

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

26, 19, 39, 28, 3

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 7, 4

Evening picks: 3, 9, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:43.54



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ Steve Danos, 24, was arrested as allegedly the man who had been sneaking into young women's apartments to watch them sleep and to snuggle with them (and, sometimes, to fold their laundry) (Baton Rouge, La., October).

■ Stephen P. Linnen, 33, an assistant to Republican legislators in the Ohio House, was indicted on 56 counts stemming from an 18-month spree in which a naked man jumps out from hiding and photographs startled women's reactions (Columbus, Ohio, November).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are worse things in life than death. Have you ever spent an evening with an insurance salesman?"

— Woody Allen

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Lights go out on Winterlit



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Fernando Medina (front) and Miguel Garcia remove the holiday fiberglass ice sculptures from the Promenade on Tuesday, marking the end of yet another season.

Symptoms of nursing shortage recognized by local hospitals

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

While the state continues to feel the pain of a widespread nursing shortage, Santa Monica hospitals have met the challenge by recruiting and retaining skilled professionals.

It's been noted as a crisis since at least 1998 when it became apparent that fewer people were entering the profession and colleges began eliminating nursing programs, said Mary Ellen Blakley, a nurse at Saint John's Health Care Center and the vice president of patient services.

California is ranked as the 49th worst state as far as the number of nurses, just behind Nevada. In 2000, the state was short about 13,000 nurses, by 2005, that number is estimated to be 20,000 and in 2010, it will grow to 42,000, Blakley said.

The reasons for the shortage are plenty — fewer

See NURSES, page 6

Jury to decide if landlord should pay for break-in

At issue is whether apartment building was secure enough

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — A jury here is now set to decide whether a landlord should pay millions of dollars to tenants who were victims of a violent break-in at a seaside apartment more than three years ago.

Deliberations in the case against landlord Marvin Engineering Co. Inc. are expected to begin today. The company is accused of allegedly failing to protect two tenants, whose luxury apartment was stormed by four gunmen in August of 2000.

Lawyers on Tuesday said Oliver Starr, 36, a fitness specialist and sales consultant, and his ex-girlfriend, Julien Serrano, should be paid in excess of \$1.5 million. Both were bound and beaten by the gunmen, who also threatened

to rape Serrano, stole her jewelry and demanded \$30,000 in cash from Starr.

The gunmen, who were never caught, apparently had the wrong apartment. They were looking for drug money from a man named "Matt," who lived in a different unit in the same building at 17351 Sunset Blvd., but had fled in the middle of the night one month earlier, said the plaintiffs' attorney, Blaine Greenberg.

At issue in the case is whether

Marvin Engineering should have known the building lacked property security and as a result, a break-in was likely.

Greenberg alleged there were three other breaches of security at the building just months before the incident. What's more, many of the security mechanisms — the locks on the elevator and fire doors, among others — at the commercial and residential use building weren't working the afternoon the gunmen broke in, he said.

"They didn't say a word about any of that to anyone," Greenberg said. "What makes them think that this couldn't have happened to anyone else? ... Is it any surprise that something awful happened when you see how this place was run?"

Gilbert Garcia, the defendant's attorney, said there was no way Marvin Engineering could have foreseen the attack. He said the gunmen were intent on getting in and any security measures likely

See JURY, page 5

Suit was a misstep in manhole accident

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

SM COURTHOUSE — A civil trial here involving two people who sued the government because they fell into a manhole on a West Los Angeles sidewalk amounted to one lesson — watch where you are going.

Testimony from the plaintiffs — Avraham Gottesman and Barbara Bubar — revealed that they didn't see the uncovered manhole before they fell in. They argued it was Los Angeles County's fault

because it didn't cover or mark the potential hazard.

But Gregory Houle, the attorney for LA County, said it's not the government's responsibility to ensure that people use caution when walking on a public street. After all, Gottesman was reading the sports page and drinking a cup of coffee when he fell into the hole and sprained his knee. Minutes later, Bubar broke her ribs and shoulder blade after getting out of a car, then "disappearing" up to her chest in the same hole.

See ACCIDENT, page 6

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Keep on smiling, Aquarius



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)

★★★★ A lot could happen, encouraging you to head in a new direction. A misunderstanding with an associate could be difficult, if not painful. Fatigue, as well, could be playing into this matter. Stop and consider your long-term objectives. Tonight: Follow your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Investigate possibilities rather than making a commitment, especially at work. Others seem to want to counter your decisions right now. Allow ideas to be aired out; in fact, that ultimately might create an even better project. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching for new, innovative information rather than getting stuck in one way of thinking. Detach from an inflammatory situation rather than getting tied in, which could happen if you're not careful. Tonight: Choose something mentally relaxing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You could have a disagreement about your way of handling funds and your personal life with an associate or partner. Opt for a new beginning, though this person might not totally buy what he or she is hearing. Actions speak for themselves. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to carefully rethink a decision that involves a child or loved one. Let this person air out his or her feelings, and you might get a new opportunity to go forward. Carefully review a decision, especially if it involves finances. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Examine your long-term objectives at work. Perhaps your expectations have been too high. What you want from your daily life and work could be a problem if your expectations were otherwise. A disagreement between a loved one and/or a friend could make you most unhappy. Tonight: Find a stress-buster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You know what you are capable of. Express your deeper feelings to a loved one you really care about. Examine your long-term objectives within a relationship, be it with a child or a loved one. Feel free to express your reservations. Tonight: Don't get pulled like taffy. Do what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Pressure builds, and you can be sure others will challenge your ideas and thoughts. Not everything is as it seems. Laughter goes a long way in alleviating a problem, if you can take a hard look at yourself. Be more upbeat. Tonight: Run on home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might feel better than you have in a while. You might be weighing the pros and cons of a new purchase that will help your communication. Feel free to do some price checks before really going for it. Tonight: Join a friend. Chat up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Use the morning for anything important, as the Moon is still in your sign empowering you; but by the afternoon, you could feel as if you are not up to snuff. Others don't get your message, and as a result they could be depressed. Tonight: Pay bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might get a slow start to your day, but once you get going, you could be close to unstoppable. A New Moon in your sign today encourages new resolutions and changes. Don't worry so much about a problem. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ If you get an early start in the morning, you will succeed. A friend could challenge your creativity. Don't let negativity permeate your thinking. You might choose to spend more time alone rather than getting caught up in the present wave of moods. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth to weigh in on local issues

By Daily Press staff

Young people want a voice in local politics but they can't be heard without adults' help, some say.

"People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission" will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. tonight at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St.

A presentation will be given on current support and endorsements, highlighting the groups' efforts in establishing a commission to advise the City Council on youth-related issues. A group discussion will take place on how to gather further support before a financial request is brought to the City Council budget meeting on Jan. 27. Many long-standing Santa Monica city commissions and boards have endorsed the effort.

The Ken Edwards Center is wheelchair accessible.

From the African American eyes

By Daily Press staff

A local gallery is highlighting art from the African American perspective.

The M. Hanks Gallery from Jan. 21 through Mar. 27, will present Masterpieces of African-American Art: An African-American Perspective Works.

The gallery, located at 3008 Main St. in Santa Monica, will exhibit pieces on paper and on canvas by past and present African-American artists, including Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Palmer Hayden, David Driskell, William Pajaud, Lawrence Jones, Beauford Delaney, Phoebe Beasley, Wilmer Jennings, Charles White and others.

Eric Hanks, owner and director of the gallery, will lead a tour of the exhibition at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22.

And UCLA Professor Paul Von Blum on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 3 p.m. will talk about why African-American art is important to all Americans.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment.

For more information, call (310) 392-8820.

SMC celebrates black history

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College is sponsoring a series of free events, including discussions on Los Angeles' black history, black crime/mystery fiction, and more — in celebration of Black History Month in February. The events, all held on SMC's main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd., are:

■ Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 11:15 a.m. at the SMC Clocktower: "From Africa 2 America," featuring speakers, dance and traditional African food. The event is sponsored by the SMC Black Collegians, Pan African Student Union and We the People. Call (310) 434-4926.

■ Thursday, Feb. 26 at 11:15 a.m. in the SMC Concert Hall: Lecture on "Spooks, Spies and Private Eyes: Black Mystery, Crime & Suspense Fiction of the 20th Century," by author/editor Paula Woods. The lecture title comes from the critically acclaimed anthology that Woods edited. Woods also is the author of the award-winning Charlotte Justice mystery novel series. The lecture is presented by the SMC English department and SMC Associates as part of SMC's "Literary Series," as well as Black History Month. Call (310) 434-4003.

■ Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the SMC Concert Hall: Lecture on "L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present" by Cal Poly Pomona history professor Josh Sides. The lecture title comes from Sides' recently published book, which delves into the history and struggles of African Americans in L.A. neighborhoods, schools and workplaces. Sponsored by the SMC Associates. Call (310) 434-4003.

