

# O.C. TEACHER TO OBAMA: WHY SO MANY YOUTHS DEPORTED?

With a fleeting moment to shake hands with President Barack Obama, Santa Ana teacher Benjamin Vasquez couldn't pass up telling him about what he thinks is a huge problem in Orange County: the number of youth being deported.

Vasquez was in Washington on Thursday as part of an Orange County delegation attending a town hall meeting with the president on Latinos and the Affordable Care Act.

But Vasquez said he "couldn't return to Santa Ana if I didn't" talk about the troubling number of youth deportations.

Vasquez, who teaches world history and Mexican-American studies at Valley High School, said he was among a select few allowed to line up to meet the president during the town hall.

When he told the president about the number of deportations, he said the president asked him: "Why do you think it's so high?"

Vasquez said he replied: "It's a Republican county."

According to Vasquez, Obama's response was along the lines of: "There you go."

Obama then told him to say hello to his students, added Vasquez, who said he then asked the president to investigate the deportation issue.

Orange County accounted for 43 percent of 697 detainer requests from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued to juvenile facilities in the state from October 2009 to February 2013, according to a UC Irvine School of Law report, titled "Second Chances for All," released in December.

Vasquez said he handed a poem, "I Still Have a Dream," to an Obama aide. The poem was written by a



At the town hall, from left: Benjamin Vasquez, Carlos Perea, Adriana Munoz (barely noticeable in the back), Virginia Mosqueda, Gloria Alvarado, Alejandra Hernandez, Abraham Medina and Sandra Ochoa. Luis Ramirez is in front.



At Thursday's town hall, Valley High teacher Benjamin Vasquez, with glasses and beard, sits next to Adriana Munoz, director of Children's Health Initiative OC.

former student, Abraham Medina, who was also at the town hall with the group.

In it, Medina writes: "I'm just asking for my basic human rights to freedom and education,

The right to live in peace and contribute to this nation,

Because working parents are being taken in raids sponsored by ICE.

And the children are the ones paying the ultimate price!"

The Orange County delegation included members of

the Santa Ana Boys and Men of Color and the Orange County Labor Federation.

White House officials dubbed the event a "historic town hall" on Latinos and the Affordable Care Act at the Newseum in Washington.

The group was invited by the California Endowment, which along with Covered California was a partner in hosting the town hall.

Central Santa Ana is one of 13 places in the state that are part of the California

Endowment's 10-year, \$1 billion Building Healthy Communities initiative.

At the town hall with Spanish-language media outlets, Obama assured Latinos that signing up for new insurance exchanges won't lead to deportation for any relatives living in the U.S. illegally.

Vasquez said having a Santa Ana presence at the town hall was important because many of the city's residents speak Spanish at home.

Medina, with the Santa Ana Boys and Men of Color, said: "He (Obama) tried to calm some fears, but whether it's health - whatever issue it is - our community is concerned about the deportations."

The town hall will be broadcast at 7 tonight on Galavision and at 8 tonight on Telemundo. It will also air at 6 a.m. Sunday on Univision KMEX.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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# O.C.'S FIFTH MEASLES DIAGNOSIS MEANS EXPOSURE RISK AT ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

BY COURTNEY PERKES  
STAFF WRITER

A fifth Orange County resident has been diagnosed with measles, and public health officials on Friday warned that others may have been exposed earlier this week at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange.

Health Care Agency spokeswoman Nicole Stanfield said it's unknown how the unidentified adult contracted the illness. She said the patient's vaccination history is also uncertain.

The person was at the emergency department from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday and from 7:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday.

Officials said the risk of getting sick after brief encounters is low, but as a precaution, those who were at St. Joseph at the same time should review whether they received the MMR vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella. If not, they should discuss getting vaccinated with a

medical provider.

They should also watch for symptoms, which can develop between seven and 21 days after exposure, starting with a fever, cough and runny nose. Two to four days later, a red, blotchy rash develops, usually starting around the ears and hairline and then moving to the face, torso and limbs.

Anyone with symptoms should immediately contact a doctor.

In December, the first local measles case was diagnosed; three more followed in January and February. Two of the patients had traveled to Asia. In a typical year, Orange County sees no more than one case.

State officials have also seen a surge in cases and have noted that about half were children and young adults who were intentionally not vaccinated.

