

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS



SPORTS:
Southwest faces
Calexico in
IVL wrestling.
▶ B1



OPINION:
Is disbanding the
Heffernan hospital
district the way to go?
▶ A7



THURSDAY
January 14, 2010

ivpressonline.com
adelantevalle.com

50c

THE IMPERIAL VALLEY'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

TEMPS

73° 41°

Friday's high: 71°
low: 40°

Sunny and windy today;
sunny and pleasant
Friday. For more
weather, see B5.

NEWS TIP

Got a news tip? Visit
www.ivpressonline.com
and click the "News Tip"
icon.

REGION

El Centro names its
king and queen
of Mardi Gras.
» See A4

THAT'S ODD

ZERO CENTS



RICHLAND, Wash. — Not
even the police are
immune from those offers
of free money from African
countries that are really
scams.

Richland police could
use another \$4,000, but
the department wasn't
tempted by the cashier's
check it received Friday in
the mail from the country
of Benin.

Officer Erica Tungevik
says officers immediately
recognized it as a bogus
attempt to learn bank
account information if the
check were deposited.

An officer wrote up a
report on the incident and
Tungevik says it serves as a
reminder that if the police
can be the target of such a
scam, anyone can.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEATHS

Antonio Aguilera, 71
El Centro

Toni Church, 44
El Centro

Mary Hatton, 88
Longtime Imperial Valley
resident

» See Obituaries, A6

INSIDE

ABBY.....B4 MOVIES.....A5
CLASSIFIED.....B6 OPINION.....A7
COMICS.....B4 REGION.....A4
CROSSWORD.....B6 SPORTS.....B1-2
LOTTERY.....A5 WEATHER.....B5

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This newspaper
is published
for Charlene Ford of
Imperial and the rest of
Imperial County.

INSIDE

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FLAT STANLEY

Children's character visits the Valley



JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

Roberta Patton holds Flat Stanley, sent by her great-grandson in Idaho, in an alfalfa field east of Brawley as lambs graze in the background.

Idaho students get ag lesson

▶ PAPER MAN:

Travels started with storybook character.

By DAVID STEFFEN
Staff Writer

Flat Stanley has
accepted a special
mission as
Imperial Valley
ambassador and will
teach Idaho school-
children about the
Valley's importance to
America's food supply.

Flat Stanley is a 6-
inch paper man that 6-
year-old Wyatt Kunz
of Bonners Ferry,
Idaho, sent to his
great-grandmother,
Roberta Patton of El
Centro.

"I want to show to
kids the importance of
the Valley," she said.
"It's not just a desert."

Kunz's assignment
was to send his ginger-
bread man cutout to a
friend or relative else-
where in the U.S., who
then takes photos in
areas of interest with
the gingerbread man.
The friend or relative
writes an essay about
the region and sends
the essay, photos and
gingerbread man back
to the students in

Idaho.

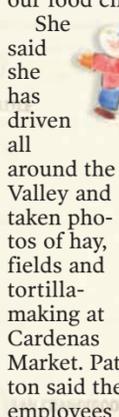
"It's just a really
unique project, and
actually, I've enjoyed
doing it," Patton said.

It is important to
show her great-grand-
son and his classmates
how the Valley pro-
vides food for the
nation, especially dur-
ing winter, she said.

"The Valley feeds
people," she said. "It's
an important part of
our food chain."

She
said she
has
driven
all
around
the
Valley
and
taken
photo-
s of hay,
fields
and
tortilla-
making
at
Cardenas
Market.
Patton
said the
employees

» See
STANLEY/A6



BONNERS FERRY,
IDAHO

SALT LAKE
CITY

IMPERIAL
VALLEY

AT A GLANCE

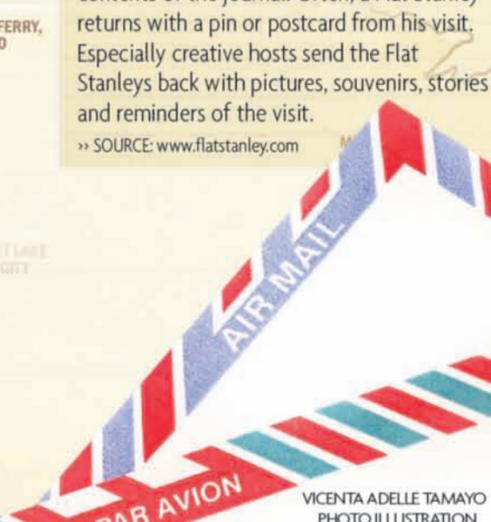
■ "Flat Stanley" is a book written in 1964 by children's author Jeff Brown about a boy who is flattened by a bulletin board and uses his new shape to visit friends by mail.