See BRIEFS, page 5



The W swell that took a lull Tuesday will start to build back up again. Expect some chest-high bombers at most break with bigger sets at the best spots.

OUTLOOK: The swell will continue to build into the weekend. Happy wave riding!

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

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	3:49 AM	5:14 PM	9:58 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	4:32 AM	5:48 PM	12:04 AM	10:35 AM
MONDAY	5:32 AM	6:23 PM	12:43 AM	11:21 AM
TUESDAY	6:49 AM	7:06 PM	1:24 AM	12:15 PM
WEDNESDAY	8:31 AM	7:48 PM	2:07 AM	1:41 PM
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FRIDAY	11:19 AM	9:51 PM	3:50 AM	5:32 PM

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The Q Line

Resident complaints have been trickling in to the Daily Press newsroom for months about dog owners' blatant disregard for their neighborhood and the environment. The crime they are apparently committing is that they fail to pick up their pet's poop.

The problem is especially foul smelling for resident north of Wilshire Boulevard, where people are tip toeing around piles while taking their afternoon strolls.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "What can be done about the poop problem here? If pet owners aren't going to pick it up how should City Hall deal with it?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Bush shatters his description

Editor:

By appointing Judge Charles Pickering to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, President George W. Bush once again shatters his self-proclaimed description of "inclusive, not divisive."

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Cause for alarm?

Editor:

A round of applause and kudos to Marilyn Brennan for her letter (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 6) articulating our current seeming oppression of ideas and comments in America. I've been writing letters to the editors and working on political campaigns for all of my adult life, but I've noticed lately an attendant unfamiliar feeling: Fear. I'm a writer and I find myself wondering if a future editor or publisher will be biased against my work because of my stated opinions. Whereupon I would then rebuke myself for being paranoid. Ms. Brennan's reminder list of specific incidents of this nature would suggest I have just cause for alarm.

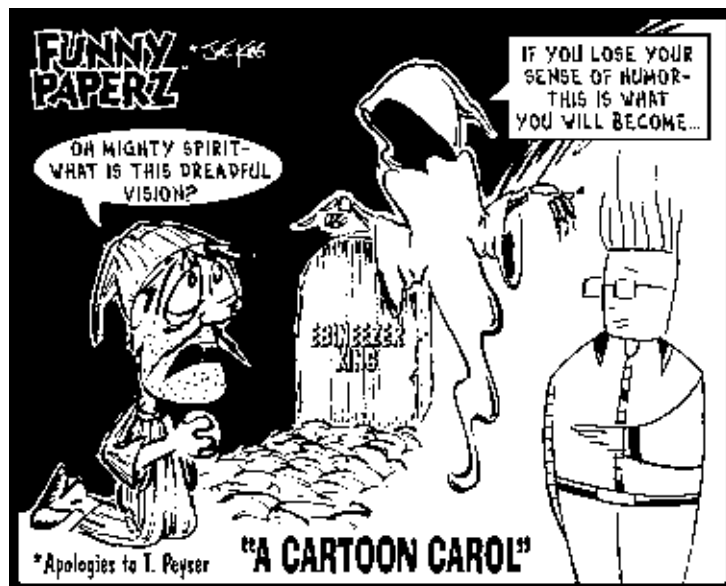
Sunny Kreis
Santa Monica

Homeless plan needs more checks, balances

Editor:

Bill Bauer's column, "Homeless services: If we build it, they will come" (SMDP, Jan. 16, page 6) expresses the frustrations shared by many Santa Monica residents and taxpayers. Those of us who daily advocate and donate our time to mental health, homelessness, housing, and disability issues also are not always in agreement and there is no consensus on a solution.

Bauer refers to John Maceri, executive director, OPCC, who at the Aug. 4, 2003 Santa Monica Disabilities Commission, meeting spoke about the \$7.4 million homeless shelter. As a member of the commission and a service provider who is familiar with the OPCC plan, I voted to support the facility and location. The City Council after a lengthy hearing approved the shelter but compromised by reducing the bed numbers, restricting daytime activities, and it will consider alternative uses for some



*Apologies to T. Peyser

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of the site.

At our Jan. 5 commission meeting, the spending priorities of our disabled constituents was discussed, such as to suggest to the city services may be more expendable. Despite a personal commitment to mental health and the attendant community issues, I suggested that for the significant expenditure budgeted by the city for homeless services, more periodic review is needed to determine the success and effectiveness of these programs.

Richard Hilton
West Los Angeles Council of the Disabled
Santa Monica

We must break free from the religious faith-base initiative



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Mary and John married right out of school and were blessed with a son, Michael, and a daughter, Laura. Mary had a strong religious background and a deep love of God, which she conveyed to her children. One day John disappeared along with the family's meager savings. Without money or a job, it wasn't long before Mary and her kids found themselves homeless.

But they were fortunate. There was a local social service agency that provided food, shelter, job training and childcare for single mothers. Mary was so grateful to be off the street that she got on her knees and gave a prayer of thanks while the supervisor looked on with a tight smile.

Ana, a kind caseworker, took Mary under her wing. She helped the family settle into the dorm with other families and enrolled Mary's children in the facility's daycare center. She even helped Mary decide on job training in the field of childcare.

Mary trained for long hours, often arriving to pick up Michael and Laura just before dinner. On one occasion, she discovered Laura supplicated in prayer with

the other children. Mary knew she shouldn't be upset. She didn't mind her daughter being exposed to other faiths, but she preferred to be there to offer guidance.

Mary considered saying something to the teacher, but didn't want to seem ungrateful. She also was worried that complaining might cause problems. True, everyone was very pleasant, but she couldn't help notice the guarded looks she got from the other mothers and the staff when she and her kids prayed.

Then, as if by a miracle, an assistant's position opened up in the daycare center just as Mary completed her training. Though Mary was the only qualified applicant, she was dismayed to learn that she would not get the job. The reason, she was told, was that she was of the wrong faith. They only hired their own kind.

Soon after, Mary noticed Michael was looking dejected. When she asked what was wrong, he told her Jesus was a false prophet. Mary was appalled. Who had told him such a thing? Michael told her it was his daycare teacher.

Mary complained to Ana who, while sympathetic, couldn't offer much help. This was after all a faith-based organization. It was their belief and Mary would have to accept that if she wanted to stay. Mary realized she had no choice. The mosque offered the only social services within 100 miles. There was nothing she could do.

Though just a parable, this type of scenario is likely to play out in real life if President George Bush has his way. He is once again pushing his faith-based initiatives, one of the keystones of the president's fundamentalist domestic agenda. If Bush succeeds, our tax funds will be handed over to religious groups purportedly to be used for social services.

The problems with this are endless. To begin with, it forces Americans to subsidize religions they may not believe in — a forced tithe if you will. Under this administration, an unfair majority of these funds will benefit Christian organizations, though there also will be money provided to Jewish, Muslim and possibly even Krishna and Scientology groups.

I fully support using taxes for social services, but not if my hard earned dollars are given to organizations that shield child molesters, oppose a woman's right to choose, promote the spread of AIDS through opposition to birth control, worship space aliens or annoy people in airports.

More importantly, these faith-based initiatives are unconstitutional. Of course the president's view on constitutional protections has been quite selective. His administration went to the mat protecting the right of suspected terrorists to bear arms. Yet "W" seems to have no compunction about locking people up without due process or trampling the constitutional provisions concerning separation of

church and state.

Further, funneling tax dollars to religious organizations, which Bush wants exempt from federal equal opportunity employment laws, could make our government complicit in unfair discrimination against minorities, gays and religious beliefs.

Of course, there are religious organizations that offer great services without proselytizing. But there also are groups, particularly those extreme fundamentalists, who may force those in need to face unwanted religious indoctrination in order to provide food, clothing and shelter for their children and themselves.

Potential recipients of our taxes are churches — which preach that battered women should return to their abusive husbands (often with fatal results) — have tried to erect statues to celebrate the beating death of a gay man and have used their economic clout and that of their congregations, to blackmail contractors who construct facilities for secular groups such as planned parenthood.

Such abhorrent behavior should be condemned, not funded with our taxes. And it is high time we remind the president that the founding fathers of this country supported not only freedom of religion, but also freedom from it.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and prayers can be e-mailed to edsincites@aol.com).

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 sack@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.

LOCAL



Deliberations to begin today in case against landlord

JURY, from page 1

would have failed at stopping them.

"That's just not reasonable," Garcia argued before the jury. "These guys aren't out there casing the joint with a sign that says, 'I'm a burglar, I'm going to break in.'"

"How do we anticipate those four people coming in? We don't," he continued. "Maybe we should start tucking (tenants) into bed at night. I don't know what else we can do."

If jurors find Marvin Engineering responsible, they will then have to decide how much money to award the former

couple. Greenberg is asking for more than \$1.5 million in lost wages for Starr, whose career took a slide after the incident, and an unspecified amount in pain and suffering for both Starr and Serrano. Medical expenses were covered by insurance and the amount of property stolen by the gunmen was less than \$10,000, he added.

