations for El Niño are underway and the Santa Barbara City Fire Department is encouraging residents to begin preparing now for what will likely be a wet winter.

Several city officials and a representative from the National Weather Service were on hand at Tuesday's meeting of the Santa Barbara City Council to pres-

ent the city's plan for dealing with potential flooding and other issues related to El Niño precipitation.

Eric Boldt, a warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service, said there is a greater than 95 percent chance of a strong El Niño this winter.

El Niño occurs when trade winds over the Pacific Ocean reverse direction and push warm water to the east, which causes storms and heavy rainfall.

However, Mr. Boldt emphasized that one El Niño will not end the drought.

Fire Chief Pat McElroy said the Fire Department is anticipating flooding for the upcoming winter and is looking at how the city responded to past storms to develop "a road map for how we're going to plan this year."

The Fire Department is in "constant contact" with the National Weather Service in Oxnard, Chief McElroy said.

"Whether we have an El Niño ... or just

a heavy rainfall, we're going to be dealing with floods," he said. "And it's just a fact with the beautiful mountains we have right next to a fairly narrow shelf of land, our watershed is going to cause us problems."

Chief McElroy named impassable roads, power loss, high wind and waves, contaminated flood water and evacuations as possible results of strong El Niño storms.

Please see **OFFICIALS** on A8



NIK BLASKOVICH/NEWS-PRESS

Fire Chief Pat McElroy speaks to the City Council about possible heavy El Niño storms this winter. He and other officials are encouraging residents to start preparing now for flooding.

Police chief lucky to be alive

But response after Cam Sanchez's car was smashed raises questions

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

Santa Barbara Police Chief Cam Sanchez is recovering at home after suffering injuries Friday when a fire from another vehicle smashed into his city-owned Ford Explorer on Highway 101, as he drove his wife and son-in-law to Los Angeles International Airport to pick up his daughter, Victoria.

After suffering cuts and abrasions during the 6:15 a.m. incident near Bates Road, the trio were treated at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and released later that day.

However, the response by the Santa Barbara Police Department, including Deputy Chief Frank Mannix, raises questions about special treatment — at taxpayer expense — afforded the chief and his family that unfortunate day.

The News-Press has learned that three Santa Barbara police officers responded to the scene, and one, on order from the on-duty watch commander, continued on to LAX to pick up the chief's adult daughter and bring her to Santa Barbara.

City Administrator Paul Casey, Mayor Helene Schneider and the rest of the City Council were briefed on the matter, but as of Tuesday, there had been no public announcement about the incident, the chief's absence, or that day-to-day operations of the department were handed over to others.

The chief was driving south when the Explorer, provided for his personal use, was struck by a fire that had come off a vehicle on the northbound side of Highway 101.

"The whole front end of the car



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PHOTO

The city-owned Ford Explorer used by Santa Barbara Police Chief Cam Sanchez was severely damaged Friday when a tire hit it at freeway speed.

was smashed in," Mr. Casey told the News-Press.

A photo provided to the paper shows the extent of the damage, and drives home how lucky everyone inside was to escape with only minor injuries.

Chief Sanchez was able to pull over and stop on the side of the road. Emergency personnel responded and the chief, his wife, Olivia, and son-in-law, Sgt. Martin Rose of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, were taken by ambulance to the hospital. (Sgt. Rose was already on medical leave at the time, said sheriff's spokeswoman Kelly Hoover.)

Chief Sanchez "is being briefed daily," Sgt. Riley Harwood, department spokesman, told the News-Press. "But the day-to-day operations at SBPD are being managed by the on-duty personnel."

According to Sgt. Harwood, the watch commander received a

phone call from a Ventura County Sheriff's Department deputy stating the chief's daughter, who recently moved to Denver to work at a TV station after having been a reporter and anchor at KEYT Channel 3 in Santa Barbara, "would be stranded at LAX." Details about how the deputy in the adjoining county had such knowledge were not provided.

"Due to the extraordinary circumstances, the watch commander exercised his discretion and sent an on-duty police officer, who was not assigned to enforcement activities, to pick up the chief's daughter at LAX," said Sgt. Harwood.

"Chief Sanchez did not request nor direct any personnel from the SBPD to assist in this transportation response. Chief Sanchez was not involved in this decision, and he was not in a position to make other arrangements himself."

