

BAND TOUR CANCELED

Tribute to Linkin Park singer grows

Fans leave flowers, messages at Palos Verdes Estates home of Chester Bennington, 41, who died of an apparent suicide

By Cynthia Washicko
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Flowers, candles and notes piled up along a temporary fence put up outside the Palos Verdes Estates home of Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington. The small memorial started Thursday night, police said, and

more people arrived Friday to pay their respects to the performer, who was found dead in his home Thursday morning of an apparent suicide.

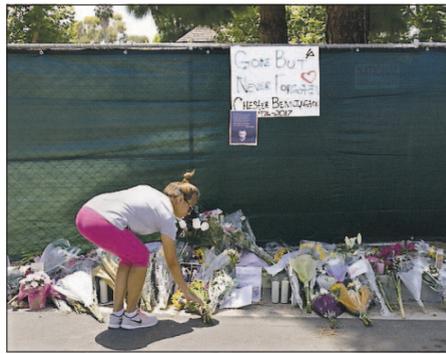
Residents along Via Victoria described Bennington as a personable neighbor. The family had only recently moved into the home, and several neighbors were stunned to learn that Bennington

had committed suicide.

A neighbor wrote on the community website Nextdoor that the singer never let his celebrity status affect how he treated residents nearby.

Bennington was a relaxed neighbor who cared for his kids, he said. That was evident one Christmas, when Bennington

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A curbside memorial at the Palos Verdes Estates home of Chester Bennington, lead singer of the band Linkin Park, grows Friday after his death Thursday. The band's tour has been canceled. **BRAD GRAVERSON** — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME HELP

WORKOUT TO BENEFIT FORMER BODYBUILDER

Torrance: Gym to host event for all experience levels to aid Kat Portillo of Manhattan Beach, who was paralyzed in accident, with her long-term care



COURTESY PHOTOS

Flavia Tzul's daughter Sky helps "Kat" Portillo, who is a quadriplegic, with the wand she uses to point and scroll on her iPhone.

By Megan Barnes
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Four years ago, bodybuilder Kat Portillo and photographer Pavel Ythjall, both immigrants enjoying success in Los Angeles' competitive fitness scene, found love at an industry party.

One year after they exchanged "I do's" on an island in Portillo's native Belize, their lives were turned upside down — literally.

The Manhattan Beach couple were on their way to a holiday party in December 2015 when their vehicle hit something on a 405 Freeway on-ramp, flipped and rolled over several times.

Portillo was paralyzed instantly from the shoulders down and Ythjall broke his neck and skull. A third passenger managed to avoid serious injury.

"Kat saved us," recalled Ythjall, 48. "I was so bewildered and out of it, and Kat, hanging upside down paralyzed

with her tibia sticking out of her leg, she was cool as a cucumber. She said, 'Pavel, go get help.' She must have said it 10 times. Her training really came into play."

Portillo, 38, is an active duty Air Force major and satellite operator stationed at the L.A. Air Force Base in El Segundo. She enlisted not long after she moved to the United States two decades ago.

"If she hadn't said that, there wouldn't have been help and I don't think we would have been here," said Ythjall, who is from Sweden.

Doctors told the couple they were lucky to be alive. After months of physical rehabilitation, Ythjall has almost fully recovered. Portillo, now a quadriplegic, requires 24/7 at-home care from a nurse who helps with everything from brushing her teeth and eating to moving her body to avoid developing bed sores.

"I can shrug my shoulders and move my head and neck,

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Katherine "Kat" Portillo, a Manhattan Beach resident and active duty major in the Air Force, became a quadriplegic when she and her husband, Pavel Ythjall, were in a car accident on the 405 Freeway in December 2015. A fundraiser today in Torrance will help the former bodybuilder cover round-the-clock care when she is medically discharged from the military.

TAX BILL

State to start some roadwork before fall

South Bay among areas where projects planned

By Courtney Tompkins
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Work to repair and resurface hundreds of miles of highways, including those in Long Beach, the South Bay, San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles area, will begin as soon as this summer — months before revenue from a landmark transportation bill even begins to flow to the state, officials announced Friday.

State transportation agencies are getting a jump-start on some \$285 million in road-repair projects across California as part of the Road Repair and Accountability Act, known as SB 1, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in April. The law is expected to generate \$54 billion over the next decade by raising the state's gas tax and imposing new vehicle fees.

State officials said 13 projects have been "fast-tracked" to begin soon. In the Southern

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UTILITY AUDIT

LADWP retirees' pensions the highest

By Elizabeth Chou
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Workers who retire from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power enjoy a higher monthly pension, on average, than retired public employees from the city and county, according to an audit released this week by City Controller Ron Galperin.

LADWP retirees received an average monthly pension payment of \$5,212 in the fiscal year ending July 1, 2015, the audit said.

That figure is higher than the \$4,023 average monthly payment for other city retirees and the \$3,881 pension amount per month for retired county workers, amounts that are used as comparisons in the audit performed by contractor, Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting.

But while the LADWP's pension benefits on average surpass

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Eat a burrito, support California State Parks

From 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, all California Chipotle restaurants will donate 50 percent of sales to the California State Parks Foundation. Customers just need to mention CSPFP to the cashier. [HTTP://CHIP.TL/2UK8TGH](http://chip.tl/2UK8TGH)

SAN PEDRO

Weeklong tall ship youth summer camp offers plenty of activities; it is setting sail on Monday

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute Top Sail Youth Program is offering a 10 percent discount for one week only for youth to live onboard a 110-foot tall ship and experience a sailing adventure on a five-day voyage to Catalina Island. Activities include marine science, physics, ecology, snorkeling, kayaking and tie-dye activities. Ship departs Monday, Berth 78 at Ports O' Call Village, San Pedro. Cost is \$500. Call 310-833-6055. [HTTPS://LAMITOPSAIL.ORG/](https://lamitopsail.org/)



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

Photo artists invited to join art center group

The Photographic and Digital Artists group of Palos Verdes Art Center seeks new members. Applications and instructions online under "new members." Info: 310-375-9634, bgatespeds@aol.com. [WWW.PADAPV.ORG](http://www.padapv.org)