Greenberg told jurors any amount of money to compensate the victims for enduring the violent incident would be too low for his clients. Instead of offering a road map to help jurors reach a figure, he rehashed the details of the incident.

"How do you compensate Julien

Serrano for the days she spent looking over her shoulder nervously or the nights she spent dreaming that these guys we're going to come back and rape her?" he asked, later asking similar questions of Starr, who had difficulty walking for months after the beating, and whose morale was shattered, Greenberg said.

"I'm going to ask each of you on this jury to think about these issues ... and reach a number you can live with," Greenberg told jurors.

Garcia countered that no evidence was laid out by experts detailing how much money was lost by Starr, why it was lost or whether it could have been earned despite the incident. He said Starr and Serrano failed to "tip the scales of justice" in their direction, and should be awarded nothing.

"What is the true loss of earnings? I don't know. I'm not an accountant. They're not accountants ... We can't speculate on this stuff, they have to prove it," he said.

The case, which is being heard by Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Valerie Baker, started more than a week ago and has included testimony from former tenants of the complex, Marvin Engineering officials, a police officer familiar with the building, as well as Starr, Serrano and two guests also in the apartment when the four gunmen broke in. The break-in occurred when the couple was entertaining guests — who also were victims — for lunch.

Marvin Engineering is countersuing Starr and Serrano for \$40,000. They said the former couple, who broke their lease by moving to a house in Venice one month after the incident, should pay for the eight months the \$4,500-a-month apartment was off the market, as well as for cleaning fees and the cost of hiring a broker. Starr and Serrano maintain the company agreed to let them out of their lease after the break-in, and are demanding the return of their \$9,000 security deposit.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

■ Saturday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. in the SMC Concert Hall: "The Story of Black People from Africa to America through Poetry, Song and Dance." The event is sponsored by the SMC Black Collegians, Pan African Student Union and We the People. Call (310) 434-4926.

Santa Monica doctor named top dog

By Daily Press staff



Dr. Robert Goldman

A Santa Monica doctor has been elected to the top position overseeing veterinarians in Southern California.

Dr. Robert Goldman, a California small animal veterinarian, has been elected 2004 president of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association and was installed into office in ceremonies held aboard the Fantasy One Yacht in Marina del Rey this month. With more than 1,300 members, the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association is the largest local veterinary association in the nation.

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Goldman received his primary education in Brookline, Mass., a suburb of Boston, followed by an undergraduate degree at the Cornell University in New York. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tufts University, Massachusetts School of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. Following graduation, he moved to California where he completed an internship at a West Los Angeles Animal Hospital.

Dr. Goldman is currently the medical chief of staff for the City of Los Angeles mobile animal spay and neuter unit. The program serves pets of residents in low-income communities within city boundaries.

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LOCAL

Bonuses, ongoing education offered to entice nurses

NURSES, from page 1

people are interested in the profession, the workforce and patient base is aging, and there is a decrease in the availability of nursing programs.

But Saint John's and Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center are nearly at full staff. Even though statewide nursing ratios effective Jan. 1 require no more than two patients per nurse, both hospitals have met those ratios for at least a year. The ratios help prevent nurses from burning out, as well as ensuring proper treatment for patients.

"It's the right thing to do for the patient's safety," Blakley said, adding nursing ratios at Saint John's have been in place for at least 18 months.

At Santa Monica-ULCA, the hospital has a strong commitment to recruiting local RN graduates, but also finds potential employees at nursing schools throughout the country, said Robin Ludwig, director of recruitment at UCLA. She added that UCLA hires about 100 new graduates a year.

Hospital officials have to travel around the country to find recent RN graduates because there are few universities in the state that offer nursing programs. UCLA and the University of Southern California both have recently closed their undergraduate nursing programs. UCLA does offer a graduate program, however.

"To become a nurse, you have to leave the state — it's appalling," Ludwig said. "Not having enough programs is a huge hole in our state."

Many students are forced to attend community college first and then travel out of state.

In an ongoing effort to help ease California's nursing shortage, Santa Monica College has joined forces with UCLA to train vocational nurses and entry-level health professionals to move into higher level nursing positions.

SMC has a \$102,000 contract with UCLA Medical Center to train some 20 vocational nurses to become registered nurses and a similar \$188,000 contract with Cedars-Sinai Hospital. SMC also was recently awarded a \$485,000 contract

with the state to provide training of entry-level health professionals — such as nursing aides — to become certified nursing assistants.

The contracts mark a major step forward for SMC's nursing program, which until recently has been able to serve only about 80 students at one time. SMC's student nursing population is now expected to grow substantially over the coming years.

UCLA and Cedars-Sinai are bolstering their nursing staffs by offering SMC's program to their vocational nurses and nursing assistants. The practitioners can fulfill some of the functions of nurses but, without the additional training, do not qualify as registered nurses able to assist in medical procedures.

At the other hospitals, the SMC career ladder program will move nursing assistants and other entry-level health professionals into higher-level positions. SMC's program is part of a concerted statewide effort between California community colleges and hospitals to remedy the acute national shortage of nurses that has already graduated 20,000 new nurses over the past five years.

Although salaries for nurses — they start at about \$25 an hour — have remained relatively flat for the past decade, local hospitals offer more than the average.

"What we've seen here are the number of vacancies have gone down and our retention rate is good," Blakley said. "We try to make nursing an attractive profession."

Saint John's recruits nurses by offering them night shifts, three-day work weeks, scholarships for extended education and sign-on bonuses.

At Santa Monica-UCLA, the hospital offers new recruits one-year residencies, higher education opportunities — UCLA will pay two-thirds toward the tuition for master's degree studies — and works with nurses to expand their knowledge and skills through ongoing education.

"Any nurse that comes to us can do whatever they want in six months to a year. We continue to grow on our own," Ludwig said. "You can do that as an educational institution."

Plaintiffs: Time not on their side

ACCIDENT, from page 1

Gottesman sought more than \$68,000 for medical bills, and pain and suffering. Bubar sought more than \$400,000.

A Santa Monica jury last week took nine hours to rule that while an open manhole can represent a foreseeable risk, Los Angeles police couldn't respond in time to protect the plaintiffs from injury.

They said officials didn't have enough time to cover the manhole before the pedestrians took the plunge — releasing the county from claims of almost \$500,000 from the two plaintiffs.

"I thought it was an appropriate verdict," Houle said. "I think it's common sense to pay attention where you're going."

The two citizens separately walked into the same manhole Dec. 31, 2001 on Beverly Boulevard in West Los Angeles. The manhole, one plaintiff said, was only two minutes from a sheriff's station.

The plaintiffs thought they could prove the sheriff's department had enough notice, attorneys argued.

Attorneys for the pair, whose complaints were tried together, argued that LA County didn't respond quickly enough to the report of the missing manhole cover. The first documented call to notify the county about the hazard came in at 9:35 a.m.

Gottesman fell in about that time and Bubar went in about 10 minutes later. The plaintiffs argued that there had been prior unlogged calls to report the open manhole, allowing the county ample time to respond.

But jurors didn't see it that way.

"I don't agree with this decision, but I respect it," said Armond Marcarian, the attorney for Bubar. This case "wasn't about injuries, but about sufficient time to respond."

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Richard Neidorf oversaw the week-long trial.

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STATE



Farmers, ranchers fear proposed trade pact

BY EVELYN IRITANI
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — U.S. milk, beef and sugar producers are likely losers if the Bush administration finalizes a trade pact with Australia that is seen as a key test of America's resolve in promoting global free trade.

Negotiators meeting this week in Washington are anxious to wrap up the agreement, aimed at giving Australian farmers greater access to U.S. consumers while opening up markets Down Under for U.S. pharmaceuticals, machinery and entertainment.

A deal would also allow the Bush administration to reward Australia for its support of the Iraq war. But by backing the pact, the Bush team could face a political backlash at home.

American consumers would probably benefit through lower food prices, while Hollywood could gain a greater share of the Australian entertainment market. The U.S. agriculture industry, however, fears the agreement will open the door to a flood of cheap imports, driving thousands of U.S. producers out of business.

"There's a lot of trepidation among California farmers," said Christopher Galen, a spokesman for the National Milk Producers Federation in Washington. "The guys with the boots in the Central Valley are real concerned that the guys with the suits in Hollywood are going to be the ones who benefit from this agreement, at their expense."

California's 2,144 dairy farmers, who provide more than 20 percent of the nation's milk, say they will lose up to 21,000 jobs and \$4.9 billion in farm income if the United States agrees to Australia's dairy proposal.

"This is going to either make or break the dairy industry in the United States," said Cornell Kasbergen, 46, a third-generation dairy farmer in Tulare.

Farmers in Australia and the developing world, who accuse Washington of failing to match its free-trade rhetoric with action, say the United States must open up its most protected farm sectors or risk further alienating developing countries under pressure to purchase more American high-tech goods and services.

