

In soccer, UCSB Men earn first-round bye to host game on Sunday



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# SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 156TH YEAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

75¢

## UC cancels regents meeting, cites potential danger

TERENCE CHEA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—The of California board on Monday canceled its next meeting after law enforcement officials warned about possible violence and vandalism at a planned demonstration.

The Board of Regents had been set to hold its bi-monthly meeting and discuss state funding on Wednesday and Thursday at the UC San Francisco Mission Bay campus but will reschedule and possibly hold it at another venue, officials said.

The move came after law enforcement officials received information that "rogue elements intent on violence and confrontation with UC public safety officers" were planning to join otherwise peaceful demonstrations planned at the meeting, according to the UC statement.

"They believe that, as a result, there is a real danger of significant violence and vandalism," the statement said. "They recommended to us, in the strongest of terms, that we cancel or postpone the meeting as scheduled."

The statement came from board Chairwoman Sherry Lansing, Vice Chairman Bruce Varner and President Mark Yudof.

10-campus system, which has raised tuition substantially over the past few years in response to sharp cuts in government support.

ReFund California, a coalition of student groups and employee unions, reserved 20 buses to take students and other protesters to the regents meeting on Wednesday and had expected several thousand demonstrators to show up, said Charlie Eaton, a coalition organizer and graduate student at UC Berkeley.

"It's disappointing that rather than have that conversation about how to make banks and the 1 percent pay for higher education, they're canceling an important democratic meeting," said Eaton, an elected representative of the UC student employees union.

Regarding the statement about potential violence and vandalism at the meeting, Eaton said, "I have no idea what they're talking about. They haven't shown anybody this so-called intelligence."

The coalition, which seeks to make big banks and wealthy individuals pay higher taxes to help fund public education, now plans to head to Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco's financial district, where protesters initially planned to go after the regents meeting, Eaton said.

On Wednesday night, protesters plan to try to re-establish an Occupy encampment on campus, setting up another potential clash with UC police who arrested 40 demonstrators as they tried to pitch tents near Sproul Plaza last week.

ReFund California activists also plan to protest at Wednesday's meeting of the California State University Board of Trustees in Long Beach, where trustees were expected to vote on a plan to raise tuition by 9 percent next fall unless the state increases funding to the 23-campus system.

Cal State officials have no plans to cancel or postpone the board's meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday but will increase security, said CSU spokeswoman Claudia Keith.

## Milius finishes stay in Santa Barbara



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Visitors take a tour of the guided missile destroyer USS Milius, shown below, on Monday.

KATHRYN WATSON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

As its red and white "Don't tread on me" flag waves majestically over the Santa Barbara waters, harkening back to a patriotic motto from the days of the American Revolutionary War, the USS Milius leaves no room for doubt that it is not to be messed with.

With more than 20 machine guns on board — one of them capable of firing 4,200 rounds in a single minute — the San Diego-based Arleigh Burke-class Aegis guided-missile destroyer possesses the technology to hit anything as far away as the horizon.

"If you see it, you can shoot it," explained STG Carl Farmer, a sonar technician, as he introduced a tour group on Monday to the ship's most powerful guns on the bow.

Over the past few days, Santa Barbara has served as this impressive craft's temporary port, giving locals and visitors the chance to test their

sea legs and learn the ins-and-outs of the vessel. Through events like the 16th annual Military Ball on Saturday and a sailors' tour of President Reagan's Rancho del Cielo on Monday, the Milius crew also got to have a taste of Santa Barbara.

A multi-mission capable ship, the Milius' last four deployments were ballistic missile defense patrols — to detect and track ballistic missiles of all ranges, according to the U.S. Navy's website.

The Milius' colorful medals speak of its many missions since its commissioning in 1996: Global War on Terrorism, National Defense and Navy Achievement are just a few.

"It's designed to destroy things, hence, the name destroyer," said STG Farmer.

The ship is named in honor of Navy pilot Capt. Paul Milius, who was piloting an observation aircraft in an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos on Feb. 27, 1968, when his air-

Please see **MILIUS** on **A10**



## Carpinteria council weighs trees, youth sport fees

KATHRYN WATSON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Per a unanimous vote from the City Council Tuesday night, the city of Carpinteria will hold a public workshop prior to proceeding with any alterations of the trees along the 1300 block of Camino Trillado.

