

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

9 11 32 41 42
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$68 Million

FANTASY 5

2 4 5 9 25

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 6 6
Evening: 9 9 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:49.82

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Following an October worker compensation fine levied against a ranch in Australia's outback, after a cowboy fell off a horse and hit his head, the losing ranch owner said he would require all his wranglers to wear helmets instead of the classic cowboy hats (and other ranch owners may follow along). In November, a school district in Texas ended its decades-old Homecoming Week reverse-roles day (in which girls dress as boys and vice versa) after one parent complained that the tradition promoted a homosexual lifestyle; in its place, the school urged kids to dress in military camouflage.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, N.Y., at age 60.
In 1942, the Pan American Airways "Pacific Clipper" arrived in New York after making the first round-the-world trip by a commercial airplane.
In 1967, U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation "Deckhouse 5," an offensive in the Mekong River delta.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What this generation was bred to at television's knees was not wisdom, but cynicism."

PAULINE KAEI
AMERICAN MOVIE CRITIC (1919-2001)

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Tug-of-war over plan for downtown towers continues

Planning Commission recommends controversial proposal for Santa Monica Place be tabled

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The debate continues to rage over plans to build five high-rise towers in downtown Santa Monica.

Members of City Hall's Planning Commission, which makes recommendations to the City Council, agreed early Thursday that the proposal to redevelop Santa Monica Place mall should be tabled for at least two years. If not, it should be drastically scaled back.

"I just cannot see that this process is anything other than

upside down, or backwards, or something," said Planning Commission Chairwoman Barbara Brown at the commission's Wednesday meeting. "I don't know how anybody involved with proceeding with this negotiation can look at people in the eye."

If the City Council agrees to stall the project when it considers it later this month, developers have said they would abandon their plans for the 10-acre site, which include demolishing the existing mall and erecting three 21-story residential towers, an

See **TOWERS**, page 6

Remember the tides



Photo courtesy

A 'paddle out' at Hermosa Beach served recently as part of a private memorial service. A similar, although larger, memorial is scheduled for Saturday off of the Santa Monica Pier to remember victims of the tsunami disaster.

Tsunami memorial service planned at pier

People asked to 'paddle out' to remember victims of earthquake

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — As billions of dollars pour into Southeast Asia for the tsunami relief efforts, Santa Monicans are doing their part through monetary donations, as well as observing the devastation that's occurred.

A tsunami memorial service will be held on Saturday at the

Santa Monica Pier. The service will represent a diverse community effort to express shared grief for the victims and survivors of the Dec. 26 tsunami that struck 11 countries.

The service is designed to "relieve a sense of helplessness we have," said organizer Joni Conterno.

It's also an opportunity to raise funds for victims, as well as to educate local residents on how prepared emergency responders would be if an earthquake occurred in Santa Monica Bay.

Hosted by the Surf Academy, the event will begin at 11 a.m. and

end at 1 p.m., rain or shine. The event will raise funds for the Santa Monica chapter of the Red Cross, UNICEF and Save the Children, so those organizations can contin-

ue international disaster response efforts.

Organizers say what makes the outdoor memorial unique is that

See **SERVICE**, page 7

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica nonprofit group on Thursday air-dropped 10 tons of emergency supplies into Indonesia and announced it will partner with an aid group helping to care for Sri Lankan children orphaned after last month's deadly tsunami.

Those were just the latest relief efforts undertaken by the International Medical Corps, a 21-year-old humanitarian organization that last year distributed \$62 million in resources with the help of 6,000 workers in 20 countries.

Working out of headquarters at 20th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, IMC has played a major role in the relief efforts following the Indian Ocean

tsunami. That tsunami has claimed some 150,000 lives, and the death toll continues to rise.

Nancy Aossey, IMC president and CEO, said what sets the nonprofit group apart from most others is that it promotes education along with relief. Donations have been flooding in, especially after President George W. Bush urged America to turn out its pockets and put IMC on a short list of preferred organizations.

"It's still pretty early, but we actually have been tracking that, and about 30 percent of the people making donations now are referring to the president's initiative," she said, adding most were individual donors. "We hope that that kind of interest continues."

Started in Afghanistan in

See **IMC**, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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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)

★★★★★ Even if your morning starts with an element of surprise, take the high road and detach. Avoid getting plugged in. Choices surround you. Work or network? Work or socialize? Consider that it is Friday. Hook up with friends or network if work is your priority. Tonight: Where music is played

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might be disappointed or out of sorts in the morning. Focus on individuals rather than your mood, and success will follow you. Eye contact makes others feel valued. Emphasize understanding. Let a partner or special friend lead. Tonight: Go into weekend mode

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Those who can impact you make demands. Work takes a strange turn. Don't fight the inevitable; call on your creativity and humor. Network, socialize and enjoy those around you both professionally and personally. Tonight: Oh, so popular

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Information, gossip and plans probably will not go as you'd like. Concentrate on work, errands and daily happenings. Avoid gossip at any cost. You'll accomplish more than you'd anticipated. Invite others over, possibly as soon as this evening. Tonight: Entertain at your home

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Understand that your mindset is already on the weekend, though many might be digging into work. Infuse the moment with humor, liveliness and a joke or two. Curb flirtation for now. Someone might misinterpret your friendliness. Tonight: Greet the weekend in style

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your mind drifts to your personal life. Consider leaving work early or calling in. Your sense of humor saves the day. Vagueness surrounds errands and routine. Don't worry. Use your creativity to bypass any problems you come across. Tonight: Get some extra R and R

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Make an extra effort to touch base with key people in your life. Break your routine; give up any rigidity. Work on your listening skills. Run errands. Bridge a barrier that has development in a relationship. Tonight: Favorite people, favorite place

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Avoid any risks, even if you've come out on top before. Your budget and spending need to be your highest priorities. Revamp what is not working. Your instincts work as long as you play it conservative. Security must be a priority. Tonight: Consider a weekend budget

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Let go of a hassle and enjoy the moment. Maximize your five stars. Dealing with individuals and groups is favored. Aim for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Express yourself. Please don't hold back. Tonight: Beam in the weekend

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Your intuition works overtime. Assume a low profile, but follow through on a money matter. What you feel and think is right-on. Don't be surprised by a bizarre call or interaction. Also, avoid taking others personally. Tonight: Do your thing

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Aim for what you want. Focus on people and socializing. You pull the wild card financially. Use care in this particular arena. Perspective counts. Investigate and discover new solutions. Integrate thinking with feeling. Tonight: Distant drummers call

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ You get up on the wrong side of the bed. Get past your mood and concentrate on work, meetings and those who impact your life. Others observe your performance. Take care of your responsibilities, using your intuitive skills. Tonight: Don't count on getting in early!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



File Photo

This garden, outside a house owned by Santa Monica Community College, represents an example of sustainable landscape design.

Being 'green' has its rewards

By Daily Press staff

Local property owners are seeing green not only in their lawns but through cash given to them from City Hall.

This week Santa Monica's Environmental Programs Division awarded nine grants totaling approximately \$80,000 to property owners for sustainable landscape projects. Grants will help cover costs to design and/or install water-conserving plants, water-efficient irrigation systems, permeable paving and rain water catchment systems. The landscape grant program is one of 15 programs the city offers to save water and reduce ocean pollution. One of the goals of the program is to begin converting portions of the landscaped area in the city to be more climate-compatible and help reduce citywide water use 20 percent by 2010.

"We are very excited to announce the grant recipients for 2004," said Neal Shapiro, the city's water resources coordinator. "We are confident that individuals will see the benefits of sustainable landscaping practices right away."