Anger over huge U.S. and European farm subsidies contributed to the breakdown in global trade talks last fall in Cancun, Mexico. Officials at the Geneva-based World Trade Organization are trying to restart those negotiations, which were supposed to develop a blueprint for a trade round launched two years ago in Doha, Qatar.

The clash over agriculture has turned the U.S.-Australia trade talks into a litmus test of America's willingness to confront free-trade opponents within its own borders. Though the Bush administration has been a leading proponent of opening markets around the world, it triggered widespread resentment when it levied punitive restrictions on imports of steel and apparel and textiles.

With global trade talks in hiatus, the United States has turned its attention to finalizing bilateral free-trade agreements with Australia and more than a dozen other countries.

The United States and Australia already boast a robust economic relationship. The United States shipped \$12 bil-

lion in goods to Australia in 2003, making it the country's top supplier, while purchasing \$5.8 billion in Australian goods. U.S. companies are also the top foreign investors in Australia.

Grant Aldonas, the U.S. commerce undersecretary, said recently that he was confident the two sides could wrap up a deal benefiting both countries and rewarding a "tremendous ally." U.S. trade negotiators have said they are pursuing an accord that would include greater access for services, investment protections and "across the board" liberalization of agricultural trade. U.S. farmers have accused Australia of using health and safety regulations to unfairly keep citrus, apples and grapes out of their market.

The United States and Australia want to wrap up negotiations within the next two weeks to avoid getting bogged down in contentious national elections being held in both countries this fall. Farm groups, unions and other opponents have vowed to take their battle to Congress, where the deal will need to be approved.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Saturday that his government would not sign a deal unless it gave farmers greater access to U.S. consumers. Australia has agreed, however, to consider a phase-in period for the United States to remove quotas and reduce tariffs on sensitive commodities such as dairy products.

Downer, who spent a week in Los Angeles promoting Australian trade, urged the United States to demonstrate leadership in the trade arena by opposing "vested interest groups" and opening up its dairy, sugar and beef markets.

"You want a Free Trade Area of the Americas?" the outspoken Australian diplomat said, referring to the Bush team's hopes for a continent-wide free-trade zone. "How are you going to persuade a country like Brazil, which has a lot of reservations about free trade ... that free trade is a good idea if the United States itself is protectionist?"

Analysts are skeptical the Bush team will make serious concessions on agriculture in the Australia deal, given the strength of farm lobbies in key electoral states such as California, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Joaquin Contente, a second-generation dairy farmer in California, is organizing a mail campaign to remind Congress and the White House that this fall's election is at stake. The president of the California Farmers Union, a coalition of family farms, said farmers already facing record-low milk prices couldn't compete against Australians whose costs are as much as 50 percent lower.

"We're going to give democracy a test," vowed Contente, who produces a tanker load of milk a day from his 800 Holsteins. "If the White House is going to go forward with this, we're not going to support the president in the election."

On the other side, Hollywood studios are pushing for the pact, hoping for greater access and stronger intellectual property protections. Australia, like many countries, has local content quotas for television programming. Entertainment companies want Australia to agree not to impose rules that would restrict future opportunities, particularly in new media. Australia is America's eighth-largest market for filmed entertainment.

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Application forms and information are available at the Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail or fax by calling (310) 458-2213.

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Television networks gearing up for presidential campaign

BY DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — NBC's Tim Russert swears he's going high-tech this year after his simple prop — a board bearing the word "Florida" scrawled in magic marker — became an indelible image of the 2000 presidential election coverage.

This year's message board is twice the size, ringed with twinkling holiday lights.

Political reporters are clearly getting punchy, eager to see the long preamble to the 2004 presidential campaign end with the public making its voice heard. The process began Monday night with the Iowa caucus, followed eight days later with the New Hampshire primary.

For TV news organizations, this represents the first test of a new polling and vote-counting system, and a step toward regaining a public trust wounded by the blown calls of November 2000.

ABC, CBS and NBC interrupted regular programming with results Monday, and ABC's "Nightline" will wrap up the story. Cable news coverage will be nearly full-time, with Fox News Channel's Brit Hume, CNN's Wolf Blitzer and MSNBC's Chris Matthews taking the leads.

C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 showed two Iowa caucuses from beginning to end, and simulcast coverage from Des Moines' WHO-TV.

It was also opening night for the National Elections Pool, a consortium formed by ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and The Associated Press to conduct voter surveys.

The six media organizations disbanded a previous consortium, Voter News Service, after its faulty data led TV networks to prematurely call the 2000 election for President Bush. In 2002, Voter News Service failed to provide reliable exit poll information

"It's drive around Iowa, go to some hall, listen to the same stump speech, listen to the same questions and the same answers. You're looking for nuance, but now things are going to change."

— ERIC SALZMAN
CBS News

tion on midterm election night.

Unlike in 2002, however, pool members are encouraged by test runs that have gone well, and by surveys that were conducted during the California recall election.

"I'm a few notches above cautiously optimistic," said Mark Halperin, ABC News political director.

The surveys won't be traditional exit polls, which gauge opinions of people after they voted. Rather, they will be entrance polls taken as people go into the caucuses, raising the possibility that participants interviewed could then change their minds.

With Iowa's Democratic nomination contest tight, news organizations used the survey results more for analytical information — how voters feel about certain issues — than for predicting the outcome, at least early in the evening.

"Caution is the watchword," Russert said. "Be careful. It's hard enough to sample people going to the polls. It's almost impossible to have an accurate sample of people going to the caucuses. It's uncharted territory."

Echoed CNN's Blitzer: "If we're not confident a million percent that we got it right, we're not going to go on the air. We're going to do it the old-fashioned way and let the vote be tabulated the way it used to be. We're going to wait and wait and wait."

For the networks, two buzzwords of campaign coverage this year are buses and embeds.

ABC and CNN have put high-tech

buses into the field they say have greatly enhanced their reporting ability. The buses are like mobile studios and transmission facilities.

Last week, Democrat John Kerry walked across the street from a campaign appearance to be interviewed on ABC's bus. In past years, ABC would have had to rent a hotel room and equipment to conduct such an interview, and hope the candidate would agree to come, Halperin said.

The embeds are the trendy terms for network reporters that have trailed the candidates nearly full-time. What's different this year is that the ambitious reporters — Halperin did it in 1992 — carry lightweight equipment a few steps above the camcorders carried by tourists. It means candidates are captured on tape virtually every time they step out in public.

Howard Dean expressed surprise recently when a comment he made on a plane to CBS News' Eric Salzman was shown the next night on the "CBS Evening News," Salzman said.

Salzman, probably speaking for all the embeds, is eager to see the campaign move into the next stage.

"There's a lot of redundancy now," he said. "It's drive around Iowa, go to some hall, listen to the same stump speech, listen to the same questions and the same answers. You're looking for nuance, but now things are going to change. I'm looking forward to it."



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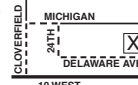
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STATE

Programs aim to aid farmers, promote local goods

BY ANNA OBERTHUR

Associated Press Writer

WOODLAND — On his 32-acre walnut farm in Clarksburg just south of Sacramento and sheltered by the levees holding in the Sacramento River, Sam Fraser dreams of being an organic farmer.

But, Fraser said, confronting the 30-page application, \$250 fee and numerous telephone calls to California Certified Organic Farmers in Santa Cruz — the state's main organic licensing service — is too complicated and costly.

That's one reason why Yolo County, where Fraser's farm is located and home to the state's leading agricultural university, is moving to set up its own program to certify organic farmers. Yolo would be the third county in California and third in the nation to start its own organic certification program. The programs promote locally grown food, something that appeals to consumers after a series of highly publicized incidents of food poisoning.

Farmers like Fraser, and consumers who are more interested in locally grown organic food, have led Yolo officials to consider joining Marin and Monterey counties in certifying organic farms. Marin County's plan has been in place since 2000, while Monterey started in 2001.

Marin County, just north of San Francisco, certifies nearly all of its organic farms, and products from the 30 growers are in demand at local markets and restaurants, said Marin County Agricultural Commissioner Stacy Carlsen.

"We've certainly raised the attention of the general public," Carlsen said. "The consumer is aware of our organic produc-

"The concept is that you try to make it as convenient as possible for your growers to become involved in organic production."

— **RICK LANDON**
County agricultural commissioner

tion and supports it by purchasing power — they want local food because it's safe."

Carlsen wants to reconnect farmers with consumers, and ultimately preserve viable agriculture in the region.

About 70 percent of the state's organic farms are licensed by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), a nonprofit organic certification and trade association. But any agency can provide certification for U.S. distribution, if it's accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In Yolo County, more farmers might shift to organic farming if they could go through the process in Woodland, the county seat, said Agricultural Commissioner Rick Landon, who's behind the proposal.

"The concept is that you try to make it as convenient as possible for your growers to become involved in organic production," Landon said.

Yolo County's 700 growers — 67 of them registered organic — already work regularly with Landon's office. "We're local," Landon says, "they're not having to deal with somebody a couple hundred miles away."

