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SPORTS: PAGE 6A

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TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

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LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA | \$2.00 | Sunday, July 7, 2019

11% chance of another huge earthquake in Southern California, scientists say

By **KAREN KAPLAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The odds that Southern California will experience another earthquake of magnitude 7 or greater in the next week are now nearly 11%, according to preliminary estimates from seismologists.

And the chances that a quake will surpass the 7.1 temblor that struck near Ridgecrest on Friday night are roughly 8% to 9%, said Caltech seismologist Lucy Jones.

"There's about a 1 in 10 chance that we could have another 7 in this sequence," she said.

More likely is that the Owens Valley will experience another temblor of magnitude 6 or greater. The odds of that are slightly greater than 50-50, Jones said. And more quakes of magnitude 5 or greater are a near certainty.

"It would be extremely unusual if we didn't have

See **EARTHQUAKE**, Page 5A



Irfan Khan/Los Angeles Times/TNS
Carmen Rivera on a morning walk with her dog, Ash, passes by a mobile home dislodged by Thursday's 6.4 earthquake.

Teen drowning victim identified, body found

TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

The body of a Victorville, California, teenager was pulled from Lake Havasu by divers Saturday morning. The Mohave County Sheriff's Department said Chance Huerta, 16, was found by divers a day after he jumped off a cliff near Mohave Rock, just north of the Sand Bar.

According to the sheriff's department, Huerta attempted to do a flip while jumping off the rocks Friday afternoon, and he landed wrong. He briefly resurfaced but witnesses lost sight of him. Dive teams began searching Friday night and resumed Saturday morning.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Division of Boating Safety began investigating, with assistance from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department. Dive teams and side scan sonar were used for underwater searches, while search and rescue Units were activated for shoreline and aerial searches.



Courtesy of Mohave County Sheriff's Office
The body was found Saturday morning around 9:15 a.m.

Caught in the middle



Buck Dopp/Special to Today's News-Herald

"Everyone cooperated, or they (the Viet Cong) would say, 'You are our enemy.' We played with both hands to make peace," Beti Huynh said.

Havasu resident recounts her life in the Vietnam War

By **BUCK DOPP**
SPECIAL TO TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Beti Huynh said 1963 was a miserable year. She was shot in the leg. Her sister suffered a brutal attack, and her family's house burned to the ground.

That year, the fighting between the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese Army disrupted her village and her family who were caught in the middle. Only 13 at the time, Beti Huynh (pronounced Betty Win) walked the mile to her seventh-grade class barefoot.

"They fight at night, and the Viet Cong destroyed roads so jeeps couldn't pass but left a narrow walking path," she said. "One morning there was so much rain the rice fields flooded. The Viet Cong stacked their dead on the walking path. I jumped over the dead bodies and tried not to look

at them."

She felt something bite her on the leg but kept on running. "When I got to school, there was blood dripping down my ankle. My teacher asked what was wrong. I said something bit me."

He lifted her pants and saw the wound. She had been hit with a stray bullet in her lower leg. She still carries the scar as a reminder.

That same year, her 15-year old sister Tot left her job at a factory early, too sick to work. As she walked home, a South Vietnamese soldier violently assaulted her.

Then in December, Beti and her nephew were in the rice fields behind their house when she heard a loud noise. "I looked up and saw a helicopter. I waved to the helicopter. It flew so low I could see the American pointing

See **HUYNH**, Page 9A



Courtesy
Beti Huynh with her sister, Tot. The family nicknamed Tot "Sister #7."

Friend stole thousands from Havasu couple, police department says

By **BRANDON MESSICK**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Charges are pending against a man accused of stealing thousands of dollars from a Lake Havasu City couple.

According to police, 38-year-old Havasu resident Cecil Hernandez stole more than \$10,000 between January and May when he allegedly stole about \$5,000 from an envelope in their home, and made about \$5,000 in fraudulent purchases with the victims' debit card.

According to alleged statements by the victims, Hernandez was a friend who came and went from their home. The victims once allowed him access to their debit card and PIN number to buy clothing and gasoline, but Hernandez made about 70 unauthorized purchases since then, the report said. When the victims began to notice, police say they also noticed cash missing from their home as well.

Police allegedly noted that a majority of unauthorized transactions made with the victims' debit card were made at

a McCulloch Boulevard convenience store. Officers went to the store and viewed video surveillance footage, which allegedly identified Hernandez as he made one such purchase.

According to the report, officers found Hernandez leaving a store near the intersection of McCulloch Boulevard and State Route 95. Officers conducted a traffic stop, and arrested Hernandez at the scene before transporting him to Lake Havasu City Police Department for questioning.