Many homes in Santa Monica use more than 200 gallons of water each day to irrigate landscape, with much of it running off into streets, alleys and sidewalks, officials said. Research shows that converting turf and other water-thirsty plants, and traditional, high-volume sprinkler irrigation systems to California-friendly plants and water-efficient irrigation systems can save up to 80 percent of water and 60 percent of maintenance costs. Water-efficient gardens produce less yard waste, reduce the need for harmful chemicals and polluting maintenance equipment, and provide habitat for beneficial birds and insects, officials said.

The competitive landscape grants awarded provide partial funding, or new or remodeled innovative garden designs that include one or more of the following: California native plants, water-efficient plants, water-efficient irrigation systems, storm-water management systems, graywater systems, and/or other innovative water-saving features. Applications for the next round of grants are due March 31, 2005. Visit www.smepd.org or call (310) 458-8405 for more details.



SURF REPORT

On Friday, southerly seas pick up early for chop and slop. As the seas and storm swell rise by afternoon there may be cause to find a semi-protected South Bay spot and get a few — should be plenty bacteria and other hydrocarbons sharing the lineup too. Wave heights early should be chest- to head-high+ along the south facing shores of northern beaches with exposure, smaller at west facing shores at first. As noon approaches larger storm waves develop for a range from head high to two feet overhead, with larger sets at wide open beaches.

Winds blow from the SE at 15-35 knots.

Today the water is:

58°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	7:53	2.6	7:45	1.0	2:22	4.0	12:54	3.6
SUNDAY	9:35	2.2	8:29	1.5	3:02	4.3	2:30	3.1
MONDAY	9:35	2.2	8:29	1.5	3:02	4.3	2:30	3.1
TUESDAY	10:56	1.5	9:20	1.9	3:43	4.7	4:28	2.9
WEDNESDAY	11:55	0.6	10:19	2.1	4:26	5.2	6:06	3.0
THURSDAY	12:45	-0.2	11:18	2.3	5:11	5.7	7:14	5.2
FRIDAY	12:45	-0.2	11:18	2.3	5:11	5.7	7:14	5.2

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The Q Line

It's a new year. Let's start it off right. Every week we hear about what's going wrong in our city. This week, we want to hear about what is going right.

So this week's Q-Line wants to know, "What do you like about living in Santa Monica?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in our 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

Samohi choir trip not music to his ears

Editor:

Thanks for printing the front page article (SMDP, Jan. 4, page 4) about the City Council caving in and doling out another \$25,000 of its “discretionary monies” to the so-called financially strapped school district to send 42 underfunded children in its choir, along with the other 115 who apparently can and will pay for 100 percent for their trips to Hawaii on what is described by them and educators of the school district as necessary, and a non-vacation (tongue in cheek). The words “mismanagement,” “foolish,” “stupid” and “greedy” first come to mind, as well as others I am sure you would opt to find unprintable. To begin with, the City Council ought not have any “discretionary money” to play with as they please. These are hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and all such funds ought to be used in the strictest and wisest manner, with sound accountability to the public, and not so frivolously as has been. Let’s force a change to all that. The public (conveniently it seems) was never notified of the council to be hearing the issue of the city funding this quasi-vacation for these 42 so-called financially deprived children of the school district’s choir, nor has any student or any educator from the district openly stated that the remaining 115 children of the choir to take this grande trip in March will themselves pay for their lovely moments in paradise 100 percent rather than be subsidized in any amount or way by the scarce school funds, actually taxpayers dollars which have recently been made available by Santa Monica’s council to the tune of \$6 million over a very short period of time as per the pressure, coercing and actual threats made by the Jaffe-Davis CEPS camp. As stated before, they are a greedy lot. Aren’t they? The ink hasn’t had a chance to dry on the checks, and here they are folks. Right out the gate, at the first of the year with their hands out for more. Using the children themselves, and apparently a naive choir director, as a dodge to milk ever more “scarce” funds for such frivolous purposes. One of these children speaking in the article, Fonda-Bonardi, said of the request that it “is funding for all students who need financial aid.” And stated in some attempt to defend or justify this taxpayers’ money rip off, that she and the others are “musical ambassadors” for the city of Santa Monica. Nice try kid, self-appointing yourself in that way. I have more respect and admiration for the real musicians and singers playing for their supper on the Promenade than I would ever have for the likes of the lot of you. And they pay the city for a permit to do so. Instead of accepting an invitation to the more important event: The gathering of nationally acclaimed choirs in the great city of Los Angeles — so close that any student could hop a city bus to — and be safe and warm at home each night, as well as mingle with fellow choir persons that may enrich and elevate them in the singing world, choir director Chris Rhodes successfully pulled it off. (Schools Superintendent John) Deasy must be pleasey. Rhodes held a blind over the council’s eyes at the meeting, and lamely offered some sort of acceptable justification on choosing Hawaii — which he must have known was far too expensive for all of his 157 students to travel to — over Los Angeles. He said, “The trip is more than fun in the sun.” I agree, as he also admitted that they would be snorkeling, hiking about a volcano, and having fun with local natives, themselves American it is presumed. Was it just last year or the one before when the SMMUSD choir sent all these 157 children to Boston, and on a grande tour of four countries in Europe? Finally, since it is a combined district with Malibu, why hasn’t the choir, and SMMUSD itself, as well as the ugly Jaffe-Davis CEPS camp ever asked Malibu for an extra cent, or threatened to change its city charter?

Don Krok
Santa Monica

Lights are on but nobody’s home at City Hall

Editor:

In the Jan. 5 edition of Santa Monica Daily Press (page 4), Steven Keats asks “How many consultants does it take to change a light bulb in Santa Monica?”

Let’s see. (At least) one to decide what kind of ladder to use. Another to determine which way to turn the burnt-out bulb to remove it, a few to prepare the application form for the hiring of the bulb turner, etc.

I find it hard to believe that, among Santa Monica’s 90,000 residents, there are no people willing to advise the City Council on a volunteer basis. Have they tried SCORE? How about flipping a coin if they’re afraid to make a decision based on their own common sense, provided they have any?

I wish the members of the council would stand on their own two feet instead of hiding behind these expensive “consultants” and save the city both time and money.

Ken McCrae
Santa Monica

It’s time to get real and to get progressive, SM



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

It’s a new year. Thank goodness. 2004 was a tough year for those of us who fancy ourselves as progressive liberals.

I’m not talking about the re-election of that callous skinflint from Texas who’s too cheap to help tsunami victims while he lines the pockets of his extraction industries cronies. My doctor won’t allow me to discuss Dubya as it causes me acid reflux.

Rather, I’m referring to our local elections, which yielded yet another City Council composed of middle-aged white folks. It makes the Bush Cabinet look like the Rainbow Coalition (whoops, there goes the bile up my esophagus). In particular, I’m troubled we have yet another Santa Monicans For Renters’ Rights-endorsed majority controlling civic affairs, because SMRR governance of our city in recent years hasn’t been nearly progressive enough.

Such a statement might seem like apostasy in the face of local political orthodoxy. But it’s not surprising that SMRR has lost its leftist edge in the two decades since its daring rent-control initiative. History proves time and again that as revolutionary movements mature they lose their zeal and focus, and become more concerned with maintaining their power base and nurturing the bureaucracy through which that power is effected (consider the American, French and Russian revolutions). Moreover, SMRR’s only notable opposition has come from the Chamber of Commerce and others to the right of our local political spectrum. Absent any meaningful dissent from the left, it’s only natural that SMRR and its elected officials would stake out centrist positions to win the votes of those who might otherwise be lured by more conservative candidates.

Don’t get me wrong. I admire and respect all four of the SMRR-backed council members. And I believe the SMRR-dominated councils of recent years have done many things right and have assured that Santa Monica continues to be a great place to live. I’m just crazy enough to wish for more for our city and for a truly progressive City Council. One that, to cull some phrases from my Unabridged Webster’s definition of “progressive,” is “moving forward” and “marked by a continuing improvement.”

