

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

6 24 25 36 43
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$71 Million

FANTASY 5

3 7 9 28 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 9 1
Evening: 7 8 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:42.28

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

To support its December rate-increase request, the Connecticut utility Yankee Gas Services said it needs more money because too many of its customers have lowered their bills by heeding calls to conserve energy. And a November report commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce included the proposal that Congress replenish the federal Highway Trust Fund by imposing a special tax on gas-saving hybrid cars (in that those cars consume less fuel than regular cars and therefore pay less in gasoline tax).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 13th day of 2006.
There are 352 days left in the year.

On Jan. 13, 1794, President Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)
In 1864, composer Stephen Foster died in New York.

In 1893, Britain's Independent Labor Party (a precursor to the current Labor Party) held its first meeting.
In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well."

HORACE WALPOLE

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Knee-deep in rinse cycle



Oscar Barahona, 26, from Southland Exterior Building, stands in thigh-high water while cleaning the windows at the Public Safety Building on Thursday.

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

One for the books: Crime in city reaches a new low

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQTRS. — Overall crime in Santa Monica is down, again.

That's according to Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr., who released the 2005 crime statistics on Thursday. Statistics show that crime fell 1 percent last year — a record low since 1957.

"We're better than we've ever been before," Butts said.

The statistics, which have been submitted to the California Department of Justice, show that part one crimes — which include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglaries, larceny and auto theft — dropped from a total of 4,096 incidents in 2004 to 4,048 incidents in 2005.

Bolstering the new low crime record was a 28-percent drop in rapes — 21 incidents in 2005,

which is the same amount seen in 2003. The SMPD reported that the number of rapes had gone up 38 percent in 2004. Still, the number

**"We're better
than we've ever
been before."**

JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
Santa Monica Police Chief

of rapes is as low as it was in the mid-1960s, Butts noted. The chief attributed the decline to better training of police investigators, community education of date rapes and aggressive prosecutions.

Robberies, highlighted by a 15-percent decrease in strong-arm robberies, bottomed out at their

See CRIME, page 6

LOCAL

New buildings' height may be put to people

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected leaders on Tuesday authorized a developer to create at least 298 housing units downtown as part of Santa Monica's new Civic Center complex.

Meanwhile, residents will have a chance to express in coming months whether 9 feet in additional building heights — and 27 more market rate units that would result in the downtown project because of it — is worth the \$7.4 million the city stands to gain from taller buildings. The money would likely be added to the city's affordable housing fund, officials said.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved the Related Companies of California to

See VILLAGE, page 7

LAHSA releases homeless report

More than half of state's down and out live in LA

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — Census data collected a year ago in efforts to address the regional homeless problem was revealed during a press conference on Thursday.

The 198-page report contains detailed demographic information about the county's homeless population, which policymakers are expected to use to tailor social service programming in the region.

However, specific information regarding the demographics of Santa Monica's homeless population, as well as other cities, has not yet been released, despite that officials have had the census data for more than a year.

The latest count confirms the Los Angeles metropolitan area is the homeless capital of the country. More than 90,000 homeless dispersed throughout the county account for 11 percent of the nation's down and out, and more than half in California, according to officials.

Information presented at the press conference also seemed to indicate the homeless populations are well dispersed throughout the county, said Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom.

"The information is not surprising and it shows the gravity of the problem when 11 percent of the nation's homeless are living within the Los Angeles area," Bloom said. "It should help people understand there are homeless people everywhere in the county and we all need to participate in the solution."

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a group charged with addressing homeless issues

See HOMELESS, page 6

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HOROSCOPES

Hang out tonight, Taurus

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)
★★★★ Settle in and remain centered. Confusion could surround communication. Do your best to verify meetings and plans. Your understanding draws closeness and inspires others to reveal more. Seize the moment to sleuth out a complicated situation. Tonight: Act like it's Friday night.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others could be more scattered than you realize. Your ability to initiate strong decisions comes back in multiples. Others seek you out. Your popularity explodes. You might have to do some juggling of people and events. Plans change. Tonight: Hang out.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Expenses could cause you to cut back or at least shake your head. Reveal more of yourself. Your ability to dive into a project and get others to chip in helps you get through many pending projects. Do schedule time for socializing too. Tonight: Do your Friday-night thing.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others might be very confusing, saying one thing but doing another. Try to sort through the multitude of messages, or simply decide to do your own thing. Your magnetism radiates. Don't depend on anyone but yourself. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might not appreciate the immediate confusion, but you can get past it. Don't take others' comments personally. If you can, you might want to stay home. You are happiest staying close to home. Tonight: Vanish.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ When dealing with others, you need to confirm plans and messages. An element of confusion could run through the day. A child or loved one might say one thing but mean another. Emphasize what is important and don't focus on petty things. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds, and you could feel stretched to the limit. You need to understand that others often think you can handle much more than you want to. On the other hand, you might want to put in some overtime or add to your lucre. Tonight: In the limelight.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your ability to sift through what is real and what is imaginary helps. Unexpected developments could have you smiling and able to see what up till now you couldn't. Notice what isn't being said. Tonight: See your life differently.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Work with others as if they are part of your team. Allow those around you to see more of the real you. Others get behind you and work harder as a result. Sometimes understanding your motivation is important. Tonight: Quality time with someone important.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Get ready for an onslaught of people and questions. Your popularity is high, and you head in new directions. Friendship plays a large role in wish fulfillment. Honor your feelings. Tonight: Happy with your friends.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Push to get as much done before the weekend as possible. You will feel much better wherever you are. Though you didn't instigate a project or venture, you accept responsibility. Others applaud. They are relieved. Tonight: What pleases you.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination comes up with solutions when others cannot. Used creatively, this talent could make your work, personal life and other matters easy and more fun. Let it all hang out. Tonight: Romp to music. Enjoy.



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AUDIT PENDING

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The tension builds at SMC exhibit

By Daily Press staff

A new Santa Monica College art exhibit will explore interconnectivity and other themes.

“Entwined,” an exhibit featuring the works of Sharon Kagan and Vanessa Madrid will be at SMC from Jan. 30 through Feb. 9.

Kagan and Madrid, both adjunct art professors at SMC, have created a show that travels between heft and weightlessness, tension and suspension. The artists — working in sculpture, drawing, digital photography, fabric wall pieces, installation and painting — plumb texture and a reduced palette. Their works speak equally to a minimal aesthetic and a feminine vernacular. The artists are engaged in constructing a lexicon of interconnectivity that employs process and a different approach to materials.

