



WEATHER A8

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From librarians association

LOCAL A8



BASEBALL
NY vs. Philly
Also, Traynham looks
back on local sports

SPORTS B1

Saving
ends
Sunday
Don't forget
to set
clocks back
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday

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Capay man among 9 missing

Che Barnes, 35, was pilot of plane that went down off San Diego coastline

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
and DAISY NGUYEN
and Democrat staff

SAN DIEGO — A Capay Valley resident is among those Coast Guard aircraft crewman who are missing after a dramatic collision between his plane and a Marine Corps helicopter.

The Coast Guard Saturday identified the nine missing crew members,

C-130 CRASH

including Che Barnes, 35, of Capay.

He was among those aboard the Coast Guard plane stationed at the Coast Guard Air Station in Sacramento.

Barnes was the aircraft commander. His co-pilot, Lt. Adam Bryant, 28, is from Crewe, Va. The missing crew members from the Marine helicopter are Maj. Samuel Leigh, 35, of Kennebec, Maine, and 1st Lt. Thomas Cliborne, 26, of Douglas, Colo.

The accident happened at 7:10 p.m. Thursday in airspace uncontrolled by

the FAA and inside a so-called military warning area, which is at times open to civilian aircraft and at times closed for military use, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said. He did not know the status of the airspace at the time.

Barnes was born in Davis in 1974, according to information provided by Farm Fresh for You, a Capay Valley company to which Barnes was connected. He was one of two twins out of Kathy and Martin's four sons.

"As a child he spent many hours

selling at farmers markets, moving irrigation pipe, and harvesting and tilling the soil. From an early age he was fascinated with flight," according to the Farm Fresh biography on its Web site. "He soloed an airplane on his sixteenth birthday — before getting a driver's license. After graduating high school, he was accepted into the US Coast Guard Academy where he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering."

As a lieutenant commander in the Coast Guard, Barnes had flown both

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CAPAY

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fixed-wing aircraft and search and rescue helicopters.

Meanwhile, a flotilla of rescue vessels continued its search Saturday for nine people feared dead at sea following an air collision between a Coast Guard aircraft and a Marine Corps helicopter.

Six Coast Guard cutters, three Navy ships and multiple helicopters searched the ocean off Southern California. Rescuers had found several pieces of debris from both aircraft but there was no sign of the victims. No bodies have been found in the debris field, and the mission is still considered search and rescue, not search and recovery, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco said Saturday morning.

The crash involved a Coast Guard C-130 with a seven-member crew and a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra with two aboard as it flew in formation near the Navy's San Clemente Island, a site with training ranges for amphibious, air, surface and undersea warfare.

The collision occurred as the Coast Guard airplane was itself carrying out a search for a missing boatman.

Officials were collecting evidence and reviewing recordings of transmissions by the aircraft to try to determine how the collision occurred.

Capt. Tom Farris, commander of the Coast Guard's San Diego sector, said it's not unusual to have a high volume of military traffic working in training areas and pilots in the area are responsible for seeing other aircraft around them under a so-called "see-and-avoid principle."

Minutes before the collision, the FAA told the C-130 pilot to begin communicating with military controllers at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego Bay, but it was not known if the pilot did so, Gregor said.

The search covered 644 square miles of ocean but rescuers were concentrating on a debris field 50 miles off the San Diego coast.

The Sacramento-based C-130 crew was looking for 50-year-old David Jines, who was reported missing after leaving Avalon Harbor on Santa Catalina Island in a 12-foot motorized skiff to reach a friend in high winds Tuesday, authorities said.