Police say Hernandez admitted to the alleged thefts, stating that he "just wanted to be honest and take full responsibility for everything."

According to police, a pair of firearms belonging to the victim were located at Hernandez's residence after his arrest. Those firearms were ultimately returned.

Court documents were not yet been filed against Hernandez as of Friday afternoon, but a search of Mohave Superior Court records yielded a case number for pending charges.

HAVASU SUNDAY

GOOD MORNING!

106 78

TODAY'S FORECAST:
Plenty of sun



SEE PAGE 8A

INSIDE



NATION: A building explosion at a Florida shopping plaza injured 21 people.

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NATION: Investigators are searching for clues in the Bahamas helicopter crash that left 7 people dead.

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OPINION: Who would take Ronald Reagan's side on immigration?

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OBITUARIES

Helen Livermont
Evelyn Brugger
Carol Troutman

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ONLINE ONLY

View a slideshow of last weekend's "Hot for Havasu" activities. Havasunews.com.

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7 48828 15009 4 50200
SUNDAY

▶ IN BRIEF:

MEDFORD, OREGON
» MAN ARRESTED IN OREGON IN DEATH OF ORIGINAL MOUSEKETEER

Authorities in Oregon have arrested a man in the death of an original member of Disney's "The Mickey Mouse Club."

Daniel James Burda, 36, was taken into custody Friday on suspicion of manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, abuse of a corpse, criminal mistreatment and identity theft in the death of Dennis Day, Oregon State Police said.

Burda was being held in Jackson County Jail, where records show he had been booked on June 26 for violating probation on a previous robbery charge.

It was unclear if he has an attorney.

Neighbors say Burda had lived with Day and his husband in southern Oregon. Police declined to provide more details and couldn't immediately be reached for additional comment.

LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
» THOUSANDS OF MOTORCYCLISTS RIDE IN HONOR OF 7 BIKERS KILLED

Thousands of motorcyclists, waved on by bystanders with American flags, rode through New Hampshire on Saturday to the site where seven bikers were killed in a collision with a truck last month.

More than 3,000 bikers, some from as far away as California and Florida, participated in the 90-mile (145-kilometer) tribute trip from Laconia to the somber crash site in Randolph, where a memorial of flags and color guard stood. A memorial service was held in a field just beyond the crash site.

"This is what happens when good people die," said Manny Ribeiro, president of the Jarheads Motorcycle Club, to which the victims of the crash belonged. He didn't attend the ride, saying it was "too soon" for him to be at the crash site but said the event and turnout was "just amazing."

The Jarheads is a New England motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses.

— The Associated Press

HUNYH: WHAT HER LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VIETNAM WAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

his gun at the rice fields, and he started shooting—not at me thank God—I ran as fast as I could to the nearest bomb shelter."

The machine gunner peppered the rice fields with 50-caliber bullets. Once in the tunnel, she shielded her nephew with her body to protect her brother Trang's bloodline and name. The boy was Trang's only son.

"After the helicopter left, a big airplane came and started dropping bombs. The earth was shaking, and the napalm started fires. About two hours later, my house was up in smoke. My first thought was, 'What am I going to wear?'"

All she had left were the clothes on her back—a T-shirt and shorts. Everything else went up in smoke with the house.

Beti, number eight of 11 children—10 girls and a boy—was born and raised in that house. It had three large rooms: a front room, middle room and kitchen. The front room is where guests were entertained, and the memorial was set up to honor deceased family members. The middle room is where the family gathered to eat and sleep. Their mom and dad had a bed while the 10 girls slept on wooden platforms under a large mosquito net. It was too hot for blankets, so they only slept with pillows. The house had no electricity or running water, and the family used an outhouse for a toilet.

When someone remarked that her parents must not have had much privacy, Beti shot back, "They had 11 kids! They had enough privacy!"

Fortunately, no one was home when the house burned to the ground, however, the air strike incinerated the family's worldly possessions. They lived in a tool shed for the next five years until 1968 when they finally saved enough money to rebuild the house. The house was bombed out again in 1974 and rebuilt a second time.

During the day, the South Vietnamese soldiers and Americans patrolled the area around Beti's village of Phuoc Lam Long An, only 22 miles from Saigon, returning to their base at sundown. At night, the Viet Cong went door to door asking for donations of rice and clothing. They were polite and never took anything. Nevertheless, Beti's family knew they had to give them what they asked for, or they would be viewed as enemy collaborators.

