



NATION & WORLD / A4 IDENTIFIED

Officials release the names of the six American airmen killed in Afghanistan



LIFE / A6 BUBBLY

News-Press taste test takes on sparkling wines

WEATHER



Rain possible
Coast: 64/46
Inland: 57/37
COMPLETE
FORECAST A8

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 160TH YEAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015

75¢

Extra security planned for Rose Parade

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA — Security will be tighter than ever at the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl in the wake of terrorist attacks at home and abroad. Federal and local authorities

plan to monitor the New Year's Day parade and football game in Pasadena with bomb-sniffing dogs, radiation detectors, plainclothes and uniformed patrols, and more security cameras along the parade route.

Officials say there haven't been any threats so far but Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez urged Tuesday that people remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. Hundreds of thousands of people usually attend the parade and game.

Officials suggest arriving early because extra security means extra time at security checkpoints. Authorities also have a warning for visitors: Leave the drones at home. They're banned at the parade route and the game.

Family faces government roadblock in bid to develop mobile home park

By CLAUDIA COWAN
FOXNEWS.COM

The Jisser family has owned their mobile home park in California's Palo Alto since 1986, and now they want to turn their investment into apartments or condos — but they're running into stiff resistance from the local government and angry activists, in a battle that's landed in court.

For months, affordable housing advocates have demanded that the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park remain open for several hundred tenants, many of whom are elderly and disabled — and rely on disability checks to pay the rent of roughly \$1,000 a month.

"I was raised in Palo Alto, and I can't afford to live here... except for living in this trailer," said one such tenant, Mike Helmer.

Government leaders, in response, initially considered simply buying the four-acre property, in order to preserve it for the residents.

But owner Joe Jisser doesn't want to sell — just do something different on this prime real estate. Yet if he tries to redevelop the land, he's also facing a potentially prohibitive cost.

Understate law, Mr. Jisser would have to pay tenants "reasonable moving costs and rent subsidies" if he redevelops the property. But in Palo Alto, where one-bedroom apartments go for \$2,500 a month, the city said those costs amount to \$8 million.

Mr. Jisser says that's unfair and unconstitutional — and is suing the city in federal court, in a case that could work its way all the way up to the Supreme Court.

"Eight million dollars to close a mobile park down, mostly due to affordable housing not being available in Palo Alto — it's feels like extortion," Mr. Jisser said.

He added that the government is "forcing us to either pay an extreme amount of money to shut down the business, or they're forcing us to stay in business, which is technically taking the land from us and saying you can't do what you want with it."

Mr. Jisser also disputes the rationale behind keeping the park the way it is. "You can house more people in smaller areas more efficiently today," he said.

While many in the community hope for more affordable housing in Palo Alto, Mr. Jisser said the high cost of living is not his fault — and he shouldn't have to pay what amounts to public housing subsidies.

Meanwhile, city plans to work with a nonprofit to buy the property hit a wall when the family did not want to sell. A local official voiced frustration about the impact the litigation has had on the situation.

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A special gift

Santa comes two days early at Cottage's children's wards

By TED MILLS
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Spending Christmas in the hospital is nobody's choice, but Santa Claus went to Cottage Hospital on Wednesday to let the children in the pediatric ward know he hadn't forgotten them.

A longtime tradition between the Santa Barbara Association of Health Underwriters and Cottage Hospital, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, along with some volunteer elves, brought joy and presents to children and their families.

Fortunately, not too many children are in the hospital this time of year, but those who were could hear Santa coming down the hall. Not all kids reacted well to seeing a large, strange man enter their room — one girl jumped out of her bed in surprise — but all recognized him soon enough, and a few shy children asked him to return when he took his leave.

One lucky boy, who was visiting with his family, ran into the entire entourage on their way up to the wards and got a teddy bear in return. The boy and his mother then ran into Santa a floor later — apparently they both had appointments on the same level — his saucer-like eyes widening at his luck.

