

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Where the Best Surgeons Are: The increased expectations of fans have driven today's bullfighters to use riskier moves than their predecessors did, and competition has pressured them to return to work quickly after being gored. As a result, according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch from Madrid, up to three dozen elite surgeons, highly skilled in complicated procedures, follow the bullfight circuit, on call to repair serious injuries that formerly would kill or maim a matador. In fact, most bullfighters today have already endured several critical gorings but remain eager to work.

■ According to a 2004 study by Georgia State University researchers, based on public information, one "investor group" substantially outperforms not only the stock market as a whole but also financial houses' top stock-pickers. That investor group is U.S. senators, who somehow between 1993 and 1998 beat the market by an average of 12 percent annually (whereas fund managers are regarded as "stars" if they beat the market by as little as 3 percent). The findings received heightened attention recently, following revelations that a prominent senator this year made a huge profit selling stock from his blind trust at just the right time.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the second day of 2006. There are 363 days left in the year.

On Jan. 2, 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the Open Door policy to facilitate trade with China. In 1492, the leader of the last Arab stronghold in Spain surrendered to Spanish forces loyal to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I. In 1929, the United States and Canada reached agreement on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

URSULA K. LE GUIN
AMERICAN AUTHOR

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New mayor discusses new year, old issues

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

The new mayor of Santa Monica hopes his ceremonial post will one day be strengthened by the power of voters.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook replaced City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor as the mayor of Santa Monica last month.

Sitting at a downtown deli, Holbrook — wearing a USC Polo shirt and casually sipping coffee — discussed what's changed about City Hall since the last time he served as mayor in 1998.

He also discussed what he feels still needs to change. Issues such as homelessness, traffic and parking — high priorities for Santa Monicans in a recent survey — are slowly being addressed at City Hall, Holbrook said.

With an elected mayor, City

Hall may be more responsive to public concerns, he added.

Santa Monica has a strong City Manager form of government, meaning that the city's seven councilmembers, who are elected into office, appoint a mayor and are charged mostly with helping City Hall shape its policies, according to officials.

As Santa Monica's mayor, Holbrook will typically represent the city as a figurehead at government and other public events. He'll also set the agenda for City Council meetings along with the City Manager.

Otherwise, his role is little different from other councilmembers. In spite of bi-partisan political progress he feels has been made in Santa Monica since his last term as mayor, Holbrook said there are issues City Hall is struggling to deal with.

A stronger mayoral form of



BOB HOLBROOK

government would allow City Hall's priorities to better reflect the will of the citizenry, if the public could express their concerns more directly to a top official who'd campaign for their vote.

"An elected mayor would be able to talk about issues residents are interested in, but that City Hall has been slow to act on over the years," Holbrook said. "If the mayor were an elected position, with elected responsibilities, there might be more action on homeless, traffic and parking issues, for example."

Holbrook pointed out, for example, that he feels Santa Monica is in great need of a major retailer that could serve a variety of basic consumer needs, such as a Target.

Holbrook said he's even had a few ideas where a major retailer might be located. Currently, the only sites that have seemed plausible would require a zoning adjustment.

To do that would require agreement among the City Council and

See HOLBROOK, page 9

COMMUNITY PROFILES

COMMUNITY PROFILES IS A WEEKLY SERIES THAT APPEARS EACH MONDAY AND DELVES INTO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN SANTA MONICA.

A look into de la Torre's past, present and future

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

A recent chat with Santa Monica's youngest and most controversial elected official began with a personal touch one might not have expected from a brazen politico.

However, Oscar de la Torre, 34 — school board member and director of the Pico Youth & Family Center — began to share the story of his life not with a tirade against economic and social injustice — a topic he's more than willing to discuss — but a driving tour through the neighborhood where he grew up, on the eastside of town.

Some might even say Pico's most outspoken advocate is coming of age.

He certainly would. Recently married to his wife, Maria, and due for a son in April, de la Torre says becoming a family man is adding a personal dimension to his life, convincing him more than ever that his commitment to struggling youth is the right path for him.

Ironically, perhaps, his tour



"One of my passions, having grown up in this neighborhood, is to help protect its ethnic and cultural diversity."

OSCAR DE LA TORRE
Community Activist

started at Woodlawn Cemetery.

"For me, Woodlawn is an interesting place," he said. "For a lot of people it's just a cemetery, but for me it used to be a park."

"When we were kids we played hide-and-go-seek here, games like

that."

De la Torre noted the graffiti on a nearby fence. For better or worse, it seems youth still visit the home of the dead.

See PROFILES, page 8

STATE

New California laws go into effect in 2006

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — In a state with a history of passing trend-setting laws, 2005 was a year of modest accomplishments.

The California Legislature, distracted by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's call for a special election, still managed to pass dozens of laws, although many were geared toward narrow interests. Some of those generating the most public attention were vetoed or delayed by lawsuits.

Laws that took effect Sunday include a crackdown on paparazzi, a ban on nutritional supplements for student athletes, restrictions on how close sex offenders can live to schools and a requirement that homeowner associations open their financial records to members.

The Nov. 8 special election, which ended with voters defeating all eight ballot initiatives, commanded most of the

See NEW LAWS, page 5

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Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You start the new year with high hopes. You have set a certain amount of prerequisites for the coming year. Hope bubbles forth. Friends and associates discuss their dreams and long-term desires. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Daydreams and illusions punctuate any project you take on. As a result, though you might not be reality-based, you have a good time. Separate the real from the unreal, please. Don't finalize anything today. Tonight: Listen to the other side of an issue.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination could seem a bit far-out, at least right now. You have a way of seeing outside the box, which often tosses others into chaos. Walk associates through your concepts step by step. Tonight: You see eye to eye with a friend or loved one.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ A partner or associate might seem way out there to you, especially regarding a practical matter. Work on understanding rather than negating. Success becomes your middle name. Tonight: Out late, one more time.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others want to be more accessible and agreeable. You are encouraged to handle what you need to until you have come to terms with it. Creativity and easiness help many relax. Help others get things off their chest. Tonight: Ever playful.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You wake up in work mode, whether you like it or not. You might be able to clear out much more than you'd anticipated, whether you are at home or at work. Pace yourself, as suddenly you want to do it all, in one day. Tonight: My goodness, you're tired. Wonder why?



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity could easily merge into fantasy. Listen carefully to news that heads your way. Daydream and brainstorm all you want, but make no major decisions at this time. Use this ingenuity for writing letters or some other creative outlet. Tonight: Share your rose-colored mood.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Anchor in and get as much done as you possibly can. A light, frivolous mood could loosen up a domestic situation. Don't count on making practical decisions. Defer key issues. Just enjoy your mood, OK? Tonight: Settle into your favorite spot.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to use your instincts more than you have previously. You'll find out how right-on you are. Imagination and creativity play a big role in your communications. Tonight: Follow the music.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Money could continue to slip through your hands. Your instincts might feel right-on, yet they could lead you to trouble or needless spending. Be in touch with your feelings, and you could find that you are more intact. Tonight: Think rather than act.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You star with the Moon in your sign. Sometimes people find you odd, while others look to you for inspiration. Either way, you are a creature of imagination and eccentricity. Accept friends. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You need to cut back and take your time. Inevitably, you find that others make demands. The real issue at hand is how to take care of your needs as well as others'. Know that you can do it. This task is possible. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz NEWS CLERK Michelle Lanz michelle@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Robbie P. Plubeni rob@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville ...connies@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger MoNeY.T.LaRoK@\$mdp.C@m CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL



For the birds



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The first person to identify where this photo was taken will win a prize. E-mail answers to editor@smdp.com.

Mimi Ison is last week's mystery photo winner. Ison accurately described that this photo was taken at Angel's Attic on Colorado Avenue. Check out today's edition for this week's mystery photo contest.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Venice High School to participate in NYC festival

By Daily Press staff

A local high school's drama department has made it to Broadway. Venice High School's drama department has been selected to participate in the National Performing Arts Festival in New York City. The cast, crew, director and chaperones will attend the festival for four days, from Feb. 17 to Feb. 20. The festival for theatre students provides a balance of performance, educational and touring opportunities. While attending the NPAF, the students will attend workshops covering topics such as acting techniques, vocal technique, stage movement and auditioning. The group will attend a Broadway musical and enjoy sightseeing in New York City via guided tours. They also will attend a dinner theatre featuring young actors launching their careers in New York. Students will connect with professionals in the entertainment industry, and learn from their experience and expertise to move their lives in a creatively artistic direction. Venice High students will perform a selection from their current production of "The Diary of Anne Frank." Performances by student actors from around the country will receive a rating on a national standard, by a panel of experts. Only 15 groups were selected to participate. The Venice High School drama department is currently accepting donations to help cover the \$56,000 cost of the trip for 35 students and eight chaperones. For more information, call coach Frank Garnett at (310) 391-0753.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 8	LIFTS OPEN 9/12
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Frozen Granular, Thin Cover				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 4/16
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 96"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 22/26
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 8"-10"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 9	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Hard Packed, Frozen Granular, Thin Cover				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 0"-1"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 0
CONDITIONS: N/A				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 8	LIFTS OPEN 8/13
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Frozen Granular, Thin Cover				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 9:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 5	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: ...°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (5-10 FT)

Today is when our next NW swell is due. This is from another one of those Kamchatka Peninsula originating systems we've been tracking this past week traversing eastward across the Pacific. As mentioned in earlier reports this week, this storm is traversing at a fairly low latitude bringing WNW swell from around 270-280 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Significant NW swell Monday, but...

Tracking smaller, yet notable NW swell for Jan. 5.

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

N/A

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM



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The Q Line

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Now that a new year is upon us, 2006 will prove to be 365 days of opportunities and challenges. The city of Santa Monica has many of both — a new city manager will start his job this month, as will a "homeless czar" who is charged with effectively dealing with our growing residentially-challenged citizens. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What is the biggest issue facing Santa Monica and how should we as a community deal with it?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The great new art of Santa Monica

Editor:

Do you realize the great effort Santa Monica politicians are creating to educate all of us about true art? We must realize what the great art, such as those flower pots in the middle of our busy streets, are all about. It is to show us that we need more artists' outlets for those driven folks who must create "art at any price." Even the traffic slow down is part of the Santa Monica great art scene.

While sitting in our cars waiting for the traffic to move, we have the time to enjoy these great works. Art is all important in Santa Monica, you see. Even at the new Santa Monica Public Library. And there is much, much more to come.

Henry L. Duval
Santa Monica

War doesn't go both ways

Editor:

During the Bush years, I have become more and more frustrated with comments from our "leaders" that make no sense and should have been challenged, but never were. For example, in answer to requests that he bring back our troops from Iraq now, Bush says, "Decisions about troop levels will be driven by the condition on the ground and the good judgment of our commanders, not the artificial timetables set by politicians in Washington."

Since when is a president not a "politician in Washington?" Bush, in particular, is a super-politician, being the only president in the history of our country who lost the election, but managed to become president.