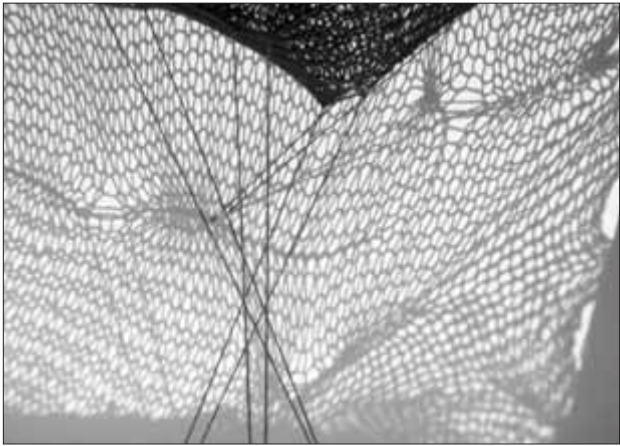
Kagan, who has drawn from knitting and crochet for her current work, is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and is interested in the consequences of epic events. She is a Brody Arts Fund fellowship award recipient and a California arts council artist-in-residence. Her work has been exhibited widely, including the Patricia Correia Gallery in Santa Monica and Gallery 825 in L.A.

Founder and director of the creativity center in Santa Monica, she earned her degrees from UCLA and Otis Art Institute, and served as an apprentice artist to Judy Chicago, contributing to her famous installation, “The Dinner Party.”

Madrid received her bachelor’s degree in applied design and her master of fine arts from Claremont Graduate University. Her paintings have been shown at the Rhode Island School of Design, Art Center in Pasadena and various galleries throughout the Los Angeles area. Installation sites include Rome, London and Santorini, Greece.

Madrid has created for the exhibit a cycle of works depicting the transformation of experience to memory and transcendence.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (310) 434-3434. The show will be held in the SMC photography gallery, located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.



SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:30am - 4:00pm	10	9/12

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Loose Granular

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	60" - 84"	8:30am - 4:00pm	35	6/16

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	120" - 144"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	150	20/28

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	12	7/16

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	6"-12"	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	4	2/4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	10	9/13

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Loose Granular

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	18"-12"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	2	4/11

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)

Today is a small surf day with meager waist high NW energy, only 12-second period surf from around 290-300 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW swell fills in during the weekend but rain, winds...

Significant NW swell due middle of next week...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY	Low Tide:	10:41AM	1.1FT	9:25PM	1.7FT
	High Tide:	3:29AM	5.2FT	4:29PM	3.0FT
SUNDAY	Low Tide:	11:55AM	0.4FT	10:27PM	2.2FT
	High Tide:	4:22AM	5.4FT	6:16PM	3.0FT
MONDAY	Low Tide:	12:52PM	-0.2FT	11:28PM	2.4FT
	High Tide:	5:13AM	5.7FT	7:32PM	3.2FT
TUESDAY	Low Tide:	1:38PM	-0.7FT	N/A	
	High Tide:	6:00AM	6.0FT	8:24PM	3.4FT
WEDNESDAY	Low Tide:	12:23AM	2.5FT	2:53PM	-0.9FT
	High Tide:	6:44AM	6.0FT	9:04PM	3.7FT
THURSDAY	Low Tide:	1:10AM	2.5FT	2:53PM	-1.0FT
	High Tide:	7:24AM	6.1FT	9:36PM	3.7FT
FRIDAY	Low Tide:	1:50AM	2.4FT	3:26PM	-1.0FT
	High Tide:	8:01AM	6.1FT	10:05PM	3.7FT

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The Q Line

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Officials are giving renewed consideration to construction of a subway line that would run from downtown Los Angeles to the beaches of Santa Monica. Leaders at City Hall say they are generally supportive of the 15-mile underground transit line that would free up commuters from freeway gridlock, though there is some debate as to exactly what path the transit line should take. Some officials say a monorail system might make more sense for the area.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “If plans for a mass-transit line between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica go forward, what shape should they take?”

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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SANTA MONICA — Buying a home is a major investment no matter which way you look at it. But for many homebuyers, it's an even more expensive process than it needs to be because many fall prey to at least a few of many common and costly mistakes which trap them into either paying too much for the home they want, or losing their dream home to another buyer or, worse, buying the wrong home for their needs.

A systemized approach to the homebuying process can help you steer clear of these common traps, allowing you to not only cut costs, but also buy the home that's best for you.

An industry report has just been released entitled “Nine Buyer Traps and How To Avoid Them.” This important report discusses the 9 most common and costly of these homebuyer traps, how to identify them, and what you can do to avoid them.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1-800-282-0185. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Card carriers have reason to celebrate



If the residents and visitors of Santa Monica haven't been to the new Main Library yet, they should check it out.

They need to see what \$73 million gets you in the latest and greatest in public assets and technology. The new facility is an awesome community resource for sure, and it had better be for that price tag.

The library has been open for little more than a week, with a grand opening that brought hundreds of people to the facility last Saturday. It was a true community event — neighbors and colleagues mingled in the outside courtyard catching up with each other, children playing in the recreational areas, people signing up for library cards and lining up to check out books. Actresses Jaime Lee Curtis and Rhea Perlman were on hand to read their children's books to a packed house in the Martin Luther King Auditorium.

Even the Beaver — actor Jerry Mathers — was spotted in the library's lobby.

We acknowledge that many citizens are upset at the cost of such a facility, believing that taxpayers' money could have gone to better use and that the old library was adequate. But it appears those residents are in the minority, judging from the turnout at the grand opening and the excitement felt in the community about the library finally opening its doors after several years of planning and construction.

The majority of Santa Monica residents envisioned a new library eight years ago when they approved a \$25 million bond. The rest of the money was accrued through the years by City Hall's saving funds during good financial years.

And while there has been some criticism over the design of the building, which some say looks like a "prison" or resembles a "suburban shopping mall," once inside one realizes just how comfortable and intimate of a setting it really is.

The facility was designed by local architects Moore Rubel Yudell, recipients of the American Institute of Architect's 2006 Architecture Firm of the Year Award. They did an amazing job working with city officials in bringing to life a vision that has been years in the making.

Hats off to city councilmembers who have seen the project through from the beginning, as well as those on the library board, city staff and community members who have volunteered their time to make it a reality.

We are fortunate to live in a city that values community resources and has the financial footing to create public facilities that make living, working and playing here so pleasurable.

Everyone who had a hand in this project should feel proud of themselves for making the library happen. And everyone who spends time in Santa Monica should consider themselves lucky that they have access to such an inspiring resource.

Of course, there is a caveat to all of this and a warning to public officials. The biggest complaint from citizens with the old library was that it was overrun with vagrants. While they do enjoy the same rights as the rest of us under the U.S. Constitution and therefore have a right to be in any public space, they shouldn't be able to dominate a community resource.

City officials must be vigilant in enforcing rules that are designed to prevent making visiting the new library a bad experience for the taxpaying citizens. A new rule that limits the number of bags people carry in to the library is a good start. Security guards also will be stationed at the library, who hopefully will use good judgment in ensuring that we all get to enjoy our newest public asset.