In the same vote, the council also decided to cut down and replace a sycamore that hangs just six and a half feet above street level in the 5400 block of Eighth Street.

As Management Analyst Dylan Paul, who made the presentation to the council, conceded, residents have conflicting concerns over the Camino Trillado block.

The possible removal and replacement of the Camino Trillado trees was prompted by a single letter of complaint, which led to last month's site visit by the city's Tree Advisory Board. Meanwhile, as Camino Trillado resident Robert

Cochran told the council, about 130 residents have signed a petition, saying they appreciate the trees' beauty.

"We're looking to find solutions," said Mr. Cochran.

At this point, the trees that fit within the city's replacement plans include island oak, maidenhair and London plane trees. Vice-mayor Brad Stein suggested continuing discussions over Arbol Verde Street's trees at the Camino Trillado workshop.

In other business, a city staff recommendation that would have charged players in nonprofit youth sports who use city parks \$8.25 per season came to a stalemate before any vote could be taken.

The money raised from charging softball, soccer and little league players would only amount to about \$7,000, staff admitted — a

Please see **CARP** on **A4**

## Authorities fight relocation of sexually violent predator

By NORA K. WALLACE  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Santa Maria officials and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office are fighting the release of a sexually violent predator to a home located about a half-mile from an elementary school.

On Dec. 5, a Placer County judge is expected to rule on the residential placement of convicted sexually violent predator Tibor Bela Karsai, 58. Mr. Karsai, whose mother lives Santa Maria, was convicted in 1980 of false imprisonment with force; oral copulation by force and rape by force or violence. He was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

On Monday, Santa Maria Police Chief Dan Macagni, City Attorney Gil Trujillo and police Sgt. Terry Flaa held a press conference to outline steps the city is taking to prevent Mr. Karsai's release into the community, to a home near Liberty Elementary School.



SANTA MARIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Placer County judge will soon decide whether Tibor Karsai, under California law a sexually violent predator, should be relocated to Santa Maria, where he'd live about a half mile from an elementary school.

Jessica's Law prohibits sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of any public or private school, or park

Please see **PREDATOR** on **A7**

## Beutel back on the beat

After extended leave, controversial SBPD officer again on patrol

By SCOTT STEEPLTON  
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

Kasi Beutel, the Santa Barbara police officer whose conduct before and after she started wearing a badge landed her in the headlines the last six months, has apparently overcome whatever prompted a series of undisclosed leaves that delayed her testifying in a number of DUI-related court and DMV hearings and is again patrolling the streets.

Meanwhile, the investigative journalist whose New Year's Day DUI arrest by Officer Beutel resulted in a series of stories published in the News-Press that raise numerous questions about the officer's credibility, is set to be back in court today, trying to get the misdemeanor case thrown out.

In papers filed Monday, the attorney representing Peter Lance states that all evidence against his client should be thrown out because the New Year's Day traffic stop that led to the arrest was not supported by an objective violation of the law. Thus the officer who stopped him had no reason-

Please see **BEUTEL** on **A7**



NORA K. WALLACE / NEWS-PRESS

Rep. Elton Gallegly

## Gallegly considering a move?

MORGAN HOOVER  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A spokesman for Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, would not confirm Monday newspaper reports that the congressman is weighing retirement or running against fellow Republican Buck McKeon for California's 25th Congressional District.

"An announcement will be made at the proper time," Mr. Gallegly's spokesman Thomas Pfeifer told the News-Press in an email.

The Antelope Valley Press quoted Rep. McKeon as saying Rep. Gallegly would challenge him. "As near as I can pin him down, he's running against me," Rep. McKeon told the paper.

Mr. Pfeifer noted that with pending lawsuits challenging the redrawn district lines, there is still a chance that those lines could change again.

Mr. Gallegly has been a member of Congress since 1993 and is considered a more conservative member of the body.

email: mhooover@newspress.com



# Measurement of distance from school at issue

## ■ PREDATOR

Continued from Page A1

where children regularly gather.

According to Mr. Trujillo, Placer County Superior Court Judge James Garbolino ruled that Mr. Karsai is being considered for placement in Santa Maria because the SVP law indicates offenders should be returned to the county of their residence at the time the crime was committed. Judge Garbolino ruled the felon had lived in Santa Barbara County at the time of his most recent arrest, a ruling the city does not accept.