The assignment took about five

hours, or about \$300, said the sergeant.

Deputy Chief Mannix told the News-Press he was OK with the response.

"I learned about it several hours after the fact, but I supported the decision. Sometimes our watch commanders make decisions, using their best judgment, under difficult conditions, at a time when a decision has to be made. I believe this was one of those decisions," he said.

Many private sector employers, he added, would do the same thing when an employee was involved in a crash and suffering a medical emergency.

In an interview on Tuesday, Mr. Casey explained that public safety staff operate in a way unlike other city employees.

"Public safety portions of the

Please see **SANCHEZ** on A3

Self-described cartel hitman pleads guilty to nine murders

By PAUL GONZALEZ
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A man who claims he was a Mexican drug cartel hitman pleaded guilty Tuesday to nine California murders, including a 1982 slaying in Santa Ynez.

Richgrove resident Jose Manuel Martinez, 53, will be sentenced to life in prison without parole under the terms of a plea agreement that precludes him from the death penalty in California.

In addition to the murders, Mr. Martinez admitted special circumstance allegations of multiple murders, lying in wait, kidnapping and murder for financial gain, and pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of a 17-year-old boy.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 2 in Tulare County Superior Court in Visalia.

Mr. Martinez was arrested in 2013 while crossing from Mexico into Arizona. He told authorities he had killed more than 30 people across the U.S. for a Mexican cartel over a violent and decades-long career.

Investigators said they believe Mr. Martinez was a cartel enforcer, but could not independently confirm

Please see **GUILTY** on A8



JOSE MARTINEZ

COURTESY PHOTO

By JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Female workers in California will get new tools to challenge gender-based wage gaps under legislation signed into law Tuesday that supporters say offers the strongest equal-pay protection in the nation.

Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown signed the measure while surrounded by women and girls at an event at Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park in Richmond, northeast of San Francisco.

"The stratification and the pay disparities in California and in America, probably in the world, are something that really eats away at our whole society," Mr. Brown said. He called the legislation a "milestone."

The bill by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, expands California's existing equal pay law and goes further than federal law by placing the burden on the employer to prove a man's higher pay is based on factors other than gender.

It also protects workers from discrimination and retaliation if they ask questions about how much other people earn, though it doesn't require that employers provide that information. Workers also will gain the right to sue if they are paid less than someone with a different job title who does "substantially similar" work.

The Fair Pay Act stipulates employers can justify higher wages for men only if the pay is based on seniority, a merit system, quantity or quality of production or any other "bona fide factor other than sex." It cleared the Legislature with bipartisan support and backing from the state Chamber of Commerce.

Senate Minority Leader Jean Fuller, R-Bakersfield, said the legislation strikes a balance between the interests of employers and women in the workforce.

Please see **WAGES** on A8

Kids Helping Kids to host annual concert in January

Needtobreathe and Johnnyswim will perform for the cause

By EMILY LESLIE
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

For the last 13 years, San Marcos High School's Advanced Placement economics class has done more than complete simple homework assignments and cram for tests.

The teenagers also run a non-profit, Kids Helping Kids, raising revenue each year to support disadvantaged children in Santa Bar-

bara County and abroad.

The class project raises money in a multitude of ways, but is best known for the annual gala benefit concert that students have organized each year since 2009.

The eighth annual Kids Helping Kids Benefit concert will be held Jan. 9 at the historic Granada The-

atre, 1214 State St.

The concert's headliner is Needtobreathe, an American Christian rock band from South Carolina. The opening act of the evening is up-and-coming artist Johnnyswim, a Los Angeles-based folk music duo.

The concerts are entirely student-produced and in the past have had

such artists as Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles, Grammy winning Switchfoot, and the nationally acclaimed Andy Grammar.

The students' goal is to raise \$350,000 throughout the school year.

The students keep a "Jar of Dreams" in their classroom, in which

they place requests for where funds should be directed. After the concert, and when the goal has been reached, students allocate the money to the various causes.

Leading up to the night of the concert, the students of Kids Helping Kids are involved in community events, and they produce a series of

smaller events such as school dances, festivals and restaurant nights.

The students also raise money through corporate sponsorships by visiting and speaking to both local and national businesses in order to form partnerships.