GUEST COMMENTARY BY BENNET KELLEY

We are all to blame for appeasing 'Hangman'

At the climax of this nation's greatest constitutional crisis in 1975, President Gerald Ford reassured an anxious nation by resolutely declaring "(o)ur great republic is a government of laws, not of men." Sadly, this axiom faces its greatest challenge since Watergate under an administration dominated by Ford administration alumni such as Vice President Cheney — Ford's Chief of Staff — and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — Ford's Chief of Staff and Defense Secretary.

The revelation that the Bush administration authorized warrantless surveillance of American citizens — reported to have included then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, Senator Joseph Biden, former President Jimmy Carter and possibly thousands of other Americans — is not an isolated incident but rather part of a pattern of defiance of domestic and international law. In addition to lying to Congress about Iraq and prescription drug legislation in violation of federal law, the Bush administration has abrogated U.S. support and/or adherence to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and the International Criminal Court. It also has dismissed the requirements of the Geneva Convention as "quaint" and "obsolete," which a war-time president could freely ignore and reinterpret international and domestic prohibitions on torture to apply only when the torturer's principal intent is to inflict severe bodily harm.

The administration also has gone out of its way to avoid being held accountable by the judicial branch. For example, the administration has released prisoners held at Guantanamo which it had previously characterized as grave threats or changed their status shortly before scheduled hearings in order to eliminate the need for any proceeding. Most recently, it sought to transfer Jose Padilla from military custody to civilian custody in an attempt to prevent Supreme Court review of an appellate ruling upholding the detention of U.S. citizens as "enemy combatants." The appeals court blocked Padilla's transfer precisely because the Bush Administration was seeking to "avoid consideration of our decision by the Supreme Court," which had previously admonished the administration that "a state of war is not a blank check for the president."

In defending its use of warrantless surveillance, the Bush administration

continues to rely on this "blank check rationale." Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), the president may conduct surveillance without a warrant for up to one year if there is no substantial likelihood it will acquire communications of U.S. residents or with a warrant, which may be granted up to three days after commencing the search, so long as the target is an agent of a foreign power and steps are taken to minimize its impact on U.S. residents. After 9/11, despite the fact that warrants are routinely granted with only three denied in 25 years — all under Bush — the administration sought and was denied authority from Congress to conduct warrantless surveillance. President Bush proceeded anyway, apparently believing that his actions were not in any way limited by Congress, the law or even the Constitution. The founding fathers had a word for such unchecked conduct — tyranny.

While this breach of the law is significant in its own right to warrant national outrage, it should be viewed cumulatively with the administration's other excesses. The United States that once stood as a beacon of liberty because of its respect for the rule of law and human rights, now stands for torture, indefinite detainment and warrantless searches, leading a Newsweek columnist to compare the current regime to her life under apartheid.

I am reminded of Maurice Odgen's allegorical poem "Hangman," in which he portrays a hangman who descends upon a town and begins hanging minorities, dissidents and everyone else but explains to his final victim that "I did no more than you let me do." This has been the state of affairs in post-9/11 America, as President Bush has been largely unchecked by the Congress, the media or the people.

Some dismiss this latest controversy since it likely does not affect them, but as 17th century philosopher John Locke explained, there is no freedom without law. The Patriot Act we need today is not a bill further eroding our freedoms, but instead for Americans to abandon their quiet acquiescence and voice their outrage over the president's continued disregard for the rule of law. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein and Congressman Henry Waxman are to be commended for voicing their outrage and demanding a full investigation over the administration's actions. It is critical that each of us do the same.

(Bennet Kelley is a Santa Monica attorney.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Foiled carjacker found on foot

At 1:20 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Santa Monica police responded to the 300 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a grand theft. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the reporting party who said that while he was seated in his vehicle, the suspect approached him and attempted to open his door, at which point the victim started the vehicle and began to drive away. The subject fled on foot and a search was conducted for him. He was located at the zero hundred block of Seaview Terrace. Lester Carlyle Gordon, 27, transient, was arrested for grand theft. Bail was set at \$100,000.

At 12:02 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1700 block of Appian Way regarding suspicious activity. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the reporting party who said he was watching the suspect in the parking lot attempting to open several doors of vehicles. Officers detained the subject and, during the investigation, discovered he was in fact attempting to open a vehicle to steal a vehicle. Brian Rysanek, 23, transient, was arrested for attempted grand theft auto and an outstanding warrant. Bail was set at \$20,500.

At 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 2, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1200 block of 18th Street regarding a parolee at large sleeping in the garage of a vacant house. When officers arrived at the scene, they located the subject, who had a dagger in his possession. A warrant check was conducted which revealed the subject was on parole and had an outstanding warrant. Micah Logan, 44, of Los Angeles, was arrested for having a concealed weapon and parole violation. No bail was set.

At 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, the Santa Monica police responded to the Savons drug store on the 2900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the reporting party who said the suspect entered the store on the previous day and stole a belt and fled. On that day when the police were called, he returned to the store and when he was told to leave, he refused to leave and attempted to cut the victim, an employee. The victim was not injured and police were notified. Thomas Walter Milosevich, 39, transient, was located on the 1300 of 26th Street and was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$30,00.

At 4:45 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, the Santa Monica police responded to the 900 block of Third Street regarding a vandalism in progress. Information stated a subject was using a skateboard to smash the window of a vehicle which belonged to a neighbor. Responding officers found Matthew Curtis Sherwood, 25, of Santa Monica, who was booked for vandalism. Bail was set at \$20,000. The SUV received window damage of an unknown dollar value.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press Staff writer Ryan Hyatt.



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Millions spent on homeless may reach them

HOMELESS, from page 1

for the county, conducted its homeless head count last January with the assistance of 1,000 volunteers and paid home-

less workers. The count was conducted, in large part, so the county could access an estimated \$60 million in grant funding from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development for homeless

programs and mental health services.

The count included those living in the streets and shelters in Santa Monica.

LAHSA presented a preliminary report in June showing that 83,347 individuals are estimated to be homeless at any given time within the metropolitan area, 42 percent of whom are considered "chronically homeless" — which means they have been on the streets for a year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. They also suffer from one or more disability, mental illness or substance abuse.

In addition to LAHSA's count, there are 7,600 homeless individuals in Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach, bringing the total number countywide to 91,000. Those cities will present information regarding their numbers of chronically homeless in coming weeks.

LAHSA will also be providing the city with specific information about Santa Monica's homeless population in two weeks, Bloom said.

Meanwhile, general findings in the full report indicate that a significant portion of the county's homeless were once functioning members of society, but events in their lives led to their status.

As many as 24 percent of those home-

less counted last year indicated that loss of their job was the primary factor which led to them losing a roof over their head. Almost 35 percent were experiencing a physical disability, and 34 percent were experiencing a mental disability.

In terms of education, 38 percent of those counted had a high school diploma or GED and 16 percent polled had taken some college courses.

Los Angeles has been attempting to bolster its homeless efforts in recent months.