Inside the ICU, Santa and Mrs. Claus visited 3-year-old Henley White, the daughter of Cody and Whitney White of Lompoc. Last week Henley was diagnosed with leukemia and on Wednesday it looked like they might be going home as a family.

But not before Santa visited the girl, bringing her a large Winnie the Pooh. Henley hugged Santa and calmly stroked his white gloves and fur-lined sleeves as she lay in bed.

"This makes her happy," said Whitney. "And whatever makes her happy at this point makes us happy."

Lizeth Corona, 13, was in the ICU for diabetes-related issues, and was in her green gown and sitting with her mom, Gina, when Santa arrived bearing an Etch-a-Sketch and Connect Four.

"I'll probably play these today," she said.

Fidel Diaz was here with his 13-year-old son Gabriel, who is using a wheelchair and was in for back surgery. The Nipomo family may have



HELENA DAY BREESE/NEWS-PRESS

Mrs. Claus and Santa give gifts to a pediatric patient at Cottage Children's and Medical Center on Wednesday.

to spend Christmas in the ward, but if so, Cottage helps out by finding places for the whole family to spend Christmas together, putting them up in rooms off-site.

"But being at home is the key," Mr. Diaz said. "It will be tamales and pozole."

Jaynie Wood, child life specialist for Cottage's Children's Services, is head of the event, which takes in the children's Intensive Care Unit, the children's section of the hospital, and even the emergency room if and when some kids have arrived there.

Mrs. Claus' secret identity is Kim Novak (not the movie star), board

member of Santa Barbara Association of Health Underwriters, who raise money throughout the year for the presents that Santa brings to the kids.

"This is the highlight of the year," Ms. Novak said. "To see the smiles on everybody's faces, it's heartwarming. Even when children are scared at first, they have a warm spot in their heart for Santa."

For the parents, this visit of happiness was a big help. As Whitney White said, "We got our Christmas wish."

email: news@newspress.com



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A streak of light is seen over an apartment complex in Las Vegas on Tuesday. Officials say the streak of light seen burning across the sky by people in three Western states was debris from a Russian rocket re-entering the atmosphere.

Fireball lights up sky

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The body of a Russian rocket that burned up as it entered the Earth's atmosphere set off a wave of excitement on social media and fueled speculation over what caused the flash of light to shoot across the sky in the American West.

The fireball seen over Arizona, Nevada and California on Tuesday night was an SL-4 rocket body booster from Russia that launched Monday, U.S. Strategic Command spokeswoman Julie Ziegenhorn said.

U.S. and Russian officials declined to discuss the rocket's use, but experts outside the government say it was launched as part of a project to bring materials to a space station. They say the rocket's body likely detached from the craft taking items into space and burned up as it started to go out of orbit.

"It's not something people need to worry about," said David Wright, a space-debris expert who is co-director of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

An unmanned Russian cargo ship lifted off Monday from that nation's space launch complex in Kazakhstan on a journey to the International Space Station. The craft, which carried fuel, water, food and other supplies, has since docked at the station.

People who witnessed the burning light posted photos and video on social media, with some speculating that it was a meteor.

Others resorted to humor, punctuating their comments with a rocket emoji and saying the light across the sky looked like Santa's sleigh. Some people expressed distrust about the U.S. government's comments on the rocket.

"I was kind of freaked out to see

something like that blowing up in the air, and you don't know what it is," said Gunnar Lindstrom, who saw the streak of light as he got out of a car at his Las Vegas apartment complex.

He initially thought it was an airplane. Mr. Lindstrom, a bartender with a side business as a videographer, said his first instinct was to grab his cellphone camera.

"I was upset I couldn't grab my real camera," he said.

The flash of light is not unusual in portions of the Western United States, which offer an effective stage for sky shows.

Dark skies and few tall mountains make Nevada and northern Arizona a good spot to view the atmosphere at night, said Josh Bangle, a spokesman for the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff.

Light pollution over major metro areas might make such a flash of light hard to see.