So I’m going brazenly suggest a few New Year’s resolutions for our City Council. I should note that I came up with these notions without the aid of high-priced consultants or they wouldn’t be ready until 2006:

1. The city’s 10-year commitment to sustainability has laudably reduced our community’s environmental footprint. Now that the low-lying fruit has been picked, however, more difficult challenges lie ahead. Consider City Hall, for instance: The growth of its staff, expenditures and facilities is simply not sustainable at the pace of the last decade. Likewise, private development can’t continue at the rate of recent years or our streets will become gridlocked and the skyline a distant memory. It’s time for new approaches that consume far less instead of the old reliance on growing municipal revenue sources and on the tear-down paradigm of redevelopment.

2. Our housing policies, which currently seem to produce only lower-income affordable projects or market rate (i.e. insanely expensive) apartments, have led to the exodus of much of our middle class. Let’s foster a healthy, diverse human ecosystem by building for the middle class and acknowledge that government-sanctioned gentrification, such as beach hotels, luxury apartments, a spiffy transit mall and a high-end retail mall, displaces small businesses.

3. Progressivism includes a proud tradition of government reform. Thus, the City Council ought to have its own independent staff to assist in policy-making and support a charter amendment to make City Hall department heads more accountable to our elected officials. There should be a healthy and creative tension between the legislative and executive branches of our government rather than the current cozy symbiosis.

4. It’s time for the city to pursue truly egalitarian policies that provide economic and social justice to all. Stop ignoring the Pico neighborhood. Don’t first renovate the parks north of Wilshire Boulevard and only then fund improvements to Virginia and Memorial parks. If the beach bathrooms in front of the luxury hotels can be upgraded, so can those in Ocean Park. And why spend untold millions on a Civic Center makeover when residential neighborhoods have pressing infrastructure needs?

5. Finally, as I’ve noted in prior columns, it’s time for a truly progressive approach to homelessness. Create homes for these people. And, if the city can zealously enforce parking tickets and hedge codes, it can require civil behavior of those who live on our streets.

Happy New Year! Pax Vobiscum.

(Ted Winterer is a writer and deranged pinko who lives in Ocean Park. After consulting his consultants, he has resolved to spend less time listening to Pacifica Radio and more time trimming the hair that sprouts out of his ears. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com).

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OPINION



Are pie resolutions just slices of disappointment?

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



I looked at my watch. Anxiety arose as the minutes closed in. My knee twitched, and my nose itched. It was almost time. Time for the New Year's resolutions, yet again. I sighed. I swayed. My head swirled with all the possibilities for 2005. I'd have gone out for a smoke, but I don't smoke.

Standing in front of my heater, where I do some of my best thinking, I listened to the rain absolutely pour down. Buckets and buckets of it. What a great excuse for not attending the annual congress of resolution makers held by determined friends around the first of every new year. But then I would miss Clare's yummy crumbled mixed-berry pie. It's a tough call.

Opting for the pie, I put on my rain slicker, rain boots and oversized pants to accommodate the weather and the confection. By the time I reached the meeting house, I had memorized a litany of resolutions. Once our yearly ritual began, I didn't want my brain to be clouded by the perfect pie I planned on consuming.

The schedule for this event usually went like this: 1) chit chat, 2) pie, 3) opening last year's resolutions, 4) pie, 5) congratulations and laughter while discussing previous resolutions, 6) more pie, 7) quiet composing of the New Year's resolutions, 8) pie slivers that seem like no pie but is lotsa pie, 9) putting fresh resolutions in

special box to be opened the following year, and 10) pie doggie-bag and good-byes.

This year went pretty much the same. Although there might have been more pie than in previous years. And anyone with diet resolutions started after this occasion, for obvious reasons.

Clare was the distributor of 2004's resolutions from the secret box. No one had viewed them for an entire year, and most of us had forgotten what we wrote down. Except for Dave, who had only one resolve ... to get a haircut. We were all happy he kept that resolution.

Reviewing my own items, I felt fairly pleased I had accomplished four out of 10. This ratio was relatively similar to the rest of the group's. As we contemplated this fraction, we realized how convoluted these promises can become. Many of them are simply out of our control, like winning the lottery or walking on water. Buying lotto tickets and building a swimming pool are steps one can take toward the possible achievement of those desires, but who really knows what the eventual outcome will be? Unlike Dave getting his haircut.

So often resolutions lead to disappointment, and some say it's better not to make them. Perhaps, as the experts suggest, focusing on doable resolves is the way to go. Anyway, that's the conclusion our little congress came to. And there is something affirming about being together in a group and writing down intentions. Even though we tend to keep some of our resolutions private, there is an important witness effect at play.

By the way, New Year's resolutions

date back to the ancient Babylonians, whose celebrations occurred at the first new moon after the spring equinox. However, instead of vowing to exercise regularly or to quit smoking, these guys' and gals' most popular pledge was to return their neighbor's farm equipment.

Another piece of information you might find valuable is that certain foods, especially those in the form of a circle (coming full circle), are considered to be

fortuitous on New Year's Day. Observing this tradition, the Dutch have a habit of serving donuts on this holiday. But don't tell Clare, 'cause as far as I'm concerned crumbled mixed-berry pie is the lucky circle I'm looking for.

Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com).

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Mall towers to go before City Council this month

TOWERS, from page 1

eight-story office building and an eight-story apartment building. Those buildings would surround a new outdoor mall, which developers described as a natural extension of the Third Street Promenade.

CONTROVERSY INCHES FORWARD

The height of the high-rise buildings has been an ongoing source of controversy in the community since the plan was unveiled in November. Developers maintain that the tall, thin towers will complement the Santa Monica skyline by reaching the height of the tallest building in the city, the white high-rise building at 100 Wilshire Blvd. Opponents claim the proposed towers are too tall and will clog downtown streets with traffic.

Former City Councilman Mike Feinstein urged the Planning Commission to keep an open mind about the proposal, which is still in the preliminary phase and will be discussed in many community meetings. The project also is expected to be modified.

"I think that we have a historic opportunity to really bring together the obvious areas in the downtown, and I'm here to

encourage the entire community not to fumble away this opportunity out of unnecessary fear and paranoia," said Feinstein, the only public speaker who backed the plans. "Anybody who does development in this city knows if you ask for exactly what you want for in the beginning, you're not going to get close to what you want. You have to ask for more, because you're going to get the you-know-what beat out of you while you go through this process. So they start high, literally and metaphorically.

"The fear that we have in this city is unfounded, because these people can't do anything. It's all in control of the city. It's only what the city's going to want," Feinstein continued. "If we cut it off now, we could lose 30 or 40 years and never have somebody come along again, and I think we'll just be hurting ourselves unnecessarily."

When the City Council takes up the matter later this month, it will decide whether mall officials should be allowed to work with City Hall under what's called a development agreement, where developers can skirt city codes if there's a return benefit to the community. With this project, developers argue the opportunity

for an outdoor mall to tie together the Promenade, Santa Monica Pier, Civic Center and Main Street should not be overlooked.

In addition to the residential, office and retail space, the plans also call for two acres of park space open to the public to be located on top of the retail buildings, overlooking the ocean. Randy Brant of the Macerich Co., which owns the mall property, said Santa Monica's best interests were in mind.

"Macerich's corporate offices are in Santa Monica," he said. "A lot of us live here in Santa Monica. We think we have a pretty good understanding what Santa Monica's all about."

After a lengthy discussion, the commission voted 4-2 to recommend the city not enter into a development agreement until an update to the city's aging development guidelines is complete. That process is currently underway and is expected to take two and a half years to complete.

ALL DEVELOPMENT BUILT EQUAL?

If the City Council decides to proceed with the development agreement, the Planning Commission recommended the project be held to the same standards as other developments in Santa Monica. The city's general plan calls for a maximum height of six stories at the mall property, said Amanda Schachter, a planning manager. Brant said he didn't want to discuss the hot-button issue of height at the meeting, which lasted well into the early hours of Thursday.