The county's board of supervisors, which help fund LAHSA, gave the agency a \$24.6 million budget boost for the next fiscal year.

Recently passed Proposition 63 will provide funding for the homeless in the region who are mentally ill.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has made a commitment on behalf of the city to provide \$50 million in housing for homeless services, along with supporting a \$1 billion bond measure to develop more affordable housing in the city.

Nearly half — 44 percent — said they weren't receiving any money from government sources, and 28 percent of those surveyed indicated they tried to access an emergency shelter within 30 days of being polled and were turned away.

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P03835 12/04

SMPD seeking gang injunctions

CRIME, from page 1

lowest point since the 1960s to a total of 241 incidents in 2005, Butts said. Although total burglaries showed an increase of 35 incidences — 788 in 2005 versus 753 in 2004, commercial burglaries declined 10 percent. Butts also pointed out that despite the increase, total burglaries remain at lows not seen since 1957. Comparatively, total burglaries in Santa Monica during the 1980s averaged to about 2,500 a year.

But there were increases in serious crime in 2005, although nominal. There were four homicides in 2005 versus two the year prior. There were four more aggravated assaults in 2005 over 2004 — 286 versus 282. There were four more auto thefts as well — 422 in 2005 versus 418 in 2004.

The decrease in overall crime constitutes a 63-percent drop since 1993, a peak year in which part one crime figures were over 2 1/2 times greater than today. In 1993, there were 10,891 crimes recorded within Santa Monica.

Santa Monica recorded 44.2 part one crimes per 1,000 residents, making it the lowest crime year on record per capita, going back to 1956, when the city began keeping crime records, Butts said.

Serious crime in Santa Monica has dropped consistently for more than a decade, with the largest decline — 18 percent — occurring in 1994. The only year it increased since then was in 2001, when serious crime shot up 4 percent.

"I feel that the community, along with the support of our City Council, that of the 11 of 12 years, we have collaboratively improved public safety in Santa Monica to its lowest recorded year in history," Butts said.

The Pico neighborhood, a large section of Santa Monica that extends east from Lincoln Boulevard to the city limits, and south of Interstate 10 and around Pico Boulevard, continues to be the hardest hit, with the most shots fired and assaults with a firearm. However, Butts said crime in

the Pico neighborhood — plagued with gang violence for years — has fallen at the same rate as the rest of the city.

Typically, when crimes decrease so do arrests, which was the case in Santa Monica in 2005 — 4,127 versus 4,265 in 2004. There was a 3-percent drop in adult arrests and a 33-percent drop in part one crime arrests, Butts said.

For non-violent crimes, there was a 53-percent increase in 2005 for arrests of forgery and identity theft — from 19 in 2004 to 29 in 2005. Fraud arrests also increased from 34 in 2004 to 51 in 2005. Vandalism arrests increased 17 percent in 2005, and an 11-percent increase in weapons arrests. Narcotics arrests rose 22 percent last year — 277 in 2004 to 339 in 2005. Drunk driving arrests increased 12 percent, from 323 in 2004 to 361 in 2005.

Each year, the SMPD's command staff and Chief Butts outline the department's goals and objectives based on community input. Those goals are then set out by the division commanders and lieutenants, who develop strategies to obtain them with the resources available.

Last year, the SMPD set its goals to further develop a neighborhood centered policing program; improve community livability; traffic and pedestrian safety and better track and supervise parolees who live in the area. The SMPD also made a priority to curb aggressive panhandling, sleeping in doorways and illegal camping, particularly in city parks.

Gang violence, which was an issue brought to the forefront last year, has been addressed by the SMPD in various ways, including more patrols in the Pico neighborhood, being involved in community-wide gang summit meetings and seeking options for gang injunctions. In the case of Santa Monica, the SMPD is currently pursuing whether or not it can restrict activities of enjoined gangs — specifically keeping more than two gang members from Venice, Sawtelle and Culver City from congregating in defined areas of the city.

LOCAL



Taller Village may equal more affordable housing

VILLAGE, from page 1

develop the Village, the residential component of the city's \$120 million-plus Civic Center complex. The council also authorized staff to allow Related to engage a public process to determine which of its two proposals to create the Village's housing would be preferred by Santa Monicans.

The decision comes on the heels of controversy from a Dec. 13 council meeting regarding three finalists selected by city staff to develop the Village. Due to a lack of financial information provided at that time, the council said it couldn't make an informed decision which developer to choose. Subsequently, representatives from City Hall indicated the issue wouldn't return to the council until February, but a chance to choose a developer was scheduled in time for Tuesday's council meeting.

The council was more satisfied with the financial information it received in the meantime. On Tuesday, the council agreed with city staff Related's proposals were the best and it awarded the company the Village development contract.

Of the proposals, only Related was able to agree to acquire the site under the terms of a long-term lease. In addition, Related would pay City Hall between \$14.4 million and \$21.8 million to develop the Village, depending on whether building heights would be 56 or 65 feet, respectively. That was far more than the other developers could offer, which under best case scenarios said they could pay City Hall \$11.63 million and \$3.25 million, respectively, as long as they could attain property rights to the site.

According to staff reports, Related showed it could achieve the desired 325 total units, in part, by increasing building height by nine feet; spreading the building bulk across sites; and placing parking below ground.

The council authorized Related and city staff to develop a public engagement process to help develop the Village design plan, including alternative proposals that would allow building heights of 65 feet, if Related would like the public to consider an adjustment.

Many officials and nearly a dozen residents speaking on Tuesday said Related would be better off focusing on the 56-foot height standard already zoned for the site, due to strong opposition to create taller buildings in Santa Monica.

Proponents for the 56-foot height limit included Councilman Bobby Shriver. He made it clear in his remarks that Related would have a hard time convincing him that City Hall should authorize buildings with a 65-foot height limit.

Shriver mentioned that in his day-to-day experience talking to residents, they were strongly against tall building heights.

He also questioned the nature of the public engagement process.

"What will be assessed about what the community said?" Shriver asked. "What can the council expect to see? In my experience, public engagement can elongate the process, and the longer it goes on the more likely (those participating) will have extreme views. It's also possible to muck the process so it yields certain results.

"If Related wants to invest in it, let them go ahead. But talking to people around town and at 7-11, (taller buildings) is definitely something that they don't want."

Others attending the meeting were more optimistic that a taller building height for the Village may not be the worst-case scenario for the city. Jason Perry, a proponent for affordable housing who's participated in the Village development process, argued that the \$7.4 million the city would gain from the 9-foot height difference was "7.4 million reasons" the council should consider the notion.

Councilman Ken Genser also pointed out that the Village is set to be developed between the RAND Corp. building, believed to be 72 feet high, and the Viceroy Hotel, believed to be in the 100-foot range.

Considering the large park spaces that will surround the Civic Center complex, a Village building of 65 feet high may not seem obtrusive in terms of the relative scale of other buildings and open space.