When asked why our army in Iraq was inadequately protected from the enemy, Rumsfeld said, "You can't always have the kind of army you want." Why can't the "greatest country in the world" (as Dole regularly told us) have the best-equipped army in the world? Why has our military, knowingly, been sent into battle without proper protection?

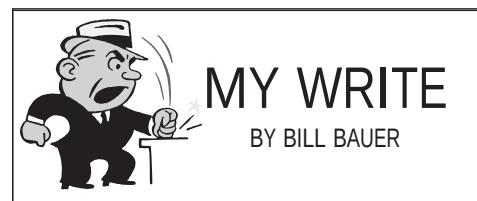
You are probably wondering why Cindy Sheehan's name is included in this motley crew. It is because I consider her a "leader." In fact, I thought at one time, she would be the logical leader in our war against the Iraq war.

Recounting what she would like to say to Bush, Cindy said, "You get us out of Iraq, you get Israel out of Palestine." Does she mean to take our troops out of Iraq, only to send them into Israel? Fortunately, Israel and Palestine have since settled their own differences. Or is she now campaigning to rid all countries of their invaders? In that case, top on her list should be the invasion and complete destruction of the most peaceful people and religion in the world — the Tibetan Buddhists, by China.

Cindy, you can't have it both ways.

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica

More monkey business to deal with in 2006



In May I wrote that it was unfortunate City Hall couldn't find enough money in its 2005-2006 budget to reopen branch libraries — Montana Avenue, Fairview and Ocean Park — on Fridays and Sundays. In educationally aware Santa Monica, libraries closed two days a week is nothing short of criminal.

Not one education supporter responded to my column or stepped up to the plate on this one, including the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) and the Lifelong Learning folks. I had even sent an e-mail to Louise Jaffe suggesting, as a CEPS leader and Lifelong learning advocate, she should help promote the extended operating days. She responded that it would be a great cause for me to pursue.

The problem is that one person — even a crusading newspaper columnist for one of the world's great dailies — doesn't carry enough weight to have tens of thousands of dollars added to the city budget, no matter how noble the cause. Widespread community support is necessary and if it isn't achieved, even the best suggestions are ignored.

And all those education supporters? Not caring about daily branch library operation is inconsistent with playing election-year, "support education" political games and advocating for frequent school and college parcel tax increases, isn't it?

It's mind-boggling that City Hall can spend millions on services for vagrants but can't come up with scratch to keep branch libraries open every day.

Sometime this year, the city's transportation management division will unveil a scheme to allow business parking in residential neighborhoods. I wrote in June that to relieve a "chronic shortage of on-street parking near commercial streets" such as Montana Avenue, Pico Boulevard and Ocean Park Boulevard, staff was studying issuing special permits allowing store employees to park in resident-only parking zones.

The problem is there is no guarantee this plan won't expand citywide and eventually affect extensive numbers of residential parking spots. If promulgated, the proposal also could wind up generating legal challenges and maybe a loss of all

permit parking city wide. So, when staff's final proposal goes public just say, "No to employee parking on residential streets."

I've written many columns on speculators who buy undervalued real estate and turn it around quickly at jacked-up prices. Whether its single-family homes, apartments or condos, "flipping" drives up the cost of housing and is depleting existing affordable rental units at an alarming rate.

I wrote earlier this month about a man and his disabled mother who, after claiming harassment, were evicted from their three bedroom, mid-city rent-controlled apartment by the new Malibu-based owner who purchased their building in February. This landlord appeared to be maximizing investment by forcing or buying out low-rent tenants. The man and his disabled mother were evicted but won their court case in October. They're safe for the moment.

Their eight-unit building was purchased for about \$1.4 million last February. The owner spent approximately \$50,000 on repairs and improvements. I just learned it's back on the market for \$2,499,000 — a classic flip.

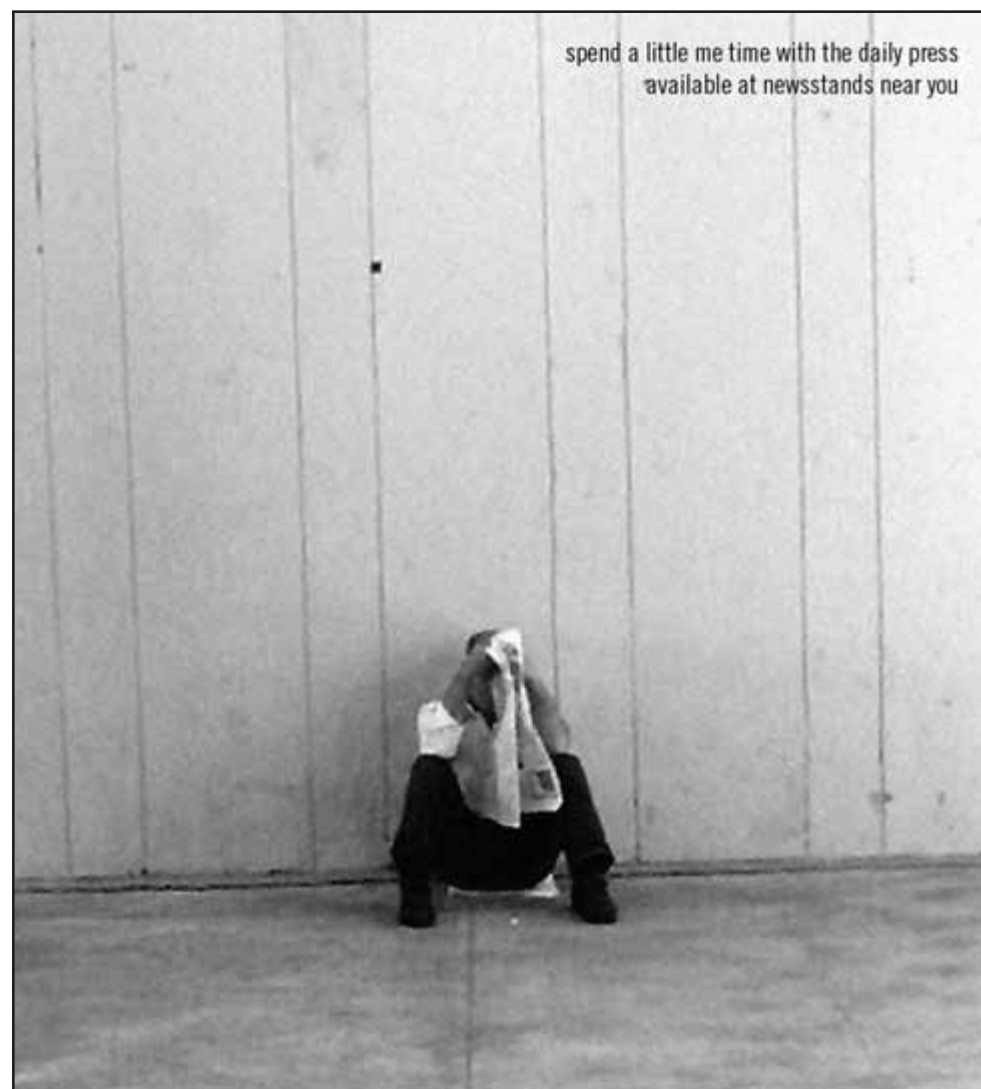
The listing describes this income property as, "very low rents, lots of upside for the future." In real estate jargon, this means "getting rid of low-rent tenants will improve cash flow, profit and property value." While the present landlord/owner potentially profits by \$1 million in just 10 months, he's made life miserable for eight families.

But things aren't going to get better for these tenants — like others all over town. When a new owner takes possession, you can bet the family Buick the pressure will be on to convert units to market rate or evict everyone and totally redevelop.

Last spring, after writing about a Grant Street condo flip featured on the national TV show, "Property Ladder," City Councilman Kevin McKeown responded that he'd sent an e-mail to the City Manager asking about potential taxes and/or fees on flips.

Hopefully, McKeown's suggestion will be studied by our new City Manager and implemented as a way to provide some tenant relief from profiteers out for a fast buck. Public pressure by tenants' rights organizations and renters might make this a reality and help protect the shrinking number of existing affordable units and the families that call them home.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

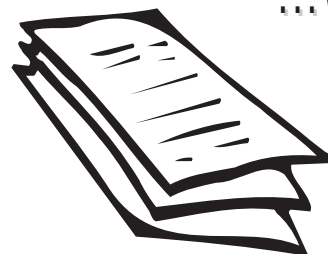


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Santa Monica Daily Press



A synopsis of the new laws in 2006

NEW LAWS, from page 1

legislature's and governor's attention. That prompted Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, to characterize 2005 as "a year of wasted opportunities."

As a result, no single issue dominated the session.

Two bills that led to lengthy debates — one to legalize same-sex marriage and another to grant driver's licenses to illegal immigrants — were vetoed by Schwarzenegger.

Two other high-profile bills were signed into law but have been stalled by lawsuits filed just before they were to take effect. One would have restricted the sale of violent video games to minors. The other would have banned unsolicited faxed advertisements.

Several laws arose after high-profile incidents, such as one aimed at overzealous paparazzi. It allows hefty civil penalties against paparazzi who commit assaults in pursuit of celebrity photographs.

The law stems from an incident in May in which Los Angeles police said a photographer rammed his van into a car driven by actress Lindsay Lohan. Prosecutors declined to charge the photographer with a crime, saying there was no evidence he acted intentionally.

Another targets dangerous dogs and lets cities and counties enact ordinances for specific breeds. They can mandate spaying and neutering and restrictions on breeding.

The law followed a series of attacks by pit bulls throughout the state, including the fatal mauling of a 12-year-old boy in San Francisco. Officials there have since required owners to spay or neuter their pit bulls.

Homeowners associations will be required to open more of their records to members, and they won't be allowed to foreclose on people who owe less than \$1,800 in past due fees.

This followed several news accounts of battles between homeowners and their common-interest developments — including a retired Calaveras County couple who lost their \$300,000 home after the association ordered a foreclosure sale over \$120 in back dues.

Schwarzenegger also approved a law that bans student athletes from using three nutritional supplements — synephrine, ephedra and DHEA — and requires the youths and their parents to sign a pledge not to use them.

The law also requires coaches to undergo training about dietary supplements and prohibits supplement manufacturers from sponsoring school events.

Schwarzenegger vetoed a similar bill by Speier in 2004, saying he wanted a law that would focus on steroid abuse.

His critics accused the governor of having a conflict of interest after it was disclosed this summer that Schwarzenegger would earn at least \$1 million a year for his role as a consultant to several fitness magazines. Much of the advertising in the magazines comes from nutritional supplement companies. Schwarzenegger later gave up the contract, although he continues to write a column for the magazines.

California also will prohibit pharmacists from refusing to fill a prescription for emergency contraception on moral, ethical or religious grounds.

An exception is made for those who have told their employer of their objections, but only if the employer can accommodate it. Pharmacies also must have a system that allows patients to get timely access to prescribed drugs.

Several new laws also affect teenagers and children.

