



Free agency, draft alter league hierarchy

SPORTS, 1B



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ESPARTO FIREWORKS FACILITY EXPLOSION

Stockton teen ID'd as 1 of 7 killed

Hannah Workman
The Stockton Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

An 18-year-old baseball player from Stockton was identified as one of seven people killed in an explosion at a fire-

works facility in Esparto, the Yolo County Sheriff's Office announced July 11. Authorities confirmed that Angel Mathew Voller, a recent graduate of Venture Academy and a pitcher on its championship varsity baseball team, was one of the people killed in the in-

cident. The deadly explosion stemmed from a July 1 fire at a warehouse owned by Devastating Pyrotechnics in Esparto, about 82 miles northeast of Stockton. The flames ignited fireworks stored inside, leveling the building and sparking

the Oakdale Fire, which burned 78 acres. The blaze was 100% contained as of July 6, according to Cal Fire. At the time of the explosion, two people were treated for injuries, and Yolo

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Parental rights ruling has decades-old roots



Protesters rally outside the Supreme Court on April 22 as justices heard arguments in a case to determine whether a Maryland school district's reading program infringed on parents' rights. The court later ruled that parents can opt out of certain lessons for their kids. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY FILE

Case caps years of litigation over opting students out of certain lessons

BrieAnna J. Frank
USA TODAY

On April 8, 1992, Suzanne Brown asked her son, Jason Mesiti, about his day at school. "He said, 'probably the worst in my life,'" Brown recalled.

While she said the remark was "somewhat dramatic," she, too, was disturbed by what her son, a high school sophomore at the time, described. Mesiti had to attend an assembly about sex and AIDS prevention at his

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Public school districts may now "think very long and hard about including curriculum that is controversial in nature."

Zach Schurin
Attorney in education law

2 men arrested in death of street vendor

Victoria Franco
Special to The Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

The arrests of two men in connection with the May shooting death of a local street vendor was announced by Stockton Police Department officials on July 11. Angelo Smith, 22, and James Cortez, 19, were arrested and booked into the San Joaquin County Jail Thursday in connection with the death of 60-year-old Ignacio Garcia. The men face charges of homicide and robbery. Garcia, known in the community as Nacho, was shot on May 16 in the 1600 block of South California Street.

Stockton police said officers responded at 8:50 p.m. after dispatchers received reports of a shooting. Officers found Garcia, who had been shot in the hip. He was taken to a hospital for emergency surgery, where he later died. Following the shooting, police said a preliminary investigation found that two masked suspects, believed to be Smith and Cortez, approached Garcia as he stood near a mobile vending pushcart. An altercation between the suspects and Garcia resulted in the masked men shooting Garcia in the hip, police said.

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Man charged with setting county probation officer on fire

Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

A man is facing arson and attempted murder charges after allegedly setting a San Joaquin County probation officer on fire, Stockton police said Friday. San Joaquin County Probation Department officials said Adam Lopez, 39, en-

tered the office around 2:10 p.m. Thursday, near South San Joaquin and East Lafayette streets. Lopez was reportedly carrying a gas can and a lighter when he entered, prompting a security guard to activate an emergency alert. The alert resulted in probation officers responding to the area. Officers said that when they attempted

to detain Lopez, he led them to a nearby parking lot, where a struggle occurred. During the altercation, the suspect set the probation officer on fire. While officers at the scene were able to extinguish the flames, the probation officer was taken to a hospital for treatment

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