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# Times-Herald

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**DISCOVERY KINGDOM**

## THEME PARK DEBUTS TSUNAMI WATER RIDE



CHRIS RILEY — VALLEJO TIMES-HERALD

VIP guests get drenched on the new Tsunami Soaker at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom on Wednesday during a preview for the water ride that will open this weekend.

**By Lanz Christian Bañes**  
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There's a blue line circling the ground around Six Flags Discovery Kingdom's newest ride, a quiet reminder that passers-by will get wet.

Or, more appropriately — drenched.

"My girls would love this," said a dripping Pippin Dew-Costa, a Vallejo council member as she shook the water from her hair Wednesday.

Dew-Costa, along with two of her friends, were among the first to try out Tsunami Soaker, which

**TSUNAMI SOAKER**

**What:** Water ride  
**Where:** Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo

**Public Opening:** May 31  
**Number of boats:** 9  
**Number of passengers:** 54  
**Quantity of water:** 100,065 gallons

**Height restrictions:** 36 inches, with adult

combines a gentle spinning ride with an all-out water gun battle. The ride doesn't officially open until Saturday, but guests and media were allowed a preview in advance of Tsunami Soaker's public debut.

"I'm glad it's a hot day because you get very, very wet," Dew-Costa said.

The ride, near the Go Karts at the park's southeastern borders, replaces a whale-themed children's ride. Nine barrel-shaped cars spin around a central tower topped with a pelican. Each car also rotates individually, allowing its six passengers to train their water cannons at riders and gawkers alike.

However, the audience is also armed, with water cannons circling the fence around Tsunami Soaker, allowing for a water war in multiple fronts.

As the ride begins, the porous floor drops out, allowing water to

flood the bottom of the ride and the boats to float.

"It's great. I'm wet," said Dylan Cayuga, a 14-year-old visiting from Nevada.

The ride takes 100,065 gallons of water. As part of its conservation efforts, Discovery Kingdom recirculates what water doesn't end up on park guests.

Tsunami Soaker was constructed in Germany by Mack Rides and can carry up to 54 passengers at a time.

The minimum height requirement is 36 inches with an adult.

Contact Lanz Christian Bañes at 707-553-6833.

**CRIME**

## One dead, two injured in Vallejo shootings

Police say incidents don't appear related

Times-Herald staff report

Two shootings within hours of each other left one man dead and two others injured in Vallejo on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning, police said.

Police said they have no information indicating the two incidents, which occurred on opposite ends of town, were related.

The first shooting occurred about 9:10 p.m. at the 5 Star Gas Station at 101 Lincoln Road West. One victim, a 24-year-old man, was shot in the torso. He was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

Authorities have not yet released his identity.

A second victim who was walking near the shooting scene sustained a gunshot wound to the foot, police said. He was transported to an area trauma center.

Police said the two victims did not appear to be associated with each other.

The preliminary investigation indicated that multiple rounds had been fired at an occupied parked car, police said.

No suspect information has been released.

The slaying marks Vallejo's sixth homicide of the year, including a fatal officer-involved shooting in April.

SHOOTING » PAGE 3

**WEATHER REPORTING**

## Abandoned years ago, Vallejo needs weather station

**By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen**  
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No one has been officially monitoring the weather in the Vallejo-Benicia area for the past five years, making accurately predicting and reporting the local weather essentially impossible, National Weather Service officials say.

Vallejoans and Benicians also can't know if weather records — precipitation, heat or cold — are being set and/or broken, and won't know until a weather station is re-established here, Sacramento area National Weather Service meteorologist technician George Cline said.

A weather station was monitored at the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom amusement park between 1996 and 2009, but it stopped providing the service and no one at the weather service knows why, Cline and Monterey area weather service meteorologist Steve Anderson said. The equipment is likely still there, Cline said.

No one at Discovery Kingdom was available to discuss the issue Tuesday.

The cooperative network of weather service monitors started July 1, 1891, when the weather ser-

WEATHER » PAGE 3

**1928-2014**

## Author Maya Angelou dies at 86

**By Hillel Italie**  
 The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** » Maya Angelou was gratified, but not surprised by her extraordinary fortune.

"I'm not modest," she told The Associated Press in 2013. "I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility, because humility comes from the inside out."

Her story awed millions. The young single mother who worked at strip clubs to earn a living later danced and sang on stages around the world. A black woman born poor wrote and recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history. A childhood victim of rape, shamed into silence, eventually told her story through one of the most widely read memoirs of the past few decades.

Angelou, a Renaissance woman and cultural pioneer, died Wednesday morning at her home in Winston-Salem, North Car-

olina, her son, Guy B. Johnson, said in a statement. The 86-year-old had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

"She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace," Johnson said.

Angelou had been set to appear this week at the Major League Baseball Beacon Awards Luncheon, but canceled in recent days citing an unspecified illness.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, she was unforgettable whether encountered through sight, sound or the printed word. She was an actress, singer and dancer in the 1950s and 1960s and broke through as an author in 1970 with "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," which became standard (and occasionally censored) reading and made Angelou one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success. "Caged Bird" was the start of a multi-



AP PHOTO/GERRY BROOME

People visit a memorial outside the home of Maya Angelou in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Wednesday. Angelou has died at the age of 86.

part autobiography that continued through the decades and captured a life of hopeless obscurity and triumphant, kaleidoscopic fame.

The world was watching in

1993 when she read her cautiously hopeful "On the Pulse of the Morning" at President Bill Clinton's first inauguration. Her confident performance openly

AUTHOR » PAGE 3

**FOREIGN POLICY**

### Obama: US use of drone strikes will continue

Obama said attacks against suspected terrorists "when necessary to protect ourselves" will continue. PAGE A8



### Vallejo's Castillo to be honored in Napa

Tragedy and will give her valedictorian speech during Napa College's graduation. PAGE A2

**BUSINESS**

- ▼ Dow Jones Industrial 16,633.18 (-42.32)
- ▼ Standard & Poor's 1909.78 (-2.13)
- ▼ Nasdaq 4225.07 (-12.00)

**SPORTS**

### Giants win series finale against Chicago Cubs

The Giants got their second straight shutout and defeat the Cubs in the series finale at AT&T Park. PAGE B1