Genser also indicated that he and Shriver might be able to discuss building heights at 7-11.



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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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Entertainment

The trouble with ‘Tristan’

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Tristan & Isolde
THE DIRECTOR: Kevin Reynolds
THE STARS: James Franco, Sophia Myles, Rufus Sewell

In “dog years,” 15 minutes feels like several excruciating hours, and make no mistake, “Tristan & Isolde” is a dog. Somewhere around the 15-minute mark of this particular piece of celluloid persecution, it dawned on me

REVIEW

that star James Franco might not be delivering one of the more comically bad performances I’d seen in years, and that what he was actually doing up there on the screen was truly inspired stuff — after all, I’m sure I’m not alone in having imagined what it would be like to watch Hayden Christensen lapse into a coma following a botched hair transplant involving Leif

Garrett’s 1977 hairdo. Well, wonder no more, folks, because Franco nails it!

His co-star, Sophia Myles (“Thunderbirds”), doesn’t fare as well, however — in fact she’s just flat-out “yawn-ful.” Myles is certainly very pretty, an essential attribute for any Hollywood actress, but I’ve seen more emotional range exhibited by extras in zombie movies. Of course, these poor actors can’t shoulder all the blame for this stinker — there’s plenty to go around. Director Kevin Reynolds (“Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves,” “Waterworld”) apparently thought he was making a French perfume commercial, while scribe Dean Georgaris, who also wrote “Paycheck,” ought to be ashamed to cash the one he received for spewing this mess.

As for what the movie is about, well, for me it was about getting to the end as quickly as possible. You, on the other hand, should spare yourself the agony of trying.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 125 MINUTES)

Capturing LA River’s natural state

BY JAYA GUPTA

Special to the Daily Press

Often a place where smog taints every breath and the only greenery to be seen comes from the shrubs that grow along the side of the freeway, Los Angeles is largely considered a Shakespearean-sized ecological tragedy.

LA-based artist Charles Long, however, sees something different. Living and working in Frogtown near the formidable Los Angeles River, Long discovered a striking juxtaposition of nature and urbanization — he river, easily mistaken for a dump site, s home to both drug addicts and 125 different species of birds.

Grasses and shrubs grow out of furniture discarded in the river. Life sprawls amidst the waste of human society. Whereas most of the time, urbanization comes at the unfortunate expense of nature, Long’s oft-abstract exhibit of installations, photographs and a video at the Shoshana Wayne Gallery in Bergamot Station operates off the aesthetic notion that even in a wasteland, nature manages to resurrect itself.

“As an artist, I feel that I first need to see,” Long said. “Grasses growing out of a mattress is a completely natural situation, albeit very perverted. I wanted to show this combination of cultural debris entangled in the natural world. It is sadly beautiful.”

Long’s exhibit hangs in limbo — stopping short of simply declaring that nature manages to triumph over urban devastation while also refusing to hail ominous phrases of environmental decline.

Long’s two installations — “And Then So Clear” and “Duk Koo Kim” — are clearly the forefronts of the exhibition. Both are abstract reworkings of metal, found objects, plaster and other mediums. Made from a reformed shopping cart lodged in the plaster mold of a life-size human and set atop a clump of vine-like pieces of metal allowed to rust green, “Duk Koo Kim” towers over 20 feet. The shopping cart may resemble wings protruding from the back of a man set atop an entanglement of epiphytes encapsulating part of a car bumper and a trolley cart.

“And Then So Clear” is even more beguiling with its tangle of black textured metal bolted to the wall from which various found objects like Styrofoam and paper are suspended. It is meant to represent the river and the debris which pollutes it. Another tangle of silver metal rods connected to magnifying glasses is the base of the installation. Long suggests the magnifying glasses are based on the concept that culture needs to take a closer look.

“The things that I see — shopping carts drowned in the river with grasses and plants growing from them — I don’t know what they mean,” he said. “As humans we don’t have a choice in being able to think but we do have a choice in what and how we think. We need to look at the way we are living and reevaluate it.”

Photographs of the LA River in various states of calm and unrest, plagued by different degrees of pollution, all pervaded by the combination of the urban and the natural, are another facet of Long’s exhibition.



One of the most striking images was of a single dollar bill ensnared in a tuft of dead grass. At a glance, the images appear wholly ordinary as the artist uses no artificial or photographic tricks to manipulate the image. The resonance of every image is the result of the veracity of the subject matter.

“The photo with the dollar was one of the first images I took,” he said. “Everything is reduced to an economical value yet nature doesn’t care about the dollar bill or the toy. The photos have the ability to transform, therein lies their power.”

Long’s exhibition at the Shoshana Wayne Gallery at Bergamot Station runs through Jan. 28. Bergamot Station, the converted warehouse complex which houses the largest concentration of art galleries in Santa Monica, is located at 2525 Michigan Avenue.

Once a historic light rail stop, the seven-acre Bergamot Station provides a central area for visitors to see art. In addition to the galleries, Bergamot Station has a custom framing shop, fine art paper store, art jewelry boutiques and design and architecture consultants. Admission and parking are free and the complex is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. For more information call (310) 453-7535.



Latifah faring better

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: The Last Holiday
THE DIRECTOR: Wayne Wang
THE STARS: Queen Latifah, Gerard Depardieu, LL Cool J

After learning she’s contracted a rare neurological disorder that is going to kill her within a month’s time, mousy department store sales clerk Georgia Bird (Queen Latifah) decides to go out in style by blowing every last penny of her life’s savings on a dream vacation in the Czech Republic. Though the department store’s bungling resident physician diagnosed this mysterious symptom-free disease based on a fuzzy CAT-scan from a second-hand machine, Georgia doesn’t bother to consult a specialist. And while her ailment is apparently curable, after a low-level HMO flunky denies her claim, Georgia abruptly decides against pursuing the matter any further. Either the girl’s got some sort of death wish, or she’s dead-set on getting to the second act. In all likelihood the latter applies, and good thing, too, because that’s when things get interesting — albeit, only mildly — in director Wayne Wang’s (“The Joy Luck Club,” “Maid in Manhattan”) remake of the 1950 film that starred the late Sir Alec Guinness.

You can probably venture an accurate guess as to why Georgia does not at any point appear to be dying. You would also be correct in assuming that she’s going to break out of her shell during her presumed last hurrah, and in the process learn a lot about herself while inspiring others with her newfound joie de vivre. Regrettably, “Last Holiday” is not much more than an intermittently funny, by-the-numbers chick flick that delights too much in excess and consumerism. What makes it worthwhile is the star, Latifah, who truly shines in a role that showcases her easy-going wit and infectious charm. At the very least, this is quite an impressive rebound from her disastrous turn in “Taxi.” It’s worth noting that before Tom Hanks started winning Oscars for weighty dramatic roles, he honed his skills in lightweight fare such as this. For Queen Latifah, who appears to have something special, “Last Holiday” represents an important step in what promises to be a long and meaningful career.

