

BAY & VALLEY

Five-year-old shot to death in Oakland

OAKLAND — A five-year-old who was playing with a gun at his grandmother's house was shot and killed Friday, investigators said.

Police are looking into whether Keonu "Nunie" Franklin's death was an accident, or the result of foul play.

"We cannot yet tell you if this was a homicide or tragic accident," said police homicide Lt. Ersie Joyner. "We can just confirm that this young boy was shot at his home and died later at Children's Hospital."

The boy lived with his grandfather, Bobby Butler, in a 365-acre farm in Prattville, Ala., but had been visiting his grandmother, Loretta Collier Butler, in Oakland, Butler said. The child was playing with a gun he found in the house when he accidentally shot himself, the grandmother said, declining to elaborate.

"He should have been here with me, he should have been right here with me, I feel bad about that," Butler said. "I saw him just lying there dead in the hospital with blood all over and it just about broke my heart."

Man accused in plot to kill abortion doctor

REDWOOD CITY — A San Bruno man accused of planning to kill a Planned Parenthood physician who performed an abortion for his girlfriend was sentenced to probation and time served.

A San Mateo County judge on Thursday sentenced Joel Joseph Robison, 27, to three years of supervised probation and ordered him to stay away from the doctor who performed the abortion.

Robison, who had been jailed since his arrest in February, was credited with time served and will not have to serve any more prison time. Prosecutors had earlier dropped an attempted murder charge against Robison in exchange for his plea of no contest to felony attempted commercial burglary and misdemeanor possession of a firearm in public.

Prosecutors said Robison drove to a Planned Parenthood clinic in San Mateo with a loaded gun on Feb. 17, but decided not to enter after seeing a security guard out front. He was arrested a week later after checking into a hospital for severe depression. He revealed the plot to a doctor, who notified police.

Ruling affirms ban of big-box stores

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ruled that cities and counties have the right to ban big-box retailers and decide where stores can be located.

The state's highest court on Thursday upheld a Hanford city ordinance that banned furniture stores in a commercial district northwest of downtown while allowing big-box stores to sell furniture in that district.

Hanford officials said the ordinance's goal was to protect the Central Valley city's downtown, which has many furniture stores, while promoting development in the outlying commercial district by attracting large retailers.

The court ruled that as long as the ordinance had a "legitimate public purpose" such as protecting a downtown area, it was legal — even if it limited competition. Attorney Steven Mayer, who represented Hanford, said the ruling "will affect all battles in California where Wal-Mart and other big-box retailers are trying to force their way into cities that don't want them."

—Daily Republic wire services

Sculpture welcomes guests



Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic

A 7-foot-tall sculpture of Mother Earth, by artist Lisa Reinertson, was dedicated Friday in the roundabout at Abernathy and Rockville roads.

"She has her arms raised up to the heavens and is welcoming visitors to a valley that is alive again."

— Jack Batson
Fairfield Vice Mayor

Iconic art created to attract visitors to Suisun Valley

BY INES BEBEA
DAILY REPUBLIC

SUISUN VALLEY — A bronze sculpture of Mother Earth is the newest resident to call Suisun Valley home.

More than 50 guests gathered Friday morning at the roundabout on Abernathy and Rockville roads to welcome the sculpture. Representatives from the county, City Council and transportation department joined members of the arts and agricultural communities at the dedication ceremony.

"You know what I see when I look at the sculpture — Mother Earth is screaming Hallelujah!", said Fairfield Vice Mayor Jack Batson. "She has her arms raised up to the heavens and is welcoming visitors to a valley that is alive again."

The 7-foot-tall sculpture was created by Davis resident Lisa Reinertson, an arts professor at Solano Community College.

The \$68,500 project was commissioned by Solano County and the Suisun Valley Fund. The sculpture is part of a plan to attract more visitors to the valley in hopes that they will discover the wealth of produce and activities.

Today, Reinertson will be part of the Suisun Valley Celebrates Summer Tastes and Talents event, which begins at 11 a.m. at the Vegetable Patch at 2820 Rockville Road.