"I don't want to get into the height," he said, after delivering a 15-minute presentation. "We've all seen the height, but there's some height we need to facilitate here to support the 450 units, if we still want to have the park on this site."

The residential aspect of the plan is a crucial component of making the project economically feasible, Brant added.

"I can say that the residential, the value created by the residential is an important economic engine for the rest of this project," he said. "In our opinion, and I know

we incited a lot of emotion, but, in our opinion, taller, thinner buildings are more attractive than shorter, squattier ones."

If the council chooses to stall the project, mall officials have said they might undertake a less drastic remake of the aging 1980 mall, which was designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. Previously discussed plans have included taking the roof off of Santa Monica Place and putting the parking decks underground. That plan wouldn't include the high-rise towers, and also wouldn't include a public park.

COMMUNITY CONCERN

A total of six residents spoke on the issue before the Planning Commission, with all but Feinstein criticizing the project. Some complained the high-rise towers would clutter the skyline and create too much traffic. Others criticized the way Macerich unveiled the plans. They say the public ought to have been invited to give input earlier. Still others said the project had too many negatives. They pointed to, among other things, the city's obligation to rebuild its 2,000 parking spaces on the site, at a cost of up to \$100 million.

"What it appears to me is that when you look at the cost benefits to the community, they're all overwhelmingly in the costs column," said former school board president and City Council candidate Patricia Hoffman, who also is a member of the nonprofit organization that manages downtown. "I think that, right now, just saying 'no' is the right answer, and that later on Macerich can come back with a more community-friendly project that you might like better."

Added Ocean Park resident Jacob Samuels, an artist: "I realize that the Macerich company wants to capitalize on their investment, but to even propose a 21-story tower and think that they can cut it down to 15 or 10, this is so out of character with downtown. Plus, the precedent that it sets for Santa Monica, it's like becoming the Miami-ization of Santa Monica — these huge towers, this pittance of a park."

Monetary donations more useful than goods

LOCAL EFFORT, from page 1

However, Pacheco said he decided that 100 percent of tsunami donations should go directly to Southeast Asia.

A hotline, (866) 733-5010, was established over the New Year's weekend to assist residents who want to donate to the disaster victims. Since then, the local chapter has raised between \$5,000 to \$10,000 a day, Pacheco said. Staff members will be answering the hotline from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

"I expect that we'll raise \$250,000," he said. "I've gone through a lot of disasters, and this one has a lot more legs than any I've seen."

He compared the recent outpouring of support to the local donations of \$42,000 that came in during the California wildfires in 2003.

"I think the difference is that this community has more of an international community and people here have a lot of feeling about that place," Pacheco said.

Red Cross officials will be at the pier from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday to

answer questions about how the donations already collected are being used and where the organization anticipates future need. Community members who wish to make a contribution may do so at the Red Cross of Santa Monica kiosk stationed on the pier. Staff and volunteers will be answering questions and collecting donations before and after a memorial service on the pier Saturday (see related story). Only financial donations will be accepted because of the overwhelming costs of shipping items from the United States to affected areas, officials said.

The Santa Monica chapter also will be open for those who wish to make donations in person. Donations can also be made in person at the Red Cross office located at 1450 11th St., or online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

Checks should be made payable to the American Red Cross Southeast Asia Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Effort. In support of the effort, the American Red Cross already has deployed personnel to hard-hit Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Red

See LOCAL EFFORT, page 7

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Tsunami service to be held rain or shine Saturday

SERVICE, from page 1

attendees may participate in rituals both ancient and familiar. There will be two distinct parts to the service. Most people will be familiar with the traditions of the first part as clergy from five faiths will lead the group in prayer. Children will offer a prayer and release doves of hope.

"It will really turn into a liturgy," said Mary Setterholm, a member of the Surf Academy and organizer of the event. "It doesn't really matter what faith you are. When disaster strikes, we're all in this together, and you better have faith."

Twelve surfboards, representing the 11 countries affected by the tsunami and a 12th one that represents all visitors to the area, will be carried onto the pier and subsequently into the water. The boards are meant to represent the tens of thousands of lives lost in the disaster, Setterholm said.

The second segment of the event is where the culture of the sea emerges

through mass participation of surfers and paddlers who bring their surfboards and wetsuits for the "paddle out" portion. People are asked to paddle out at the end of the pier and sit on their boards in a circle formation. Men and women of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate.

Those remaining on the pier are asked to participate in a scripted communal dialogue with those in the water. It's geared toward the desire for those in love with the sea as a refuge to take the sorrow directly to "her," organizers say.

"There also is a need to pray for ourselves and our future safety," Setterholm said. "We are going to be facing disasters like this in the future. It's not a matter of 'if' but 'when.' It's quite real, and archaeological evidence shows tsunamis have happened in Santa Monica Bay."

Personnel from the Coast Guard, Los Angeles County Lifeguards and the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors will speak to the community

about local tsunami preparedness.

The ancient Four Corners prayer will be led by a Chumash Indian chief. The intention is to pray to the four corners of the world.

"It's a way of recognizing the vastness of the world, the power of nature and the seasons," Setterholm said.

The service will conclude with the sound of the conch shell as flowers are sent out to sea, along with the 12 surfboards. "Rest in peace" will be said in several languages.

Organizers hope Saturday's rain fore-

cast won't be a deterrent for people to participate.

"People lost their lives; we can do this in the rain," Setterholm said. "We're going to be wet anyway."

Call (310) 372-2790 for more information about the memorial service. The event is free, but it costs \$7 to park on the pier. Alternative transportation is preferred. Participants are asked to bring flowers and flower wreaths, but nothing artificial that could harm marine life. Surfers are asked to bring their own gear, and the dress code is "beach casual."

Bar owners serving up relief for Southern Asia

LOCAL EFFORT, from page 6

Cross officials say the best way to get help to Southern Asia is with cash contributions to the American Red Cross International Response Fund. With funding, most relief supplies can be purchased in the affected areas, officials said. Contributions not only help the economies of the affected countries, but also save shipping costs and ensure that the supplies are culturally appropriate.

Barney's Beanery locations in Santa Monica and West Hollywood also are raising money for the Red Cross. Barney's Beanery will forward 25 percent of each restaurant's dinner and bar receipts to the American Red Cross.

"We felt it was important to do our share as all of our wait staff has been

painfully aware of the devastation wrought on a significant percentage of our world's population," said co-owner David Houston.

Dozens of bars, restaurants and small business owners throughout the area are gearing up for a week-long fundraiser for the tsunami relief effort by hosting several fundraising events. Proceeds will go to UNICEF, CARE and Oxfam — all organizations donating directly to Southeast Asia.

Beginning Jan. 12 and ending on Jan. 19, local establishments will hold events. Nearly 40 bars are participating in "Campaign for Humanitarian Emergency Response," also known as CHEERS.

To learn more about what events are being held and where, log on to www.cheersweek.com. To participate, send an e-mail to info@cheersweek.com.

Local humanitarian group focuses on disaster training

IMC, from page 1

1984, IMC provides health care training and relief, and development programs, said special projects manager Michael Holt. In Thursday's air-drop, IMC distributed medicines, generators, medical masks, gloves, body bags and refrigerators, among other items, Holt said. The supplies were taken from Jakarta to Banda Aceh.

Tim Smith, a spokesman for IMC, also announced Thursday that the group had partnered with VeAhavta, a non-profit group providing relief on the northeast coast Sri Lanka. Together, the groups will operate an orphanage and a mobile medical clinic.

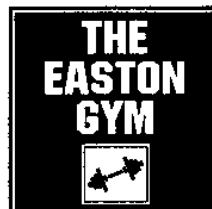
Smith emphasized that IMC differs

from its counterparts by focusing on local preparedness — educating resident doctors and other workers so they can take care of themselves. For example, IMC has had a presence in Indonesia since 2000. When the deadly tsunami hit last month, Smith said IMC had 91 staffers working there. Eighty-eight of them were natives.

