



Briefs

Written by Information Provided to San Fernando Valley Sun

Thursday, 21 June 2007

VAN NUYS

Man killed in motorcycle accident

(CNS) – A 23-year-old man was killed Monday when he lost control of his motorcycle, which went over an embankment of the San Diego (405) Freeway in Van Nuys, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The accident occurred just south of Victory Boulevard about 1:30 a.m., said CHP Officer David Porter.

John Magdi Samuel of Encino was pronounced dead at the scene, said Craig Harvey of the coroner's office.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident, Porter said, adding that an investigation was under way.

The right two lanes of the southbound 405 were closed for more than three hours in the vicinity of the crash scene.

PACOIMA

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center clinic receives 2,000 donated books

(CNS) – More than 2,000 donated books were delivered Tuesday to children and parents at a Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center clinic in Pacoima that serves mothers recovering from substance abuse.

The donation was part of an effort by the nonprofit organization BookEnds -- founded by 8-year-old Brandon Keefe and his mother, Robin -- which encourages youth around Southern California to collect books to help other kids and teens improve their reading skills.

The book delivery was led by 13-year-old stage and film actor Nathan Norton, a Tarzana native.

"To give books to kids who don't have that much makes me feel really good," said Norton, who has appeared in television shows such as "Six Feet Under," "Without a Trace" and "ER."

Dr. Kita Curry, director of the Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center, said the book delivery helps parents struggling to provide basics for their children.

"The activity that has the biggest effect on a child's learning to read successfully is when parents read with their kids," said Dr. Curry.

Since 1998, the nonprofit BookEnds has delivered more than 1.2 million donated books to more than 300,000 at-risk students.

NORTHRIDGE

CSUN Receives \$1 Million Grant to Prepare Low-Income Students for College

Cal State Northridge has received a \$1 million, four-year grant from the federal government to help 50 San Fernando Valley high school students from low-income families attend college.

The Upward Bound project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, will have Northridge students and project staff working closely with students and counselors at Reseda, Birmingham and Vergudo Hills high schools to make sure that students in grades nine through 12 have the skills and support they need to go to and succeed in college.

"The impact will be felt not only by these high school students, but by their family members, friends and everyone else they encounter. They will be the embodiment of the message that college is possible for everyone," said Javier

Hernandez, director of CSUN's Student Outreach and Recruitment Services.

The project will provide project participants with academic instruction in such core subjects as mathematics, lab science, composition, literature and foreign languages. Additionally, participants in the program will receive one-on-one tutoring, academic counseling and mentoring as well as cultural enrichment opportunities and advice on such topics as financing a college education and admission requirements.

The high school students will regularly visit college campuses around the Southland, including a five-week stay at Cal State Northridge.

"It's intended to give them a taste of what going to college is really like, and at the same time demystify the college," Hernandez said.

Last Updated (Thursday, 21 June 2007)

[Close Window](#)