

### NATION & WORLD / A4 DISPUTE

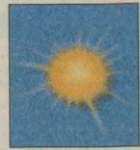
As nomination stakes increase, Vice President Joe Biden questions Hillary Clinton's recollection of bin Laden raid



### LIFE / A6 FAMILY FUN

Corn maze at Solvang Farmer's Pumpkin Patch a 25-year tradition

### WEATHER



Sunny  
Coast: 79/58  
Inland: 85/74  
COMPLETE  
FORECAST A8

# SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 160TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

75¢

## Perceived threats roil San Marcos High

By MITCHELL WHITE  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

### Hundreds stay home while student questioned by sheriff's investigators about social media postings

Hundreds of San Marcos High School students stayed home from school Tuesday after a series of "unusual" online videos were posted on social media.

The videos posted to Instagram on Monday night prompted an investigation by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, which on Tuesday had identified and located the student responsible for the posts, said spokeswoman Kelly Hoover.

"It was determined the student did not have any intentions to threaten anyone

and his posts were misinterpreted," Ms. Hoover said in a press release. "No crime was committed and the student is not under investigation."

Authorities have declined to release the student's identity because he is a juvenile, Ms. Hoover added.

In an email to the News-Press, San Marcos senior Billy Schulte said he posted the videos and gave his side of the story.

"I didn't mean to throw anybody into

a panic or seriously freak out anyone," he said. "It was just a creative outlet for me, nothing more. I want to apologize to the people that I scared, and hope they don't continue to consider me as a threat to anyone any longer."

One San Marcos student, who asked to remain anonymous, said the videos were part of a series, including one with the message "stay tuned" that was removed from the website.

One video shows several girls at the school set to strange music. Some of the girls are members of the LGBT community and others are "just popular girls on campus," the student said.

The videos were "definitely threatening," she said, adding they were advised not to go to school by several classmates.

"A school shouldn't be a place that

Please see **SCHOOL** on A4



HELENA DAY BREESE/NEWS-PRESS

A California Highway Patrol officer is parked at the entrance to San Marcos High School on Tuesday.

## Body, buried car found at scene of flash flooding

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALMDALE — A body and a car buried under feet of mud were found Tuesday at the scene of a flash flood that inundated a Mojave Desert road northeast of Los Angeles last week.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department began digging up a car buried under 6 feet of mud that was found in a drainage culvert off the road, authorities said.

Homicide investigators were sent to the scene after the body was found around 1 p.m., sheriff's officials said.

It could be the first death related to a storm last Thursday that sent a wave of water sluicing through the Antelope Valley roadway and foothill areas of the Tehachapi Mountains farther north.

Meanwhile, efforts to find a 67-year-old man swept away during flooding in those foothill areas were suspended Tuesday because deep, wet mud in the area made the search too dangerous.

Much of the half-mile-long search area was covered in up to 6 feet of muck and debris, according to Kern County sheriff's spokesman Ray Pruitt.

Officials hoped to resume the search later for Richard Harvell, who was hit by mud and water as he tried to climb into his truck.

## Murder defendant pleads insanity

By PAUL GONZALEZ  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A Santa Barbara man accused of brutally murdering his parents and two sons changed his plea Tuesday to not guilty by reason of insanity.

Nicolas Etienne Holzer, 45, had pleaded not guilty in September of last year to four counts of murder with a special allegation of committing the killings with a knife. He also denied one count of felony animal cruelty for slaying the family dog.

But during a court appearance Tuesday in Santa Barbara, Mr. Holzer and his attorney, Deputy Public Defender Christine Voss, changed the plea to not guilty by reason of insanity.

Superior Court Judge Brian Hill accepted the change of plea and appointed two doctors, including forensic psychologist Dr. Brandon Yakush, to conduct a mental health evaluation of the defendant. The evaluation is scheduled to be complete in December.

Mr. Holzer's mental health has long been an area of contention in this case. Prosecutor Ron Zonen confirmed to the News-Press in June that the District Attorney's Office would not seek the death penalty and the defendant's mental health issues played a role in that decision.

Mr. Holzer has been given dietary supplements by the County Jail under a July 15 court order from Judge Hill to improve his rapidly declining weight. The defendant has appeared gaunt and frail during his most recent court appearances.

His condition appeared unim-



HELENA DAY BREESE/NEWS-PRESS

Murder defendant Nicolas Holzer, accompanied by Deputy Public Defender Christine Voss, appears Tuesday in a Santa Barbara courtroom, where he entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

proved Tuesday.

Mr. Holzer is charged with killing his parents, William, 73, and Sheila Holzer, 74, and his two sons Sebastian, 13, and Vincent, 10, on Aug. 11, 2014, at their home in the 600 block of Walnut Park Lane in unincorporated Santa Barbara.

