

MISSING CALIFORNIA BABY'S DAD KILLED BY POLICE AFTER CHASE

REDDING: A man who vanished while officers searched for his missing infant daughter stole a car at gunpoint and was later killed by deputies during a shootout, authorities said.

Matthew Graham, whose 6-month-old daughter went missing from his Happy Valley home in

Shasta County on July 2, was killed in Dunsuir following a chase after he stole a couple's car, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department said.

Michael Prado said Graham, 23, robbed him and his wife of their car Monday morning after sleeping in the yard of their Shasta Lake home overnight.

Authorities traced the car through its navigation system and chased it 48 miles north to Dunsuir. Police said Graham exited the vehicle, holed up in a nearby garage and was shot and killed after exchange gunfire with authorities.

Graham became a person of interest after giving inconsistent statements to investigators.

The girl, Ember, remains missing. Authorities say Graham stole a semi-automatic gun from his mother Saturday after hearing that the search for his daughter had turned up a possible lead. Graham was seen buying cigarettes at a Lake Shasta convenience store on Sunday.

He turned up at Prado's house a few

miles away on Monday morning.

Prado went outside to fetch his newspaper about 6:15 am Monday when he noticed the gate to his backyard was open. Checking on his backyard, he noticed that cushions were missing from patio furniture. Moments later, Graham confronted him and his wife.

"He said, 'Don't be scared. I'm afraid too,'" Prado said. "Stay together." Prado said it appeared that Graham used the patio furniture cushions as a bed and

slept in a side yard.

After Prado retrieved the car keys, Graham made him start the 2007 Buick Lucerne while keeping his wife at gunpoint in the car port.

He then drove off, warning Prado to wait until noon before calling authorities. But moments later Prado called 911. An hour later, the Siskiyou sheriff reported shooting the driver of the Buick, but his name wasn't released for several hours. — AP



BELFAST: A police officer is dragged away after being struck by an object thrown by Loyalist protesters at the Ardoyne Roundabout, Belfast Monday, during the annual Twelfth of July celebrations, marking the victory of King William III's forces over James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.— AP

N IRISH POLICE ATTACKED AT PARADE, 24 INJURED

POLITICIANS CRITICISE ATTACK

BELFAST: Rioting erupted in Belfast during the annual Orange Order parade as police tried to block Protestant marchers from passing a Catholic housing estate, a return of the sectarian violence that has marred the traditionally emotive event in the past.

Demonstrators pelted police with bottles, beer cans and other missiles on Monday night, injuring 24 police officers, Northern Ireland police said.

Riot police fired water cannon and plastic bullets. A crowd of Catholics stood hundreds of metres away, separated from the rioters by the police cordon.

Thousands of pro-British Protestants hold marches every July in the British-ruled province to mark a 1690 victory by King William of Orange that sealed Protestant domination, a tradition Catholic Irish nationalists consider provocative.

During the years of the Northern Ireland conflict, clashes invariably broke out during the parade. It ended without violence for the first time in decades last year, when marchers turned around before passing the Catholic Ardoyne area of Belfast.

The trouble started this year when Protestant loyalists reacted angrily to police forming a cordon to stop them passing a Catholic estate.

In Londonderry, windows were smashed in a bus carrying Orangemen home from a rally when it was pelted by stones.

Politicians from both sides of the Northern Ireland divide criticised the attacks.

"Those responsible do nothing to further the cause they claim to promote. They damage Northern Ireland and wreck a day which should be about respectful celebration of cultural tradition," Northern Ireland Secretary of State

Theresa Villiers said.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, which organises the marches, said in a statement that it condemned those taking part in violence and that their actions only strengthened the hand of those who wish to further curtail the parades. Three decades of fighting between mostly Protestant loyalists who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom and Irish nationalists, mainly Catholics, who want it to be part of a united Ireland, led to the deaths of over 3,000 people before a 1998 peace agreement.