"Our goal is to build local capacities to care for themselves," said Smith, who added education continues even during emergencies. "Our niche is training, training, training."

(To learn more about IMC or to contribute, log on to www.imcworldwide.org or call the Santa Monica headquarters at 310-826-7800.)

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Entertainment

‘White Noise’ will make you jump out of theater

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

This dopey horror flick from Brit TV director Geoffrey Sax deals in the dubious conceit known as Electronic Voice Phenomenon, which suggests that dead people communicate with the living via the static commonly encountered with cell phones and cable-deprived TVs. Fifteen minutes into the picture I found myself imagining what might have been had someone, say, the late Rod Serling, cut in on Sax's calls and given him a bit of advice on how to make an entertaining sci-fi thriller. Alas, "White Noise" never crosses over into the quirky, good fun that was "The Twilight Zone" ... a "No Stopping" zone is more like it. And speaking of stiffs using sound and image to con-

Review



tact us, it's time to accept the very real possibility that the talented Michael Keaton might never resurrect his once-

vital career. From "Jack Frost" to "First Daughter" to this? Sheesh! Where have you gone, Johnny Dangerously?

Keaton muffs up mightily here as Jonathan Rivers, a seemingly rational man who, in the wake of his young wife's death, becomes convinced he's receiving dispatches from her from the Other Side. Skepticism be damned, a deranged Rivers immediately establishes a formidable electronics communication center in his home and begins receiving a host of communications from all manner of unearthly beings. Ala "The Ring," some of the more demonic wraiths take shape in bands of white noise, spooking Rivers whenever his oversized forehead gets too close to the monitors. And sure, there are a few moments that'll make you jump — none more so than the one when the final credits begin to roll and it's time to get the heck outta the theater.

(Rated PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and language.)

‘Rumors’ hits SM

By Daily Press staff

A comedic parity on how rumors can get started is coming to a theater near you. "Rumors" is set during the 10th anniversary party of the deputy mayor of New York City and his wife. The party never begins though, as he lies in his bed with an unexplained gunshot wound (it's only a flesh wound), while his wife and the servants are nowhere to be found.

Each couple arriving at the party is kept in the dark about the situation by those who had arrived prior. With nobody remembering who has been told what about whom, his lawyer's cover-up gets progressively more difficult to sustain, and the evening becomes a hilarious study of miscommunication and misinformation.

"Rumors" is directed by Lewis Hauser, 2004 Geoffrey Award recipient for Outstanding Direction of Neil Simon's



"Laughter on the 23rd Floor" at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre. The play originally premiered on Broadway in 1988.

"Rumors" opens Friday, Jan. 14, and

continues through Saturday, Feb. 12, with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., and one Saturday matinee Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students, with group discounts available. They may be purchased by calling the Morgan-Wixson Theatre box office at (310) 828-7519.

The theater is located at 2627 Pico Blvd.; (310) 828-7519; fax (310) 828-6209; www.morgan-wixson.org.

For better or for worse, the 2005 predictions are in

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Hate to say I told you so, but 12 months ago in an annual exercise in prognostication, I predicted that 2004 was going to be a difficult year. And, boy, was it ever! Granted, I wasn't completely on the mark on all counts — after all it was Janet Jackson and NOT Britney Spears whose exposed breast set the country, uh, a'titter — but then again I did foretell the passing of both Ole' Dirty Bastard and the Democratic Party. With a new year upon us, it's once again time to tap into the psychic kegger and serve up a frosty pitcher of prophecy. Here's a month-by-month soothsaying of what's in store for us in 2005:

JANUARY: After being sworn in for his second term in the Oval Office, a pumped-up President Bush announces he's replacing his popular catchphrase "Freedom is on the march" with the more straightforward battle cry of "Screw y'all, foreigners!"

FEBRUARY: In the Sudan, thousands of people are slaughtered in the ongoing genocide, leaving singing sensations Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey no choice but to cancel the Darfurian leg of their world tour. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, an avowed "Newlyweds" fan, tearfully implores the international community to intervene.

MARCH: CBS News replaces retiring anchor Dan Rather with "The Miz" guy from MTV's "The Real World."

APRIL: How long? How long must they sing those songs? U2 launches world tour in Miami. When the hell is this guy gonna find what he's looking for anyway? Dude, you're BONO! If I were you, I'd have found what I'm after 3,000 groupies ago.

MAY: There's panic in the streets after The Miz mistakes a DVD copy of "Team America" for news footage, goes on the air and announces that North Korea has attacked the United States. In the wake of the confusion, an angry Kim Jong Il

bombs the set of the "Road Rules-Real World Challenge." A nation mourns the loss of Johnny Moseley and Puck.

JUNE: There's panic at office coolers nationwide, as word spreads that the final season of "The Sopranos" has been delayed another two years. Apple releases a new portable listening device called the iPod, which can hold up to 1,000 MP3 recordings of babies crapping in their diapers.

JULY: In a tell-all book, Pete Rose admits to betting that Barry Bonds was using steroids. Also, at a backyard barbecue in West Texas, redneck Jimmy Bob Dickey dies after uttering the ominous last words, "Hold my beer. Watch this ..."

AUGUST: Rapper Tupac Shakur continues to defy the notion that death is a career killer by releasing yet another posthumous, chart-topping record. In other dead music career news, Hootie parts ways with the Blowfish to record a Christmas album with the surviving member of Milli Vanilli. African officials

announce that everyone in the Sudan is dead. Jessica and Nick resume touring.

SEPTEMBER: At a "Hilary in '08" fundraiser in Hollywood, New York Sen. Hilary Clinton continues to deny she has plans to run for president in 2008.

OCTOBER: Pedro Martinez leads the Mets to victory over the Red Sox in the World Series. New Englanders instantly begin whining about the "Curse of the Geri-Curled Hombre." Sally Henderson of Davenport, Iowa, can't stop laughing over the clever pun in a supermarket circular about "frightfully low prices" on Halloween candy.

NOVEMBER: Hootie Vanilli's Christmas album is released and rockets to the top of the charts.

DECEMBER: Howard Stern shocks listeners during his final radio broadcast when he admits he really isn't all that into lesbians. On the 25th anniversary of his death, people all over the world remember John Lennon, celebrating the fact that there's never been anyone better.

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Aero Theater announces its upcoming line-up

By Daily Press staff

The historic Aero Theater on Montana Avenue has recently opened after more than two years of being closed for renovation. The American Cinematheque has these events planned through the middle of January:

Thursday, Jan. 6: 7:30 p.m. One night with Dennis Quaid

IN GOOD COMPANY, 2005, Universal, 109 min. The latest from Paul Weitz, the director of ABOUT A BOY, is an insightful comedy about the relationship between a 50-year-old businessman and his new 26-year-old boss. Dan Foreman (Dennis Quaid) is demoted from head of ad sales for a major magazine when the company he works for is acquired in a corporate takeover. His new boss, Carter Duryea (Topher Grace), is a business school prodigy half his age, and Dan and Carter's uneasy new relationship is thrown into jeopardy when Carter falls for Dan's daughter Alex (Scarlett Johansson). A humorous and tender examination of life's ironies and coincidences. Discussion following with actor Dennis Quaid.

Friday, Jan. 7: 7:30 p.m. Jeremy Irons Tribute

Double feature: THE MISSION, 1986, Warner Bros., 125 min. Dir. Roland Joffe. Visually and dramatically magnificent 18th century epic of a Jesuit missionary (Jeremy Irons) who first clashes, then bonds with a murderous former slave-trader (Robert De Niro) to try to save a remote religious outpost in the Brazilian jungle. Superb script by Robert Bolt (LAWRENCE OF ARABIA), with one of composer Ennio Morricone's finest scores.