Minors who want a body piercing must have permission from a parent or guardian. The law makes it an infraction, with a potential fine of \$250, to pierce tongues, noses and other body parts of those under 18 without approval of the minor's parent or guardian. Ear piercing is exempt.

"We already require that," said Avishay Shabtai, owner of The Urban Body in Davis, Calif. "We don't pierce anyone who is under 18 unless they have a parent (with them)."

Shabtai said he checks IDs but says other shops must be more lenient: "We tell people that we cannot do it, and they still do it."

Teens also will be affected by a law that limits when they can drive.

Drivers with less than six months' experience will not be allowed to drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. They also cannot have passengers under the age of 20 unless they are accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 25 years old.

A bill likely to affect the fewest people in California prohibits hunting over the Internet.

It was triggered by a Website in Texas designed to let hunters shoot at animals with the click of a computer mouse. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission later voted to ban so-called remote game hunting.

The California law makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine to hunt animals over the Internet. The measure also prohibits the importation of animals killed via the Internet.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

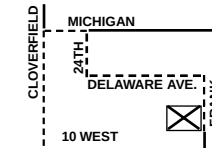
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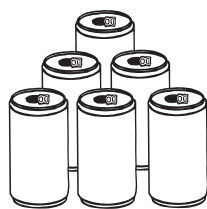
We encourage you to visit the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum — The Archives of Santa Monica. 1539 Euclid (310) 395-2290





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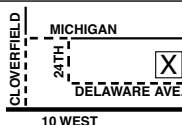
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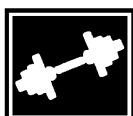
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Schwarzenegger proposes hike in minimum wage

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to propose a \$1 increase in the state's minimum wage after vetoing similar legislature this year, a further indication that he is cultivating a more moderate image as he begins his reelection year.

An aide to the governor said Friday that the proposal will be included in Schwarzenegger's State of the State speech on Thursday.

Under the plan, the hourly wage would rise from \$6.75 to \$7.25 in September and to \$7.75 in July 2007.

Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill last September that would have provided the same wage increase but also mandated automatic hikes to keep pace with inflation. In his veto message, the governor said he believed it was time to raise the minimum wage but did not support the annual increase.

The new proposal does not include an automatic yearly increase.

California's minimum wage was last increased in 2002, when it rose by 50 cents an hour. The state's lowest-paid workers already get more than the federal minimum of \$5.15 per hour, but are paid less than other West Coast states. Oregon's minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, while Washington's is \$7.35.

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said he supports the governor's proposal but considers it open for negotiation.

"The cost of living has gone up exponentially, but wages have been frozen, creating an underclass of the working poor," he said. "That the governor recog-

nizes this as a reality is a step forward."

Nunez said he still favors automatic increases but said he is willing to consider other options, including a higher increase. The governor's press office declined to comment publicly about the proposal.

The minimum wage proposal is the latest significant action by Schwarzenegger after voters rejected all four of his initiatives in the Nov. 8 special election. He has seen his popularity plunge and faces reelection next year.

In another move this week favored by Democrats, he proposed a freeze on fee hikes at California universities, meaning costs would remain the same next year after a series of increases. He also has ended his legal challenge over hospital staffing ratios, a fight that turned the state's nurses union into one of his most persistent critics earlier this year.

And in a move that angered some conservatives, he appointed a longtime Democratic activist as his chief of staff just weeks after the special election.

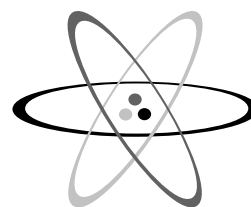
Business owners are likely to give Schwarzenegger's idea mixed reviews, said Scott Hague, owner of an insurance firm and founder of Small Business California, an advocacy group.

He said a lot of small businesses already pay their employees wages that are higher than the minimum and would not be affected by the increase.

"(But) there's a recognition that the cost of living has gone up," he said.

Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, a left-leaning think tank, said Schwarzenegger's proposal is a positive. But she said small but consistent increases in the minimum wage — rather than sudden jumps — are better for the economy.

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

'Know before you go' is a weekly update on construction projects throughout Santa Monica. Here is a schedule of construction projects initiated by public agencies for the week of Jan. 2:



Airport Park and Airport Avenue

Site grading, constructing new artificial turf soccer fields, constructing new playground, restrooms and dog park area, and reconstructing a portion of Airport Avenue. On-site detour possible during street reconstruction.

Pier structural rehabilitation

Structural upgrade of Municipal Pier roadway and miscellaneous repairs on Newcomb Pier.

Los Angeles County storm drain repair

Installation of low-flow diversion unit on Ashland Avenue, between Main Street and Neilson Way. There will be detour signs posted around the work area.

Montana Avenue storm drain repair

Repair of an existing outlet structure, several drainage facilities and approximately 200 square feet of asphalt near the 1550 beach parking lot. Project will include construction of 24-inch and 63-inch reinforced concrete pipes. Portions of the bike path will be used during construction. Follow posted detour signs.

Marine Street utility undergrounding

Relocation and undergrounding of electric, phone and cable facilities on Marine Street, between Lincoln Boulevard and Prospect Court. Parking limitations will be posted daily, and detours may be announced as necessary.

Cingular telecommunications lines

Cingular is installing telecommunication lines on San Vicente Boulevard from 17th to 19th streets.; San Vicente Boulevard from Fourth Street to 100 feet west of Fourth Street; and Fourth Street from San Vicente Boulevard to alley south of San Vicente Boulevard. There will be detours around the work areas.

Civic Center parking structure

Construction continues on a new 900 space Civic Center public parking structure, located on Fourth Street next to the Public Safety Facility. Construction will require the closure of Avenida Mazatlan and the Fourth Street sidewalk. One lane on southbound Fourth Street is subject to closure while work is occurring. There also may be delays entering the Civic Center parking lot from Fourth Street. Use the Main Street entrance.

Electrical vault installation

Southern California Edison will be installing an underground vault on Santa Monica Boulevard at Seventh Court. There will be detours around work areas. Please follow posted signs.

Gas company main replacement

Southern California Gas Company is replacing a 4-inch main on San Vicente Boulevard, between 17th and 16th streets; 17th Street, between San Vicente Boulevard and Georgina Avenue; Georgina Avenue, between 17th and 16th streets; and 16th Street, between San Vicente Boulevard and Georgina Avenue. There will be detours around work areas. Follow posted signs.

Main Library

Construction is near completion on the new main library, located at 601 Santa Monica Blvd. During construction, visit any of the branch libraries. Vehicular traffic patterns and parking availability have been restored on Sixth and Seventh streets, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. However, temporary no parking will be permitted on the northwest side of Santa Monica Boulevard, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

Memorial and Los Amigos Park building replacement

Demolition of existing park buildings and construction of new restrooms, concession stands and storage buildings. Park buildings will be inaccessible during construction. Memorial Park is located at Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street, and Los Amigos Park is located at Fifth Street and Hollister Avenue.

On-Fiber telecommunications lines

On-Fiber is installing telecommunication lines on 26th Street from north of Colorado Boulevard to Pennsylvania Street. There may be detours around the work area along Pennsylvania Street, from 26th to Stewart streets.

Traffic signal upgrade

City Hall's transportation management division is upgrading traffic signals on Ocean Park Boulevard at Cloverfield Boulevard and at 23rd Street. There will be detours around the work area. However, the contractor will maintain at a minimum one lane in each direction on all streets. For information on the project, call (310) 458-4982.

Water main replacement project

Installation of new water main complete with service connections. Detours and lane closures may occur, and will be posted at various sites throughout the city during construction.

(For more information, log on to http://santa.monica.org/engineering/projects/kbug_project_list.asp or call 310-458-8721.)



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BIG DEAN'S CAFE-Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome. Now serving breakfast. Also serving lunch and dinner. 1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica. (310) 393-2666.

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BUCCA di BEPPO-gets to the heart of Southern Italian cooking with authentic, family-style recipes like Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, and Tortelloni. Dishes are available in Buca Small portions for 2 or more people, and Buca Large for 4 or more. The full menu is available for curb-side take out; we'll deliver your order right to your car! Located one block off the Promenade at 1422 2nd St, Santa Monica. Call 310-587-EATS for reservations and take out.

CASA ESCOBAR-This family owned institution in Santa Monica has been serving excellent food since 1965. A friendly bar and dinner house frequented by the "locals" and tourists alike. We feature the best Mexican dishes in town. Among the favorites are the crispy beef tacos, spinach enchiladas and our house-cut NY Strip steaks on the grill. Our full bar is home of the famous Casa Escobar Margarita-a winner! While at the bar, enjoy our classic piano bar along with cable TV. Valet Parking available. All major credit cards. Open lunch and dinner. 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 828-1315.

JOHNNIES-The Best Little Neighborhood Italian Restaurant. Come in to our new location and enjoy Traditional or Stuffed pastas, Mile High Salads, Grinders, Roman Style Sandwiches, Hearty Calzones, and New York Style Thin Crust Pizza, in a relaxing neighborhood setting. When you're looking for a reasonably priced, traditional Italian meal with authentic New York attitude, Johnnies delivers. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Friday and Saturday 11am-11pm. Dine In, Take Out and Delivery. 1456 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. (310) 395-9062.

OVERUNDER SPORTS GRILL-Located on the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Blvd., OVERUNDER features 12 draft beers and a fine selection of wine making it a great place to watch any and all of your favorite teams. The house specialty is the Philadelphia cheese steak. OVERUNDER also offers great burgers, salads, Mexican food and more. OVERUNDER is the viewing home for the Cleveland Browns and strongly supports the Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, and Kings. Frequent food and beer specials are also offered at OVERUNDER Sports Grill. All football, baseball, and basketball games are televised via satellite for every team. 1348 14th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 576-9913.

THE OMELETTE PARLOR-For 28 years The Omelette Parlor has been offering the finest in breakfast fare. With high fluffy omelettes, super sandwiches, and the freshest of salads, it's more than breakfast. Enjoy your day on our garden patio and experience the friendliness of service. Quality and value prevail forever at The Omelette Parlor. We open everyday at 6am. Come early! Hours: 6am-2:30pm Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. 2732 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-7892.

THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

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COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 1

“There was a large population of Japanese living in Santa Monica who were sent to a concentration camp during World War II,” de la Torre said, pointing to a tall monument outside his car window, dated 1959.

“Before the Japanese left, they installed this memorial,” he said, and read the inscription. “In memory of Japanese ancestors.”

“So here’s an important part of our history in the Pico neighborhood that few people know about.”

De la Torre said the Pico neighborhood has been the historical heart of Santa Monica’s cultural and ethnic diversity.

It’s also a tradition he hopes continues in the future. However, the Pico neighborhood, like much of Santa Monica, is becoming increasingly gentrified. Small homes are selling for \$700,000 and a lot of old-time residents — many African American and Latino — are leaving the city in search of more inexpensive living.