"Everyone cooperated, or they (the Viet Cong) would say, 'You are our enemy.' We played with both hands to make peace. When we heard the caravans of trucks and jeeps coming, we ran to the road and waved. The Americans threw out candy, chocolate and C-rations," she explained. "The Viet Cong didn't give us anything. We just wanted them to leave us alone."

Each home had a bomb tunnel under the house and another outside for protection against the air assaults. Once Beti spent two full days in a tunnel waiting for the air strike to end. A bucket served as her toilet.

Every month the Viet Cong held meetings for the villagers. "They said they came from the North to protect the people from the Americans. They put in our heads that the Americans had come to Viet Nam to kill people and take over our country," she said. "They taught me how to use a rifle and how to clean it."

According to History.com, the North Vietnamese military commander General Vo Nguyen Giap chose Jan. 31, 1968, to launch coordinated surprise attacks on over 100 cities aimed at breaking the stalemate in Vietnam. He picked that date because it was the celebration of the lunar new year, Tet, which is the most important holiday on the Vietnamese calendar. The Tet Offensive was a turning point, showing the resolve of the Communists to take heavy casualties and eroded America's support for the war.

Tet was also a turning point for Beti. She said the explosions kept going through the night, long after the fireworks celebration ended. "Everything literally stopped. We couldn't go to the market. After that, I wanted to get out. My dad said I needed to learn English."

She took an English class in 1969 and met George Ruckman. They got married in 1970 and left Viet Nam for Hawaii on Jun. 21, 1971.

"When I left, I was declared dead on that date. The family had a funeral service for me and buried my clothes, pictures—everything. If we didn't do that, the North would have thought I had gone with the South and the South would have thought I went with the North. You go quietly, so your family doesn't get tortured."

In March 1974 the Viet Cong ambushed her brother Trang and two other medics as they rode motorcycles to the battlefield to treat wounded soldiers. The other medics died instantly, Trang, still breathing when they found him, lost a lot of blood and died two days later when no blood was available for a transfusion. He left behind a pregnant wife and five young children. Within two years, Beti's father drank himself to death, grieving his only son.

After living in Hawaii for three years, Beti and George moved to Grand Junction, Colorado and later to California where they raised three children before divorcing.

She became a professional baker, working at Dunkin Donuts, Albertsons and Safeway. Her hard work as a baker took a toll on Beti physically. She had six surgeries



Courtesy
Beti's little sister Ut stands in front of their family's house in 1971 just before Beti left for the U.S. The house was bombed out in 1963 and 1974.

on her right arm for carpal tunnel syndrome. She finished her 45-year baking career as Basha's bakery manager.

"If you give me sugar and flour, I can make anything you want," she said.

Beti didn't dare even write home after she left Viet Nam. She prayed, "God, let me live to see my family before I die. If you do, I'll do whatever you want."

After being dead to her family and country for 30 years, Beti returned home for Tet in 2001. Although her father, mother and brother had passed away, her sisters were still alive. Her parents had owned 100 acres of land, grew vegetables, raised chickens, and had cows. The wealthy family owned rice mills and were highly respected in the village. After the Viet Cong won the war, they stole the family's land and created a coop of family groups to farm the land.

"Communism doesn't work. Socialism doesn't work. The government owns all the land, and the people are starving," Beti noted. "Nobody wants to work. It's not their land. They don't care."

After retirement, she started volunteering at Havasu Regional Medical Center two days a week assembling the patient kits and working for the craft group and on bake sales. According to Craft Chair Dottie Toppin, Beti bakes enough to fill two freezers for the bake sales which along with crafts raised \$13,000 for charities and scholarships last year. Toppin added, "She's outgoing, bubbly and has a positive attitude."

Beti met her current husband Gary Knode through an online dating service. After sharing experiences and talking about their careers, they realized they had once worked for the same company. Gary was in the infantry with the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment from 1969 to 1971 and saw his share of fighting



Courtesy
Beti Huynh in 1963, age 13, in 7th grade. This was her "miserable" year. She was shot in the leg and her house burned down.

and was awarded the Purple Heart.

"Returning to Vietnam with Beti gave me the opportunity to live in the village where she grew up," Gary said. "After seeing how poor some of the people were living in little huts with very little to eat, I knew we had to do something, so we started a charity with the help of the local government. What struck me the most was how unspoiled the people in the village are, even though they have very little, they are still happy and thankful for what they have."

Twice a year, Gary and Beti go to Viet Nam and stay for two to three months to deliver the money they have collected to feed the poor and help families any way they can. "We are here to help, not to take," Beti said. Last year they gave enough money to help 200 needy families.

Beti and Gary are happily married, and only one topic is off limits: "Every time Gary talks about the war, I start crying," she said. "So, we don't talk about it."

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