

the question should be put to the voters. If the people knew the costs of the athletic program, I believe they'd vote against it," said Assenza, noting that in many countries, post-high school athletic programs are supported by clubs or towns.

has served on the Board of Directors for the County, Couch for the last three years.

Brown stresses his business background as one of his qualifications, noting that he

A member of the American Society's Board of Directors for Santa Cruz County, Couch for the last three years

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Two jail escapees recaptured

By JAMIE MARKS

Murder suspect Billy Mansfield was captured Tuesday morning hiding along the San Lorenzo River north of Santa Cruz after a dramatic escape Monday night with a fellow inmate from the new county jail.

A 5-year-old track and search dog named Pepper sniffed out the 25-year-old murder suspect at 8:30 a.m. as he lay under a tarp in the Paradise Park area, three miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 9.

At 9:20 a.m., the other escapee, Ben Barrigan (also known as Ben Parriga), was caught by two Santa Cruz detectives at Lighthouse Point on the west side of Santa Cruz.

Both suspects are back in custody in a lockdown facility at the Water Street jail.

Their capture ended a 12-hour intensive manhunt through the streets of Santa Cruz and along the San Lorenzo River by at least 22 peace officers and three track dogs that began Monday night at 9:22 p.m., when a nurse called the sheriff's office to report seeing a man wearing an orange jumpsuit running away from the jail, Sheriff Al Noren said.

Barrigan is believed to have left the jail first, fol-

lowed at 9:14 p.m. by Mansfield. The two men, who were housed in cellblock "F" of the new jail's south wing, climbed a stairway in the open-air recreation area (adjacent to the commons and dining) and forced their way through the cyclone wire-mesh fencing, which serves as roof in that area, Noren said.

Sheriff Noren said one of the men probably stood on the stairway and boosted the other up to the cyclone fence, which they then unravelled by using a piece of metal from one of their cells to pry open the ends of the fencing.

No television security cameras are allowed in the living quarters of the inmates, and there are none on the jail roof. And because of a dispute with the jail builders, there are no alarm system currently wired up to the cyclone fence roof to alert jailers of jail break attempts.

As a result of Monday night's escape, Sheriff Noren has renewed his call for "corrections" to be made with the jail's design. Tuesday, he said, the incident may be the "unfortunate impetus" that gets the Board of Supervisors moving on funding for revisions in the security of the new jail. However, he added that the \$8.5 million

facility is not "a crackerbox that the inmates will be leaving in droves."

"We have some shortcomings through the design that we'll put to correct," he said, adding that the County Administrative Officer would be contacted to "tighten up the area." He also said there are immediate plans to redesign the fence/roof.

Mansfield is to be retried in January for the murder of Watsonville housewife Rene Saling, whose partly clad body was found in a ditch along Buena Vista Drive Dec. 7. Barrigan, a 24-year-old transient, is awaiting trial on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon against a peace officer in August at New Brighton State Beach.

Mansfield is also a suspect in the deaths of four young women whose bodies were unearthed on the Mansfield family property in Weeki Wachee, Fla., last March. No charges have been filed yet in that case.

Noren said a nurse first spotted a man running along Coloma Street behind the jail at 9:22 p.m. At first, she apparently thought he was wearing an orange jogging suit, but realized that it was probably an inmate's jumpsuit and called the sheriff's

office. At 9:25 p.m., the jail staff was notified of an escape attempt and by 9:40 p.m., a head count revealed that Mansfield and Barrigan were missing. All inmates were ordered into their cells in "lockdown" fashion.

Noren said he is unsure when they were last seen in their cellblock or what they had done prior to the escape. None of the other inmates in the cell would talk much about the escape, Noren said, except to give a list of friends the men might try to contact once they had reached the outside.

But Noren said these people were contacted and had no knowledge of an escape or the men's whereabouts. Noren also said he doesn't think the men were aided by anyone on the outside. "If they had help, it wasn't very good. Billy was found without his shoes and he appeared cold," Noren said.

Investigators fanned out over the San Lorenzo River area and a trained police dog named Czar tracked Mansfield's scent to a dam on the San Lorenzo River, about two miles north of Santa Cruz. At 1 a.m., the dog search was called off, but police from several agencies continued the search until the men were caught.

Several sightings of Mansfield were made by people along the San Lorenzo River, Noren said. The search effort was concentrated on finding Mans-

field, who was considered "very dangerous" by the Sheriff's Office who had put out a nationwide alert.

At daybreak Tuesday, Santa Cruz police officer Marv Gangloff Jr. took two more of his dogs to the San Lorenzo River and with three other officers, the group set out to track Mansfield. They had given the dogs bedding from Mansfield's cells to identify the scent.

As the man and dogs walked up the river, the dogs followed the scent. Finally, at 8:30 a.m., an hour and a half after the dog search had resumed, the dog named Pepper came upon the hiding Mansfield. The murder suspect had pulled a tarp tightly over his head and was not seen by the officers. It wasn't until the dog and policemen had walked past the hiding spot that Pepper caught the scent.

Gangloff said it was the first time he has used Pepper in a manhunt. "We would have never found Mansfield if it hadn't been for the dog," Gangloff said. "We walked right past him."

Barrigan was seen by a citizen at Lighthouse Point, still wearing his orange jumpsuit. The person called the police department and officers George Kusanovich and Dave Larsen made the arrest.

The jail break was the first one at the new Water Street facility, which was designed by Kaplan, McLaughlin and Diaz of San Francisco.

Board commits funds to enlarge county jail