Violence has subsided but the annual parades often revive tensions and some of the worst rioting in Northern Ireland in years took place two-and-a-half years ago after a decision to limit the number of days the British flag flies in Belfast. — Reuters

OFFICIAL CALLS TEEN'S PLANE CRASH SURVIVAL A 'MIRACLE'

SEATTLE: A 16-year-old girl survived a small plane crash in the rugged mountains of north-central Washington state and then hiked through thick forest to reach safety in what one official called "a miracle." But searchers were still looking for the plane wreckage and her two step-grandparents, who were also on board.

There was no official word on the status of the older couple, identified as Leland and Sharon Bowman of Marion, Montana.

Navy helicopters searched for the wreckage until late Monday night, several hours after fixed wing planes suspended their efforts. The search was to resume Tuesday, weather permitting, said Barbara LaBoe, a Washington state Transportation Department spokeswoman.

David Veatch of Bellingham, the father of survivor Autumn Veatch, told reporters outside a Brewster hospital late Monday his daughter was exhausted but doing remarkably well. She was able to joke with him about all the survival shows they watched together on television, he said.

"She's just an amazing kid," he said. "There's more to her than she knows." The teen has no life-threatening injuries but was dehydrated and suffering from a type of treatable muscle tissue breakdown caused by vigorous exercise without food or water, Three Rivers Hospital CEO Scott Graham said. She was kept at the hospital overnight for hydration and rest.

"It's a miracle, no question about it," Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lustick of the Civil Air Patrol, who said he has spent 30 years in search and rescue, told reporters after the girl was found Monday - two days after the plane left Montana. "Moments of joy like this can be hard to find."

Lustick said he could not confirm any details about the status of the grandpar-

ents. The Beech A-35 left Kalispell, Montana, Saturday afternoon, headed for Lynden, Washington. Leland Bowman was issued a private pilot license in 2011, and the plane, manufactured in 1949, was registered to him, according to Federal Aviation Administration records.

Lustick said he had spoken with Veatch's father, who said his daughter told him the plane crashed and caught fire after flying into a bank of clouds. She remained at the crash site for a day before deciding to hike down, eventually finding a trail and following it to the trailhead on Highway 20.

Rescuers earlier narrowed down a search area based on cellphone data and typical flight patterns. But there was no sign of the aircraft or its occupants until the teen followed a trail to state Route 20, near the east entrance to North Cascades National Park.

A motorist picked her up Monday afternoon and drove her 30 miles east to a general store in Mazama, where employees called 911. The Aero Methow Rescue Service sent a paramedic team to check her out before she was taken to the Brewster hospital.

Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said Monday afternoon that the girl had been "walking for a couple of days." He called her feat "pretty impressive."

Serena Lockwood, the manager at the Mazama Store, said the girl and a motorist came in Monday afternoon, saying she had been in a plane crash.

"She was obviously pretty traumatized," Lockwood said. The crashed plane crossed the Idaho-Washington border about 2:20 p.m. PDT Saturday, but it dropped off the radar near Omak, Washington, about an hour later, transportation officials said. Associated Press writer Phuong Le contributed to this report. — AP



BELLINGHAM: David Veatch, father of Bellingham High student Autumn Veatch, 16, talks to the media at the Civil Air Patrol station at Bellingham International Airport in Bellingham, Wash., Monday. Autumn Veatch, who was on a private plane that never reached Lynden Saturday afternoon, was taken Monday to Three Rivers Hospital in Brewster after she was picked up by a motorist who drove her to safety. At right is Autumn's friend Chelsey Clark. — AP

RWANDA LAWMAKERS DEBATE THIRD TERM FOR KAGAME

KIGALI: Rwandan lawmakers cheered President Paul Kagame's name in parliament yesterday as they launched debates for possible changes to the constitution to allow the strongman a third term in power. Over 3.7 million people—well over half of the voters—have signed a petition calling for a change to Article 101 of the constitution, which limits the president to two terms, according to Rwandan media. Both lower and upper houses of parliament were crammed to capacity with both lawmakers and the public, with the two chambers

holding separate, parallel debates.

Nkusi Juvenal, a member of parliament from the Social Democratic Party (PSD), said that "3.7 million Rwandans from different constituencies and walks of life have spoken, we are their representatives here, we have no option but to... listen to their pleas." At one point, lawmakers and the public chanted slogans of support for Kagame.