A Yolo County program would likely be cheaper, too, because the infrastructure for the program is already in place, Landon said.

In Marin County, Carlsen agreed, saying the program there costs less than CCOF's. Landon and Carlsen said they hope farmers' fees would eventually pay for the program, although Marin's currently costs the county about \$45,000 a year.

Cost matters, especially for smaller growers like Fraser, a full-time farmer who works for the U.S. Postal Service six months of the year to supplement his income.

"I'm looking at the cost now, and no way could I justify going organic, it's too expensive," Fraser said.

Even mid-scale farmers like Jim Durst, who grows organic asparagus, tomatoes, squash and eggplants on 750 acres in Yolo County, calls the price of certification a "burden."

Although he's loyal to trade association, which he describes as a farmer-driven organization that has certified him for 20 years, Durst said he would consider switching because he thinks a community-based program would be good for smaller growers.

"It's a little daunting," says Durst of the CCOF process. "I think most growers might prefer something that they could be walked through at a local level."

The process involves the application, registering the farm with the county or

state Department of Health Services, providing a land history and a trade association inspection. It usually takes about three months to get certified, but only if it's been three years since pesticides were applied on the land, according to CCOF.

A Yolo certified organic product would likely carry a label saying so, something that farmers and agricultural officials agree would appeal to consumers.

Events like a mad cow disease case in Washington state and a hepatitis outbreak last year put "little question marks in people's minds about where their food is coming from," Durst said. So people are turning to locally produced food.

Promoting local food is one reason CCOF President Brian Leahy thinks the program is a good idea for smaller farmers. "You're keeping money in the county and encouraging local consumption of local food."

But anything larger than that, Leahy said, could cause problems for counties. "It's sophisticated and it's expensive to do it right."

Landon hopes to submit a proposal to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in the next few months. In the meantime, board chairman Mike McGowan says barring expenses, supervisors would likely support the plan.

In Marin County, growers call the four-year-old program a success. Farmers, consumers, and county officials have formed a partnership, said Warren Weber, who grows organic vegetables at Star Route Farms in Bolinas.

"We're trying to protect agriculture by providing a better network, and it seems to be working," Weber said.

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Second homes can be as profitable as rental properties



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Last week we outlined the benefits of owning break-even rental properties. Today, we get into some of the financial aspects of second homes.

If you're a keen investor, you're going to want to get the most of your second home's resale value. You can do this by buying a property that has the characteristics other vacationers favor. According to an American Resort Development Association survey, most second-home owners want a single-family house. We are inherently lucky because the survey also says that the location of choice for recreational property is the beach, followed by mountain and lake settings. We live at the beach, and we're a two-hour drive from the mountains.

Santa Monicans have the best of both worlds.

When it comes to finding renters, it can be better to sign long-term leases than short-term ones, even with the local rent control ordinances. Long-term leases will reduce the wear and tear on your property,

save you money on cleaning fees and advertising, and generate a more reliable rental income.

If you purchase a rental property a significant distance away from home, you might want to consider employing a management company to help you find tenants. Management companies typically pocket 10 to 30 percent of the rent, but they take care of leasing out the property and collecting the rent money.

Here's an example of a profit and loss statement on rental houses:

ANNUAL INCOME:

1. Rental income
2. Annual expenses:
3. Mortgage principal
4. Mortgage interest
5. Real estate taxes
6. Upkeep (advertising, cleaning, maintenance, insurance, landscaping, repairs, utilities, etc.)
7. Total annual expenses (Add lines 2, 3, 4 and 5.)

PROFIT OR LOSS:

7. Net cash from the rental (line 1 minus line 6)
8. Depreciation (to estimate, add purchase price, closing costs and improvements and divide the sum by 27.5.)
9. Taxable profit or loss (if you do not earn more than \$100,000 annual adjusted gross income from your job and other

ordinary income sources, you can deduct up to \$25,000 tax losses from your rental property from your ordinary income, thus reducing your income taxes).

Most of this tax loss from rental houses and income properties is from the special non-cash tax deduction for depreciation. Depreciation is defined as a non-cash deduction for estimated wear, tear and obsolescence.

Under current federal tax law, even if your rental house is going up in market value, you are required to pretend it is depreciating and losing value. That means you can deduct the rental house's cost basis (but not the land value) over the estimated 27.5-year useful life for residential rental property.

If the landlord earns more than \$100,000 adjusted gross income per year, rental property tax loss deductions gradually phase out. But any unused rental property losses can be saved or "suspended" for use in future tax years, or to shelter some or all of the profit when the rental property is eventually sold. Or you can do a tax deferred 1031 exchange.

For more of the gritty details, consult your accountant.

To find the best location for your new residence do some research. Select several potential locations. Then read the local newspapers, check out information on

new housing developments. (For example, with all the development going on in Marina del Rey and Playa Vista, you might want to think twice before buying one of those retro condos on the Silver Strand.) Find out information on local property taxes — like whether they're scheduling an increase. Talk to current residents, store owners and local figureheads about where the town is heading.

The downside of rental houses has been popularly termed as "tenants and toilets," meaning the investor must manage the tenants and the property maintenance, or turn it over to a property management firm. Screen prospective tenants carefully. In addition to running credit checks and verifying employment, talk to the applicant's two previous landlords. Ask them, "Would you rent to your former tenant again?"

You've made a ton of money on your primary residence. Rental homes can be equally as profitable when you have good tenants who pay the rent on time and don't damage the property. Keep in mind that earning profits from rental houses requires careful management and understanding that the long term profits come from appreciation in market value, not from the rental income.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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SOLD	2907 DELAWARE AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	353 20TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1020 OCEAN PARK BL #4	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,000	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: 2,569	List Price: \$1,695,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,676	List Price: \$599,000	Bed: 3
01/15/2004	Lot Size: 6,499	Sold Price: \$695,000	Bath: 2	01/15/2004	Lot Size: 8,938	Sold Price: \$1,680,000	Bath: 2	01/16/2004	HOD: \$286	Sold Price: \$635,000	Bath: 3
SOLD	2248 21ST ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	347 25TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1930 IDAHO AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,488	List Price: \$780,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold	SqFt: 3,020	List Price: \$1,975,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,634	List Price: \$674,000	Bed: 3
01/16/2004	Lot Size: 6,750	Sold Price: \$826,200	Bath: 2	01/16/2004	Lot Size: 8,698	Sold Price: \$1,950,000	Bath: 2.75	01/15/2004	HOD: \$276	Sold Price: \$690,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	2308 HILL ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	311 23RD ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	2432 7TH ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,647	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: 2,808	List Price: \$1,995,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,658	List Price: \$725,000	Bed: 2
01/15/2004	Lot Size: 7,000	Sold Price: \$895,000	Bath: 2	01/16/2004	Lot Size: 10,149	Sold Price: \$1,970,000	Pool Bath: 3	01/15/2004	HOD: \$335	Sold Price: \$699,000	Bath: 3
SOLD	1125 SUNSET AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	608 GEORGINA AVE	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	2710 ARIZONA AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,650	List Price: \$1,195,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 3,328	List Price: \$4,599,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 2,342	List Price: \$799,500	#Units: 4
01/13/2004	Lot Size: 6,298	Sold Price: \$1,185,000	Bath: 3	01/16/2004	Lot Size: 22,420	Sold Price: \$4,125,000	Bath: 4.5	01/16/2004	Lot Size: 5,397	Sold Price: \$832,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	2418 WASHINGTON AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	937 12TH ST #301	SANTA MONICA	90403	Jodi Summers at Boardwalk Realty 310.309.4219 • jodis@boardwalkrealty.com			
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,716	List Price: \$1,099,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,505	List Price: \$595,000	Bed: 2				
01/14/2004	Lot Size: 5,060	Sold Price: \$1,204,000	Bath: 2	01/13/2004	HOD: \$265	Sold Price: \$605,000	Bath: 2				



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REAL ESTATE



Office market in LA area soft, but climbing back up



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

The Los Angeles Basin office market has softened significantly in recent years due to the combination of weakness in the job market, tenant appetite for office space and growth in new supply. However, interest in future requirements is picking up. Half of office brokers surveyed said interest in future requirements is picking up. Twelve months ago, only 8 percent saw any increase in interest.

The increase in interest is broad-based, including firms in professional services, finance (particularly mortgage related) and, in some areas, entertainment. The majority (60 percent) of the brokers surveyed expect that leasing activity over the

next 12 months will pick up. This too, is an improvement relative to the outlook held a year ago.

As a result of the projected increase in demand and restrained construction, most (63 percent) of those surveyed anticipate a tightening in office market conditions. This is a strong improvement over 12 months ago, when the majority projected static conditions, which turned out to be the case.

Effective rents are projected to climb, by 3.7 percent on average. In West Los Angeles, brokers project increases of 10 percent. This is in sharp contrast with 12 months ago, when most brokers expected to see either no growth in effective rental rates or continued declines, as turned out to be the case in most areas.