“I hope the fate of the Japanese community that left long ago won’t be the same for Latino and African American communities, which, unfortunately, we’re seeing being dislocated,” de la Torre said. “Once these people are gone, I doubt they will ever be able to afford to come back to Santa Monica.”

“One of my passions, having grown up in this neighborhood, is to help protect its ethnic and cultural diversity.”

From Woodlawn Cemetery, the tour of de la Torre’s life continued around the corner, to a two-bedroom apartment at 1841 16th St. That’s where his mother and father — who originally hale from Jalisco, Mexico — moved his seven bothers and sisters in 1980. De la Torre, born at UCLA Medical Center, was 9 when his family moved into the apartment.

His mother, once a laundry woman, worked in the same building where he now heads the Pico Youth & Family Center, a non-profit organization committed to strengthening opportunities for people of poverty, many of whom locally are Latino and black.

His father, a welder, worked for CAL-R, a company once located in the Pico neighborhood.

De la Torre attended the Santa Monica public school system, including Will Rogers Elementary, John Adams Middle School and Santa Monica High School.

While his parents were loving and supportive and provided the ingredients of a strong family, neighborhood troubles seemed to find a way into de la Torre’s life at an early age.

He said those troubles, ultimately, have shaped his life.

The first person de la Torre saw shot to death was when he was 12. By then, he was on the way to a troubled life himself. Of the 32 homicides committed in Santa Monica since 1989, de la Torre says he knew more than half the victims.

He described himself as a “C, D” student until his junior year at Samohi, when he began to realize he lived in poverty.

The most practical way to get out of it, he figured, was to attain a higher education.

By his senior year of high school, de la Torre was on his way to turning his life around and finding his calling in community activism and politics.

What’s life like in Pico?

“This is the neighborhood I grew up in, 16th Street and Delaware. When I grew up

the homeowners here were all African American, and the renters were all Latino. Now it’s become very Anglo. There’s still a lot of Latino renters, but now we’re starting to see a lot of Asian renters, who are coming as international exchange students through Santa Monica College. So the demographics are changing in the Pico neighborhood. It’s a little distressing because I can’t come here and say ‘hi’ to the families I used to know.

“It’s true, the majority of gun-related homicide and shootings occur here. It’s also one of the highest concentrations of youth and poverty. Look at all the bicycles there are here. Lots of children, not a lot of yards to play in. They need support and as many opportunities as possible.

“See how there’s a fence right there? That’s a relic to the crack epidemic that swept Pico in the mid-1980s. There was so much traffic going through there, crackheads and drug deals going on. The neighbors started a collection and put that (tall iron) fence there.

“But because of that fence, one day we heard a commotion, and we all came outside and there was a young man caught up in that fence. There were two guys who came out of a car and were chasing him with a shotgun, but that young guy couldn’t get over the fence, so he had no where to go and was screaming for help, so when we saw what was going on, we pretended we were going to go after those two guys with the shotgun, yelling back and forth to each other, ‘get the gun, get the gun,’ to scare them off. Luckily, it worked. We freaked out the guys with the shotgun and they left. We, the neighbors, saved that young man’s life.”

What was Samohi like? Sports? Activities?

“I served as the Latino student body president from 1989 to 1990. I was also co-captain of the football team. I played strong safety. I took my aggression out on the football field.

“Football was going on while I was becoming aware of the poverty, and that consciousness is very important. Once I realized what poverty meant — gang violence, drug addiction and neglect from the government — after that it was just church, family and football.

“Football also gave me what a lot of youth find in gangs. It gave me a sense of belonging, team spirit and camaraderie. More importantly, it also taught me discipline and sobriety. You need heart to play. It also expanded my circle of friends, and that helped me out. It was very diverse. I met north of Montana and Malibu kids, who I developed good friendships with.

“That exposed me to a different way of life. Having friends whose parents were college educated changed my perspective. Once I saw they had the nicer homes and lived in better neighborhoods and their children were having less of a risk, I said to myself, ‘I want a college education. I want to provide that to my children one day.’”

How did you get involved in politics?

“My parents were a-political. They didn’t even vote. So, I got my political sense from my sense of injustice. I was living in a roach-infested apartment and going to a high school where some of the kids were showing up in Beamers and Porsches while my mamma’s taking the bus to work, you know?

“That developed a sense for me that, ‘wait a minute, something is really wrong here.’ I didn’t have the answers yet, but I knew we were under-represented. I knew the image of Mexicans was ‘dirty’ in the city of Santa Monica. So, I wanted to

change that. I wanted to not be a victim and change the stereotypes.

“That’s why I decided to run for student body president. I was in a Spanish class at Samohi and honors kids were talking about who’s going to be the next student body president. And joking around I said, ‘I’m going to run and beat those guys.’ They started laughing and telling me I was never going to win.

“I asked them why. A friend of mine, very honest, said, ‘First of all, you’re not an honors student. Second of all, you’re a jock. Third of all, you’re Mexican. When was the last time a Mexican was elected student body president?’

“I said, ‘I don’t know.’ He said, ‘Go look at the pictures on the wall in the student room and find out.’ I did. There was only one Mexican on the wall. His name was Manuel Carbajal, elected in 1948.”

What’s your educational background?

“Basically, I graduated from Samohi with a 2.9 GPA. I went from being a C, D student to an A student by my senior year. Then I went to Chico State University. My first scholarships were all local ... the Optimist Club, the Soroptimist Club ... the Rotary Club ... they all supported me.

“I graduated from Chico with a 3.5 GPA. I was also the university’s first Latino student body president. I was very politically involved. Then I went to University of Texas at Austin on the Woodrow Wilson fellowship Award. I received a masters degree in public administration. I had a 3.8 GPA.

“Studying public policy and working in the Texas legislature, I became more deeply involved in politics. I was working for a senator from Austin and I was his education analyst. I was offered a job in the Texas legislature making a good amount of money but I had a vision to return to Santa Monica and help my community. So I took a paycut, so to speak, to come back here and work as an outreach specialist at Samohi.”

There are rumors your first taste of controversy was in college. Over what?

“You can Google me and find out. But what happened is this. There was an anti-affirmative action case that won in the Court of Appeals. The impact of that decision was to eliminate all the programs that had got me into the university. They helped me get in, but after that I was on my own, so I consider myself a proud product of affirmative action. It got me in, but it didn’t get me out. I did all my work, writing the essays and taking the exams. I had to work for it.

“We founded an organization on campus called ‘Students for Access and Opportunity,’ basically to combat the forces against affirmative action on campus. It was a relatively conservative environment compared to here.

“We developed a protest movement, bottom line. We held a sleep-in at the law school and closed it for a day. We did so because a professor there made racial comments challenging the intellectual capacity of Latinos and blacks. Essentially, he said the reason we needed affirmative action is that we’re not intellectually competitive with whites, but he seemed not to be taking into account hundreds of years of slavery and all of that.

“We had 10 points we hoped to achieve with the protest, and after negotiating with administration, we were able accomplish three of them. I’m proud of that.”

How did you get where you are today?

“In 1996 I had a vision, a dream, more like a nightmare. There were all of these

white crosses that popped up in the area where someone had been gunned down in the neighborhood. In this nightmare, I’d drive around the neighborhood and see these white crosses grow out of the concrete. It was freaky, but it was also kind of hopeful, that those who have died from violence are being remembered.

“I started working at Samohi and I started to realize, you can’t have strong schools in weak communities. If you have a drug problem in the community, you’ll have one in school. The same goes for racial problems and violence. The school within itself can’t deal with these multitude of problems to be found in the Pico neighborhood.

“There was a series of shooting in October of 1998 and in a matter of two weeks, four people were dead and five shot in the westside of L.A. So when all of this happened, the community was paralyzed. A lot of innocent people were killed. The majority weren’t even gang involved. So that was a very sad thing, knowing a 3-year-old son wasn’t going to see his father anymore.

“So in November of that year we organized the largest demonstration against gun violence in our city. It was a vigil for peace on Nov. 2, 1998. We also made the white crosses for those who have died. We walked right by here, where I saw my first shooting.

“Eventually we went to City Hall, and (then) City Manager Susan McCarthy recognized that Pico needed help, so she started the process.”

What are you doing to improve relations with the Santa Monica police?

“First of all, we recognize that there is a role for law enforcement. I’m a strong believer there needs to be a partnership between law enforcement and low-income, high-crime communities.

“However, I think more’s needed. We need a paradigm shift to prevention and intervention. Hey, someone commits a major violent crime, they need to go to prison. But what happens afterwards? There’s a felon, he or she can’t get a good job, so what do they do? Crime pays, so they get back into crime. We need to do more to rehabilitate, just like we do with drug addicts. We can do the same with gang members. We can rehabilitate them. I believe in that. Sometimes I’m criticized, because people think I want to coddle criminals. But I believe the cycle needs to end somewhere, and giving people more opportunities for a second chance would certainly help. Bottom line is, if we want to help our community, we need to invest in it.

“I have asked to meet with the police chief, but he won’t meet with me. However, he brought gifts to the PY&FC and visited there for the first time recently, and I think that’s a step in the right direction. But the PD has nothing to do with me, and I hope that changes, because the community needs that change.

“I look forward to working with the new city manager, because we need one who will see public safety beyond a law enforcement approach. We need a model of public safety that also has a prevention and intervention model, to get kids away from violence and drugs.æ

What are you doing to build your constituency?

“I’m a progressive, left of center, no doubt about it. There are issues I might be seen as more conservative, such as allowing prayer in school, but basically I con-



Help for the homeless on its way, mayor says

HOLBROOK, from page 1

city staff that such an adjustment would be desirable, and to achieve that might take more than a mayor who has a “feeling” about a city need, he said.

It may require a mayor in office with an elected official’s responsibilities. That way, Holbrook or someone else who’s campaigned successfully on the “feeling” that a major retailer is needed, may legally have more leverage to take action at City Hall.

Santa Monica’s mayor would be a position which, theoretically, would serve as a better conduit to the public, since the public would vote the city’s top elected official into office.

It’s not a new idea. A stronger mayoral form of government, as well as districting, was proposed to voters a few years back and failed.

However, Holbrook feels the progress has been slow enough on key public issues that he may again propose that Santa Monica embrace a strong mayoral form of government.

NEW CITY LEADERSHIP ON THE HORIZON

Holbrook, a semi-retired pharmacist who works in downtown Los Angeles, is married and has three grown children.

As opposed to his previous term as mayor, when he was still working full time, Holbrook hopes he can represent Santa Monica more often at events than he has been able to in the past.

He’s also looking forward to 2006, noting opportunities opening up for the city from last year.

City Hall has hired a new City Manager, Lamont Ewell, who Holbrook is looking forward to working with.

The effort to find Ewell was one that Holbrook helped lead.

Holbrook said he is confident Ewell will make a fine replacement for City Manager Susan McCarthy, who retired in December.

Ewell is coming from San Diego, where he served as the City Manager. That city is currently embroiled in financial scandal and federal scrutiny involving an encumbered city pension plan.

