

Daily Breeze

The South Bay's choice for 117 years
Reaching 437,912 readers every week

25¢

Prayer alarms air crew

LOCAL A3

Libyan rebels suffer a blow

Loyalists score a victory
NATION+WORLD A7



DEAL OF THE DAY

Today's Deal: \$25 for an Intro Scuba Class (\$50 Value) and \$50 Off an Open-Water Diver Course

Purchase at dailybreeze.com/dealoftheday

DAILYBREEZE.COM/APPS GET SOUTH BAY NEWS UPDATES DELIVERED TO YOUR PHONE.

Redondo teens skid off the university track

SCHOOLS:

High-achieving district seeks change with just 42 percent meeting UC and CSU eligibility rules.

By Rob Kuznia Staff Writer

By all accounts, Nick Smith is a stellar student. The Redondo Union High School senior is on track to graduate with a 3.8 GPA, earning 60 more credits than necessary to walk the stage — with honors. And yet he didn't have the option to apply to a four-year college

in the California State University or UC systems.

That's because he never learned until it was too late that he needed two years of a foreign language to qualify. In many ways, he's not unlike the majority of Redondo Union High graduates.

Like other schools in relatively affluent areas, Redondo Union has a strong academic reputation, with an unusually high number of students taking Advanced Placement classes.

But it is lagging in one surprising area: Fewer than half of the school's graduates — just 42 percent — have

taken all the necessary courses to qualify for entry into four-year colleges in either of the state's major university systems.

The statistic is especially striking when compared with other South Bay high schools.

At wealthy Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High, the corresponding college-ready rate is 84 percent — double that of Redondo's. At the two high schools in the Palos Verdes Peninsula school district, it ranges from 70 to 80 percent. In Torrance's four high schools, the rate hovers between

REDONDO All



College student Megan McCaw is helping Redondo Union High School students in an AVID college-prep class.

Scott Varley Staff Photographer

Death toll, worries mount

JAPAN:

As millions go without food and water, new explosion rocks nuclear plant.

By Eric Talmadge and Todd Pitman
The Associated Press

SOMA, Japan — Rescue workers used chain saws and hand picks Monday to dig out bodies in Japan's devastated coastal towns, as Asia's richest nation faced a growing humanitarian, nuclear and economic crisis in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Millions of people spent a third night without water, food or heating in near-freezing temperatures along the devastated northeastern coast. Also, the containment building of a second nuclear reactor exploded because of hydrogen buildup while the stock market plunged over the likelihood of huge losses by Japanese industries including big names such as Toyota and Honda.

More than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in Friday's twin tragedy that has caused unimaginable deprivation for people of this industrialized country that has not seen such hardships since World War II. In many areas there is no running water, no power and four- to five-hour waits for gasoline. People are suppressing hunger with instant noodles or rice balls while dealing with the loss of loved ones and homes.

"People are surviving on little food and water. Things are simply not coming," said Hajime Sato, a government official in Iwate prefecture, one of the three hardest hit.

"We have repeatedly asked the government to help us, but the government is overwhelmed by the scale of damage and enormous demand for food and water," he told The Associated Press.

"We are only getting around just 10 percent of what we have



Japan Self-Defense Force personnel aid patients as they leave a helicopter in Nihonmatsu after being evacuated from a hospital in a town near the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex. The patients might have been exposed to radiation

requested. But we are patient because everyone in the quake-hit areas is suffering."

He said local authorities were also running out of body bags and coffins.

"We have requested funeral homes across the nation to send us many body bags and coffins. But we simply don't have enough. We just did not expect such a thing to happen. It's just overwhelming."

Sato said local authorities may ask foreign funeral homes to send supplies.

The pulverized coast has been

JAPAN A9



An official scans a man for radiation at an emergency center Sunday in Koriyama, Japan, two days after a giant quake and tsunami struck the country's northeastern coast.

Gregory Bull
The Associated Press

Helicopter crashes at Raytheon facility

EL SEGUNDO:

Pilot is seriously hurt; fire damages warehouse.

By Sandy Mazza Staff Writer

A helicopter crashed into a Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems warehouse in El Segundo on Sunday morning, causing an intense fire and severely injuring the pilot.

The Sikorsky helicopter was attempting to lift an industrial air-conditioning unit to be replaced at 9:30 a.m. when the aircraft lost control and crashed onto the patio next to the building, El Segundo Fire Department Battalion Chief Richard Guyer said.

Fuel leaked onto mechanical parts and caught fire, immediately spreading flames to the two-story building known on site as E-1, Guyer said. The pilot was pulled to safety and taken to a nearby trauma hospital. The extent of his injuries was not released.

El Segundo Fire Department and several other local fire agencies responded and put the four-alarm fire out within 40 minutes, Guyer said.

"When we were going on scene, the smoke and fire was a large plume," Guyer said. "It was probably a couple hundred feet into the air. This is a large industrial complex and they had labs and offices."

The crash site could not be seen from the street on Sunday, and Raytheon officials did not allow reporters inside the complex. The warehouse is located at 2000-2040 E. El Segundo Blvd.

CRASH A11

Killings shake Lomita's small-town atmosphere

CRIME:

Black Widow, Thyme and Harbor Hills homicide cases grip 'the friendly city.'

By Nick Green Staff Writer

Thyme now stands still in Lomita. The shuttered restaurant opposite City Hall is where investigators earlier this month jackhammered the concrete floor in an unsuccessful search for the remains of co-owner Dawn Viens, missing for almost 18 months.

David Viens, her convicted drug dealer husband and the restaurant's chef and co-owner, confessed to detectives from his hospital bed that he killed her, shortly after flinging himself off a Palos Verdes Peninsula cliff in a suicide attempt.

The lurid crime transfixed the quiet city longtime residents have affectionately dubbed "Slo-mita," where the pace of life is ratcheted back a notch from much of the rest of metropolitan Los Angeles.

In some respects, the 21st century has bypassed the community of 20,000 that sits in the shadow of neighboring and

much larger Torrance.

The smell of hay from Lomita Feed (established 1927, reads a sign) still wafts down the main drag where signs proclaim: "Lomita — the friendly city."

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, a community hub dating to the 1920s, is known for its large, long-running Lomita Fair.

And Lomita remains a city where a sense of community prevails and small-town values are cherished.

LOMITA A10

ADVERTISEMENT

Are You Suffering From CHRONIC BACK PAIN?

Non-Surgical Spinal Decompression is Successful at Relieving Pain Caused by...

- ▷ Disc Herniation ▷ Sciatica ▷ Degeneration
- ▷ Disc Bulge ▷ Stenosis ▷ Facet Arthrosis

Call For a FREE Consultation

Dr. Abrajano D.C.
2424 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Suite O. Torrance, CA
310-997-2163

www.spinalaid.com