DEAD RINGERS, 1988, Morgan Creek, 115 min. Jeremy Irons turns in a stupendous pair of performances as twin gynecologists sinking in a swirling miasma of fraternal sexual jealousy, prescription drugs and junk food, in one of director David Cronenberg's most disturbingly twisted and sharply executed thrillers. Astoundingly enough, another daring picture based on fact. With Genevieve Bujold. Discussion between films with actor Jeremy Irons.

Sunday, Jan. 9: 5 p.m. Annette Bening Tribute

Annette Bening shows great versatility in both comic and dramatic roles, whether it be on screen or on stage. With her first starring role she portrayed the manipulative, seductive Marquise de Merteuil in Milos Forman's VALMONT, excelled as a ditsy wanna-be actress in Mike Nichols' POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE and delivered a brilliant portrayal as the treacherous con-artist Myra Langtry in Stephen Frears' THE GRIFTERS, for which she earned an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actress. She gained further acclaim in movies such as REGARDING HENRY, GUILTY BY SUSPICION, BUGSY and the highly acclaimed AMERICAN BEAUTY, for which she won a Screen Actor's Guild Award and an Academy Award nomination. Her most recent screen appearance prior to BEING JULIA was in the western OPEN RANGE opposite Kevin Costner and Robert Duvall. In the spring of 2005, she will be seen in the HBO film MRS. HARRIS.

Double Feature: BEING JULIA, 2004, Sony Pictures Classics, 105 min. Based on W. Somerset Maugham's "Theatre," director Istvan Szabo's intoxicating combination of wicked comedy and smart drama. In London in 1938, beautiful and beguiling actress Julia Lambert (Annette Bening) is at her peak, physically and professionally, but her successful theatrical career and her marriage to handsome impresario Michael Gosselyn (Jeremy Irons) have become stale and unfulfilling. Longing for novelty and excitement, Julia embarks on a passionate affair with younger Tom Fennell (Shaun Evans).



70 mm print. VALMONT, 1989, MGM/UA, 137 min. Director Milos Forman's stingingly sharp and tragically poignant adaptation of the 18th century classic novel Les Liaisons Dangereuses. Annette Bening is a standout as the too-cynical-and-coldhearted-for-her-own-good Marquise de Merteuil and Colin Firth superb as the Vicomte de Valmont, a worldly decadent shattered when he realizes he actually has a heart capable of breaking. Meg Tilly is touchingly memorable as vulnerable Madame de Tourvel, the young woman they inadvertently destroy. Discussion between films with actress Annette Bening.

Tuesday, Jan. 11: 7:30 p.m. A night with Thomas Haden Church

Best known for his role as Lowell Mather on the popular series "Wings" and as Ned Dorsey in the series "Ned and Stacy," Thomas Haden Church starred-in, among other films, the blockbuster hit GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE, and 3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND, with Kurt Russell and Kevin Costner. Last year, Church made his directorial debut on ROLLING KANSAS, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

SIDEWAYS, 2004, Fox Searchlight Pictures, 123 min. Writer-director Alexander Payne's fourth feature film (following CITIZEN RUTH, ELECTION and ABOUT SCHMIDT) starts with two old friends setting off on a wine-tasting road trip ... only to veer dizzily SIDEWAYS into a wry, comedic exploration of the crazy vicissitudes of love and friendship, the damnable persistence of loneliness and dreams and the enduring war between Pinot and Cabernet. Thomas Haden Church plays Jack, a womanizer who is about to be married.

Discussion following with actor Thomas Haden Church.

Hollywood Foreign Press Golden Globe Foreign Language Nominees Jan. 12-15

Discover the best of new foreign films with the five foreign language nominees for the Golden Globe Award. The filmmakers will be present for discussions at the Aero and a round-table seminar at the Egyptian Theatre

on Saturday, Jan. 15. The nominees will be announced on Dec. 13.

Wednesday, Jan. 12: 7: 30 p.m.

Golden Globe Foreign Language Nominee
Film No. 1

Filmmaker to introduce screening.

Thursday, Jan. 13: 7:30 p.m.

Golden Globe Foreign Language Nominee
Film No. 2 and film No. 3

Filmmakers to introduce screenings.

Friday, Jan. 14: 7:30 p.m.

Golden Globe Foreign Language Nominee
Film No. 4 and film No. 5

Filmmakers to introduce screenings.

Sunday, Jan. 16

Ray Harryhausen Tribute

Two-day visit for the first time to the Aero Theatre from one of the Egyptian Theatre favorite guests, visual F/X legend Ray Harryhausen, featuring two of his classic films, plus more rarities from the Harryhausen archives.

4 p.m.: Ray Harryhausen in person.

Children matinee, double feature:

"The Mysterious Island, 1961." 1961, Columbia, 101 min. Based on Jules Verne's sequel to "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea," "Mysterious Island" follows a group of

Confederate prisoners during the Civil War who escape using an enemy balloon, only to find themselves blown off course to a remote island, populated by monstrous creatures and the enigmatic Captain Nemo (Herbert Lom) himself. Directed by Cy Endfield ("Zulu," "Try and Get Me") in a rare fantasy outing, with a score by maestro Bernard Herrmann. With Michael Craig, Joan Greenwood, Michael Callan, Gary Merrill.

"Jason and the Argonauts." 1963, Columbia, 104 min. Directed by Don Chaffey. Hercules, harpies, the bronze giant Talos and an army of living skeletons. Heroic Greek warrior Jason (Todd Armstrong) travels to the farthest ends of the earth in search of the legendary Golden Fleece, in this glorious adventure featuring some of Ray Harryhausen's most memorable visual effects, along with music by Bernard Herrmann. Co-starring Nancy Kovack, Laurence Naismith, Nigel Green. Discussion between films with visual F/X legend Ray Harryhausen and actor Michael Callan.

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STATE

Governor calls special session to tackle reform

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger set an aggressive government reform plan Wednesday to close an \$8.1 billion deficit through spending cuts without raising taxes, limit public employee pensions, pay teachers on merit and change the way legislative districts are drawn.

Schwarzenegger used his second State of the State speech to urge the Legislature, dominated by Democrats, to "heal the patient" of state government and threatened to go directly to voters if they thwarted his plans.

"Political courage is not political suicide," said the Republican governor. "Ignore the lobbyists. Ignore the politics. Trust the people."

Schwarzenegger called for special legislative session to start Thursday to tackle a list of proposals that could be put before voters in a statewide special election in early summer.

The governor said the special session would enable the Legislature to act quickly "so that people can vote on our reforms in an election by early summer."

The sweeping proposal signals Schwarzenegger's

attempt to reinvent the way state government serves the people, which has been a rallying cry since he turned his acting career to politics and swept Gov. Gray Davis out of office in a recall election in October 2003.

Although many Democrats had braced for Schwarzenegger to take a more partisan tone in his remarks, the governor made it clear to the Legislature's majority party that he expected action.

"If we here in this chamber don't work together to reform the government, the people will rise up and reform it themselves," Schwarzenegger said. "And I will join them. And I will fight with them."

The governor's budget is scheduled to be released Monday and he said the biggest challenge facing lawmakers and the administration is cutting the automatic formulas that generate spending increases even when revenues cannot meet the demand.

But as he proposed eliminating many of the formulas that drive the budget, he essentially proposed one of his own — a bill that would cut spending across the board when expenses grow above revenues.

"Unless we go to the root of the problem and reform the system, the budget will continue to be one big fight, year after year after year," he said.

Schwarzenegger's plan also puts him in conflict with voter-approved funding guarantees, such as Proposition 98, which dedicates about 40 percent of state spending to public schools. Voters would have to pass any proposed changes to that formula, and the state's education lobby would likely fight any changes.

Also expected to draw opposition is his call to revise how legislative districts are drawn. Schwarzenegger said as a new citizen of the country he was amazed to learn about "how politicians changed the boundaries of a voting area to protect themselves."