However, Holbrook said that scandal has nothing to do with Ewell and Santa Monicans will soon find out for themselves the quality of the person hired.

“No doubt about it, people are going to like Lamont,” Holbrook said.

Holbrook discussed the selection process for the new City Manager, most of which occurred behind closed doors, as authorized in the city charter.

Holbrook relayed a tale about Ewell’s tenure as the City Manager for Durham, North Carolina.

Durham has a large black population. At some point, Ewell needed to find a new police chief for the city.

Ewell relayed to the City Council during the course of his interviews how leaders of Durham’s black con-

stituency approached him and suggested Ewell hire a black police chief. Members of Durham’s City Council, many of whom were white, approached Ewell and said that they assumed he was going to hire a black police chief, and if so, that he be sure to make sure it’s the best black police chief available.

Ewell conducted interviews and decided to hire a female police chief. Subsequently, Ewell’s decision upset many of the city’s black and whites, but Ewell stuck to his choice, confident it was the right one. He felt the woman hired was the most qualified for the position and that time would prove it.

Within months, Holbrook said the people of Durham expressed their gratitude in Ewell’s choice.

“He doesn’t look at anything but a person’s qualifications and character,” Holbrook said. “That’s what matters to him, and that’s what I liked about him.”

Holbrook called officials in Durham to corroborate information in Ewell’s application. Representatives there told him they wish he had never left.

“Lamont is said to have excellent management skills and have a natural talent for finding the right people for the job,” Holbrook said.

In addition, Ewell apparently arranged Durham’s municipal system so city departments worked better to clean up its streets.

Holbrook anticipates that Ewell will work well with the new president of Santa Monica College, Dr. Chui Tsang, soon to begin his tenure, and Edmund Edelman, the city’s new homeless czar, set for a one-year appointment.

Ewell also will help determine who will be the next city planning director.

HOLBROOK POINTS TO A YEAR OF POSSIBILITY

Holbrook said new city leadership presents an opportunity to make headway on issues that stem from 2005.

In particular, Holbrook said City Hall is gearing up to tackle the city’s homeless problem on an unprecedented scale, and he credits the success of that effort to the work of City Councilman Bobby Shriver.

“Bobby’s been working very hard to bring the homeless issue to the forefront,” Holbrook said. “And he’s doing an amazing job.”

Holbrook — who has been hesitant to invest too heavily on homeless services in the past — said he has been rethinking that approach, in part because of the sense of energy and resourcefulness Shriver has brought to the City Council.

Holbrook said he welcomes new homeless programming that may be on the horizon, as long as it proves to be an efficient and effective use of tax dollars to address the citywide problem.

One new program he believes is encouraging is simple but may prove very helpful, Holbrook said. City Hall will soon be making contact with homeless individuals and screening them to see if there’s a support system from

their hometowns which may enable them get back on their feet.

“Basically, there will be contact with the homeless, and for those who seem to have family or friends who can take them and get a fresh start, we will be able to provide a ticket to get them where they need to go,” Holbrook said. “This program may do a lot to reduce Santa Monica’s homeless population in coming years, and not cost (a lot).”

“It would also take the burden off of us to solve the homeless problem on our own, and make other cities become aware of the part they have to play.”

Holbrook suggested the program wasn’t based on wishful thinking. He said service providers would ensure the homeless individuals involved in the program would have a home or support system to return to.

“We want this program to be a legitimate way for these people to get back where they belong, and get back on their feet,” Holbrook said.

Holbrook said he attends regional government events and meetings. There, officials often tell him that their municipalities don’t offer the social service network Santa Monica has available. Instead, those municipalities simply have a no-tolerance policy toward homelessness. The down and out are often urged to go to Santa Monica.

“A lot of (these cities) still refer to us as the People’s Republic of Santa Monica,” Holbrook said. “It’s unbelievable, but it’s true.”

“Homelessness is simply not a problem we can solve on our own.”

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COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 8

sider myself a progressive.

“As such, I’m challenging the status quo, and sometimes people don’t like that. Challenging the status quo, so to speak, makes me a controversial figure. When youngsters go out and protest the war, it makes me proud. As a school board member, I’m not happy about what that does (for our budget), but I’m glad students are doing what they believe is right in their hearts.

“I realize it’s important for me to reach out of the Pico neighborhood at this point. I’d like to start addressing Pico issues with people north of Montana, so they can start to understand. I also want to build better relationships with the Chamber of Commerce. They’ve helped some of our at-risk youth find jobs, and it’s been very good. I want that to continue.”

How are your relationships with school board members?

“They are a highly educated group of people, and I think we all have the students’ interests at heart. John Deasy (superintendent) is doing an amazing job. I think a big challenge for Santa Monica will be when we have to replace him. He has done so much for the schools. Our

school system is definitely one of the best in the county and the state. Public education has given me the opportunities I have now. Without it, where would I be? A quality education is the great equalizer.

“Besides math and English, I want our schools to teach our children to become leaders. This is really a focus I want when I run for re-election for school board, which I want to do a better job of next time around. I believe one of the new houses at Samohi should be a ‘leadership house’ which offers leadership or a public policy class. We need to teach ethical leadership in our schools, classes about government and just how our society works.

“Students also need to learn how to become involved and the principles about giving back to their community. We live in such an individualistic society today, it’s just me, me, me, everyone’s trying to make money, that sometimes we fail to think about there are more important things than making money.

“I think students need to learn the importance of giving back to their communities and realize the strength that comes in that, for themselves and for their communities. This is an area I did not do a lot of work on, and I want to.”

Where will you be five years from now?

“Building Pico Youth & Family Centers around Los Angeles. Right now, it’s a model, but there are communities in Los Angeles that need such centers more than we do.”



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Salt Lake City heaven for skiers

BY FRITZ FAERBER

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — For skiers, Salt Lake City's numbers are incredible: 500 inches of snow a year at several resorts, 4,700 acres of skiing at the linked ski areas of Alta and Snowbird, 10 top resorts within an hour of the airport, and most impressive — a three-day ski vacation for two for \$1,000.

Utah's skiing is built on what it calls "The Greatest Snow on Earth." The sheer quantity is astounding, with several of the snow-rich areas getting more than 40 feet a year. Toward the lower range of average snowfall in the Salt Lake City area, Park City Mountain Resort, Deer Valley and The Canyons still get 300 to 350 inches each year.

It's not just the quantity. The snow is also top-shelf quality. It's dry, fluffy and light: just perfect for powder pigs, though it was a big adjustment for this East Coast skier used to the crud. I kept catching edges and biting down hard on the mountain. Fortunately, the deep powder makes for a soft landing.

Any fan of the Winter Olympics has heard of Park City, but I skied — and fell in love with — the less glamorous resorts in the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons just east of the city. Little Cottonwood Canyon hosts Alta and Snowbird. Slightly to the north, Big Cottonwood Canyon has Brighton and Solitude.

These resorts are amazingly convenient to the city. In fact, I have woken up in Washington, D.C., flown to Salt Lake, checked into my hotel and still skied four hours on Brighton in the same day.

The two canyons are ideal for vacations where the main concerns are skiing and price. I booked a room at the Best Western Executive Inn in Midvale on Travelocity for \$50 a night (breakfast included). The \$47 Salt Lake Super Pass includes a day pass for city transit and an all-day lift ticket at any of the four resorts. Express ski buses pick up a block from the hotel and take from about a half-hour to just under an hour, depending on which resort you are skiing.

My favorite is Snowbird, with the linked neighbor of Alta a close second. Both get tremendous amounts of snow and have a wide variety of trails ranging from mellow to fiendish.

What I liked most about the Bird is the wide open Mineral Basin on the backside of the mountain. It's reached via the Little Cloud Lift or the Aerial Tram that goes from base all the way to the top. Once you clear the ridge, there's an immense bowl below, with descents ranging from looping milk runs to hair-raising sheer dropoffs. On a fresh powder day, which is pretty common out there, virgin patches of snow will linger all day.

The Bird offers tree runs, chutes, moguls, and challenging terrain to keep any expert busy. But I wouldn't recommend it for beginners or tentative intermediates. My fiancée's face went pale when she saw the mountain; I skied solo that day.

Next door, Alta is a time-capsule of what skiing used to be like. There is a new high-speed chair to the summit,

but many of the lifts are slow, which keeps the slopes mostly uncrowded. There's no real resort village and restaurants and stores are mostly scattered. And no snowboarding is allowed.

But the skiing is glorious. Riding the lifts up, you can see tracks from where daredevils somehow navigated down impossibly steep runs peppered with cliffs and boulders. Since I'm able to write this, it's clear I didn't try those runs!

Alta has something of a cult status among those who live to ski.

But it also offers plenty for the rest of us. It's a great place to learn to ski powder. And, the Alf Engen Ski School is there to teach you. I took a two-hour private lesson (\$150), which helped eradicate some of my bad habits. Though it hadn't snowed for a few days when I visited, my instructor took me to some secret stashes of untracked powder. Aside from the ski instruction, a lesson offers a quick tour of the best areas on a mountain.

For beginners to experts, Big Cottonwood Canyons Solitude and Brighton are the best spots for diversity. My fiancée prefers beaches, but has reluctantly accepted that winter sports are part of the relationship package. She's still tentative, and prefers wide-open groomed runs that aren't steep enough to build a lot of speed. Solitude has lots of greens and blues that fit the bill.

Brighton is very family friendly. Children 10 and under ski or board free with a paying adult. (Some other resorts offer similar kiddie freebies, though the ages vary). There's a pretty nifty terrain park under one of the lifts. And we were pleased that a green run extends from one of the top peaks down, meaning we could take Snake Creek Express lift up to the top together and I could split off and challenge fate a bit and then merge back in and meet my companion down the mountain on the bunny run.

The mountains are absolutely huge, with stunning views of craggy peaks, snow-covered pines and pure white powder stretching for miles.

One of the drawbacks to the Utah ski trip on the cheap was the lack of an apres-ski scene around our hotel. The Best Western is right on a busy road, with little personality. But there are several good places to eat and catch a post-ski libation within easy walking distance.

If the legs are rubber from a day of shredding the mountain, Cafe Silvestre is a short limp across the hotel parking lot. It's reasonably priced and serves decent Mexican food.

A slightly farther walk on the main road, Midvale Mining Company Restaurant serves tasty diner-type food at a good price. The bacon cheeseburger will fill the nagging void left by a day of intense skiing. The hotel often has coupons.

If you'd like a freshly brewed beer and great pub food, the Bohemian Brewery & Grill is about a 10-minute walk away on the main street.

While the apres-ski choices on a budget tour aren't overwhelming, the combination of fantastic snow, varied terrain, convenience and affordability makes Salt Lake City my No. 1 ski destination.

Handful of U.S. resorts still remain skiers-only

BY DOUG ALDEN

AP Sports Writer

PARK CITY, Utah — A handful of winter playgrounds maintain that snow is for skiing — period.