"We don't come to school, we come to work," said Jack Palmer, 17, this year's CEO of Kids Helping Kids. "Our students learn through

Please see **KIDS** on A8

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LOTTERY

Saturday's SUPER LOTTO: 2-12-16-17-43	Meganumber: 22	Tuesday's DAILY 4: 0-5-1-7
Tuesday's MEGA MILLIONS: 4-14-29-31-47	Meganumber: 9	Tuesday's FANTASY 5: 9-12-18-19-25
Tuesday's DAILY DERBY: 02-12-10	Time: 1:41.05	Saturday's POWERBALL: 6-26-33-44-46
Tuesday's DAILY 3: 7-4-0	Midday 4-5-7	Meganumber: 4

Local

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY NEWS

Goleta Councilman Jim Farr returns to duties

By CATHERINE SHEN
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT



HELENA DAY BREESE/NEWS-PRESS

Jim Farr listens to a presentation Tuesday in his first Goleta City Council meeting since he suffered a stroke in August.

Goleta Councilman Jim Farr returned to his first council meeting on Tuesday after suffering a stroke in August.

In high spirits and eager to return to work, Mr. Farr took a moment at the beginning of the meeting to thank the community and his city colleagues for their patience and support.

"It is hugely important to me to thank friends and colleagues who came to see me," he said.

Following weeks of recovery, Mr. Farr said his cognitive abilities are unaffected and while the stroke resulted in some paralysis on his left side, he has reasonable use of his left leg and movement in a couple of fingers.

"I hope to get the movement all back so then I can be really obnoxious," he said with a laugh, causing a ripple of chuckles across the room.

"I am glad to be back and I look forward to getting back to work," he said. "I know there have been a lot of issues that I could not be a part of, so I look forward to the opportunities to speak on them."

In other business, the council received a report on winter storm preparation and response plans.

As the city continues to receive more confirmation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on building El Niño conditions, staff decided an early start is needed on winter storm preparations.

Based on the storm season forecast from the NOAA, a strong El Niño is expected with an estimated 10 to 14 moderate storms over a period of months. City Manager Michelle Greene said.

That means soil will be gradually saturated, which is great to fight the drought but could lead to floods as the season continues, Ms. Greene said.

The preparation and response plan was developed to address four main areas.

The first is pre-storm threat assessment, resource acquisition, and preventive maintenance. This includes inspecting roadway bridges, culverts and cleanouts that could be affected by storms; working with Santa Barbara County flood control; and inventorying existing emergency response resources.

The second focus is incident protocol and response, in which the city could either activate its own emergency operations center or work in coordination with neighboring jurisdictions.

The third focus includes a public information program to prepare for emergencies and to provide up-

dates to the community. Information will be distributed through the city's Web page, newsletter, Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, and local media outlets.

The fourth element of the plan is post-incident recovery and restoration. According to Ms. Greene's presentation, state and federal funding may be available following a state of emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's public assistance grant program provides assistance so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major emergencies.

Ms. Greene said the goal is to start the winter prepared but to be flexible as the season progresses.

The council's next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at City Hall, 130 Cremona Drive.

email: news@newspress.com

Supervisors criticize sheriff's mental health system

By SARA BUSH
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday called for more oversight and better data regarding the Sheriff's Department's treatment of mentally ill inmates.

While supervisors applauded the Sheriff's Department for its efforts, they also found the system lacking structure and questioned whether the new North County jail facility could provide improvements.

Acting Chief Deputy Julie McCammon told the supervisors that the County Jail has become a de facto mental health facility.

Since 1955, the number of incarcerated people with mental illness has grown more than 400 percent, Chief Deputy McCammon said.

Sheriff Bill Brown said deinstitutionalization in the 1970s led to an increase in the number of mentally ill people incarcerated.

Conventional jails do not provide a good environment for mentally ill individuals, Sheriff Brown said, and mentally ill inmates are often the most difficult inmates to manage.

Many of the offenders would be better off in alternative treatment facilities, he said, but the reality is that mentally ill offenders will be sentenced to jail time for the foreseeable future.

He said his department will continue to do its best to serve

that population, which makes up about 13 percent of the inmates in the County Jail.