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# Blind man falls, lands just out of train's path

BY JOHN ROGERS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES • A blind man walked off the edge of a subway platform and bounced off one of the rails below, landing in a tiny alcove in the track bed just wide enough to keep him from being struck by an approaching train, a transit official who saw video of the incident said Friday.

If the 47-year-old man had bounced in the other direction he would have gone into the path of the 90,000-pound train, said Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation

Authority spokesman Paul Gonzales.

"I have used the word miracle before and I still can't think of a different word," Gonzales said after viewing surveillance video of Thursday's fall at a metro station in Los Angeles' Koreatown neighborhood. "He could have fallen a different way and it would have ended a different way."

Both Fire Department and Metro officials declined to release the man's name, citing medical privacy laws, and Gonzales said the transit agency would not release the video.

## BRIEFLY

### 5 CONVICTED BELL LEADERS SUE EX-CITY ATTORNEY

Five former leaders of the city of Bell who were convicted in a municipal fraud scandal sued their former city attorney Friday, saying he led them to believe they were doing nothing wrong when they accepted six-figure salaries.

The former members of the Bell City Council were convicted last year of stealing taxpayer money and using it to pay themselves huge salaries to operate the small, blue-collar suburb where more than a quarter of residents live below the poverty line.

In their lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, the five accused the firm Best Best & Krieger and one of its former partners, Edward W. Lee, of failing to "exercise proper care and skill" when it came to advising them on such legal matters as forming the recycling board and several other municipal agencies from which they collected salaries.

### Bill would ban orca shows in state

A lawmaker wants to ban SeaWorld from using killer whales in its San Diego shows.

Assemblyman Richard Bloom, who unveiled the bill Friday, says orcas are too large and intelligent to be confined in small tanks for

their entire lives. His measure also would ban captive breeding and prohibit the import and export of orcas.

SeaWorld spokesman Dave Koontz says the company hasn't seen Bloom's legislation and can't comment on it.

### L.A. officer killed in car crash

A veteran Los Angeles police officer was killed and his rookie partner was critically injured Friday when their patrol car collided with a big rig on a residential street. The truck driver also was injured.

The Hollywood division officers were responding to a call of unknown trouble when the "catastrophic" collision occurred, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie

Beck said.

The county coroner's office identified the slain officer as Nicholas Choung Lee, 40. Beck said he was a 10-year veteran and a highly respected training officer.

### Husband arrested in 1989 murder

Two brothers in Northern California face murder charges in the case of a woman found strangled in her car nearly 25 years ago, authorities said Friday.

David Zimmer, 66, of Half Moon Bay, was arrested Friday in the slaying of his estranged wife, Cathy Zimmer. Her body was found wrapped in a patchwork quilt in the backseat of her Chrysler New Yorker in a parking lot at San Jose In-

ternational Airport in 1989, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office said.

David Zimmer's brother, Robert Zimmer, 69, of Santa Clara, was arrested last week on similar charges.

### CrossFit accused of discrimination

A transgender woman in Northern California has sued the company behind the popular CrossFit workouts for refusing to let her compete in the female division of its annual fitness competitions.

The lawsuit brought Thursday by Chloe Jonsson, 34, accuses CrossFit Inc. of violating her rights under a California law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Jonsson's complaint says she was born male but has been living as a woman since she was a teenager and underwent sex reassignment surgery eight years ago. The surgery, coupled with the female hormones she takes, satisfied the state's requirements for her to be recognized as female on her birth certificate and other official documents.

"They said she has an advantage over other women because of the sex she was born with, and that is completely untrue, scientifically," her lawyer, Waukeen McCoy said, noting that the

International Olympic Committee and other sports governing bodies allow athletes who have undergone surgery, taken hormones and secured legal recognition to compete in the category that corresponds to their affirmed gender.

### Also,

- A man wearing earphones who danced on a power pole while ignoring pleas from police in Oxnard has been lifted to safety.

The Ventura County Star says authorities were inundated with calls late Thursday morning about the man. Several hours later, heavy equipment was used to bring him down.

- The owner of a West Hollywood beauty salon has been charged with plotting to kill a competitor.

Dawn Melody DaLuise owns the Skin Refinery. Prosecutors contend that she tried to hire someone to kill the owner of Smooth Cheeks, another salon that opened several months ago next door.

- Sheriff's officials in Mendocino County say they raided a pot dispensary with help from federal officials after discovering a cash shipment from Colorado and marijuana products headed out of state.

Nine people were arrested during the raid on four sites.

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