While the ski industry has welcomed the evolution of snowboarding and the business boom it has brought over the last two decades, four U.S. resorts are sticking to a policy of "skiers only."

"When it comes right down to it, it's our guests who have the largest say in the determination," said Chuck English, director of mountain operations at Utah's Deer Valley.

Deer Valley is one of the four remaining U.S. resorts where trails sculpted from the mountains are reserved for skiers. Alta, southeast of Salt Lake City, New Mexico's Taos and Mad River Glen in Vermont are the others willing to turn away potential business because enough skiers seem to like it that way.

"The current situation finds us receiving so many positive letters and comments from guests because we don't allow snowboarding," English said. "That's really why we continue with our policy the way it is."

The policy: If you want to snowboard, go somewhere else. It's exclusive and not at all apologetic. And as long as there is a market of skiers who support it, change is unlikely.

"There were a lot more," Mad River Glen spokesman Eric Friedman said. "Now you're left with the four holdouts."

Theories abound about which resort will go next — if any does.

"I still put my money on it being a Utah resort that's the last one," said Dennis Nazari, founder of Salty Peaks snowboard shop on the eastern edge of Salt Lake City.

Nazari used to personally campaign from resort to resort in the 1980s and early 1990s for Utah ski areas to accept snowboarders. Now, it isn't much of an issue. Snowboarders don't have far to go from any of the skiers-only resorts, so the remaining four seem to have a niche in the industry.

"It makes me wonder. Maybe there is a place for a skier-only resort," Nazari said. "But if there was a snowboard-only resort, how would that pan out with skiers?"

Snowboarding accounted for 28.7 percent of national lift ticket sales last season, said Michael Berry, president of the National Ski Areas Association in Lakewood, Colo.

Each resort has its own reasons for being exclusively for skiers. Deer Valley always has been skiers-only since opening above downtown Park City in 1981. And with Park City Mountain Resort and The Canyons welcoming snowboarders just down the road, Deer Valley plans to keep its posh slopes to skiers, who are willing to pay the hefty lift ticket costs in exchange for things such as ski porters and tissue dispensers at the lift.

Taos, in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico, is celebrating its 50th anniversary — and is sticking to its "pure skiing" mantra.

"We see it as something that differentiates us from other ski areas," general manager Gordon Briner said.

At Alta, the decision to keep snowboards off the lifts in the early 1980s went largely unnoticed because the sport was still relatively new and there were very few people trying it, marketing director Connie Marshall said.

It has since developed into sort of a trademark for the resort, which has been around since 1938.

"We've been rewarded by our longtime skiers," Marshall said. "We feel like it does give us an identity in the market."

Mad River Glen's policy came more from spite. Snowboarders were allowed on the mountain, but couldn't use the classic single-chair lift, the only one that goes to the top of the mountain in central Vermont.

Friedman said the policy was broadened to keeping snowboarders out of the area altogether after former owner Betsy Pratt was confronted in a grocery store by a group of teens who wanted snowboarders to be able to ride the single-chair lift.

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NATIONAL



Montana governor's vision for coal conversion draws attention

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — To hear Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer tell it, it's a can't-miss deal.

Picture a plant that could convert coal from the state's rich reserves into cleaner-burning fuels, and do so while creating valuable jobs in rural Montana, but with very little pollution. Not only that, but it could help ease the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

"It's another one of my big ideas," said Schweitzer, the state's popular Democratic governor, who has been working to woo investors to a state that boasts about 120 billion tons of coal.

Whether the idea becomes reality, though, remains to be seen.

While it appeals in theory to a broad range of constituents, from some conservationists to coal industry officials, not everyone believes such a plant is doable — or even desirable — in Montana. Concerns have been raised about possible new strip mining, regulatory hurdles and limited infrastructure to transport energy produced, even though a detailed proposal and financial commitment have yet to be made.

There's skepticism, too; some question whether Schweitzer is simply pushing the idea to score popularity points.

"There's no risk for him it; it's all upside," said Pete Geddes, executive vice president of the Bozeman-based libertarian Foundation for Research on Economics & the Environment. "He gets portrayed as a great progressive on energy stuff. It won't shock you, but the governor wants to be re-elected."

So-called "clean-coal" projects are not far-fetched. Projects of varying size and purpose are slated to move forward in states like Pennsylvania and Colorado, and there's interest in other states, like Wyoming.

Schweitzer believes the use of clean-coal technology to produce clean energy — liquid fuels, like diesel, or electricity — will be key to further diversifying the U.S. energy economy, and he's interested in getting coal-rich Montana in on the action.

The nation's only existing commercial-size coal-to-natural-gas gasification plant is in North Dakota, according to the U.S. Department of Energy and the plant's owner. Two other commercial gasification plants produce electricity, according to the department and an energy expert.

But it's the sizable investment required — about \$1.5 billion to build a minimum 25,000 barrel-per-day plant, by Schweitzer's account — and the role of oil prices that experts believe will determine whether anyone commits to such an undertaking.

Though the federal government is encouraging synfuels production with incentives including loan guarantees, analysts such as Kevin Book believe that may not be enough to rekindle an industry that hadn't been pushed domestically since the energy crisis of the 1970s.

Because synfuels production will be based upon higher-than-projected crude prices, "a key catalyst will be government intervention to shore up the investment on the downside," said Book, a Virginia-based senior analyst for Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co. Inc.

"I think we're one subsidy short of the point where coal-to-liquids becomes a serious proposition," he added.

That's not to say there isn't interest. In fact, some energy experts and industry officials believe the high oil prices that sent gas prices soaring last summer, along with growing uncertainty about future production and availability help make the climate more conducive to using coal or natural gas to make diesel or other fuels.

Historically, roller-coaster oil prices precluded much serious thought about — or investment in — high-cost synfuels plants, officials say. But higher oil prices —

Glance at coal industry statistics

By The Associated Press

U.S. coal industry statistics:

■ The United States is home to the world's largest supply of coal reserves, and coal is mined in 27 states.

■ Coal is the most bountiful fossil fuel in the country and supplies over half the nation's electricity generation.

■ Montana has about 120 billion tons of coal. That translates to about one-fourth the Middle East's oil reserve, if translated into liquid-fuel terms, according to the state.

Sources: American Coal Council, state of Montana Web site

trading recently at about \$58 a barrel, compared to the estimated \$35 per barrel-production cost of synfuels — is making coal-to-liquids a more attractive proposition, officials said.

"I think a lot of people believe this is not a spike in petroleum prices that we're seeing, but probably a floor," said Luke Popovich, a spokesman at the National Mining Association. "That gives an enduring, financial incentive to develop these coal-to-liquid plants. I think we finally have all the circumstances in place."

"It's not pie in the sky, by any means," he added.

The process itself is relatively simple. Coal is heated into a gas from which toxins such as sulfur and mercury are cleaned. The cleaned gas is distilled into a synthetic form of oil that is further refined to create diesel or other liquid fuels that burn cleaner than petroleum-based fuels, according to the state.

The roots of one method, known as Fischer-Tropsch, go back decades, and experts say work continues to make the process more efficient and economical.

But some conservationists, spurred in part by the limited domestic synfuels record, worry the technology is not yet good enough to minimize or prevent environmental problems.

"I can't get very excited about it," said Helen Waller, a conservationist and farmer near Circle, Mont., one of the areas that Schweitzer said has expressed interest in a synfuels plant.

Waller worries about the problems that could come with it, wherever it's placed, including pollution and strip mining.

"Yes, we need energy, but there's a better way to produce it than coal," she said.

Conservationists, interested in greater promotion of wind or biodiesel projects in the state, don't buy that synfuels would help curb the appetite for foreign oil.

Experts and industry officials believe federal subsidies and other incentives, such as state or federal agencies assuring a plant of a fuels market once production begins, will be critical to encouraging development.

The state of Pennsylvania has committed to buying as much as one-third of the 60 million gallons of fuel John Rich plans to produce at his not-yet-built clean-coal plant in that state, he said.

The estimated cost of the plant is about \$600 million, and Rich hopes to have it financed and ready for construction next year. The hope is to have fuels come on market in 2009, he said.

Rich, president of WMPI Pty. LLC, said he realizes there are skeptics; he's been pushing for this type of project for about a decade. But he said it takes time to build an industry and prove it to be a positive. He expects the plant, which will use waste coal, to create 1,000 construction jobs and, later, 600 permanent jobs.

"With time, you build confidence and credibility, and all that drives this," he said.

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Hookah bars find a place in America

BY HUGO KUGIYA
AP National Writer

SEATTLE — The Rabbit Hole is a maze of sofas and sectionals, mismatched, some worn to threads in places, full of soft spots that sink low to the ground. The lighting is low and dim; the music is usually alternative rock, played at a volume to match the light.

No alcohol is served at the Rabbit Hole — just soft drinks, and hookah.

Hookah is a flavored tobacco, inhaled through a tall, ornate pipe that sits on the floor; it has long been a popular pastime in Amman and Alexandria and all across the Middle East.

But this is Roosevelt Way in Seattle, cater-corner from University Mazda and down the street from Mamma Melina’s restaurant. And that is something new — even as America is at war in the Middle East, this bit of the Middle East has found a place in America.

In liberal and literate Seattle, hookah lounges have opened on trendy downtown blocks and in predominantly white neighborhoods in the outer city, where the Rabbit Hole is located. Its customers are not middle-aged Egyptian men, but white kids from the suburbs.

“I’d almost call it an epidemic,” said Sean O’Neill, 20, a personal trainer who lives in Tacoma, Wash., and first tried hookah last spring.

The contagion may stall — in November, Washington voters enacted one of the nation’s strictest smoking bans. The law could shutter places like the Rabbit Hole; similar smoking bans could imperil hookah parlors around the country.

The laws are universally aimed at cigarette smoking; they may not specifically target hookah, but there is no exception for the parlors, either.

The parlors first opened in the United States decades ago in the immigrant quarters of New York and Los Angeles, in neighborhoods like Astoria, Queens, and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. For years, they were patronized mostly by men of Egyptian, Lebanese or Syrian descent, and occasionally a curious American who recognized the pipes from a trip he might have taken.

In the past year or two, parlors have opened in college towns all over in the country, in Florida, Iowa, and Wisconsin, often operated by foreign students from the Middle East, wishing for a piece of home.

But in recent months, hookah has spread to the world of hipsters and yuppies in cities in all regions of the country. Customers can smoke hookah in the Chi-Cha Lounge, a trendy, Latin-themed restaurant on U Street in Washington D.C., or at Mantra, an upscale French-Indian restaurant in Boston’s Ladder District.

At the Chicago nightclub Zentra, hookah can be

smoked amid techno music and belly dancers wearing body paint. There are hookah lounges in Denver, Houston, Las Vegas and Miami, complete with glass tables, plasma televisions and oxygen bars.

“It’s at its largest demand ever in this country,” said Brennan Appel, who runs Florida-based SouthSmoke.com, an online purveyor of hookah pipes and tobacco. “I don’t think it’s going away anytime soon. There’s so much more room for the product to expand. Only a small percentage of Americans know about it.”