The key to successfully treating inmates is behavioral change through comprehensive programs, Sheriff Brown said, and he hopes to expand those services through the completion of the new North County jail.

The jail offers cognitive, educational, and vocational programs as well as life skills training and substance abuse programs, he said.

However, Chief Deputy McCammon of the 122 inmates on medication for mental health reasons, only 22 are enrolled in such programs.

Some inmates refuse treatment and others are not stable enough to participate in the programs, she said.

Sheriff Brown said one of the biggest challenges facing his department is a lack of resources, and Chief Deputy McCammon blamed the antiquated jail facility and minimum staffing for the inability to sufficiently treat mentally ill inmates.

While custody deputies are trained to deal with mentally ill inmates, 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf, along with some members of the public, called for a psychiatrist or professional with the proper education to help identify those with special needs.

First District Supervisor Salud Carbalaj said the current system is

"failing" and called for more organizational structure.

Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam said he is "troubled" by the fact that the sheriff is trying to do two things at once — house criminals and treat the mentally ill — and said he doesn't think it is possible to make a jail conducive to therapeutic treatment.

He questioned whether spending millions on facilities geared toward the mentally ill at the North County jail is worth the money.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino noted that community resources for the mentally ill are lacking outside of the jail system.

Some public speakers asked the supervisors to look into alternative mental health treatment facilities rather than spending the money to build and run the new jail.

The supervisors called on the Sheriff's Department to come up with a more comprehensive and detailed plan for the new facility, before unanimously voting to receive and file the report.

The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Center in Santa Maria.

For more information, go to <https://santabarbara.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx#current=>

email: news@newspress.com

Council delays fee decision

LOMPOC The City Council on Tuesday postponed adoption of a new schedule of service fees until November, emphasizing the need to examine the document in more detail.

Council members unanimously agreed that they need more time to get into the details of the study conducted by Revenue and Cost Specialists.

The council also asked the city Economic Development Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commis-

sion, and the Utility Commission to review the fees, which are charged for use of city facilities.

The council in 2014 requested proposals for conducting a comprehensive user fee study and chose Revenue and Cost Specialists.

Eric Johnson, a specialist with Revenue and Cost Specialists, reviewed 170 city fees and said recommended changes could bring the city approximately \$1,198,200 in additional new revenue.

The new schedule would have

52 increased fees, 12 reduced fees, 38 fees with little or no change, 15 fees with a change in methodology, and 53 new fees.

A public hearing will be held during the council's Nov. 17 meeting to review the new fees.

The next regular meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza.

— Catherine Shen

IN BRIEF

County collecting hazardous waste

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY The Public Works Department will hold two free household hazardous waste collection events Saturday and Sunday in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Saturday's collection will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Cuyama at the New Cuyama Recycling and Transfer Station, 5073 State Route 166.

Sunday's collection will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Los Olivos at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, 4004 Foxen Canyon Road.

Residents can drop off common household items, including automotive fluids, cleaners, paint, pesticides, and batteries, as well as such unwanted electronics as computers and televisions.

Unwanted medications and home-generated needles and syringes, delivered in puncture-proof containers, will be accepted.

Controlled substances, such as narcotics and some prescription medications, will not be accepted.

— Sarah McCarthy

Senior Expo to showcase services

SANTA BARBARA The 27th annual Santa Barbara Senior Expo will take place from 9 a.m. to noon today at the Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real.

More than 1,000 seniors 55 and older are expected to attend the event that is offered by the nonprofit Family Service Agency.

The expo will showcase the latest goods and services for Santa Barbara seniors, with everything from financial services to tips for those who may require assistance getting around safely and affordably.

Offerings this year include 100 exhibit booths, flu shots donated by Cottage Health for seniors 55 and older, balance and fitness testing, health screenings, free bone density scans by OsteoStrong, and genealogy consultations by Santa Barbara Genealogical Society.

Admission is \$5. The event will have live music and valet parking for those with a blue placard.

— Emily Leslie

Henley concert start time changes

SANTA BARBARA Tonight's Don Henley concert at the Santa Barbara Bowl will start at 6:30 p.m., rather than the originally planned 7 p.m., Nederlander Concerts has announced.

Mr. Henley, on tour to promote his acclaimed "Cass County," his first new album in 15 years, will be joined on the bill by singer Shawn Colvin, who recently released her cover song album "Uncovered."