The same areas got a good view of a U.S. military missile test two weeks ago in New Mexico that produced a white contrail across the sky. Officials shared details about the launch with communities hundreds of miles away to cut down on the speculation.

The debris that burned up Tuesday was part of a rocket that's frequently used in the Russian space program, according to Hannah Thoburn, a research fellow at the Hudson Institute who specializes in the internal politics of Russia and Ukraine.

She also said it wasn't something that should stir concern, but she understands why some people would distrust the government's comments on the spectacle, given the heightened tensions between the United States and Russia.

"It makes sense that people are skeptical," Ms. Thoburn said.

For a good Claus Impromptu Christmas call center gives kids a direct line to Santa

By BRETT LEIGH DICKS
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

What would you do if your telephone rang all day long with misdialed calls from children looking for Santa Claus? For the past 10 years, Goleta resident John Dickson has ho, ho, ho-ed right along.

Mr. Dickson's business telephone line, 1-800-SANTABARBARA is just one digit away from dialing 1-800-SANTACLAUSE.

Not long after establishing the line in December 2006, he received a misdialed call from a young boy in search of Santa. The calls kept coming.

Rather than change the number or let the calls ring out, Mr. Dickson decided to embrace happenstance and adopt the role of the "Accidental Santa." He now runs a seasonal call center out of his suburban home where children from all across the country can call a team of helpers with their Christmas wishes.

"I just happened to get that number for my business a few weeks before Christmas and as soon as I activated the line I got a call from a little boy looking for Santa," Mr. Dickson recalled. "He wanted a blue truck, pony, and spider so I played along. I looked at my phone and realized I was one number off 1-800-SANTA-

CLAUSE and that made my day. 15 minutes later I got a call from a little girl so I just decided to have fun with it."

After Mr. Dickson's mother called the News-Press that first year, her son's case of mistaken identity was quickly thrust into the national spotlight. When The Associated Press ran a story the next day, the Accidental Santa was featured in newspapers across the country. Television networks and National Public Radio also latched onto the story and called to set up live interviews. CNN even showed up on Christmas Eve with a satellite truck.

Up until that point the incoming

calls for Santa were all the result of misdialed digits, but that quickly changed with the exposure.

"When CNN came they did a live cross to my house," Mr. Dickson said. "It was a case of a mistaken number up until the story went national. Then CNN put my telephone number on the screen in a banner saying 'Santa's toll free line' which sent it all around the country. The calls went from one every 10 or 15 minutes to the phone ringing off the hook."

The attention Mr. Dickson has received over the years has kept kids phoning in from all corners of the country over the years. He doesn't

advertise, leaving it all up to fate. From one year to the next, he is never sure how many calls are going to come.

"I've been doing this for 10 years now and all I know is a lot of people out there have my number," he said with a laugh.

As Mr. Dickson chatted with the News-Press, the calls came into the call center thick and fast.

Along with his wife and sister-in-law, Mr. Dickson had four volunteers on hand answering the phones, and there was no shortage of requests. Along with trending items

Please see **CLAUS** on A8

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INSIDE

Business.....B1	Dear Abby.....B4	Sudoku.....B5
Classified.....B7-8	Nation/World.....A4-5	TV Listings.....B4
Comics.....B6	Obituaries.....A8	Voices.....A2
Crossword.....B5	Sports.....B2-4	Weather.....A8

LOTTERY

Wednesday's SUPER LOTTO: 4-17-25-27-31 Meganumber: 14	Wednesday's DAILY 4: 7-0-2-1
Tuesday's MEGA MILLIONS: 11-21-40-50-70 Meganumber: 15	Wednesday's FANTASY 5: 2-12-23-32-39
Wednesday's DAILY DERBY: 06-04-03 Time: 1:40-52	Wednesday's POWERBALL: 28-30-35-58-59 Meganumber: 15
Wednesday's DAILY 3: 7-2-5 / Midday 9-2-2	

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