Mr. Holzer had been living with his parents for seven years after a custody battle with his ex-wife. He retained full custody of his children at the time of the killings.

Sheriff's Department investigators allege Mr. Holzer stabbed his family to death with a pair of kitchen

knives, then called 9-1-1 and calmly reported his crime. Officials say Mr. Holzer claimed he committed the killings to fulfill his destiny.

His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 1.

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## Supervisors approve 'Noleta' community plan

By SARA BUSH  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

After nearly a decade of discussions and compromise, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday narrowly approved a plan to revitalize the unincorporated area between Goleta and Santa Barbara, sometimes referred to as "Noleta."

The supervisors voted 3-2 for the plan, with 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam and 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino opposed, citing issues with rezoning and the designation of environmentally sensitive areas.

County staff and community members have been working on the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan since 2002.

Following the incorporation of the city of Goleta in 2002, a number of business owners and residents in the remaining unincorporated area voiced a desire to create different long-term goals and plans than those spelled out in the 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

About 36,000 residents live in the area, which includes the coastal plain and foothills reaching from Camino Cielo Road on the north to the Pacific Ocean on the south.

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors agreed to designate the Eastern Goleta Valley area and begin work on the area's own community plan.

The final plan, endorsed by the county Planning Commission in July, includes new housing opportunity sites and improved bike and pedestrian paths.

The plan addresses environmentally sensitive habitat, and contains permit requirements for some types of development and vegetation clearing, as well as new policies regarding public trails.

Dozens of people showed up to the Board of Supervisors meeting out to weigh in on the plan.

Opponents argued the plan could have a negative impact on environmentally sensitive areas, and worry that plans to rezone some portions of the community to "mixed use" along the Hollister Avenue-State Street corridor could harm some local business owners.

Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr applauded staff and the community for finding appropriate sites for additional housing while still protecting agricultural land.

The plan will go into effect in the inland areas within 30 days of adoption, as long as no appeals are

Please see **PLAN** on A8

## Crane School breaks ground, to begin engineering curriculum

### Oak Tree Quad buildings to open fall 2016

By EMILY LESLIE  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Students put on their hard hats and went to work with their shovels Tuesday morning for a groundbreaking ceremony that started Crane Country Day School's largest building project in its 88 years.

"This is a big project. This is the biggest project that has ever taken place at Crane School," said Head of School Joel Weiss.

The centerpiece of the new building project is a state-of-the-art Engineering and Design Center. The 2,000-square-foot building will serve as space for a new engineering, design and robotics curriculum that the school is adopting as it partners with the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy.

"We're launching a new part of our curriculum. That doesn't happen everyday," Mr. Weiss said. "We're going to have a whole new exciting department in Crane, a giant building."

Crane School has hired two educators for its new engineering department. Joe Donahue, director of engineering, and teacher Sabina Funk are training for a year at the Dos Pueblos academy, then will bring their expertise to Crane School.

The 9,646-square-foot building project, called the Oak Tree Quad after the 100-year-old tree that serves as the project's centerpiece, is expected to open in fall 2016.

"If all works perfectly, 10 months from now, we'll have a big pair of scissors that we get to cut the ribbon and walk in," Mr. Weiss said at the ceremony.

In addition to the Engineering and Design Center, the project includes four Upper School classrooms, two for English and two for math; an outdoor amphitheater; three administrative offices; two unisex restrooms; and an additional outdoor deck space.

To raise money for the building project, Mr. Weiss and Trustee Patty MacFarlane, who co-chairs the Campaign Crane fundraising initiative, met with almost every family at the school over the last two years.

As a result of more than 170 parent meetings, each lasting about 90 minutes, the school received 309 donations totaling \$10 million.

Money raised will be allocated to endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds, in addition to the building project

Please see **CRANE** on A3



NIK BLASKOVICH/NEWS-PRESS

Eighth-grade Student Council members break ground with a silver shovel for a \$4.5 million building project at Crane Country Day School. From left are Natasha Weiss, Hana Harvey, Jack Mousse, Tommy Brittingham and John Rigsby Shelburne.

newspress.com

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### LOTTERY

Saturday's SUPER LOTTO: 12-14-21-32-36 Meganumber: 14  
Tuesday's MEGA MILLIONS: 6-25-35-38-52 Meganumber: 4  
Tuesday's DAILY DERBY: 01-12-11 Time: 1:44.41  
Tuesday's DAILY 3: 3-1-8 / Midday 2-2-2

Tuesday's DAILY 4: 3-4-8-6  
Tuesday's FANTASY 5: 14-27-31-35-37  
Saturday's POWERBALL: 48-49-57-62-69 Meganumber: 19

CNYK