In November, Schwarzenegger said, not one of California's 153 legislative and congressional seats changed parties. Schwarzenegger proposed giving authority for drawing districts to a panel of retired judges who "can draw fair, honest district lines that make politicians of both parties accountable to the people."

The governor didn't specify if he wanted to change the district lines immediately or have the change go into effect after the next census in 2010.

Schwarzenegger also took aim at pensions being paid to state and other public employees. He said that only four years ago, the cost of the state's pension obligations grew from \$160 million to \$2.6 billion.

He said he wants to change the retirement system so that new employees are required to manage their own pension in a defined benefit system. A state assemblyman and taxpayers group announced Wednesday they were starting a petition drive to put a proposal creating a defined contribution system on the statewide ballot.

Noting that nearly half of the state budget is spent on schools — many of which are failing — Schwarzenegger said teacher pay should be based on merit not on tenure.

The governor's plan also calls for the elimination of 100 unnecessary board and commissions, abolishing more than 1,000 political appointments. Schwarzenegger made a special point about eliminating cherished political patronage jobs: "No one paid by the state should make \$100,000 a year for only meeting twice a month."

Eliminating the boards and commissions were proposals made in Schwarzenegger's government reorganization effort, called the California Performance Review.

Missing from his speech, however, were details of how Schwarzenegger plans to fix a \$8.1 billion budget deficit next year without raising taxes.

Last year, an estimated \$17 billion deficit was closed by spending cuts mixed with more than \$7 billion in loans, one-time solutions and accounting gimmicks.

While there remains \$3.5 billion in voter-approved bond money that Schwarzenegger could use to close the gap this year, budget analysts have warned the state faces even bigger deficits in two years when the state has to meet several of the governor's previous funding promises.

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NATIONAL



Scientists watched for tsunamis in wrong ocean

BY JANIS L. MAGIN

Associated Press Writer

EWA BEACH, Hawaii — For scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, it happened in the wrong ocean.

For more than a half century, the Pacific center, in a seaside tsunami zone itself, has been monitoring the Pacific for earthquakes and the massive waves they can generate, which could hit Hawaii or nations around the world's biggest ocean.

The Indian Ocean is less well equipped to provide the crucial data needed to warn thousands of the approaching wave that killed thousands on Christmas day. The death toll is expected to hit 150,000 in 11 countries. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced early Monday in Jakarta that the region will set up its own tsunami early warning system.

"It's just very, very frustrating," said geophysicist Stuart Weinstein, who was on duty at the Hawaii center when the powerful earthquake off Sumatra set off the alarms. "It's frustrating for us to learn about destructive waves from a wire report, as opposed to a tide gauge."

Because no instruments, such as tide gauges that measure sea levels, are set up to detect tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, Weinstein and other scientists could only surmise that the Indonesia quake would set off a tsunami near its epicenter. They had no way of telling what other shores it might hit or when.

The warning center's 185-acre compound, where most of the scientists also live, sits two blocks from the beach on a vast flat stretch of land west of Pearl Harbor. The plain was home to sugar and pineapple plantations before subdivisions began spreading toward the water in the 1970s.

At the closest such warning center to South Asia, Weinstein and his colleagues tried in vain to warn nations in the region about a possible tsunami, but they were not equipped to monitor that part of the world, lacking even phone numbers for the right officials.

"I think people have a misconception about how much we know," said Charles McCreery, the center's director. Predictions are not possible without tide gauges or other such instruments in place, he said.

When a tsunami is generated in the Pacific, the scientists have plenty of data. Gauges are sprinkled around the Hawaiian Islands and off Alaska, the West Coast, Mexico and other Pacific Rim nations. There also are deep-ocean sensors that can sense tsunamis forming.

Another warning center in Palmer, Alaska, monitors that state and the West Coast.

Hawaii also hosts a system to distribute warnings to the United States and 25 other member nations participating in an international tsunami program. Although Indonesia and Thailand receive the warnings, Sri Lanka and India do not.

Hawaii has been dealing with the fear of tsunamis since 1946, when 159 people died as a wave generated by an Alaska earthquake hit Hilo on the Big Island. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center was set up two years later and has been at Ewa Beach since 1960, with a modern international warning system in place since 1965.

In Hawaii, state civil defense officials would take over once the warning center sounds the alarm, setting off sirens and broadcasting warnings for the public to evacuate coastal areas. Tsunami zones, evacuation routes and procedures are outlined in Hawaii telephone books. Many Waikiki hotels post the information for tourists.

"For the Pacific system, we have a good system," McCreery said. "We've been operating this for 40 years and have a lot of experience."

After first word of the Christmas quake, Barry Hirshorn, another geophysicist at the center, raced to the center, and within 15 minutes, he and Weinstein put out a bulletin about the quake, then believed to be a magnitude 8.0. A second bulletin 49 minutes later revised the quake's strength to 8.5.

Two hours later, they learned on the Internet of the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka.

Then officials from Sri Lanka began to call. First a navy commander, then someone in the president's office, the U.S. ambassador, and the port master.

The Sri Lankans asked the American scientists to call them if they heard anything more. After those calls, Weinstein and Hirshorn began looking at where the massive wave was likely to strike next, and started making more calls to warn others.

"We tried to get people who had not yet gotten hit," Hirshorn said.

They managed to get through to Madagascar and the Mauritius Islands via the State Department in Washington. An official there said they would try to contact Kenya and Somalia.

Aftershocks from the Indonesian quake can continue for years, which means the threat of another tsunami remains, McCreery said.

Despite the lack of instruments in the Indian Ocean,

the center is now at least equipped with phone numbers for officials in Sri Lanka in the event of another strong quake in the region, McCreery said.

Federal officials are also looking to bolster the warning system in the Pacific.

Three years ago, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration installed sensors on the ocean floor to transmit tsunami data. Currently, six sensors are in place, although two are inoperative.

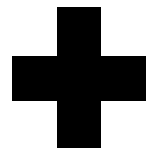
The plan was to someday place 20 sensors around the Pacific. Now, there's talk of making that happen in the next three years, said Jeff LaDouce, head of the Pacific tsunami program and director of the National Weather Service Pacific region.

The agency is exploring what is needed to develop a single warning program for all the world's oceans.

"It's a lot of world to cover," LaDouce said.

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INTERNATIONAL



Iraqis seeking jobs at U.S. base found dead

BY BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The bodies of 18 young Iraqi Shiites killed last month while seeking work at a U.S. base have been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a state of emergency for a month because of violence ahead of landmark elections.

Police said the insurgents shot the 18 men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, execution style on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 30 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

Their hands were tied behind their backs and each was shot in the head, police said. All the men were Shiite

Muslims from Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadhimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul.

The bodies were discovered Wednesday, the same day a suicide attacker blew up an explosives-laden car outside a police academy south of Baghdad in Hillah during a graduation ceremony, killing 20 people.

A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen in Baqouba Wednesday.

In a statement posted on a Web site Thursday, the al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for both the Hillah and the Baqouba attacks. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for al-Zarqawi's capture.

The state of emergency was extended for 30 days

throughout the country except for the Kurdish run areas north of the country, a government statement said. The decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch operations.

"We expect some escalation (of attacks) here and there" ahead of Jan. 30 elections, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said. "This is a precaution to protect the Iraqi people as well as the elections."

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, ground forces commander in Iraq, also predicted more violence leading up to the elections and said he couldn't guarantee the safety of all voters.

"I can't guarantee that every person in Iraq that wants to vote, goes to a polling booth and can do that safely," Metz told reporters. "We're going to do everything possible to create that condition for them, but we are fighting an enemy who cares less who he kills, when he kills and how he kills."