Sale prices per square foot have generally remained firm (or even increased in some areas), despite a drop in effective rents, causing cap rates to fall. There is a general concern that prices may have climbed too high, and will witness a moderate correc-

tion (-2.6 percent), particularly if interest rates should climb in the near future.

The primary risks seen in the market are high existing sales prices and low cap rates. Opportunities are seen in leveraging existing low interest rates and taking advantage of a probable increase in rental rates.

So far, the predicted trends seem to be materializing. In an article in the LA Times on Tuesday, it was stated that planned office developments are moving forward, and bankruptcies and defaults have decreased. One prominent landlord

noted that the number of prospective tenants looking for space picked up sharply in the fourth quarter and a major developer anticipates breaking ground on a 100,000-square-foot office project by March of this year.

(Source: NAI Capital Commercial's Second Annual Broker Survey).

(Christina S. Porter is a senior associate at NAI Capital Commercial Real Estate, where she specializes in leasing and selling office and industrial buildings.)

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES LEASED OR SOLD

SOLD/LEASED

Date	Location	Price	Sq.Ft
4/18/03	Santa Monica Blvd./WLA	\$8,900,000	57,502
8/15/03	Wilshire Blvd./WLA	\$4,025,000	15,138
6/03/03	Santa Monica Blvd./WLA	\$2,74,000	4,766
12/13/03	14th Street/SM	\$1,150,000	7,497
9/18/03	Jefferson Blvd./Culver City	\$600,000	7,500

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL

Government begins work on CO2 storage project

BY SARAH COOKE
Associated Press Writer

CASPER, Wyo. — The government is trying to hide something at its Teapot Dome oil field again. Not secret oil leases, as it did during the infamous scandal of the 1920s, but carbon dioxide — lots of it.

The Energy Department wants to inject the greenhouse gas into underground oil reservoirs in what could be one of the world's largest test sites for burying CO2 in hopes of slowing global warming.

The Teapot Dome project, now in the planning stages, will store carbon dioxide from a natural gas processing plant more than 300 miles away beneath the 10,000-acre oil field in central Wyoming.

The process, known as carbon dioxide sequestration, has been tested at smaller sites nationwide but never on such a large scale, said Vicki Stamp, a project manager for the Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center, which manages Teapot Dome.

Used in enhanced oil recovery for decades, pumping carbon dioxide into underground reservoirs is being touted by the Bush administration as one of the most promising ways to counter the greenhouse effect.

"(Carbon dioxide) is the primary global greenhouse gas and it's growing rapidly," said Dag Nummedal, director of the University of Wyoming Institute for Energy Research. "During the last four or five years the international consensus is that the most rational, economic and environmentally benign way of getting CO2 out of the atmosphere is to store it underground."

"Right now, the best place to do this is in depleted oil and gas fields."

Teapot Dome — named for a nearby rock formation — is currently in its preliminary engineering and testing stages. Storage could begin by 2006 and last seven to 10 years, although Nummedal says managers "don't really know the upper limit yet."

When a reservoir is full, the pipeline is taken out and the hole sealed up. "The objective is to keep it sealed underground forever, hundreds or thousands of years," Nummedal said.

The site is projected to store at least 1.6 million tons of carbon dioxide a year when fully operational. It could eventually lead to large-scale testing in other Rocky Mountain states, the Ohio River Valley, Texas Gulf Coast, California and other areas, Nummedal said.

"The long-term plan is to encourage the growth of a new private sector sequestration industry," he said.

Talk of a national CO2 testing center started early last year. But it wasn't until managers found a source of carbon dioxide later that summer that the idea became a reality.

Anadarko Petroleum Corp., which owns an adjacent oil field, is extending its existing CO2 pipeline from a natural gas processing plant in western Wyoming and has agreed to direct some of its 125 million cubic feet of CO2 to the test site, Nummedal said.

"(Carbon dioxide) is the primary global greenhouse gas and it's growing rapidly."

— DAG NUMMEDAL

Director,
University of Wyoming Institute for Energy Research

The gas will then be pressurized and injected as a liquid into the reservoirs through a pipeline. It could stay underground for a very long time, since the reservoirs that would store the CO2 held oil and methane gas for millions of years, said Susan Hovorka, a University of Texas researcher.

"That's not true of other mechanisms," she said. "If you grow more (trees, which consume carbon dioxide) how do you assure it doesn't all go up in a forest fire or that another generation decides to go ahead and farm that area?"

Burial can also rid the Earth of a large volume of carbon dioxide in a relatively short amount of time, Hovorka said.

"We've got almost all the carbon dioxide emitted in the atmosphere coming from fossil fuels," she said. "There's space equivalent in acreage to put all that carbon

dioxide back underground."

If the project pans out, officials hope to capture CO2 from the nation's power plants, oil and gas refineries and other manufacturing facilities "because that is the CO2 today that is leaking into the atmosphere without any controls on it," Nummedal said.

One possibility is capturing the gas with scrubbers similar to those attached to smokestacks that remove nitrous oxide and other toxic gases before they reach the atmosphere, he said.

The storage process — particularly compressing the CO2 — is expensive. Some estimates put it as high as \$100 per ton, though Nummedal and others said they don't yet have cost estimates for the Teapot Dome project.

Even if it is a success, the Teapot Dome project could have little impact by itself on atmospheric carbon dioxide.

"Globally we are releasing 7 billion tons of carbon per year," Nummedal said. "The amount we will be putting away here will be in the hundreds of thousands of tons."

However, he said, if the technology is proven and ultimately becomes widespread, it could significantly affect the increase in carbon in the atmosphere.

"If we look at all the suitable, depleted oil and gas reservoirs in the world, and we were able to fill all of them up, we would be able to store the total global emissions over the next 100 years," he said.

Some environmentalists worry about the gas bubbling through cracks in the Earth or leaking into aquifers that supply drinking water.

"We very clearly need some field demonstrations of a storage system to make sure don't have any surprises and get enough experience in managing the injection of large amounts of CO2 to be sure the public doesn't have to worry about catastrophic leaks or about slow leaks over time," said David Hawkins, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Climate Center in Washington, D.C.

Nummedal and others argue the benefits of reducing CO2 emissions outweigh storage risks, and stress they're testing Teapot Dome reservoirs for leakage and other concerns.

"The early steps of this cooperative venture show the classic markings of a win-win proposition for American consumers," Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said.

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NATIONAL



Children of the elderly learn of financial woes

BY MIKE GLOVER
Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — For Sue Johnson, things were never supposed to be this way.

She grew up in a neat, frame house on the west fringe of Des Moines and left in 1970 to make her own way. She raised a family, made a life of her own in Hawaii and figured that her later years would find her there, with her children and grandchildren.

But her mother's death from cancer brought her back to the little house in Des Moines to care for an elderly, blind father who was becoming increasingly frail, plagued by arthritis and heart problems.

One of the biggest health issues facing America's aging population is not planning for the potential of a health care crisis and being forced to make decisions about long-term care on the fly.

"It's the story of my life," Johnson said.

She had often questioned her parents about their plans for the future and was assured that she needn't worry. "I was thinking that everything was fine, that they were set up for the future," she said. "Whenever I asked about finances, they said everything was fine and it was none of my business."

"I thought this was going to be a piece of cake," she said.

What she found when she returned from Hawaii was a nasty surprise. Her parents' savings had dwindled from \$70,000 a decade earlier to about \$2,000, the same amount her father owed in property taxes, after dipping into the savings to care for her mother.

A recent study by AARP, the nation's largest group representing seniors, surveyed 1,000 Iowans 50 and older and focus groups with consumers and health care providers. Half said they would rather do without long-term care than seek assistance in obtaining care.

That way of thinking often leads many to avoid making any plans for care during their frail elderly years, a growing problem with a population that is living far longer than in the past, said Mark Haverland, head of the Department of Elder Affairs.

"We're in huge denial about this," said Haverland. "People tend to age without making plans."

Sixty-eight percent were confident they could afford the cost of long-term care, either in a nursing home or at home. The cost of a nursing home typically runs from \$25,000 to \$40,000 per year, while home care is estimated to cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year.

"A majority of Iowans mistakenly believe that Medicare and their health insurance cover long-term care services," the study said. Only a third of Iowans over 50 have coverage for long-term care.

Information about long-term care options is fragmented. Many service providers don't have sufficient information about what services are available, financ-

ing options or eligibility, the study said.

"People have historically found that issue perplexing, so they don't really address it until they are faced with a crisis, such as when your spouse, your mother, or your grandmother needs long-term care," said Scott Parkin, a spokesman for The National Council on the Aging. "All of a sudden, what do you do?"

Johnson's father, John Reinhard, was a publisher's representative and has been legally blind for 20 years. His wife drove him to meet clients, and the two were inseparable.

"She was his lifeline," Johnson said.

Seven years ago, her mother was diagnosed with cancer and her condition deteriorated rapidly.