"This intersection is a gateway entrance to the Valley," Reinertson said. "It symbolizes strength and a sense of enjoyment for the earth. The beauty in the valley, and the combination of agriculture and nature were a big part of my inspiration."

Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez said he supported the arts project because it is an intricate part of building a community.

"As Lisa worked on the art, you could see how she was giving it life and even part of her soul," Vasquez said.

"The art will be iconic for years to come, and we hope to create similar art pieces throughout the county."

Reach Ines Bebea at 427-6934 or ibebea@dailyrepublic.net.

At a glance

What: Suisun Valley Celebrates Summer Tastes and Talents

When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today

Where: The Vegetable Patch, 2820 Rockville Road

Science academy aspires to set green standard

BY TERENCE CHEA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

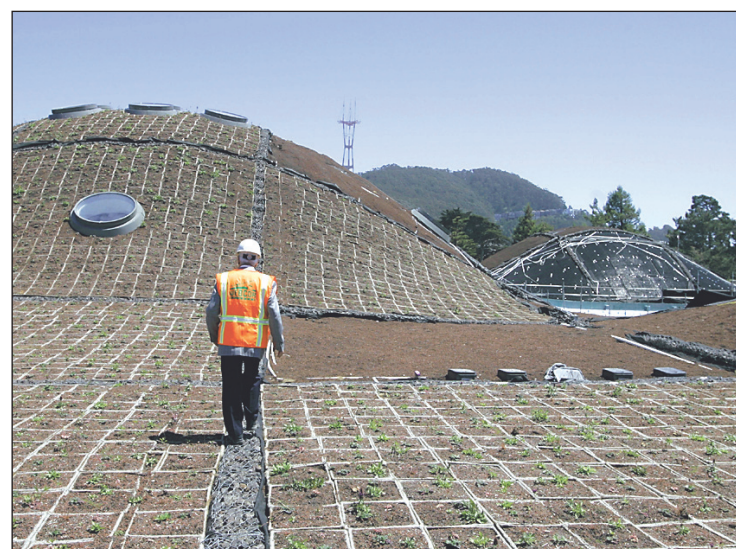
SAN FRANCISCO — Built with recycled materials, powered by sunlight and covered with a "living roof" of native plants, the new home of the California Academy of Sciences is being billed as the world's greenest museum.

When it opens to the public in Golden Gate Park next year, academy officials hope the newly built science education center will become a model for sustainable building for the next generation of museums. "We wanted our building to really reflect our institutional commitment to the environment and its sustainability," said Frank Almeda, senior curator of the academy's botany department. Founded in 1853 as the first

scientific institution in the American West, the privately funded academy is home to eight research departments, as well as an aquarium, planetarium and natural history museum that draw students and tourists from around the world.

The new 410,000-square-foot museum is being built on the site of the academy's 13 original buildings. The museum is scheduled to open a year later after the exhibits are installed and resident animals are moved into their new homes.

Designed by prize-winning Italian architect Renzo Piano, the new structure was constructed to blend into its setting in Golden Gate Park and embody the academy's mission to "explore, explain and protect the natural world."



The Associated Press

Frank Almeda, senior curator of the Department of Botany, walks atop the living roof of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Thursday.

When completed, it's expected to be the first museum to earn the U.S. Green Building

Council's "platinum" certification — the highest rating for environmentally sustainable

construction, officials said.

The museum will feature a variety of energy-saving technologies. Its roof will be bordered with solar panels that will provide a portion of its electricity needs. Its lights will automatically dim and brighten in response to daylight. Rooftop skylights and side windows will open and close automatically to heat and cool the building.

The museum's signature feature will be a 2.5-acre "living roof" carpeted with plants and wildflowers native to the California coast that visitors can view from a rooftop platform. The undulating roof, consisting of seven domes that mimic San Francisco's hilly landscape, will be blanketed with 1.7 million individual plants of nine different species.