



SHAKEOUT

For an estimated 150,000 Ventura County residents, a drill helps refine the response to an earthquake. **LOCAL, 1B**

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

QB RECOUNTS EARLY CONTACT WITH OAKS CHRISTIAN ASSISTANT COACH: SPORTS, 1C

75 cents

COAST
73°/56°
INLAND
85°/54°
Clouds, then sun

Quick Read

SANITY HEARING NEARS AN END

Closing arguments start today in a hearing on whether a man was insane when he killed a boy in Newbury Park. **LOCAL, 1B**

POLICE SHOT AT BYSTANDER

Oxnard police say they mistook an innocent bystander for a suspect during a shootout that left the man dead. **LOCAL, 1B**

ADDRESSING LOAN BIAS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reaches out to settle possible loan discrimination between 1981 and 2000. **BUSINESS, 8A**



TIGERS REACH WORLD SERIES

The Tigers eliminate the Yankees in the AL Championship Series. The Cardinals beat the Giants for a 3-1 NL lead. **SPORTS, 1C**



County to pay \$3.2M settlement

Deputy involved in collision that left 1 with brain injury

By Stephanie Hoops
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Ventura County has agreed to a \$3.2 million settlement in a civil case after an investigation found that a sheriff's deputy was speeding when his patrol car rammed a truck driven by a Santa Paula woman who suffered a traumatic brain injury.

The California Highway Patrol initially blamed the woman, Mayra Tellez, 25, for the crash but later found she wasn't the primary cause.

Tellez was driving a pickup on April 17, 2010, when it was struck by the deputy's vehicle on Highway 126, west of Timber Canyon Road near Santa Paula.

After the accident, CHP officials said the pickup had made a sudden left turn in front of the patrol car. The county's attorney Jim Procter, said CHP performed a subsequent investigation.

"Initially, what they found was the primary collision factor was

Ms. Tellez had violated the deputy's right of way," Procter said. "It turned out that the deputy was exceeding the speed limit, and it's a difficult curve out there on 126. Her sight distance was obstructed by a curve in the road and an orchard adjacent to the driveway. So, ultimately, we felt it was a case of some liability and a case that ought to be settled, particularly given the fact that she had such serious injuries."

Deputy William Meixner was driving the police cruiser. Deputy Beau Rodriguez was a passenger. They had just completed a traffic stop and were eastbound on Highway 126 when the

collision occurred.

In a recorded statement made at the hospital, Meixner said he was traveling 55 to 60 miles per hour, said Tellez's lawyer, Bradford Brown. However, Brown subpoenaed information from a crash data recorder attached to the police cruiser that he said showed otherwise.

"The cruiser's computer pegged them at 96 miles per hour one second before impact," he said.

Procter said the county's accident reconstruction expert didn't think it was that fast.

See SETTLEMENT, 2A



JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Ex-stream safety

Under temperatures that hovered near 80 degrees Thursday in Ventura, Hydee Dullam (right), a captain with Ventura Fire Department, sprays students on their way out after the kids attended a fire safety event. The department and the Ventura Unified School District hosted a two-day event for fourth-graders at the area off Alessandro Drive, where the department holds training exercises. About 1,300 students, along with parents and educators, got a chance to see how the department operates through live demonstrations. **Story, Page 3B.**

DEVELOPMENT HITS SETBACK

Newhall Ranch review ordered

Judge rates wildlife studies as inadequate

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A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge this week ordered the California Department of Fish and Game to set aside its approval of environmental studies related to Newhall Ranch, a huge housing development.