As foreign ministers from Iraq's neighboring states met in Jordan Thursday, King Abdullah II tried to temper remarks that reflected Arab fears the elections will produce a Shiite Muslim-dominated Iraq that will align itself with Persian Iran.

The bodies of three Jordanian truck drivers shot in the head were discovered on the outskirts of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, an AP photographer at the scene said Thursday.

In an interview published Thursday by Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam, the king stressed he was not opposed to Shiites and said his comments that Iran was trying to influence the vote and create "Shiite crescent" had been misinterpreted.

Iran called the remarks an insult to Iraqis. It was the only neighbor that did not send its foreign minister to the meeting, intended to urge Iraqis to defy boycott calls and take part in the elections.

Iraq's foreign minister, Hoshiyar Zebari, echoed Abdullah's claims Thursday, saying the world should not fear that Iraq's elections will set up an Iranian-style government in Baghdad.

"I believe those fears are exaggerated and misplaced," Zebari told The Associated Press before the ministerial meeting. "We have a political (process) that checks and balances this (domination by a religious group)."

The bodies of three Jordanian truck drivers shot in the head were discovered on the outskirts of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, an AP photographer at the scene said Thursday.

A note placed on one of the bodies warned: "This is the fate of anyone who cooperates with the Americans."

Police also discovered two beheaded Iraqi policemen, their bodies charred from a fire Thursday in a house in Basra used by election officials to organize the Jan. 30 national vote, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

Gunmen shot dead the police chief of Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City, Brig. Gen. Karim Hussein, as he was driving his car in another district of the capital, police said.

In the central town of Adwar, U.S. First Infantry Division Soldiers detained four who admitted they participated in an attack against Iraqi security forces last month, the U.S. military said.

The Iraqi government announced Thursday that it has paid a total \$1.3 million in rewards for people who gave information that led to the capture of more than 500 insurgents in the past six months. The statement did not specify exact sums paid to individual informants.

A Marine belonging to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday while conducting operations in the Al Anbar province in western Iraq, the military said in a statement that did not give further details.

Iraq's interim leader has insisted the ballot would go ahead as planned.

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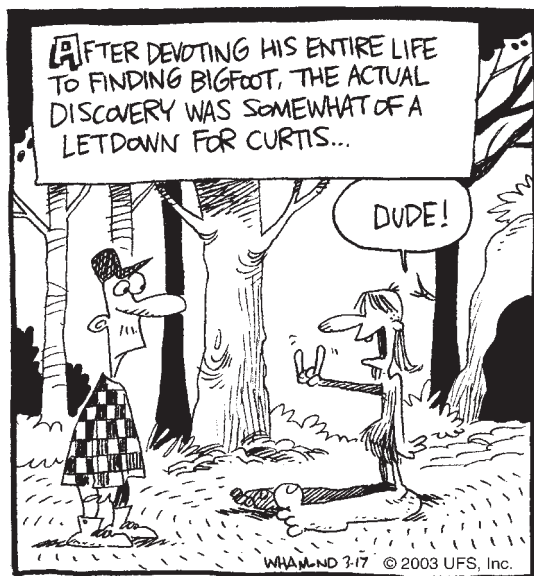
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Beach Boys founder looking to swell up support

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Beach Boys founder Brian Wilson is asking for help in finding a Swedish cellist swept away in the South Asian tsunami.

Markus Sandlund, 29, of the Stockholm Strings n' Horns, performed on Wilson's Grammy-nominated "Smile" album and Wilson's recent "Smile" tour. Sandlund and his girlfriend, Sophia, went to Thailand after finishing the "Smile" tour in Australia and New Zealand, according to a statement Wednesday on Wilson's Web site.

The couple, vacationing at the Orchid Beach Resort at Khao Lak, were in the hotel pool when the enormous wave hit. Sophia was swept away and later rescued, but Sandlund has not been found.

"I have been devastated since I heard the news that Markus is missing in Thailand," said Wilson. The 62-year-old singer-songwriter said he has sent an "agent" to try to find Sandlund but has turned up no trace of him. He asked that anyone with any information contact his Web site.

"My prayers go out to all of the victims and their families and I would ask you to say a prayer for Markus' safe return," Wilson added.

Sandlund was one of 22 musicians and a dozen singers Wilson assembled to record "Smile," a 47-minute rock opera.

NEW YORK — Jimi Hendrix not only had the skills to become a rock legend — he apparently had the right look as well.

A recent poll found that Hendrix had the best "guitar face" — the look guitarists get when trying to nail a high note or power chord.

Hendrix received 24 percent of the 3,000 votes cast online by the public and a poll by some 20 celebrity judges. B.B. King captured 18 percent of the vote, followed by Angus Young of AC/DC with 16 percent.

Gary Lucas, guitarist for Gods and Monsters, said he voted for Hendrix because he "channeled all the soulful ecstasy of the universe through his hands, and this was naturally mirrored in his face."

The poll by on-demand television service Mag Rack accompanied a contest to find the best amateur guitar face. Les Campbell of Nicholasville, Ky., was chosen the winner from more than 600 contestants.

In his photo, Campbell, a sound and recording engineer, showcases a classic headbanging, Fu Manchu mustache and Elvis Presley sneer — as well as a resemblance to Metallica frontman James Hetfield, according to several of the judges.

He said his entry was from his heavy-metal playing days in the 1980s with the band Jack-in-Irons.

"Guitar face is a spur of the moment thing, something you have no awareness or control over," Campbell said in a statement. "Guitar playing is ... all about energy, transferring your spirit to a hungry crowd through six strings and a wall of amps. You can't help sharing what you feel with a look, whether it's serious or maybe a little silly."

Besides bragging rights, Campbell won a trip to New York to pick up his prize, a Les Paul "Black Beauty" electric guitar and case.

NEW YORK — Mark your %&.! calendars — the Ozzy Osbourne clan will be back Jan. 17 with the final season of their reality show, MTV announced Thursday.

"The Osbournes" chronicles the lives of goth-rock star Ozzy, his wife, Sharon, and two of their children — daughter Kelly and son Jack. They first allowed MTV cameras into their Beverly Hills, Calif., home in 2002.

The hit TV series showcases the offbeat antics of the family as Ozzy and Sharon deal with the complexities of running a household — usually with a slew of obscenities.

"After three years, the MTV cameras became part of

the family, documenting what is possibly the most dramatic year we have had," Sharon Osbourne said in a statement. "Though it was rough sometimes, we are truly blessed to have had this amazing experience."

The show will wrap up with 10 new episodes, MTV said.

"Since we began our journey with the Osbournes we have been through serious subjects like Sharon's cancer, Jack's rehab, Ozzy's life-threatening ATV accident and more humorous subjects like Ozzy's dental visits, the Osbournes' planning a family vacation, and more dog drama than I can remember," said MTV executive Lois Curren.

KEY WEST, Fla. — Former Philadelphia 76ers President Pat Croce wielded a replica pirate's sword for "ribbon slashing" festivities to open his pirate museum in the Florida Keys.

Now a "life" coach as host of the daily TV reality show "Pat Croce: Moving In," part-time Key West resident Croce is a passionate collector of pirate memorabilia who says he uses a pirate's philosophy to steer his business ventures.

"It's that whole adventure attitude: go at life with an attack mode in mind, no holds barred, take no prisoners and 'carpe diem' — seize the day," Croce said Wednesday. "I did it with the Sixers' business; we went from worst to first, just with that attack mode in mind."

The Pirate Soul museum features nearly 500 artifacts, many from Croce's private collection, depicting piracy's golden age from 1690 to 1730. The 5,000-square-foot, \$10 million museum uses audio-animatronic elements to explore the lives of notorious buccaneers such as shipmates Anne Bonny and Mary Read, and Florida Keys pirate Black Caesar.

According to Croce, museum highlights include one of the only two authenticated pirate flags in the world and the world's only authenticated pirate treasure chest, which experts have traced to Capt. Thomas Tew.

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