

# SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 150TH YEAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

50¢

ELI LURIA: 1919-2006

## Philanthropist was longtime civic leader

Developer spent 27 years as a City College trustee

By THOMAS SCHULTZ  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Eli Luria, the Santa Barbara real estate developer whose hands-on philanthropy and volunteer work made him one of the region's most lauded civic leaders, died Friday morning at home after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 86.

A longtime Santa Barbara City College trustee, Mr. Luria played a key role in the land

purchase that created the picturesque West Campus. He led a fund drive that raised \$1.2 million, including his own \$250,000 donation, to help build and in 1989 open the library there that bears his name.

As a developer, Mr. Luria is best known for office buildings, homes and apartments dotting the South Coast.

An artist who exhibited his brightly colored paintings as recently as this month, Mr. Luria in the early 1990s shared humorous anecdotes

about his family's globe-trotting in a pen-and-ink News-Press cartoon series he called "Travel Sketches."

Mr. Luria was a staunch backer of the mission of the United Nations, and he also heavily supported the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and several other organizations; his record of involvement dates to his arrival on the South Coast in the mid-1950s.

"He was a man of all seasons, I'll say that about him," Leatrice Luria, his wife of more than 59 years, said hours after his death Friday.



Please see **LURIA** on **A14** Eli Luria in 1997.

## Gallegly bows out of election

Announcement from 10-term congressman surprises many

By NORA K. WALLACE  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Elton Gallegly, the 10-term conservative Republican congressman from Simi Valley who led the fight against illegal immigration and who in recent years championed strong anti-terrorism legislation, abruptly announced Friday that he will not seek re-election.

Though he filed his re-election candidacy papers in mid-February, Mr. Gallegly said in a statement that he has been dealing with an unspecified medical condition for the past two weeks, which has not been resolved.

"Although I am hopeful it will be resolved positively, it would not be fair to my constituents and supporters should I be forced to withdraw from the race midyear," said Mr. Gallegly, who turned 62 on Tuesday. "It has not been an easy decision but I believe it is the correct one."

Each election year, Mr. Gallegly has fended off rumors that he would not seek another term in Congress, representing the 24th District, which ranges from Simi Valley to Vandenberg Air Force Base. He has maintained that he had work to continue, especially with regard to illegal immigration, military preparedness, natural resources and anti-terrorism.



Elton Gallegly

Please see **GALLEGLY** on **A8**

## SNOW DAY Local residents get rare chance to frolic in the white stuff



RAFAEL MALDONADO / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

By SHELLY LEACHMAN  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Snow coated parts of Santa Barbara County on Friday morning, dusting the mountaintops just miles above the Pacific Ocean's glimmering, sapphire surface.

It was a rare day of wild weather in a region where winter temperatures sometimes call for swimsuits, not snowshoes. By 10 a.m., East Camino Cielo looked more like Colorado than California, as thick snowflakes swirled quickly through the winding road's dense foliage.

Please see **SNOW** on **A14**



Jacob Thielst, 4, of Los Olivos fires a snowball at his mom, Terri, on Friday morning in a field off Figueroa Mountain Road. At left, Christopher Finley, also of Los Olivos, goes sledding on a plastic trash can lid as German shepherd Huckleberry frolics nearby.



RAFAEL MALDONADO / NEWS-PRESS

If elected, Yvette Andrade has vowed to be a voice for Latinos in the Santa Maria area.

## Activist enters race for county supervisor

By BARNEY McMANIGAL  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Challenging a popular North County incumbent, longtime political organizer Yvette Andrade on Friday launched her campaign for county supervisor, pledging to be a voice for Latino residents who she says have not been heard by elected officials.

The former congressional aide and Democratic Party activist officially entered the June race for the seat held by Supervisor Joe Centeno of Santa Maria.

While praising the Republican incumbent she has known socially for years as "a nice guy," Ms. Andrade said she would

Please see **ANDRADE** on **A8**

## SUSPECT ARRESTED IN '92 KILLING

Police say DNA evidence links San Quentin inmate to slaying of Santa Barbara woman. **STORY ON A3**

## American hostage's body found in Iraq

Virginia man was held with Briton, 2 Canadians

By JUAN-CARLOS RODRIGUEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — An American who was among four Christian activists kidnapped last year in Iraq has been killed, a State Department spokesman said Friday.

The FBI verified that a body found in Iraq on Friday morning was that of Tom Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Va., spokesman Noel Clay said. He said he had no information on the other three hostages.

Mr. Clay said he did not know how Mr. Fox

was killed, but said additional forensics will be done in the United States. The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is investigating, he said.

Mr. Fox's family has been notified, Mr. Clay said, and "our heartfelt condolences go out to them."

Mr. Fox's organization, Christian Peacemaker Teams, said Friday, "We mourn the loss of Tom Fox, who combined a lightness of spirit, a firm opposition to all oppression, and the recognition of God in everyone."

Please see **IRAQ** on **A10**

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■ Americans think Iraq is headed for civil war. **A10**

■ Number of Iraqi civilian deaths remains murky. **A12**

## Killer turned priest is paroled

James Tramel will begin new life in Berkeley

By ROB KUZNIA  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER



James Tramel

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has granted parole to James Tramel, a murderer turned priest who took part in the unprovoked killing of a homeless man at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara 20 years ago.

On Sunday, when the Rev. Tramel is released, a parole agent will shuttle him from Solano State Prison in Vacaville — 45 miles east of San Francisco — to a parole

office in Berkeley, where the Rev. Tramel will sign papers and be a free man, according to Margot Bach of the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The 38-year-old will be on probation for three years, during which time he cannot vote or drink alcohol.

But unlike the vast majority of ex-cons who haven't set eyes or foot on the free world in

Please see **PAROLE** on **A14**

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### OUTSIDE

Chilly and wet  
Coast: 55/39 Inland: 49/32  
COMPLETE FORECAST **B14**

### MARKETS

Dow Jones 11,076.34 (+104.06)  
Nasdaq 2,262.04 (+12.32)  
THE COMPLETE BOTTOM LINES **BUSINESS / B8**