"I talked to her on Friday and she was dead on Wednesday," Johnson said.

Feeling alone and isolated, her father struggled.

"He'd call me a lot, two or three times a day," she said. "I could tell he was lonely."

A divorced mother of two, Johnson was forced to make a decision. A younger sister in Waukegan had young children and couldn't be a caretaker. Her brother, who now lives with the family in Des Moines, didn't fit the bill either.

"It sort of fell to me," she said.

She gave up her \$30,000 a year job as a YMCA preschool coordinator and moved back home, her 22-year-old daughter in tow, to take on the full-time responsibilities. Her son stayed behind at the University of Hawaii.

With the financial settlement from her divorce, and a badly reduced pension because she left her job early, Johnson struggles daily to make ends meet for the family and more importantly, for her 85-year-old father. She chose not to put him into an assisted living community.

"I just want to try to make things comfortable for him," she said. "Being home is the best thing for my dad."

Last month, her father fell and broke his hip. He had surgery and is recuperating at a hospital.

Johnson had planned to attend a family get-together in Las Vegas for the holidays, but she was forced to stay behind to care for her father. It would have been the first time she'd meet two of her three grandchildren, but that will have to come another day, she said.

There is a silver lining, however. Not only has she renewed her bonds with her father, the experience has awoken her to her own future.

"I think it's a lesson for my kids," said Johnson. "It makes me think about what's going to happen to me when I get older. It's something we've talked about."

Parkin said the aging council is taking a number of steps to try to raise awareness about long-term health care options and costs. In coming months, the group will launch a Web site to help people plan financially for long-term care and inform them of state and federal assistance programs.

He said the group also is using a federal grant to study the use of reverse mortgages to finance various levels of elderly care.

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raith visited Iraq twice this year — once in February, just 5 weeks before the U.S. bombings and invasion, and in July, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit. She saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Thursday, January 22nd

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A political consultant and dynamic speaker, Kelly Hayes-Raith has addressed over 100 audiences, including religious congregations, state conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. To address your group, call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

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NATIONAL

George Bush sees a stronger economy and a safer nation

BY TERENCE HUNT

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush wrapping the themes of his re-election campaign in his State of the Union address, asserted Tuesday night that America is strengthening its economy and successfully combatting terrorism. "We have not come all this way — through tragedy and trial and war — only to falter and leave our work unfinished," he said.

In a stay-the-course speech to a joint session of Congress, Bush said the nation faced important challenges and choices and adamantly defended his actions as president.

He said it was tempting — but wrong — to think the danger of terrorist attacks had passed even though it has been more than two years since America was attacked.

"We have come through recession and terrorist attack and corporate scandals and the uncertainties of war," the president told lawmakers at the opening of a campaign year. "And because you acted to stimulate our economy with tax relief, this economy is strong and growing stronger."

Democrats were quick to take issue, noting that 2.3 million jobs have been lost under Bush, that deficits are soaring and casualties are climbing in Iraq. Democrats sat silently through most of Bush's 54-minute speech while Republicans applauded repeatedly.

Bush's speech was designed to cast him as the commander in chief, grappling with the nation's problems and above politics while Democratic rivals for his office race around the campaign trail trading charges.

Bush was combative at times, challenging opponents of the Iraq war — particularly those who complained he lacked international backing.

"America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our people," he said.

With a \$500 billion budget deficit limiting his options, Bush offered a handful of modest initiatives: a \$23 million pilot plan to encourage student drug testing in public schools and a \$300 million training and placement program to help newly released prisoners find jobs.

He urged major league sports leagues and athletes to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Their use by even a minority of elite athletes sets a dangerous example for the millions of young Americans, encouraging them to take dangerous risks with their health and safety, Bush said. He also proposed doubling federal spending on programs to promote sexual abstinence among teenagers.

Touching on a politically sensitive issue, he said he would support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages if the courts struck down a law saying marriage should be between a man and woman.

The speech fell one day after the one-two finish of Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards in the Iowa caucuses threw the Democrats' race into a wide-open contest going into next week's New Hampshire primary.

"America this evening is a nation called to great responsibilities," the president said. "And we are rising to meet them. ... We have not come all this way — through tragedy and trial and war — only to falter and leave our work unfinished."

"Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people,"

he said. "Twenty-eight months have passed since Sept. 11, 2001 — over two years without an attack on American soil — and it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting and false."

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Democratic candidates struck back.

"He's not making America safer," said Kerry. "Hardworking Americans will see through this president's effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassionate ribbon," said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the third-place finisher in Iowa. "It's all smoke and mirrors designed to hide the stark fact that he has no real plan for our future," said retired Gen. Wesley Clark.

Bush faced an electorate closely divided over the nation's direction. Americans are evenly split on his handling of domestic issues such as education, health care and energy, and just over half approve of his handling of the economy, polls suggest. His strong suit remains foreign policy, especially his handling of terrorism. Bush's job approval among voters in an AP-Ipsos poll early this month was 56 percent, a relatively strong position at this stage of a re-election campaign.

Bush said his administration was confronting nations that harbor and support terrorists and can supply them with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. "Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better," Bush said.

He said the United States has captured or killed two-thirds of the leadership of the al-Qaida network — although Osama bin Laden remains at large. He called on Congress to renew key portions of the Patriot Act that the administration says has given law enforcement officials the tools they need to combat terrorists.

The president defended his decisions to go to war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Of the top 55 officials of Saddam Hussein's regime, 45 have been captured or killed, Bush said.

Of Saddam, Bush said, "The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole and now sits in a prison cell."

Bush acknowledged that some Americans opposed his decision to go to war in Iraq. But he said, "Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day." His words served as a reminder that the United States has not been able to find any banned weapons in Iraq, which was Bush's justification for going to war.

With more than 500 American troops killed in Iraq, Bush said, "The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right."

On the domestic front, Bush said America's economy was being transformed by technology that makes workers more productive but requires new skills. He called for new job-training grants totaling \$250 million channeled through community colleges.

Bush urged Congress to address the rising costs of health care with tax-free savings accounts for medical expenses, tax credits to pay for insurance and ceilings on medical malpractice damage awards.

Reviving an old proposal, Bush called on Congress to overhaul Social Security to allow workers to invest some of their payroll taxes in private retirement accounts. He also renewed proposals to help Americans cope with the rising costs of health care and to make tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 permanent.



WORLD BRIEFLY

U.N. team put in harm's way

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan cautiously supported an American and Iraqi request that a U.N. team study whether Iraq could have quick, direct elections for a transitional government.

But Annan said he first needed assurance the team will be safe, especially after Sunday's truck bombing outside the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters compound. Thirty-one people, mostly Iraqis, were killed and more than 120 were wounded, the Iraqi Health Ministry said.

American and Iraqi officials asked Annan to send a team to study the possibility of elections, and Security Council diplomats universally supported the idea in later meetings with Annan.

The secretary-general said he wanted more details on the mission, but he acknowledged the issue was urgent and said he hoped for a speedy decision.

Underscoring that urgency, tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims marched in Baghdad earlier this week to demand early elections.

No peace without withdrawal

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hard-liner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was

clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

The Hamas founder announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit female suicide bombers. Last week, Hamas sent its first female assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Inmates still control prison

By The Associated Press

BUCKEYE, Ariz. — A prison standoff on the western edge of Phoenix dragged on into its third day Tuesday as two inmates continued to hold a pair of correctional officers captive in a guard tower stocked with weapons.

Corrections officials were in contact with the inmates by phone and said they continue to believe the two guards have not been seriously harmed.

Cam Hunter, a state Corrections Department spokeswoman, said that while authorities have not had visual contact with either the guards or inmates, they are hopeful nothing has changed.

The hostages include a male correctional officer who was injured. Officials did not release details of the injury, but said the other hostage, a female correctional officer, was not believed to be hurt.

The two captives were allowed to speak with negotiators and reported they were not seriously injured, Hunter said.

The tower is believed to be stocked with weapons, prison officials said. Until the crisis is resolved, the 4,400 other inmates at the medium- to high-security Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis remained locked in their cells.

Is Stewart shrewd or a liar?

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Is Martha Stewart a criminal who lied to the government about unloading stock on an inside tip,

or simply a shrewd investor who saved money with a smart bet on the market?

The trial that will determine the answer — not to mention whether the style guru does time in prison — begins Tuesday, as lawyers begin narrowing down a jury pool to 12.

Stewart was due in Manhattan federal court for her first appearance at the closely watched celebrity trial, which grew from a 2001 stock sale in which the government estimates Stewart saved about \$51,000 — a tiny sum compared to her multimillion dollar media empire.

In a judge's private robing room, potential jurors were to face Stewart and answer questions from lawyers designed to detect any bias they may have.

The government says Stewart saved about \$51,000 by selling stock in ImClone Systems on Dec. 27, 2001 — just before a negative government report about a highly touted ImClone cancer drug sent the stock plummeting.