— Josef Woodard

Cruise ship visiting SB

SANTA BARBARA The Crown Princess cruise ship is set to arrive this morning off Santa Barbara Harbor with a 7 a.m. port call.

The ship made stops in Los Angeles on Saturday and San Francisco on Monday and is on its way to Ensenada, Mexico. The 952-foot cruise liner is expected to arrive in Ensenada on Thursday.

The Crown Princess will depart this evening.

— Paul Gonzalez

Police decisions called into question

■ **SANCHEZ**
Continued from Page A1

city organization have a code of honor that they work under that is probably different from the rest of the organization. You see that during deaths in the organization when they rally around and have a very tight bond that comes together in a time of need."

But is taking a sworn officer away from the city to essentially serve as a taxi a sound use of public resources when there are plenty of cabs, Uber drivers and rental cars out there?

"When I asked about it and the answer was, you know, this woman's mother, father and husband were in a serious car accident and

transferred to Cottage Hospital and the watch commander made the decision to have someone go down and pick her up, I can understand that from a compassion standpoint," Mr. Casey said.

What about the taxpayer's standpoint?

"I think that's fair for the taxpayers to evaluate that and determine whether that was a compassionate act or an inappropriate act," he said. "I can understand in the heat of the moment the compassion side of it."

Safety in the city, said Mr. Casey, was not affected.

The chief, like others in executive management positions, opted for a city-owned car for personal use in lieu of a personal car allowance, said Mr. Casey, noting that Santa Barba-

ra's top law enforcement officer is on call around-the-clock.

Having family members in such a car or using it for anything other than official business, Mr. Casey added, is not a violation of city policy.

The city administrator would not answer on the record whether employees from other departments should now expect such overtures afforded the chief and his family.

Instead, Mr. Casey referred back to the code of honor.

"I think that was the instinct that the staff reacted to at that time when you had the police chief, his wife and his son-in-law in a very scary accident."

email: sstepleton@newspress.com



PUBLIC NOTICE TAXPAYERS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY NOTICE OF CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Made pursuant to Section 2609, Revenue and Taxation Code

Harry E. Hagen, Santa Barbara County Treasurer-Tax Collector, announces that the 2015-16 secured property tax statements will be mailed on or before October 16, 2015, to all property owners, at the addresses shown on the tax roll. If you own property in Santa Barbara County, and do not receive a tax bill by November 1, 2015, contact the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at the offices listed below.

The **FIRST INSTALLMENT** of the 2015-2016 property taxes is due and payable on November 1, 2015, and delinquent if not paid by 5:00 p.m., or the close of business, whichever is later, December 10, 2015; thereafter a 10% penalty will be added.

The **SECOND INSTALLMENT** is due on February 1, 2016 and will be delinquent if not paid by 5:00 p.m., or the close of business, whichever is later, April 10, 2016; thereafter a 10% penalty will be added plus the cost (\$30.00) to prepare the delinquent tax records and to give notice of delinquency.

BOTH INSTALLMENTS MAY BE PAID when the first installment is due.

Credit card and electronic check payments may be made by phone or via the internet. **Visit our website at www.sbtaxes.org for internet payments.** If paying by phone, please phone 1-866-308-8872 for credit card payments, or 1-866-765-0488 for electronic check payments.

Payments may also be made in person at the County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Offices between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted, at the addresses listed below.

Santa Barbara: County Administration Bldg., 105 E. Anapamu St., Room 109, (805) 568-2920

Santa Maria: Betteravia Government Center, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, (805) 346-8330

Or mail to: Harry E. Hagen, Treasurer-Tax Collector, P.O. Box 579, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0579

Mailed payments must be UNITED STATES POSTMARKED BY THE DELINQUENT DATE to avoid late penalties.

SUPPLEMENTAL TAX BILLS are additional taxes due and are separate from the above mentioned taxes. Supplemental bills result from a reassessment of property due to a change of ownership or new construction. These taxes are due upon issuance and become delinquent as specified on the tax statement.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE THE TAXPAYER OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE TIMELY PAYMENTS

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

**HARRY E. HAGEN, CPA
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

Executed in Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, CA on September 29, 2015

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