LL Cool J, also a former rapper turned thespian, does a fine job playing Georgia’s courtly suitor. Timothy Hutton and Gerard Depardieu also fare well in supporting roles.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 112 MINUTES)

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

The Vic is open for jazz

By Daily Press staff

Jazz season is officially here, according to The Vic in Santa Monica.

The Vic is celebrating the opening of its 2006 jazz season with two shows every Thursday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. and late night Jazz from midnight to 2 a.m.

The January schedule includes:

■ Jan. 19 — The band Interplay will open the night with Dave MacKay on piano and vocals; Lori Bell on flute and Ron Satterfield on guitar and vocals. The last night show will have the David Walker Quartet featuring Mr. Walker on sax; Josh Nelson on piano; Sean Ench on bass and Keith Larson on drums.

■ Jan. 26 — Gretchen Parlato will open the night with the Gerald Clayton Trio. The late night show will feature the Matt Roberts Group with Roberts on guitar; Kara Guzzell on vocals; Marco Luciani on piano; Nelson Rios on bass; Sandro Feliciano on drums and Danny Taylor percussion.

The Vic is located at 2640 Main St. and is open from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. with dinner service lasting from 7 p.m. to midnight. There is a \$20 cover charge and a two item minimum before midnight. After midnight there is a \$5 cover and a two drink minimum. For reservations, schedule or for more information call (888) 367-5299.

'Prisoner' comes to Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Urban jungle's got you down? A remake of a classic play might take the edge off for a while.

"The Prisoner of Second Avenue" is one of Neil Simon's classic comedies, capturing the absurdities and angst of life in the urban jungle with witty dialogue and the laughter of desperation and despair.

Modern city life starts to prove too much for one middle-aged couple living on New York City's Upper East Side during an intense summer heat wave. With their air conditioner on the fritz and a prolonged garbage strike, they're cracking under the strain of the rat race.

The play is directed by Lewis Hauser, who previously directed Neil Simon's "Rumors" and "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" for the Santa Monica Theatre Guild at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre. "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" opened on Broadway in 1971 with Peter Falk and Lee Grant, and was later made into a movie starring Jack Lemmon and Anne Bancroft in 1975. The 2000 Los Angeles Theatre Works audio play featuring Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason was nominated for a 2001 Grammy Award.

"The Prisoner of Second Avenue" opens Jan. 20 at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre and continues through Feb. 18 with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, with group discounts available and may be purchased by calling the theatre box office at (310) 828-7519.

Jazz is in the air

By Daily Press staff

An upcoming Jazz concert will feature a trio of veteran musicians.

Pianist Louis Durra will play a jazz concert with his trio on Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica, located at 1260 18th St. The trio will be performing jazz standards and their original music, and Louis will be performing on the UUCSM's 7' New York Steinway. Joining Durra will be drummer Jerry Kalaf and bassist Dan Lutz.

Durra has performed extensively on CDs, in live performances, and on radio and TV.

He has worked with artists such as Susan Krebs, Eric Anders and Moris Tepper, Martin Short, Jason Alexander and Ruben Blades. He has performed at several venues including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ford Theater, the Jazz Bakery, KCRW, KPFK and KCET.

Durra has performed with a number of dancers and dance troupes, including The Jazz Tap Ensemble, Savion Glover, Derek Grant, Sam Weber and Eddie Brown. He toured Russia and the Baltic states last year with Just In Time, a jazz dance revue.

Durra has composed for film and television including the CBS daytime drama The Guiding Light, and various movies-of-the-week. The Guiding Light was nominated for a daytime Emmy for music while Durra was on staff.

Durra resides in Los Angeles and freelances as a jazz and classical pianist.

Kalaf has been the music director of the Jazz Tap Ensemble for 15 years. He has also toured extensively with the Pointer Sisters. His playing and composing have been featured in In Living Color, Batman Forever and Shallow Hal.

Lutz has performed or recorded with Roger Kellaway, Brian Auger, James Carney, Jeff Babko, and Matt Slocum, among others.

A donation of \$10 will be accepted at the door.

For more information, call (310) 403-8627.

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Santa Monica Daily Press





Research doesn't support dabbling in cannibalism

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — They ate the family dog, but the latest research into the Donner Party found no conclusive evidence of cannibalism by the Donner family at a Sierra Nevada campsite where several of the pioneers died in the winter of 1846-47, two scientists said Thursday.

"I think this has the potential to revise the way people look at the Donner Party," said Kelly Dixon, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Montana and one of the lead authors who presented the findings at a conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Sacramento, Calif.

Sawed and chopped animal bone fragments recovered during an archaeological dig at the Alder Creek campsite over the past three years suggested "extreme desperation and starvation," their study concludes.

But there's no physical evidence members of the Donner family themselves resorted to the ultimate survival tactic that became synonymous with their name for a century and a half, the authors told The Associated Press.

"The Donner Party's experience was bad, but it wasn't as bad as everybody's been told," said Julie Schablitsky, the other lead researcher who is a historical archaeologist at the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

The findings don't necessarily disprove the accounts of cannibalism told by rescuers and survivors stranded in a fierce winter storm in the mountains southwest of Reno and north of Truckee, Calif.,

But the absence of any cooked human bones among the thousands of fragments of bones of livestock and wildlife at the Alder Creek site suggest Donner family members may not have succumbed to the desperate temptation to resort to cannibalism, the archaeologists said.

If cannibalism did occur at the Alder Creek site in what is now the Tahoe National Forest, it took place during the last few weeks of their entrapment, by fewer than 12 individuals and the bodies were not processed to the bone, they said.

Of the 81 members of the Donner Party who set out primarily from Independence, Mo., for California, 60 of them from the Reed, Breen and Graves families among others spent the brutal winter at a site where cannibalism has been documented, along what is now called Donner Lake bordering Interstate 80 just west of Truckee.

The other 21 members, including all the members of the George and Jacob Donner families, were six miles away at Alder Creek having been delayed by a broken wagon axle.

"We thought for sure based on all the accounts in the diaries and the relief journals and people's memories that among the other animal bones, we'd definitely find other human remains" at Alder Creek, Schablitsky said. "So the most significant find is really what we didn't find."

It means the Donner family members themselves may only have been "guilty by association," she said.

"The Donner family ended up getting the stigma basically because of the name," Schablitsky said. "But of all the people, they were probably the least deserving of it."

Descendants of the Donner family say the findings bolster claims they have made for years — that the cannibalism was not as rampant as portrayed in sensational newspaper accounts of the time.

"We are thrilled and relieved," said Lochie Paige, the great-granddaughter of Eliza Donner, daughter of George Donner.

"Their findings, in my mind, completely exonerate her from having any part in cannibalism," she told AP from her home in California on Thursday.

