

Your News

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor in Chief Tom Bodus at tbodus@ivpressonline.com or (760) 337-3427.

VALLEY BRIEFS

EL CENTRO

No arrests in fatal stabbing

No arrests had been made as of Wednesday in connection with last weekend's fatal stabbing of Mario Zepeda De La Torre in downtown El Centro, police said.

De La Torre, 62, of El Centro, was found bleeding in the 400 block of West Main Street about 11:30 p.m. Saturday and died hours later at El Centro Regional Medical Center. A blood trail revealed he had been stabbed at South Fourth and West State streets.

Police interviewed potential witnesses in the area, one of whom reported seeing an altercation involving someone in a vehicle, but no suspects were

located.

Police asked that anyone with information about the matter to call the Investigation Bureau at (760) 337-4502 or use the department's social media page.

IID board president absent from meeting

James Hanks, Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors president, did not attend Tuesday's board meeting and there was no immediate information on when he might return to work.

Board Vice President Alex Cardenas conducted the meeting.

Hanks had been hospitalized in San Diego last week with an undisclosed illness, two sources stated.

At that time, Cardenas had said he hoped Hanks would recover in time to attend the Tuesday meeting.

On Wednesday afternoon, Cardenas reported, "I am in communications with President Hanks daily, keeping him posted on IID business. He is in great spirits and doing well. Not sure on his status regarding his health concerns, but in my exchanges with him, he appears strong and anxious about grabbing the gavel once again."

Hanks' Division 3 includes the county's North End. He has served on the board since 2006 and his seat is on this year's ballot. He has not notified this newspaper about whether he will seek another term.

—Gary Redfern, gredfern@ivpressonline.com

MEXICALI BRIEFS

AGRICULTURE

Milk producers, authorities meet

Milk producers met Tuesday with state Secretary of Agriculture Juan Meléndrez in order to address concerns of the dairy industry — the third most valuable product nationwide.

Producers told the authorities that items like hay have increased in cost about 50 percent — an issue that puts stakeholders in jeopardy as milk prices cannot increase accordingly.

Producers are seeking greater vertical integration within the industry to improve cost efficiencies while expanding focus on product innovation and consumer preferences.

Meléndrez said the meeting sought to connect all those involved in the dairy industry. A second follow-up meeting has been scheduled, he said.

Stakeholders decided to launch several measures, including promoting local consumption, improving oversight, inviting federal officials to verify product quality and integrating production chains, among others.

CRIME

Man shot to death in rural town

A man was shot to death Tuesday evening in a rural town, according to media reports.

La Voz newspaper said that the incident was reported to the authorities at 6:20 p.m. in a residence located in the Colonia Del Valle area in Los Algodones.

According to the report, police agents were flagged by a person who reported that a man was injured in a residence located at Valle Imperial and Sierra Coronado streets.

The 35-year-old victim was declared dead at the scene. Detectives found several .223 caliber bullet casings in the body's vicinity.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Wanted man arrested after damaging cop car

A man wanted for domestic violence was apprehended Tuesday evening after resisting arrest and damaging a patrol car.

The police said they found Jesús Enrique, 27, at 8:39 p.m. as he was driving a gray 2014 Chevrolet Camaro in the Fraccionamiento Nuevo Mexicali area.

The police attempted to stop the driver, but he attempted to flee, triggering a chase.

The suspect allegedly crashed into a patrol car while fleeing.

The driver was caught while trying to flee on foot and taken to a police substation.

SPORTS

Archer seeks to compete in future Olympics

Mexicali archer Luis Alvarez has Paris and Los Angeles on his mind.

The athlete, who won a bronze medal in the co-ed competition in Tokyo, has plans to return to the Olympics of 2024 and 2028.

"Everything that will happen in 2021 — the Olympic Games, Tokyo, the competitions, were something good that I will always have in my mind (and) in my heart," the athlete said in a press release. "But now I must keep practicing."

Alvarez plans to return to practice in the Center of High Performance of Tijuana to prepare for the Olympics, but first has traveled to Guadalajara before the National Outdoors Tournament that will take place in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.

The Monterrey tourney is the very first competition toward qualifying in the Paris Games.

After Monterrey, Alvarez said he plans to compete in the Las Vegas Open.

Also, the archer has plans to take part in the Central American and Caribbean Games of San Salvador 2023 and the Pan American Games of Santiago 2023, as well as the world tournaments.

—Arturo Bojorquez, abojorquez@ivpressonline.com

New Mexico officer dies in chase of suspected kidnapper



Law enforcement gathers along Interstate 25 as several agencies take part in a search for a suspect who was involved in a kidnapping and high speed chase that resulted in a Santa Fe Police Officer being killed, on Wednesday near Santa Fe, N.M. EDDIE MOORE/THE ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL VIA AP

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Law enforcement agencies were searching the Santa Fe area for a suspected kidnapper whose flight from police into oncoming traffic led to fatal car crashes Wednesday, killing a police officer pursuing him as well as at least one motorist who had nothing to do with the chase.

Police on Wednesday night identified the officer killed as Robert Duran, a 43-year-old senior officer assigned to the department's patrol section.

They said Duran joined the department in January 2015. He leaves behind a wife and two teenage sons.

"Officer Duran was well respected and loved by his peers," Santa Fe interim Po-

lice Chief Paul Joye said. "We as a department and as individuals are still grieving and processing his loss."

Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber vowed to deliver justice to the fallen officer as police from multiple agencies continued the search.

"Let there be no doubt that the combined law enforcement officers who are now working on this will find the suspect. Justice will be done," Webber said in a statement.

The kidnapping was reported about 11 a.m. at an apartment complex where a man armed with a knife allegedly stole a vehicle occupied by a woman.

Officers unsuccessfully tried to stop the

vehicle, but the driver got onto Interstate 25, police said. Heading into oncoming traffic, police said the suspect drove south toward Albuquerque in the northbound lane.

The chase soon led to a crash involving four vehicles: two driven by police, one by the suspect with the victim inside, and another vehicle, police said.

Police said Wednesday afternoon that two people died in the crash, including another motorist in the fourth car who wasn't involved in the chase.

"I am deeply saddened by the death of a Santa Fe police officer today while in the line of duty, as well as the tragic death of another motorist," Gov. Michelle Lujan

Grisham said in a statement.

Police said the suspect managed to get away.

The kidnapping victim also managed to exit the vehicle and was taken to a hospital. Her name also wasn't immediately released.

Police were asking area residents to stay in their homes as they searched for the suspect, while cellphones buzzed across the county with an emergency alert warning people to avoid the interstate, now a sprawling crime scene.

Mikaela McCray, a hostess at a restaurant near the crash scene, said the highway was full of police vehicles including at least one helicopter overhead.

CALIFORNIA LOTTERY

Results for Wednesday, March 2

Daily 3 Midday 9-0-6
Daily 3 Evening 2-6-2
Daily 4 7-8-9-1
Fantasy 5 1-2-4-11-19

Daily Derby
Race time 1:46.54
1st 04 Big Ben

Superlotto 6-14-16-19-38
Mega Ball 8
Powerball 19-37-48-61-63
Power 12

2nd 10 Solid Gold
3rd 11 Money Bags

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