In addition to fighting that destination ruling, the Santa Maria City Council will tonight consider adopting an urgency ordinance — which would become effective immediately — that would indicate the 2,000-foot safety zone around parks and schools should be measured in a straight line from property line to property line. Judge Garbolino ruled the appropriate way to measure was by “travel distance,” and the proposed home is just outside the limit if travel distance is applied.

“We disagree with the judge’s ruling and interpretation of Jessica’s Law,” Mr. Trujillo said.

Measuring by a straight line, he added, “is consistent with the intent of Jessica’s Law to provide a clear, predator-free zone around schools and parks.”

Mr. Trujillo and Chief Deputy District Attorney Stephen Foley are going to Placer County on Dec. 5, when the judge will consider Santa Maria’s objections. District Attorney Joyce Dudley said Monday that her office has already sent Mr. Foley to Placer County three times for past hearings to object to Mr. Karsai’s planned placement.

Sgt. Flaa and Chief Macagni said that if Mr. Karsai is released locally, there will be notices sent to surrounding neighbors and community meetings.

“We’re going to be right on top of this issue,” Chief Macagni stated. “We’re not pleased with it. That’s why we’re going to this ordinance. But a judge has the ultimate authority to force this upon us. If he does, we’ll take the next steps to do what

we have to do to protect our people, our children and our community.”

Mr. Karsai has a long history of sexual offenses. He is considered a sexually violent predator, or someone who, according to the California Penal Code has been convicted of a sexually violent offense against one or more victims and who “has a diagnosed mental disorder that makes the person a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is likely that he or she will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior.”

According to court records for the 1980 case, Mr. Karsai was on parole when he saw a 16-year-old girl in an Auburn bowling alley. After he exposed his genitals, the girl tried to leave. But he dragged her into the men’s bathroom and forcibly committed sex acts with her while threatening her with death.

Mr. Karsai also had a previous rape by force conviction and a previous conviction for oral copulation by force in Santa Barbara County. He was sentenced in 1974 for those offenses and paroled in 1979 to San Luis Obispo County.

According to a 1985 Modesto Bee newspaper report, Mr. Karsai — then 31 years old — and another convicted rapist escaped a medium security prison by cutting through a chain link fence and kidnapping a Tracy area motorist. They were later captured at gunpoint in a San Leandro laundromat.

According to Mrs. Dudley, once Mr. Karsai completed his prison time in 1998, the Placer County District Attorney’s Office petitioned to have him remain in custody as a sexually violent predator.

He has been incarcerated under that law ever since, until the Placer District Attorney agreed to let him out of custody through a conditional release program monitored by Liberty Healthcare Corp.

Along with the city of Santa Maria, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office also objects to Judge Garbolino’s ruling of Santa Maria as Mr. Karsai’s last place of residence. Prosecutors will also argue that the 2,000-foot interpretation should be considered actual distance, not travel distance.



Santa Maria City Attorney Gil Trujillo, left, and Police Chief Dan Macagni hold a press conference on a violent sex offender who may be released to live near a school.

During Monday’s press conference, a Santa Maria man confronted Mr. Trujillo with concerns.

“Are you going to do something about it other than measure feet and making that the issue?” he asked. “Isn’t the real issue that he’s going to come into the city and be released?”

Mr. Trujillo indicated the city is doing all it can to prevent Mr. Karsai from being placed in the North County.

“It seems to me the issue is not whether it’s San Luis County or Santa Barbara County or Shasta County,” the man said. “The issue is this guy has done this twice, and he’s going to get out. Shouldn’t we be putting all our resources into stopping the fact that he’s getting released?”

Following the press conference,

the man, who said he was a member of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said if Mr. Karsai does move to town and commits another crime, city officials would be held accountable, likely by a recall movement.

Sgt. Flaa said he’s not aware of any sexually violent predators living in Santa Barbara County. One such predator named Kenneth Kasten Rasmuson was placed in a rural home east of Lompoc in 2009. He had a history of sexual offenses, including sexually assaulting an 11-year-old Santa Barbara boy in 1981 and kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 3-year-old from Los Angeles in 1985. According to a newspaper in Idaho, Mr. Rasmuson has relocated to Sandpoint, Idaho.

email: nwallace@newspress.com

# Defense to bring up evidence from several arrests

## ■ BEUTEL

Continued from Page A1

able suspicion that Mr. Lance was impaired when he sat at a green light for six seconds before driving off in a lawful manner.