In cities where only one hookah lounge existed, there are now seven or eight, Appel said. Where there were none, there is at least one. Because hookah is typically shared, friends introduce it to others. Even the Iraq war has played some role, Appel said; he suspects soldiers posted in the Persian Gulf tried hookah, liked it and sought it out once they returned home.

“I haven’t yet heard of a hookah lounge opening and going out of business,” said Appel. The biggest demand for hookah, he said, is in California, Arizona, New York, Texas and Virginia.

Most of the tobacco is imported from the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; as a way of catering to Western tastes, tobacco manufacturers are introducing flavors like kiwi, watermelon and blackberry. Handcrafted pipes made of glass and brass are produced in Syria and Egypt, although China is making less expensive pipes out of acrylic.

The tobacco is held in a bowl near the top of the pipe, kept lit by red-hot charcoal. The smoke is drawn through water before being sucked through a long tube. Pipes can have one tube, or as many as six, so that many people can share the tobacco.

Pipes cost between \$50 and \$180. In lounges and bars, the tobacco is sold in batches for as little as \$5 or as much as \$20. One batch can last a person an hour or longer.

“I can smoke hookah at home, but coming here is like a treat,” said Brenda Wright, 20, one of a group of friends who visit the Rabbit Hole several times a week. “I’ve noticed it’s gotten a lot more popular just in the past two months.”

Friday and Saturday nights at the Rabbit Hole are so crowded, some people (many of them are students from the nearby University of Washington) end up sitting on the floor. The other nights are for the regulars, many under the age of 21.

The scene is different at the Egyptian Cafe on Steinway Street in Astoria, Queens. On most nights, the clientele in the Egyptian Cafe is predominantly Middle Eastern. There are few frills and little glamour, just chairs and small tables and men poring over backgammon and dominos.

The time spent in the immigrant hookah lounges is

workaday and routine. Said Elmekabati, 35, a businessman from Brooklyn, often entertains clients at the Egyptian Cafe. Hesham Amin comes here almost every-day. It is like an extension of his living room — Starbucks, but with smoke.

Amin, 38, who was raised in Alexandria, Egypt, is a customer. Sometimes, he says, he sees more Americans than Egyptians.

“Everybody comes here,” he said, pointing the direction of a young couple canoodling in a corner. Jose Ocampo is 19; Sanjana Chowdhury is 18. Hookah, for them, was an acquired taste. The smoke made them light-headed. But they grew fond of the flavor and the effect.

“At first I came here so I could spend time with him,” Chowdhury said. “Now I’m not sure if I’m addicted to the hookah or addicted to him.”

There has been some backlash to the hookah craze. In Anaheim, Calif., city officials attempted to regulate some hookah lounges after complaints by neighbors of noise and rowdiness. The owners, primarily Middle Eastern immigrants, accused officials of cultural bias.

But the biggest problem for owners of hookah parlors are smoking bans in many cities. New York’s 2003 ban, at first, did practically nothing to limit the hookah dens in Astoria and Bay Ridge. Although the places violated the law, officials generally looked the other way since it was obvious that customers frequent hookah bars only to smoke, and because the ban was not aimed at hookah smokers. The future of hookah and smoking bans is still unresolved. For right now, it is a matter of case-by-case enforcement.

Days after the ban went into effect in Seattle, owners of the Rabbit Hole continued to serve hookah, not so much defying the law as ignoring it. A new sign on the front door read, “private club members only inquire within.” One of the Rabbit Hole’s owner declined to answer questions about the ban, saying only that he intended to continue operating his business.

The effect of hookah on health is an issue. Medical research is scarce on the effects of smoking hookah, although doctors agree that smoking any kind of tobacco is not healthy.

“It’s worthy of scientific study,” said Dr. Norman Edelman, chief medical officer with the American Lung Association. “I can tell you none have been planned. But it is tobacco. And all tobacco contains any number of chemicals that are harmful.”

Users claim that because hookah smoke is drawn through water contained in the pipe, the smoke is less harmful — an assertion that doctors say has no merit.

“People in my country have been smoking hookah for centuries,” Amin said. “I’ve never heard of anyone getting sick and dying.”



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N.M. turns tourism focus on small communities

BY SUE MAJOR HOLMES
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Brenda Brooks of Hobbs is enthusiastic about an effort by state tourism and economic development officials to get people to veer off the interstates and into New Mexico's small communities.

Before the advent of Zia Park racetrack and casino in Hobbs this year, the southeastern New Mexico community wasn't thought of as a tourist destination, said Brooks, executive director of MainStreet Hobbs.

"We know we need to look at that lucrative market," she says.

With New Mexico's more out-of-the-way places in mind, the state Tourism and Economic Development departments are showcasing what they call "off the road" places in a Web site, www.offtheroadNM.com.

The site — which bills itself as "transparently opinionated" — is aimed at letting travelers know what to do and see in less-traveled places. The other side of that is the economic boost those downtown districts get from tourist dollars.

"We show you where to find bargain collectibles, a cute pair of shoes or a piping-hot plate of green chili enchiladas, all from locally owned businesses found on main streets, town squares and plazas across New Mexico," the Web site proclaims.

Travelers can click on seven different regions or take a 10-question quiz to match their personality to a road trip.

"I think it's a wonderful project," Brooks said. "Especially in our state where the majority of the money is generated by small businesses, that the Economic Development Department is starting to focus on ways to assist the small business."

Would-be visitors to New Mexico often check out the Tourism Department's Web site, and its link to the off the road project will be a tremendous help for the seven blocks that make up historic downtown Hobbs, she said.

It's already paid a dividend to a local restaurant, Casey's, mentioned on the Web site. One couple who planned a trip to Hobbs' racetrack told Casey's owner they found out about the restaurant from the Web site, Brooks said.

New Mexico is such a large state that anyone who drives across it has to at least buy gas or find a bite to eat, said Tricia Ware, marketing writer for the state Economic Development Department and one of two women who worked on the Web site.

She and her cohort in travel, Shannon Papin, director of promotions for New Mexico MainStreet, visited 19 communities: Artesia, Bernalillo, Carlsbad, Chama, Clayton, Clovis, Corrales, Farmington, Gallup, Grants, Hobbs, Los Alamos, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Lovington, Portales, Roswell, Silver City and Raton, and two historic Albuquerque neighborhoods.

All 21 participate in New Mexico MainStreet, an economic development and historic preservation venture to bring commerce back to city centers.

Gathering information for the Web site took eight weeks.

"We shopped and dined as sneakily and as incognito as we could so we would have the same type of experience as an everyday traveler would have," Ware said.

They also took 800 "very authentic snapshot-type photos" before getting down to the nitty-gritty of writing short descriptions, editing the photos and collaborating with a consultant and a graphic designer.

The result is a Web page that allows the armchair traveler to take the quiz or click on each specific, color-coded region. The regions contain a brief description of towns and sightseeing, along with a slide show.

For example, the promotion for the Four Corners area promises "fabulous Indian jewelry and succulent Mediterranean food in Gallup, good barbecue ... in Grants and one heck of a microbrew selection in Farmington."

The accompanying slide show presents images such as a mural of Navajo Code Talkers in downtown Gallup, the marquee of a theater being restored in Farmington and a popular coffee shop in Grants.

Ware and Papin kept a low profile on their visits, asking locals where to eat and where to go. "That's what made it fun," Ware said.

Most of the downtown districts are small, so it was

possible to check out everything, she said.

"We did open the door and go into every store, and we did write about it if we did think it was something of note," Ware said.

They made little discoveries, such as the fact every place seems to have its own way of serving chili. In Roswell, it's green chili as a creamy sauce; Clovis restaurants set out red chili salt on the table along with salt and pepper.

The site is geared toward economic development, so the pair tried to give information travelers couldn't easily find elsewhere. For that reason, little history is mentioned in each region's introduction.

"Our ultimate goal is to keep the MainStreet project thriving. The emphasis was on shopping or places where you could spend your money downtown," Ware said.

Ware looks back on the project as "my summer of high adventure." She came to New Mexico in 1996, and said she'd traveled extensively and thought she'd seen everything. The road trip showed her otherwise.

"I found so many fun bargains, so many one-of-a-kind things. People say, 'Where did you get those shoes?' Roswell. 'Where did you get that painting?' Portales. Why shouldn't you shop there and help our downtowns to thrive?"

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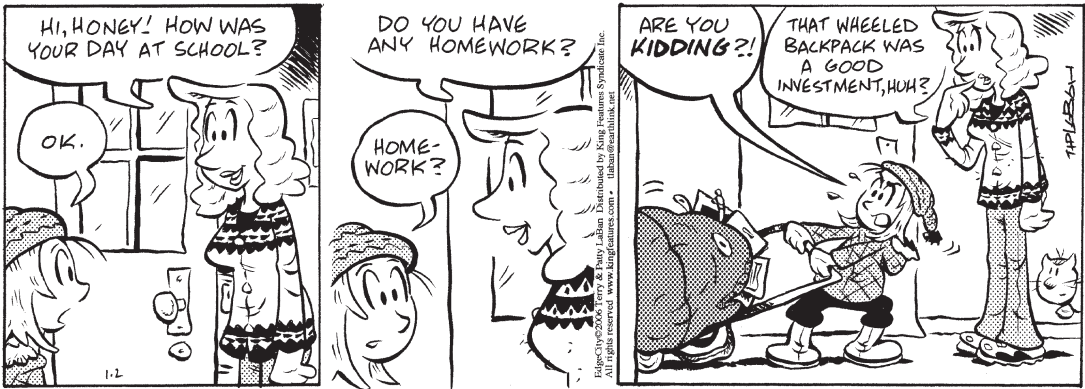
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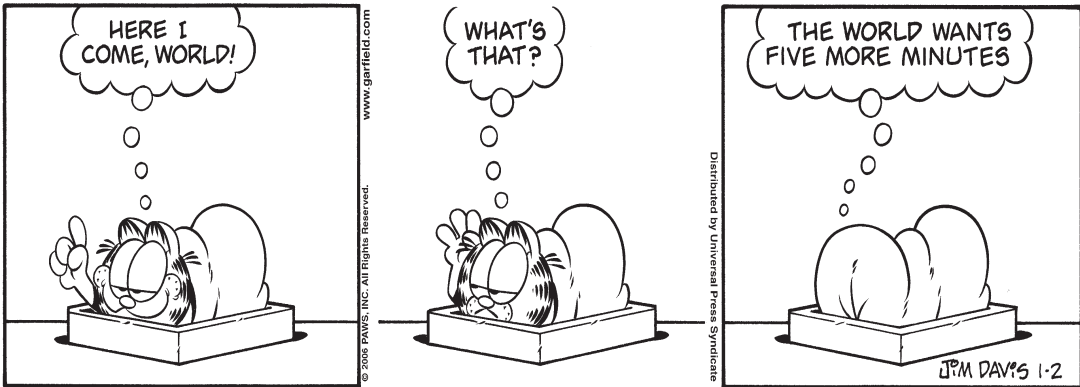
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- 22 Pueblo people
- 23 Sutherland of "24"
- 27 News item
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- 33 Car feature
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- 38 "Get lost!"
- 39 Gardener's stuff
- 41 Lassoed
- 45 Boise's state
- 46 Use the rink
- 47 Red-ink entry
- 48 Felix's roommate

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- 2 Writer Deighton
- 3 Grass-hopper's friend
- 4 Young horses
- 5 Flower part
- 6 Nonbrand
- 7 Chopping tool
- 8 Cooking fat
- 9 Edison's middle name
- 10 Flower part
- 16 D.C. stadium initials

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- 19 Chess turn
- 20 Mocked
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- 26 Monopoly fee
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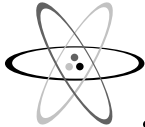
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Notices

Statement of Withdrawal from Partnership Operating under Fictitious Business Name: Current File No: 05 1988545

The following person(s) has/have withdrawn as a general partner(s) from the partnership operating under the fictitious business name of Bear Taxi Cab located at 1335 S. Azusa Ave, Suite 212, West Covina, CA 91791. The fictitious business name statement for the partnership was filed on August 18, 2005 in the County of Los Angeles. The full name and residence of the person(s) withdrawing as a partner(s): Edgar Martinez, 18433 Desidia Street, Rowland Heights, CA 91748. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct, signed: Edgar Martinez.

