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ORANGE COUNTY BRIEFLY

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Man hit and killed

while fleeing police on 57 Freeway

ANAHEIM An unidentified man led police on a high-speed chase on the Orange (57) Freeway on Friday and was killed when struck by several cars as he tried to run away, police said.

Officers responded shortly before midnight to a report of a blue Honda being stolen in the 300 block of South Lemon Street, Sgt. Rick Martinez said.

Officers said they saw the man slowly driving a blue Honda, its headlights off, and chased him when he sped away.

The man turned on the car's headlights and drove erratically on Broadway at speeds of up to 90 mph. He entered the southbound freeway at Lincoln Avenue and hit the center divider near Ball Road, spinning the car until it faced north.

He drove a short distance in the wrong direction, but an Anaheim officer pulled his car in front of the fleeing Honda, Martinez said.

The man then ran from the car and tried to cross the northbound lanes, where he was hit by several vehicles.

The condition of the body made it impossible to estimate the man's age.

The car had not been stolen, Martinez said.

Police are investigating a car break-in near where the man was first spotted.

Check-cashing owner

is robbed of \$140,000

WESTMINSTER The owner of several check-cashing businesses was robbed Friday of a briefcase containing \$140,000, police said.

James Preston, 54, of Cypress was walking toward one of his businesses in the 13900 block of Monroe Street to make a cash drop when two men drove up, police said.

One man tried to wrestle the briefcase from Preston's hands, and the second man hit him from behind to get him to let go, police said.

Preston's Mercedes, which had been left idling, was taken by one of the men. It was recovered but yielded no signs of the robbers, the briefcase or the money.

Preston was not seriously hurt.

13-time loser in DUI cases

escapes 14th prosecution

SANTA ANA A man convicted 13 times of drunken driving will not be charged with a 14th offense, a prosecutor said Friday.

Tests conducted after the arrest last week of Ronald Cram, 57, of Santa Ana showed his blood-alcohol level was 0.07, just under the 0.08 level necessary to sustain a DUI case, Deputy District Attorney Colleen Crommett said.

Cram is charged with driving with a suspended license and if convicted faces up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine, Crommett said.

Cram's DUI convictions date to 1964. He has never been involved in a DUI-related accident.

He is being held on \$50,000 bail.

Second person arrested
in fatal cybercafe stabbing

GARDEN GROVE Authorities have arrested a second suspect in the stabbing death of a Santa Ana man at a cybercafe.

Tam Thanh Huynh, 21, of Long Beach is suspected of participating in the fatal assault on Phuong Huu Ly, 20, on Dec. 31 at the PC Cafe on Garden Grove Boulevard.

Jim Hoang Nguyen, 21, of Irvine was arrested in January.

Ly was outside the cafe waiting for a computer station to open up when he was stabbed in the head with a screwdriver.

The fight resulted from a gang rivalry, Sgt. Mike Handfield said.

Huynh was arrested Thursday and is being held at the Orange County Jail.

Upset teen scales roof
at Anaheim Hills school

ANAHEIM HILLS An El Rancho Middle School student, upset after a counseling session, climbed to the roof of the cafeteria at about 10:45 a.m. Friday but was rescued an hour later, authorities said.

The seventh-grader was standing near the edge of the roof but did not threaten to jump.

School officials called 911.

Rescue crews lowered the teen to the ground, and she was taken to a hospital for an evaluation.

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