



NATION & WORLD / A4
IS RECRUITING

Islamic State's media arm is using increasingly slick production methods to attract new members



LIFE / A6
MAMA SAYS

Carol Burnett sidekick Vicki Lawrence's performance supports asthma research

WEATHER

Mostly sunny
 Coast: 70/54
 Inland: 80/49
 COMPLETE
 FORECAST A8

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 160TH YEAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015

75¢

Police officer stands in for graduate's dead parents

By **MATT SPENCE**
 THE TIMES, LONDON

It should have been one of the happiest moments of Kazzie Portie's young life, and one which he and his parents would never forget. The 18-year-old Texan graduated from high school on Saturday but, days beforehand, he had received an ominous knock on the door.

Eric Ellison, a veteran officer with the Orange Police Department, had arrived to inform him that his parents, Riley, 54, and Emily, 50, had been killed by a drunk driver while riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Kazzie, the youngest of five children, was home alone in Orange, about 100 miles east of Houston, when Officer Ellison arrived, and, in his outpouring of grief, he told the officer he didn't know what he would do at his graduation.

"I said: 'You are going to walk,'" Officer Ellison, who was first on the scene of the accident, said. "Your mum and dad will have front-row seats looking down from heaven, and I'll stand in their place."

On Saturday, the place reserved for Kazzie's parents was taken by Officer Ellison, and he was waiting for the young man at the edge of the stage. They embraced as the stadium erupted in applause. "Seeing Officer Ellison there to congratulate me meant the world to me," Kazzie told the Buzzfeed news site. "It was so nice that he actually showed a genuine care for me and my family's situation instead of us being another 'case.'"

Officer Ellison, a father himself, wrote on Facebook the next day: "I just want everybody to remember that this was all about Kazzie and his day to shine. I just did what I would want someone to do if I had left my girls early."

Kazzie's half brother, Blake Henning, posted video footage online of the moment he received his diploma. "Throughout all of this you have been so strong and we are so proud of you," he wrote. In another post, he thanked Officer Ellison. "Words can't express how thankful our family is of you. You are the definition of a great (law enforcement officer)."

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Council to maintain current airport fire crew staffing

By **SARAH MCCARTHY**
 NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The three-person firefighter crew stationed at the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport for decades will remain there, despite the airport's financial problems.

With concerns rising over the airport's decreasing revenues, the Santa Barbara City Council finance committee forwarded a proposal to the council to reduce the three-person Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting team to two people. At Monday's special City Council meeting, the council unanimously opposed the

"I don't think public safety's a luxury. It's not an amenity, it's a necessity. And I think it's our priority."

Randy Rowse,

Santa Barbara councilman

motion, instead choosing to refund the airport's reserves by reducing its capital program and eliminating or freezing five to six airport positions.

The deciding factor, and something each of the councilmembers referenced in their comments, was the issue of public safety.

"Public safety is really expensive;

it's the most expensive thing we do. It's also the most important thing we do," Councilman Randy Rowse said. "I don't think public safety's a luxury. It's not an amenity, it's a necessity. And I think it's our priority."

Over the past decade, the airport's revenues have been decreasing due to a decline in both passengers and

flights, as well as the amount of airlines that utilize the airport. Since 2005, the number of daily flights at the airport has decreased from 45 to 21 and there has been a 20 percent decline in the number of commercial passengers.

To boost the airport's reserves, the council was considering reducing the ARFF staff, which costs

the airport more than \$2 million per year to maintain. The current Federal Aviation Administration rules require a minimum of one firefighter per day at passenger aircraft operations.

Carl Hopkins, chair of the Airport Commission, said he supported the ARFF reduction.

"If we proceed with this reduction, we will still be double the (FAA) requirement," he said. "The airport has worked very hard over a number of years to reduce the costs and to improve revenue and we believe

Please see **COUNCIL** on **A8**

Judging for themselves

Occupation Week lets El Camino students look behind the scenes of law

By **JEREMY BEALE**
 NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

A packed courtroom is nothing new to Santa Barbara County Superior Court Presiding Judge Brian Hill.

It's just not every day that the seats are filled with second-graders.

Monday was the start of Occupation Week at El Camino Elementary School, and as part of a visit to the County Courthouse in Santa Barbara, teachers Dawn Schroder and Kelsey Hanley led 20 or so 7- and 8-year-olds into Dept. 2, where criminal cases are heard, to see what a day in court is all about.

"They are here to learn about the officials in the court system, what they want to be when they grow up and how to get there," Mrs. Schroder said.

They met defense attorneys, prosecutors, sheriff's deputies and court investigators, each presenting a lesson on what they do and what the law represents to them.