The most serious count against her is securities fraud, alleging Stewart deliberately deceived her own shareholders by publicly saying in 2002 that she had done nothing wrong.

Girl's death may have been cult-driven

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A husband and wife have been charged with murdering a 6-year-old girl whose back was broken in what police said may have been an exorcism gone wrong.

The couple was arrested after being spotted on the street naked in the freezing cold along with two other children.

Police said the dead girl, whose body was discovered in a motel room, had been strangled and stabbed, and her back was broken. An autopsy was planned.

Based on what the adults told authorities, investigators believe "they were involved possibly in a ritual of some sort," police spokesman John Quigley said. "It may have had something to do with undemonizing the child in some manner."

Christopher Carey, 29, and Valerie Carey, 27, were charged with murder late Monday. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported on its Web site. They initially were charged with cruelty to children, public indecency and obstruction of police and were taken to a psychiatric ward. They were later moved to a jail.

Police learned of the death around 12:30 a.m. when the unidentified man and woman were seen walking naked down a city street with two children, a 2-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl, Quigley said.

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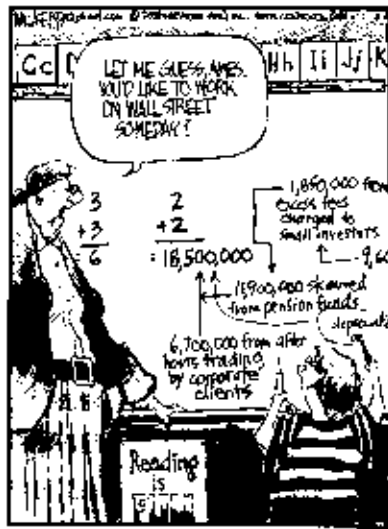
COMICS

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ACROSS

- 1 Going rates
- 6 Burdened down
- 11 Taos material
- 12 Martini garnish
- 13 Like some inflation
- 15 Work unit
- 16 Fall behind
- 17 Badly
- 18 "Now listen!"
- 20 Excessively
- 21 Tax org.
- 22 Frying needs
- 23 Bulletin board stickers
- 26 Swiss cheese feature
- 27 Bassoon's cousin
- 28 Southern resort
- 29 "Platoon" selling
- 30 Tell tales
- 34 Shade tree
- 35 Presidential nickname
- 36 Boll's partner
- 37 Jump rope style
- 40 Loosen
- 41 In reserve

DOWN

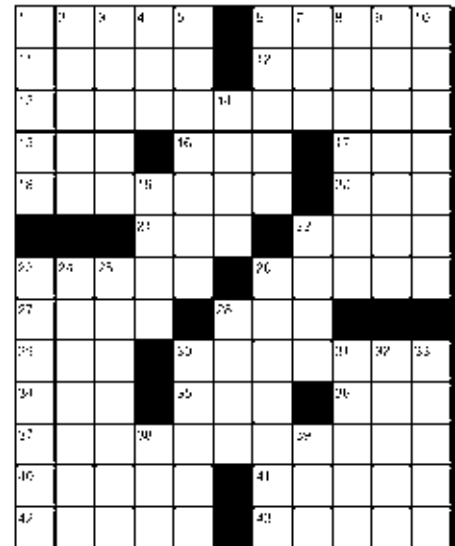
- 42 Hammer parts
- 43 Private's refusal
- 1 Loses color
- 2 Cherish
- 3 Roulette bet
- 4 Flow out
- 5 Merchants
- 6 Skiers' hangout
- 7 Will Smith film
- 8 Like some watches
- 9 Satan
- 10 Annual statement amount
- 14 Rabbit job features
- 19 Walk in the woods
- 22 Needy
- 23 Got into shape
- 24 Marine mollusk
- 25 Take the train to work
- 26 Took a

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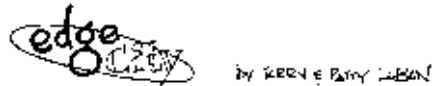
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- 28 Yard tool
- 30 Frasier's brother
- 31 Those opposed
- 32 Actor Stanley
- 33 Old anesthetic
- 38 Storage spot
- 39 Numero —

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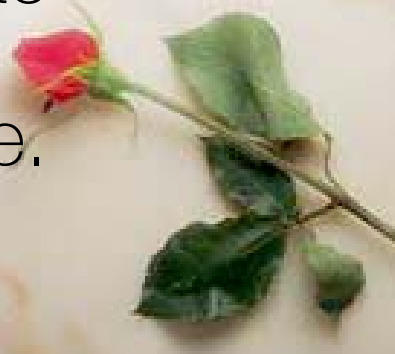


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jimmy Dean loses sizzle in sausage marketing plan

By The Associated Press

■ **RICHMOND, Va.** — Legendary country crooner Jimmy Dean says the Sara Lee Corp. has dropped him as spokesman for the sausage company he founded more than three decades ago.

In a statement Monday, the 75-year-old multimillionaire says the Chicago-based maker of food, apparel and household products told him last year he no longer meets the company's marketing needs.

"The company told me that they were trying to attract the younger housewife, and they didn't think I was the one to do that," Dean said in an interview. "I think it's the dumbest thing. But you know, what do I know?"

Julie Ketay, a spokeswoman for Sara Lee, said Monday that the company chose not to renew Dean's contract in May because the "brand was going in a new direction" that demanded a shift in marketing.

"We're focusing more on the product, not the person. Our consumers want convenience and great taste," Ketay said.

Sara Lee, Dean said, pays him an undisclosed amount for the use of his name, his likeness and his marketing participation in the Jimmy Dean product line. The company will still retain rights to his name and image, but it has reduced its payments to reflect its dismissal of Dean as the line's spokesman, Dean said.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — He knows he'll never get the chance, but Jeff Probst would love to play "Survivor" instead of just be the host.

"I would love to try it now that I've seen how it changes people's lives, because you just don't get that opportunity to test yourself like that," he said.

He likes both the physical and mental aspects of the game, and thinks he'd make a good contestant because he has a strong point of view and isn't afraid to express it. But it wouldn't be fair to play, having been host, he said.

Eighteen past "Survivor" contestants return for the

all-star edition, which premieres Feb. 1 after the Super Bowl on CBS. Two past contestants were invited but didn't come back, said Mark Burnett, the series' executive producer.

One, Elisabeth Hasselbeck — formerly Filarski — is now a co-host on ABC's "The View." Colleen Haskell from the first show didn't want to go back.

"She just had enough — just had moved on in her life and genuinely didn't want to go through that again," Burnett said.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Simon Cowell is no fan of "World Idol."

The competition over the holidays among winners of "Pop Idol" contests in different countries didn't really work, said the caustic judge from "American Idol."

"I hated it," he said Friday. "I didn't see the point, if I'm being honest with you."

Norway's Kurt Nilsen won the contest in something of an upset over Kelly Clarkson of the United States, who didn't seem particularly thrilled to be there.

"They've all won," Cowell said. "You're making, you know, 10 winners losers, and the point was that Kelly had paid her dues."

"She didn't lose," he said. "She already won."

The new season of "American Idol" premiered Monday on Fox.

■ **BANGKOK, Thailand** — Oliver Stone has summoned 20 armor-clad elephants and hundreds of actors to central Thailand to shoot scenes for his latest epic, "Alexander."

Apparently the writer-director doesn't want anyone else around.

"It's a closed set," said publicist Michael Singer. "It's to allow the production to go ahead without distractions."

With few exceptions, the media has been barred from visiting the set of the film about Alexander the Great,

which stars Colin Farrell as the Macedonian conqueror.

Furthermore, cast members said they'd been warned not to take their own photographs of a battle scene being filmed this week in Lopburi province, 71 miles north of Bangkok.

"We've been warned that if Oliver sees us with a camera, he'll storm over, stomp all over the camera and personally escort you off the set," said an actor who asked not to be identified.

The team is shooting scenes in which Alexander confronts an Indian king, Porus, during his invasion of India in 325 B.C. More filming is planned in northeastern Ubol Ratchathani province in coming weeks.

Filming also took place on location in Morocco and at studios near London since the production began last September. The film is scheduled for release in November.

"Alexander" co-stars Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins and Val Kilmer. It was unknown whether any of the stars will be filming in Thailand.

■ **BINGHAMTON, N.Y.** — A state university wrestling program that faces the budget ax is getting some help from William Baldwin.

The star of movies including "Backdraft" and "Sliver" has joined the fight to save the sport at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

The program has been targeted for elimination by university president Lois DeFleur as part of an attempt to save money. New York state is facing a \$5.1 billion deficit, and all state institutions have been told to hold the line on spending.

The 40-year-old Baldwin — who wrestled at the university nearly 20 years ago — told WNBC radio in Binghamton that he and other supporters of the program have offered to raise funds to keep it going.

DeFleur said that during a recent meeting at the university, wrestling supporters made threats to college officials. But Baldwin told the radio station that DeFleur is misrepresenting the facts and efforts to save the program will continue.

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