■ In 1995, Dale Hubert, a third-grade teacher in Canada began the Flat Stanley Project. He invited other teachers to take part by hosting flat visitors and to encourage their students to write their own Flat Stanley journals.

■ The Flat Stanley project has become a popular pen pal activity used by teachers to help educate students about other parts of the world.

■ Students make paper Flat Stanleys and begin a journal with him for a few days. Then Flat Stanley and the journal are sent to another school where students there treat Flat Stanley as a guest and complete the journal. Flat Stanley and the journal are then returned to the original sender. Students can plot his travels on maps and share the contents of the journal. Often, a Flat Stanley returns with a pin or postcard from his visit. Especially creative hosts send the Flat Stanleys back with pictures, souvenirs, stories and reminders of the visit.

» SOURCE: www.flatstanley.com



VICENTA ADELLE TAMAYO
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Eureka, now Haiti: How would Valley fare?



JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

Civil engineer Robert Osborne, president of CANI Industrial Design and Engineering Inc., uses his hands Wednesday to demonstrate how a building shakes during an earthquake.

▶ SOCIAL STRUCTURES:

Would be helpless during "the Big One."

By DAVID STEFFEN
Staff Writer

The Imperial Valley's
location above a hotbed
of seismic activity means
its buildings are some of
the most earthquake-
resilient in the nation.

"The fact they're still
standing speaks for
itself," said Robert
Osborne, president of
CANI Industrial Design
and Engineering in El
Centro.

California structures

boast strong earthquake
resilience, said Mark
Benthien, director for
communications for the
Southern California
Earthquake Center.

"California is near the
top in terms of imple-
mentation of building
codes," Benthien said by
phone from Los Angeles.

QUAKE MEASURES

Brian Donley, building
division manager for

» See QUAKE/A6

ICTC tackles traffic, roads

▶ TRANSPORTATION:

Commission
replaces IVAG.

By ELIZABETH VARIN
Staff Writer

WESTMORLAND —
Though it is still in the
process of creating
bylaws and transferring
funds, the Imperial
County Transportation
Commission manage-
ment committee had its
first meeting Wednesday
morning.

The commission,
which changed from the
Imperial Valley Associa-
tion of Governments to
the new commission Jan.
1, will focus on trans-
portation issues in the
Valley, said Imperial City
Manager Marlene Best,
who was part of the sub-
committee involved in
the transition. It may
handle some other issues,
but those would be in ad
hoc committees, not the
regular commission.

There was a definite
advantage to switching to
a new commission, she
said.

"As a transportation
commission, we have the
opportunity to be in
more control of our dol-
lars," she said.

It was also not neces-
sary for the commission
to be in charge of areas
other than transportation
because of sub-boards
that were created and act
on their own, like the
Imperial Valley Resource
Management Agency and
the Local Transportation
Authority Administration.

The concept to
change began a few years
ago, though it was pre-
sented to the manage-
ment committee during
the summer, with a
meeting set for Septem-
ber 2009, she said. Since
then, it has been a race to
finish before the first of
the year, when the offi-
cial switch took place.

It was handed off to
the management com-
mittee from the Imperial
County Transportation
Commission as the man-
agement committee deals
with technical details,
she said. It is made up of
city managers and county
officials.

The meeting Wednes-
day went well, she said.

» See ICTC/A6

HOW TO HELP

A 7.0-magnitude earth-
quake shook Haiti's capital
city, Port-au-Prince, to the
ground on Tuesday, which
will likely leave thousands
dead.

Residential, commer-
cial, health care, educa-
tional and government
buildings crumbled after
the quake. Anyone inter-
ested in making a donation
to charitable organizations
assisting Haiti can visit the
Web sites of the Red Cross,
UNICEF, the Salvation
Army and Haitian singer

» See HELP/A6