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/19/05, 12/26/05, 01/02/06, 01/09/06

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2906995 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as American Tree Service, 3651 Victoria Ave., LA, CA 90016. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Alfred Edwards, 3651 Victoria Ave., LA, CA 90016 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Alfred Edwards

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935170 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Xena Planet, Inc. (CALIFORNIA), 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Xena Planet, Inc. (CALIFORNIA), 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/17/2005. /s/: Xena Planet, Inc., CEO, Jerry Elkind

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935132 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Poor Boy Vacuum and Supply, AI #/ON 2774179, 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Xena Planet, Inc. (CALIFORNIA), 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/17/2005. /s/: Xena Planet, Inc., CEO, Jerry Elkind

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2932987 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Production Castro Foto Y Video, 1919 6th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : German Castro, 1919 6th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)6/1/2005. /s/: German Castro

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/12/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2906996 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as efashion sense, 4610 Densmore Ave., Unit 17, Encino, CA 91436. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Aileen Del Sol Martinez, 4610 Densmore Ave., Unit 17, Encino, CA 91436 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Aileen Del Sol Martinez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2906996 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as efashion sense, 4610 Densmore Ave., Unit 17, Encino, CA 91436. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Aileen Del Sol Martinez, 4610 Densmore Ave., Unit 17, Encino, CA 91436 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Aileen Del Sol Martinez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2932986 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Handy Man, 1222 N. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Amadeo S. Devera, 1222 N. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Amadeo S. Devera

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2920089 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Michael Han Appraisal Services, Associated Appraisal Services, 1335 Sonora Ave., Glendale, CA 91201. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Michael Han, 1335 Sonora Ave., Glendale, CA 91201 This Business is

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being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Michael Han

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2898374 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Moreno Family Child Care, 970 E. Stockton Ave., Compton, CA 90221. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Elizabeth Moreno, 970 E. Stockton Ave., Compton, CA 90221 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/3/2005. /s/: Elizabeth Moreno

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935170 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Poor Boy Vacuum and Supply, AI #/ON 2774179, 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Xena Planet, Inc. (CALIFORNIA), 535 West 130th Street, LA, CA 90061 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/17/2005. /s/: Xena Planet, Inc., CEO, Jerry Elkind

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2932987 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Production Castro Foto Y Video, 1919 6th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : German Castro, 1919 6th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)6/1/2005. /s/: German Castro

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/12/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2898399 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Quintero Brother's Mobil Truck and Car Wash, 758 S. Woods Ave., Los Angeles, CA . The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Monica Ramirez, 5814 Montebello Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90022 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/1/2005. /s/: Monica Ramirez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2903347 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Senna Auto International, 21176 S. Western Ave., Torrance, CA 90501. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Senna International USA Inc., 21176 S. Western Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date). /s/: Senna International USA Inc., CEO, Yuko Nakazawa

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935168 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Tacos Del Sol,

DBAS

15223 E. Gale Ave., Industry, CA 91745. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Miguel Mendez, 1004 West Wind Circle, Placentia, CA 92870 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/11/2005. /s/: Miguel Mendez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/11/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2932942 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE BATTERY SERVICE, 4426 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90065. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Virginia Socorro Galeano, 2726 West Avenue 31, Los Angeles, CA 90065 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Virginia S. Galeano

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935132 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Tom's Mobile Detailing, 2877 Glenn Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90023. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Thomas Rodriguez, 2877 Glenn Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90023 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Thomas Rodriguez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935122 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Top Rank Entertainment, 13801 Paramount Blvd., #4202, Paramount, CA 90723. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Lionel Citizen, Jr., 13801 Paramount Blvd., #4202, Paramount, CA 90723, Dawan Washington, 12830 S. Prairie Ave., #107, Hawthorne, CA 90250 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Lionel Citizen, Jr., Dawan Washington

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2935169 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Uptown Funding, 7032 Comstock Ave., Suite #203, Whittier, CA 90603. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Miguel Mendez, 1004 West Wind Circle, Placentia, CA 92870 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/11/2005. /s/: Miguel Mendez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2920052 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WYF architecture, 4424 Santa Anita Ave., Suite 205, El Monte, CA 91731. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Wallace Yuikee Fu, 406 East California Street, #F, Arcadia, CA 91006 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Wallace Yuikee Fu

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2005, 12/19/2005, 12/26/2005, 1/2/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE

CLASSIFIEDS



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(Date)1/25/2005. /s/: Shoshana Kuttner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/2/2006, 1/9/2006, 1/16/2006, 1/23/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 3215455 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as McNeil's Maintenance Cleaning Service, 908 4th Street, #2, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Richard McNeil, 908 4th Street, #2, Santa Monica, CA 90403 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Richard McNeil

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/2/2006, 1/9/2006, 1/16/2006, 1/23/2006

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 3215457 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Liquid Om, LLC, AI #/ON 01710443, 2803 7th St. Santa Monica, CA 90405. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Liquid Om, LLC, (ILLINOIS) 711 W. Gordon Terrace, Chicago, IL 60613 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Liquid Om, LLC, President, Kenneth Mazursky
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/2/2006, 1/9/2006, 1/16/2006, 1/23/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 3215458 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Toy Factory, Inc, AI #/ON 2777126, 5615 Spreading Oak Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Toy Factory, Inc, (California), 5615 Spreading Oak Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/16/2005. /s/: Toy Factory, Inc., President, Frederick E. O. Toye
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/2/2006, 1/9/2006, 1/16/2006, 1/23/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 3215459 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Gifts From The Heart, 928 7th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Gerard Pepe, 858 Lincoln Blvd, #6, Santa Monica, CA 90403, Alan Phillips, 928 7th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403, Jeff LaCombe, 1011 11th St., Apt #120, Santa Monica, CA 90403 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Alan Phillips, Gerard Pepe, Jeff LaCombe

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/2/2006, 1/9/2006, 1/16/2006, 1/23/2006

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Minnesotans will have a companion on the prairie

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" won't be permanently leaving its St. Paul home after all.

The humorist said he expects to do about a dozen shows during the 2006-07 season from the Fitzgerald Theater, the longtime base of the public radio program.

The rest of the season's shows will air from the road, including a return to the Minnesota State Fair, he said.

Keillor said last month the show was looking for a new home.

But in the end, he said, it was an impulsive decision to stay at the Fitzgerald, based partly on people he met at coffee shops or parties.

"They said it would be terrible if the show were not in St. Paul," Keillor told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I listen to people who tug at my sleeve."

LOS ANGELES — So how is "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson planning to celebrate New Year's Eve?

"I'm just trying to get ready for that New Year's Eve ball drop with Ryan Seacrest," Jackson joked.

Seacrest, who is host of the Fox reality show, will co-host ABC's special for the traditional ball drop and countdown to midnight in New York's Times Square.

So Jackson isn't planning to be in front of the TV watching Seacrest?

"No, never!" Jackson told AP Radio. "I told him I'd only watch if he rides the ball. If he jumps on the ball and has a fit of rage and rides it down."

Seacrest will join Dick Clark, who is returning to

"New Year's Rockin' Eve" after suffering a stroke last December. Hilary Duff will anchor and perform at the Hollywood segment of the show.

"New Year's Rockin' Eve" will air Saturday starting at 10 p.m. (EST).

LOS ANGELES — Izzie's going to have her hands full when "Grey's Anatomy" returns from its holiday break next month.

"There will be a love triangle for my character," Katherine Heigl, who plays Dr. Isobel "Izzie" Stevens on the hit ABC show, told reporters recently, according to AP Radio.

The 27-year-old actress also hinted about upcoming developments: "There's like some kind of prom episode or something, I don't what that is. Somebody leaves the program."

But, she added: "I don't know what happens with Meredith and Dr. McDreamy. Nobody will tell us yet what's going on there."

Ellen Pompeo stars as Dr. Meredith Grey, a first-year intern, and Patrick Dempsey plays neurosurgeon Derek Shepherd, nicknamed Dr. McDreamy. Meredith was getting cozy with Derek — until his sexy wife showed up in Seattle.

"I love when people come up to me and tell me that they watch it. And ask like, 'Do you think Ellen and Patrick are going to get back together?'" Heigl said. "I love that because we're working hard and it's great to know that that work is being appreciated."

"Grey's Anatomy" airs Sunday nights (10 p.m. EST). The medical drama returns Jan. 8.

NEW YORK — Two men have been arrested for trying to sell Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez's stolen wedding video back to the couple for \$1 million, authorities said.

The men tried to ransom the video after first shopping it around unsuccessfully to media outlets including People, Us Weekly and "Access Hollywood," according to a criminal complaint filed against them.

Tito Moses, 31, and Steven Wortman, 49, were arraigned late Wednesday in Manhattan Criminal Court on charges of conspiracy, attempted grand larceny and possession of stolen property.

A copy of the celebrity couple's wedding video was in a laptop computer that was in Anthony's car when it was stolen in Linden, N.J., last October. The car was later recovered but the laptop was gone.

According to the complaint, once they failed to sell the video to the media, Moses and Wortman called Marc Anthony Productions and tried to sell it back to the salsa star.

An NYPD detective posing as an Anthony associate engaged in a series of negotiations with Moses and Wortman between Dec. 20 and Dec. 27, during which the men demanded \$1 million for the laptop, the complaint said.

At one point the detective refused the \$1 million demand and Wortman threatened to destroy it, the complaint said.

Moses and Wortman were arrested in a sting Tuesday when they allegedly met with police to sell the laptop for a lesser amount.

Anthony, 36, and 37-year-old singer-actress Lopez, were married in June 2004.

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