This on top of numerous credibility issues surrounding Officer Beutel — using pre-answered arrest reports, alleged bankruptcy fraud, subornation of perjury and unsupported statements in her report on the Lance case — says attorney Darryl Genis, all point to the stop and arrest being a violation of Mr. Lance’s Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

In a 30-page filing of legal points and authorities to support the motion to dismiss, Mr. Genis cites cases where courts found no basis for traffic stops where motorists waited even longer than Mr. Lance to proceed on a green or to proceed from a stop sign.

The defense also cites a local case in which a California Highway Patrol officer was found on appeal to lack probable cause to stop a motorist whose car drove over a fog line two times, even though that motorist’s blood alcohol content was ultimately found to be more than three times the legal limit.

Based on an appeal affirming the original judge’s ruling, a motion to suppress evidence in that case was granted.

The District Attorney’s Office on Monday afternoon had not received the latest Lance documents.

When he appears before Superior Court Judge Brian Hill on pre-trial motions this morning, Mr. Lance,

63, plans to present, through counsel, even more examples of DUI arrest documents prepared by Officer Beutel and others that feature what those arrested claim are signatures purported to be theirs, but which are instead forgeries.

Mr. Lance says he never signed a so-called Trombetta waiver giving up his right to provide a retestable blood sample during the stop in which Officer Beutel says he blew a .09.

The legal limit is .08. “From the beginning of my investigation, the central issue above all others regarding Officer Kasi Beutel’s alleged misconduct has been whether or not she witnessed my signature on a Trombetta blood test waiver that was forged,” he said. “We had already found five other instances in Kasi Beutel DUI arrests and two other instances in DUI arrests made by her husband Officer Mark Corbett where nationally ranked handwriting expert James Blanco found forgeries.”

Today, the defense is expected to provide Judge Hill with documents from two other arrests that Mr. Blanco of Blanco Associates says include possibly forged signatures of the people arrested. One arrest took place New Year’s Eve — hours before Mr. Lance’s arrest — and Kasi Beutel was the arresting officer.

The other took place Jan. 12. In that case, Aaron Tudor was the arresting officer; he was assisted by Officer Beutel, who was also training Officer Tudor to take over the department’s Drinking Driver Team from her.

Upon looking at the documents in question, Mr. Blanco came to the same conclusion as in earlier comparisons: The signatures were not consistent with, nor did they repre-

sent the natural, normal and genuine handwriting characteristics of the motorists in question.

“The (Jan. 12) forgery suggests a systemic problem of misconduct within the Santa Barbara Police Department that goes beyond Kasi Beutel,” said Mr. Lance. “All of this evidence was uncovered by the investigation that stemmed from my arrest. How many more instances of alleged forgery do we have to produce before Judge Brian Hill disallows this case on the basis of outrageous governmental conduct — an issue he has yet to fully rule on?”

Indeed, Judge Hill has made just one ruling: that the shredding by a Police Department employee of Mr. Lance’s original Trombetta waiver was not grounds to dismiss.

But other issues remain, including how the court will treat the credibility of Officer Beutel. Mr. Genis says Judge Hill should distrust all of her testimony because she willfully included in a report on the Lance matter material she knew to be false.

This allegation of perjury is based on a form Officer Beutel filed with the Department of Motor Vehicles stating Mr. Lance made “unsafe turning movements” prior to the stop — a statement the officer who pulled Mr. Lance over that morning testified under oath that Officer Beutel knew to be an error.

“And yet she kept it in her police report with the full confidence that her credibility as a police officer would cause the court to believe her to the detriment of (Mr. Lance),” says Mr. Genis.

Officer Beutel’s recent leave has been an issue for the defense, who tried to get her on the stand several times, only to find out she was un-

available.

She went out in August for what was said to be an on-duty injury and her return date was to be sometime after Sept. 14. When that date came and went, department brass said the leave was extended — a move said to be the norm, not the exception.

