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Tuesday

April 28, 2015

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HEALD COLLEGE

Students: Why did campus close?

By Roberto M. Robledo
 rrobledo@thecalifornian.com

"What happens to our money? What happens to our loans? What happens to the time invested here?"

— **CINDY TOPETE**, Heald College student from Hollister
 Students showing up for classes at Heald College in Salinas on Monday found the campus closed — for good.
 Dressed in her dark blue uni-

form required for medical assisting students, Cindy Topete of Hollister was stunned and a bit teed off.

"I feel angry ... frustrated and confused because I was going to graduate in October and now I have to see where I have to go, if my credits will transfer to another college," she said.

Topete didn't get the memo. Apparently, Heald's parent company Corinthian Colleges notified all of its remaining 28 schools on Sunday that it was

closing the business, displacing about 16,000 students, about 7,000 of those Heald enrollees.

"It's just so frustrating that we put so much time and effort into this and then for them to just close the door on us like that," Topete said. "What happens to our money ... our loans ... the time invested here?"

The 34-year-old mother of two daughters, ages 2 and 4, was re-entering the job market with plans to become a medical assistant.

ONLINE

Heald College students can visit www.oag.ca.gov/Corinthian to find information on eligibility for debt relief, available resources and the closure status of a specific campus, according to state Attorney General Kamala Harris.

She began at Heald last July and expected to complete the program in October. Attending classes four days a week, from four to eight hours a day, Topete was on a fast track to finish — but it's been a struggle, she said. "A lot of us have to pay child

care. We have to work double jobs just to be able to come to this school."

Corinthian's financial woes were made public last summer. An investigation by the U.S. De-

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JEFF MITCHELL
 CIVIC CHRONICLES

Council to revise 'Rules of Decorum'

Members of Salinas City Council are set to consider adopting Tuesday what I would call some simple, straightforward and needed rules of how to conduct themselves as elected officials.

Promoted by Mayor Joe Gunter, Vice Mayor Jyl Lutes and Councilwoman Gloria De La Rosa, the proposed rules are reasonable and, frankly, long past due.

So kudos to Gunter, Lutes and De La Rosa for being the adults in the room and for finally doing something about the many problems and issues facing how this council functions.

And let's get one thing out of the way right at the top — these rules are all good and reasonable and will apply equally to all members of the body. But anyone who has watched this body knows that Councilman Jose Castañeda will very well be the first caught up in them.

This guy has demonstrated time after time that the same laws that apply to you and me just don't apply to him.

He drives on suspended

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DEADLY EARTHQUAKE



ALTAF QADRI/AP

A man sits with a child on his lap after Saturday's earthquake in Nepal.

Nepal death toll reaches 4,000

Rescuers dig through rubble in Kathmandu

By William Cummings
 USA Today

Rescuers in Nepal desperately searched Monday for survivors who may be buried amid the rubble in the capital of Kathmandu or trapped in remote mountain villages, as the death toll soared past 4,000 from Saturday's massive earthquake.

The tally could rise further after officials assess the damage to communities nestled in the mountains. Efforts to reach those re-

mote villages have so far been hampered by landslides that have blocked many mountain trails.

Three Americans are among those killed on Mount Everest after the quake triggered an avalanche.

Udav Prashad Timalisina, the top official for the Gorkha district, where the magnitude-7.8 quake was centered, said he was in desperate need of help. "There are people who are not getting

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AVALANCHE WITNESS

» Climber Carsten Pederson, who survived the avalanche that hit the Mount Everest base camp, told CNN that he saw people trying to flee the rush of ice and snow.

» "They were trying to outrun the avalanche, and you cannot," CNN quoted Pederson as saying. "So many people were hit from behind, blown off the mountain, blown into rocks, hit by debris; tents were flying off."

Prosecutor describes gunman's path to carnage

By Sadie Gurman
 Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colo. — A prosecutor declared Monday that two psychiatric exams found Colorado theater gunman James Holmes to be sane as he meticulously plotted a mass murder, considering a bomb or biological warfare before settling on a shooting so that he could slaughter more people.

"Boom!" District Attorney George Brauchler said as he showed pictures of the victims and the weapons Holmes used to kill them on a TV screen. "Boom!" he repeated, describing in detail how bullets pierced organs and destroyed limbs.

Holmes' public defender, Daniel King, countered that 20 doctors who examined him in custody, as well as the therapist who saw him before the shootings, agree he suffers from schizophrenia, a psychotic brain disease that skewed his thoughts and compelled him to kill.

"He was a good kid" who had no record of ever harming anyone before he had a psychotic delusion that compelled him to murder 12 people and wound 70 at a midnight "Batman" premiere nearly three years ago, King said.

Holmes has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. His defense hopes jurors will agree and have him committed to an institution as criminally insane for the rest of his life.

"Mental illness can sure sound like an excuse, but in this case, it's not," King said. "There will be no doubt in your minds that by the end of this trial, Mr.

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Vol. 154, No. 102
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 A Gannett newspaper
 The Californian is printed on recycled paper.



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Jury selection begins in child torture case

By Allison Gatlin
 agatlin@thecalifornian.com

Both doors to Department 3 were wide open Monday morning at Monterey County Superior Court where bailiffs were preparing for an influx of potential jurors in a high-profile torture trial.

Jury selection kicked off at 8:30 a.m. in the torture, child abuse and neglect trial of Erica Dawn Craig and Christian Jessica Deanda, two Salinas women accused of starving their adopted daughter and severely neglecting their sons.

If convicted of the torture charge — which carries an enhancement alleging great bodily injury — Craig and Deanda face a minimum of 10 years to



Deanda

Craig

life in prison, said prosecutor Berkley Brannon. Torture is the most serious charge facing the duo.

By 3 p.m., about 100 prospective jurors lined the third-floor corridor at Superior Court. Others milled in stairwells or outside making phone calls.

"It's probably going to be awful," a bailiff cautioned.

Craig and Deanda's case has been widely publicized since their arrest March 15, 2014, at

their Russell Road home. Monterey County prosecutors have called it "the most extreme case of child abuse" they have ever seen.

On March 14, 2014, alerted to possible trouble at the home when the little girl missed a second physical therapy appointment in 10 days, deputies responded to the Salinas residence. There, they found what former Sheriff Scott Miller called "squalid" conditions.

That day, all three children — then ages 8, 5 and 3 — were taken into custody by Child Protective Services. The 8-year-old girl weighed roughly 40 pounds, and evidence suggested she might have been chained at the neck to prevent her from obtaining food, Miller said at the

time. She was hospitalized for five days.

"She was extremely emaciated," Miller said at the time of the arrests. "She's been described as someone who looks like someone who'd been in a concentration camp."

Only the youngest is the biological child of one of the women.

The elder two were previously placed with Craig and Deanda.

All three appeared to have been neglected, prosecutors said.

Investigators returned March 15, 2014, with a search warrant.

While searching the proper-

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