Dixon, who was at the University of Nevada, Reno at the time, and Schablitsky led a team that found a campfire hearth at the Alder Creek site in the summer of 2004, establishing for the first time that part of the Donner Party spent that fateful winter there.

Contrary to the popular story that the Donners ate their own partly because they were such poor hunters, the new research documents a menu that included deer, rabbits and small rodents along with their oxen, livestock and a dog — presumably "Uno," mentioned in some of the children's later writings.

"We get a picture where they are coming back to camp with arms full of venison and rabbit," Schablitsky said.

They also found lead shot that the Donners apparently cast at camp. It was of such poor quality that it "probably wouldn't true," Dixon said. "So that may have accounted for some of their problems."

Shannon Novak, an assistant professor of anthropology at Idaho State University who examined the bone fragments, said the presence of "pot polish" suggests the animal bones were boiled in water to maximize the food value — an indicator of starvation.

She said many of the bones were sawed, chopped and cut, "suggesting extreme desperation and starvation among the group."

Paige said Thursday she has become "very passionate about the story and the sensationalism that has gone along with the cannibalism aspect of it.

Here comes the sun: Energy regulators OK \$3B in solar incentives

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Hoping to make California a world leader in solar power, state energy regulators on Thursday approved \$2.9 billion in rebates over the next decade to encourage people to install solar panels on their roofs.

The state Public Utility Commission voted 3-1 to adopt the California Solar Initiative, which will provide the money in consumer rebates between 2007 and 2016. Last month, the five-member PUC approved \$300 million in rebates for 2006.

"The California Solar Initiative is the largest solar program in the country, and I hope it will be a model for other states," Commissioner Dian Grueneich said Thursday. "The program will be a major source of dependable and environmentally friendly electricity."

The initiative's goal is to install 3,000 megawatts of solar power capacity on the roofs of 1 million homes, businesses and public buildings by 2017. Today, California has about 100 megawatts of capacity from rooftop panels on about 15,000 homes and businesses, according to Environment California.

Solar advocates said the total \$3.2 billion program will make solar energy more affordable, create jobs, reduce air pollution and cut emissions of heat-trapping gases blamed for global warming.

"California will be a leader in the next great high-tech growth industry — solar energy," said Rhone Resch, president of the Solar Energy Industries Association. "This long-term, visionary policy will save ratepayers money, create high-paying jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy."

The initiative incorporates many of the same provisions in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's "million solar roofs" plan, which had bipartisan support but died in the Legislature last year due to disputes over its labor provisions.

"When I ran for office, I promised the people of California an affordable, reliable and more environmentally friendly energy supply," Schwarzenegger said in a statement Thursday. "Today is a big step toward that goal."

Thursday's initiative includes \$2.5 billion in rebates for existing homes, businesses and public buildings that install solar panels. Another \$350 million in rebates will be offered for solar installations on new homes.

About 10 percent of the rebates will be set aside for installations on low-income or affordable housing projects. Utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. will not be eligible for rebates.

The rebate amount will decrease about 10 percent annually over 11 years, but the smaller rebate amounts are expected to be offset by falling solar costs as more people install rooftop panels.

Home or business owners who install panels this year will be eligible for a \$2.80 rebate for each watt of capacity installed. The rebate drops to 25 cents per watt by 2016.

The rebates will be funded by a surcharge to residential and commercial gas and electricity customers, based on how much they use. Most residential customers will pay about \$12 a year, but they won't see much impact on their monthly bills because a separate surcharge is set to expire next year, according to the PUC.

Critics questioned whether ratepayers should subsidize the most expensive form of renewable energy, and whether program would drive down the costs of solar energy as backers claim.

"We need rates to go down, but this goes in the other direction," said Joseph Lyons, a lobbyist for the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. "Energy-intensive manufacturers are going to be hit the hardest. They're going to be paying a disproportionate share of the program costs."

Solar advocates expect the massive state investment will lead to more solar energy ventures and increase business for existing companies.



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Alito appears headed for confirmation

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito seemed headed Thursday toward Senate confirmation, defending his judicial record to skeptical Democrats and praising the justice he would replace — Sandra Day O'Connor.

"I would try to emulate her dedication and her integrity and her dedication to the case-by-case process of adjudication," Alito told the Senate Judiciary Committee on his fourth day of confirmation hearings.

President Bush tapped Alito to replace O'Connor, who has provided a decisive vote on issues such as abortion, the death penalty and affirmative action. Democrats argue that Alito, in 15 years as an appellate judge, has built a conservative record that foretells a rightward direction if he is confirmed to the high court.

Republicans maintain a majority on the committee and control the Senate — 55-44 with one independent. GOP lawmakers have predicted that Alito will win the backing of the Senate later this month, and little has emerged in the hearings to undercut that assessment.

Democrats have not ruled out the possibility of a filibuster that could require supporters to post 60 votes in the 100-member chamber. Judiciary Committee Democrat Dianne Feinstein has indicated a filibuster is unlikely and at least one conservative Democrat — Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson — is leaning toward backing Alito. Nelson said Thursday that he has seen nothing that would disqualify the nominee.

Democrats peppered Alito about right-to-die cases, presidential authority and ethics on Day 4 of the hearings.

Alito did offer words of respect for the woman he would succeed.

"She has been known for her meticulous devotion to the facts of the particular cases that come before her and her belief that each case needs to be decided on its complex facts," Alito said.

Earlier, he told the panel that Americans have a right to designate family members or friends to carry out their right-to-die wishes, an issue pushed to the forefront last year by the case of a brain-damaged Florida woman.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, cited the case of Terri Schiavo, the Florida woman who was at the center of a fierce fight between her husband and family over her fate that involved the courts, Congress and even the president.

Leahy asked: If a person has a living will, could he designate someone to decide whether to use extraordinary measures to keep him alive?

"Yes, that's, I think, an extension of the traditional right that I was talking about that existed under common law, and it's been developed by state legislatures, and in some instances, state courts to deal with the living will situation and advances ... in medical technology, which create new issues in this area," Alito said.

Schiavo suffered a brain injury in 1990 that left her in what some doctors called a "persistent vegetative state." Her parents sought to keep her feeding tube in place while her husband wanted to have it removed, citing her wishes and setting off a bitter court battle.

Congress, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his brother, President Bush, all sought to have the feeding tube reinserted. Schiavo died on March 31.

Sen. Arlen Specter, the committee's chairman, opened Thursday's session by announcing that an examination of hundreds of documents from the founder of a controversial college alumni group found no mention of Alito.

The federal judge's membership in Concerned Alumni of Princeton, which discouraged the admission of women and minorities at the Ivy League school, has been a divisive issue at Alito's confirmation hearings.

In days of testimony, Alito has said he has no recollection of his membership in the Princeton group despite highlighting his involvement on a Reagan-era job application.