Awaiting entry into Judge Hill's courtroom, they witnessed two inmates, in shackles and jail attire, being escorted out. The hallway got silent, but was eventually broken by one of the prisoners.

"Don't make the same mistakes we made," he said.

The response from some of the youngsters: We won't.

From there, the children were escorted, single-file, into the courtroom by a bailiff where they took their seats.

Judge Hill welcomed his young guests, asking whether they believe the room was the most beautiful on Earth.

Please see **COURT** on **A8**

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HELENA DAY BREESE / NEWS-PRESS

With Sheriff's Deputy Harry Hudley looking on, Izabella Vargas, a second-grader at El Camino Elementary School, is "questioned" by Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Brian Hill during the school's Occupation Week event on Monday.

Defensible space inspections begin

By **PAUL GONZALEZ**
 NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department began conducting defensible space inspections on Monday.

Homeowners in unincorporated Santa Barbara County are required to clear dead plants, grass and other flammable brush within 100 feet of dwellings. The buffer prevents brush fires from burning their way to the structure and gives firefighters a safe area to combat the blaze.

Landscaping designed to reduce a home's fire risk, also known as firescaping, can be included as a part of the defensible space.

Defensible space need only extend to the property line if a home is less than 100 feet away.

Fire engine companies will be deployed throughout the county to conduct defensible space inspections and provide homeowners with an inspection form and educational material on how to comply with the regulations.

According to a report released by county fire Capt. Dave Zaniboni, 13,000 homeowners will receive a wildfire safety pamphlet that includes tips for maintaining defensible space compliance. The pamphlets will go out to residents living in high fire hazard areas of the county such as Mission Canyon, Cathedral Oaks and north of Foothill Road.

With the Central Coast's year round wildfire threat exacerbated by droughts, defensible space regulations will be enforced at all times in Santa Barbara County and non-compliant homeowners are subject to fines and legal penalties.

Two defensible space violations will result in an infraction and fine of \$100 to \$500. A third violation can result in \$500 fine with a misdemeanor charge.

The county fire department will also hire a contractor to clear defensible space, with the bill going to the homeowner.

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REFUGIO BEACH OIL SPILL

700 personnel work beach clean up as oil spill hits 2-week mark

Relief extends to Ventura County, AIDS LifeCycle race a go

By **MITCHELL WHITE**
 NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Approximately 700 workers were stationed at Refugio and El Capitan state beaches Monday completing daunting tasks such as scrubbing rock faces of crude oil and collecting oiled seaweed and kelp, as the response efforts for the May 19 oil spill off the Gaviota coastline continue.

Today marks two weeks since approximately 101,000 gallons of crude oil leaked from a ruptured onshore pipeline and released thousands of gallons of oil into the Santa Barbara channel.

As of Monday, crews have deployed 18 vessels to recover oil, with 10,600 feet of boom deployed

to capture sheen and protect the shore, according to an update from Plains All American Pipeline, the company responsible for last week's oil spill.

Over the weekend, divers searched more than ten areas of the ocean floor, but reported no new oil sighting during those dives. The areas surveyed had been recommended by experts and those with local knowledge of the area, and were considered most likely to contain submerged oil, officials said.

As of Monday, all diving operations have been suspended until further notice.

Response teams have also been dispatched to beaches as far south as Ventura and Los Angeles counties, including the Ventura Pier

and Oxnard Shores, as cleanup continues.

Officials are still awaiting test results taken on the tar balls that washed up on shore in Ventura last week, which should determine whether they are a result of natural seeps in the area or if they stem from the May 19 spill.

Until those results are available, Plains is responding as if those tar balls are related to the spill.

At the release site near Refugio State Beach, oiled soil from the berm that runs alongside the culvert under Highway 101 has been removed, and the area will be reevaluated in the coming days, officials said.

No information on the state of the affected section of pipeline that

Please see **SPILL** on **A8**



NIK BLASKOVICH / NEWS-PRESS

Workers repair the damaged pipe at the source of the Refugio Oil Spill on Monday.

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LOTTERY

Saturday's SUPER LOTTO: 11-25-31-34-47 Meganumber: 16	Monday's DAILY 4: 3-5-5-9
Friday's MEGA MILLIONS: 20-27-38-49-66 Meganumber: 2	Monday's FANTASY 5: 10-23-24-32-35
Monday's DAILY DERBY: 01-09-02 Time: 1:45-96	Saturday's POWERBALL: 8-9-25-56-57 Meganumber: 22
Monday's DAILY 3: 1-6-6 / Midday 6-5-5	

CMYK