"Paul Kagame, oyeel (oh yes)," they shouted. The public were invited to attend the debate to "examine the relevance of the people's peti-

tions", a parliamentary statement read, according to the New Times newspaper Tuesday. Long lines of people were seen queuing to attend the debates.

"We want the Article 101 to be changed," Alpha Mundendke said, a 23-year old student in parliament for the first time. "I wanted to participate, so that is why I am here—I am very proud."

But Jean-Claude Ntezimana, from Rwanda's tiny but main opposition group, the Green Party, said the parliament should not vote on a decision to press ahead with any constitutional changes until their challenge opposing it had been heard in court.

Elections in 2017

Kagame, 57, has been at the top of Rwandan politics since 1994, when an offensive by his Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels put an end to a genocide by Hutu extremists that left an estimated 800,000 people dead, most of whom were Tutsis. As minister of defence and then vice president, Kagame was widely seen as the power behind the throne even before he took the presidency in 2003, winning 95 percent of the vote. He was re-elected in 2010 with a similarly resounding mandate. The next elections are due in 2017.

From the trauma of genocide, he has been painted as a guarantor of stability and economic development, earning praise from donors and his supporters say many in Rwanda view the prospect of his departure as a step into the unknown. Critics say he has silenced opposition and the media. Kagame says the decision is for the "Rwandan people." "I have not asked anyone to change the constitution and I have not told anybody how or what to think about 2017," Kagame said in April. Any change to the constitution would require a vote in support by at least three-quarters of both parliamentary houses, followed by a national referendum. — AFP



KIGALI: Rwandan people react during the Constitution amendment debate at the parliament in Kigali yesterday. Rwandan lawmakers voted today in support of a constitutional change to allow strongman Paul Kagame a third term in power as president, backing a petition signed by millions of citizens. — AFP

UGANDAN PRESIDENT HEADS TO BURUNDI FOR ELECTION TALKS

BUJUMBURA: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni flew to Burundi yesterday for crisis talks, as President Pierre Nkurunziza readied for a third term bid in polls next week following months of violence.

Museveni, appointed mediator last week by the five-nation East African Community (EAC), is to push stalled talks between Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD party and opposition groups.

The veteran Ugandan leader said in a statement as he left for Burundi he would "establish a dialogue among warring political factions." But with the presidential elections now scheduled for July 21, Museveni has been left with only a few days to succeed.

Nkurunziza's bid to stand for a third consecutive five-year term, despite a constitutional two-term limit, has sparked months of civil unrest and an attempted coup in mid-May. Opposition groups say another term would violate a peace deal that paved the way to end a dozen years of civil war in 2006. There are fears the current crisis could plunge the impoverished, landlocked country back into civil war.

Both sides have made clear that their positions will not change. Museveni must convince the president to step down, said opposition leader Leonce Nkundakumana. "It is black and white," he said.

Presidential communication advisor Willy Nyamitwe said he hoped Museveni would convince the opposition to take part in polls.

Parliamentary polls, in which

Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD scored a widely-expected landslide win, were held on May 29 but boycotted by the opposition and internationally condemned.

Over 70 people have been killed in more than two months of protests, with over 158,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries, according to the latest UN figures. On Monday, security forces said they had arrested around 170 suspected rebels and seized a number of weapons after clashes in the northern provinces of Kayanza and Cibitoke.

Provincial governor Aline Manirantunga said around 30 supporters of opposition leader Agathon Rwaswa were arrested in the operation. Burundian troops fought with rebel soldiers near the border with Rwanda over the weekend, and paraded around 80 of them in front of the media.

Burundian rebel general Leonard Nkundakumana—who took part in the failed coup in May to topple Nkurunziza—has confirmed that soldiers loyal to the coup plot were involved in the fighting.

Opposition and rights groups argue that weeks of protests and a violent crackdown by security forces mean free and fair elections are impossible. The country has also been left without most of its independent media outlets, after several radio stations were attacked and destroyed in fighting during the attempted coup.

Museveni, who has led Uganda since 1986 and is one of Africa's longest-serving rulers, is himself seeking re-election in polls next year. — AFP