Specter said the panel's staff combed through four boxes of documents at the Library of Congress of William Rusher, a founder of CAP, and came across nothing that mentioned Alito.

"The files contain dozens of articles, including investigative exposes written at the height of the organization's prominence, but Sam Alito's name is nowhere to be found in any of them," Specter said.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., assailed Alito's judicial record and testimony, citing the judge's inability to recall his membership in the Concerned Alumni of Princeton and his explanation about his involvement in a case that Kennedy suggested raised questions about conflict of interest.

"The average guy has a hard time in getting a fair shake in Judge Alito's courtroom," Kennedy said, in his summary of Alito's rulings.

The Democrat pressed Alito on why he didn't disqualify himself from participating in a Vanguard case in 2002 despite his 1990 promise to the Senate to recuse himself in cases involving the mutual fund company.

Alito said it was an oversight and defended his statements to the committee.

"I have not given conflicting answers. I've been asked a number of different questions," he said.

Bristling at the Democratic focus on what he called "phony issues," Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said, "I don't think you've been fairly treated and it makes everybody wonder why would anyone want to do these jobs."

On Wednesday, during a contentious Day 3 of hearings that at one point left Alito's wife in tears, the federal appeals court judge remained unflappable under persistent questioning by Democrats who attacked his credibility.

"Many people will leave this hearing with a question as to whether or not you could be the deciding vote that

would eliminate the legality of abortion," Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said during Democrats' grilling the nominee about whether he now believes, as he did in 1985, that the Constitution contains no right to an abortion.

Alito refused to say.

"I don't think it's appropriate for me to speak about issues that could realistically come up" before the courts, he said, falling back on a line also used by now-Chief Justice John Roberts and other Supreme Court members during their confirmation hearings.

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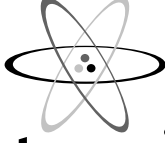
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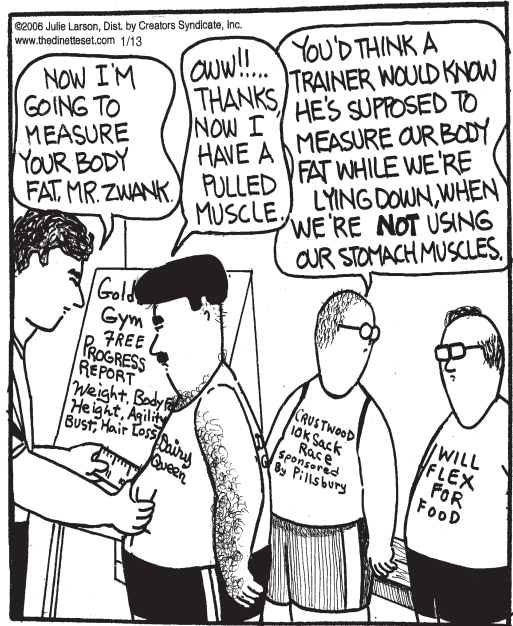
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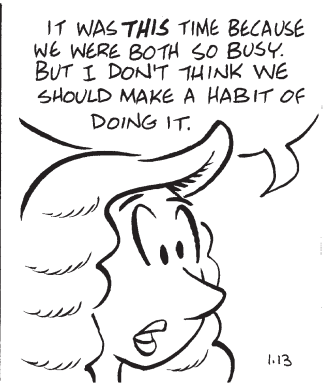
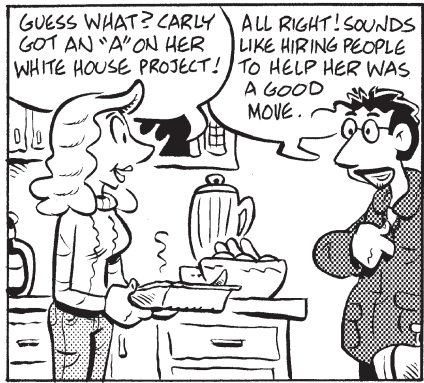


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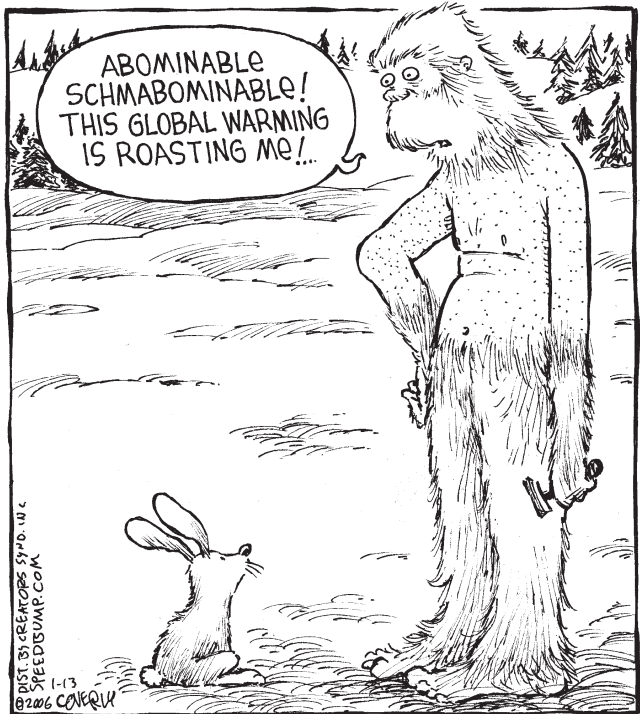
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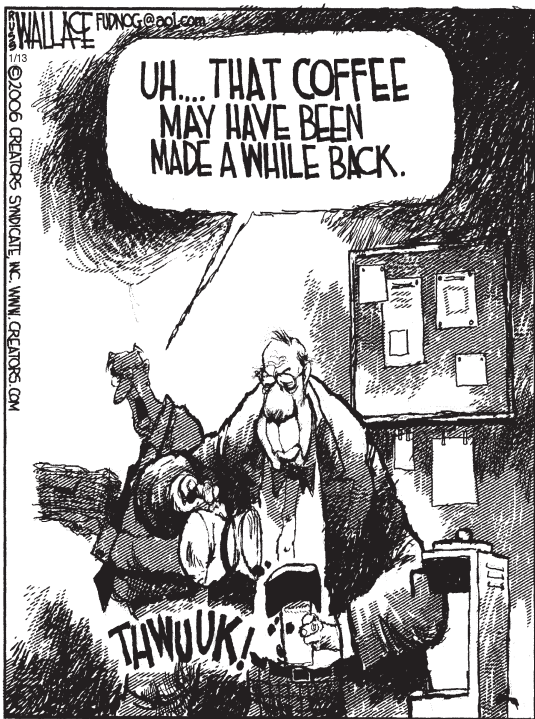
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HANS ROSENBERG
Case No. BP096138
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of HANS ROSENBERG

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Mark J. Saladino, Public Administrator in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Mark J. Saladino, Public Administrator be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 17, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a per-son interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
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