The defense says her being unavailable was part of a scheme to keep Officer Beutel from having to answer credibility questions under oath. She eventually took the stand, but the judge prevented Mr. Genis from delving into her credibility.

Santa Barbara Police Department Sgt. Lorenzo Duarte confirmed Monday that Officer Beutel is again on patrol.

In another development, Mr. Lance has added another attorney to his defense team, William C. Makler.

“I have chosen to associate in as counsel for Peter Lance to do whatever I reasonably can to assist the court in the fair and efficient administration of justice,” said Mr. Makler. “The many stakeholders in this case, which include Peter Lance, Kasi Beutel, the local criminal justice community and, most importantly, the tax-paying residents of the city and county of Santa Barbara deserve to see this case decided expeditiously and on its merits.”

Said Mr. Genis on Monday: “Today we made public and official what many in the Santa Barbara legal community have known for a quarter of a year: that we are united in our efforts to reform SBPD DUI enforcement. Kasi Beutel and those who seek to protect her should be very worried right now.”

email: sstepleton@newspress.com

# Judge to rule on DeNunzio blood request

ANGEL PACHECO  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A judge today could order the release of a blood sample for independent examination by the defense in a controversial DUI arrest in which police used a Taser against a man several times.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office has yet to file any charges against Tony Vincent DeNunzio, 50, in connection with an Oct. 21 DUI traffic stop at Loreto Plaza. But defense attorney Darryl Genis has already been pushing to get a split of the blood sample authorities collected following the arrest for study at an independent lab.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Hilary Dozer has contended the request is premature because the case

is under review and no charges have been filed, but Superior Court Judge Brian Hill was leaning toward siding with the defense during a Monday morning hearing.

However, the judge wouldn’t commit to handing down an order for the blood split until he has an opportunity to review whether there is an administrative procedure that would accomplish the same goal without the court order.

Judge Hill will share his findings this morning.

Regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed, Mr. DeNunzio’s arrest will on Dec. 7 be the subject of a Department of Motor Vehicles hearing, at which his driving privileges could be suspended, according to Mr. Genis. The attorney is hoping to get a split of the blood,

which is being examined by the California Department of Justice lab in Goleta, sent to an independent lab for examination and have the results available in time for the DMV hearing.

Judge Hill questioned Mr. Dozer about what the prejudice would be to the prosecution should the split be granted for Mr. DeNunzio to defend himself from getting his driving privileges suspended. The prosecutor acknowledged there wouldn’t be one, but continued in his objections.

Mr. Dozer argued that administrative remedies are in place for such requests, while Mr. Genis said the Department of Justice instructed him to get a court order for the split.

Mr. DeNunzio’s arrest has gained significant attention in the community, as witnesses reported that po-

lice used excessive force against him although they say he wasn’t resisting arrest. Officers reportedly punched and used a Taser against the man multiple times.

Police accounts have differed, describing Mr. DeNunzio as not complying with an officer’s verbal commands to get back in his vehicle. Police Chief Cam Sanchez in a statement said the officer’s tactics were in compliance with standard procedure for someone resisting or obstructing arrest.

Mr. DeNunzio was also allegedly driving without a valid license; it having been suspended as a result of a prior DUI conviction. He is on probation from that case.

email: apacheco@newspress.com

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**Baron Ron Herron**  
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**10:00-10:59 AM & 8:00-8:59 PM**  
**Golf Radio**  
PGA professional David Scordia shares local links news, tournament results and tips to lower your score.

**11:00-11:59 AM & 9:00-9:59 PM**  
**Community Alert**  
hosts Michael Williams, Ted Adams, and, guests talk about emergency preparedness.

**12:00-12:59 PM**  
**AM1290 NewsHour**  
breaking world, national and local news from the BBC, CNN and newspress.com.

**2:00-2:59 PM & 10:00-10:59 PM**  
**The Rooster Crows**  
host Rooster Bradford shares wake-up calls and commentary about global, national, state and local events.

**3:00-4:59 PM**  
**The Andy Caldwell Show**  
Watchdog, business and traditional values advocate interviews leaders and scholars about local, state and national issues.

**5:00-6:59 PM**  
**David Jay**  
with news, weather, sports, traffic reports every ten minutes, and, Steve Crozier’s daily financial market reports