

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

5 10 20 36 38
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

4 19 26 31 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 9 8 8
Evening: 8 8 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:48.16

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

After Billy W. Williams, 53, skipped out during his trial for aggravated assault in 2003 in Dallas, he was found guilty in absentia, but Judge Faith Johnson apparently was not quite satisfied. When Williams was recaptured and returned to her courtroom in October 2004 for sentencing, Johnson organized a "party" in his "honor," with balloons, streamers and a cake, to create a festive backdrop for her gleeful announcement that she was sentencing him to a life term.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1908, the first Boy Scout troop was organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924, the Russian city of St. Petersburg was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader (however, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg).

In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Honesty is the best policy, but he who acts on that principle is not an honest man."

RICHARD WHATELY
BRITISH THEOLOGIAN (1787-1863)

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Homelessness remains top concern in SM

(Editor's note: This is the final installment in a three-part series that also covered new strategies for dealing with homelessness in Santa Monica, and the cost and effectiveness of local social-service programs. The first two articles appeared in the Jan. 15 and Jan. 19 editions of the Daily Press.)

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — When city officials hammer out a plan this week for dealing with homelessness in Santa Monica over the next year, they'll consider these facts: Santa Monica's 2,000-strong transient population prompted thousands of calls for police and paramedics last year, and complaints about aggressive and unsightly vagrancy frequently landed on the desks of elected and appointed leaders at City Hall.

"In spite of the significant achievements made by homeless persons availing themselves of Santa Monica's

See **HOMELESS**, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Dozens of homeless individuals on Saturday congregate in front of City Hall, where church groups routinely disperse food and clothing. This past weekend, a group calling itself the American Martyrs, originating from a Catholic church in Manhattan Beach, gave clothing and food to people. One grateful woman said to one of the organizers, "It means so much when you live out of a shopping cart to have people take care of you." She was picking out clothes for her friend, who is disabled and living at a nearby park.

Residents help mold city's future

Hundreds participate in development discussion

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

SUNSET PARK — The future of Santa Monica was in the hands of 200 people who participated in a planning meeting this past weekend, kicking off a two-year process that will include millions

of dollars and thousands of hours of work.

Santa Monica residents had an opportunity Saturday to present City Hall officials with their visions for the future and express how the city should be developed for the next 20 years. City Hall has recently begun updating what's known in the government textbooks as the "Land Use Element" and "Zoning Ordinance." The documents govern development in

Santa Monica and haven't been updated since the 1980s.

About 200 residents gathered in the John Adams Middle School cafeteria to sound off on Santa Monica planning issues, such as building heights, the presence of "big-box" retailers, low-income housing, community gentrification, traffic and parking.

Hoping to gauge community

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page 8



Photo courtesy of Kevin McKeown
Facilitator and consultant Paul Silvern discusses the future of Santa Monica development with residents on Saturday at a meeting attended by 200 people.

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



NANCY AOSSEY

Responding globally from SM

BY DIDIER DIELS

Special to the Daily Press

After the fall of dictator Suharto's 32-year-old regime, political, ethnic and religious tensions erupted in 1999, spreading riots, guerrilla combat and roving mobs across the provinces of Indonesia. The emergency medical needs of the resulting victims and refugees

brought the International Medical Corps (IMC).

By training locals not only to provide needed care — from immunizations to treating wounds to surgery — but to train their countrymen, Santa Monica-based IMC was able to build a healthcare network of nearly 100 local doctors, nurses and medics, and treat more than 25,000 patients.

When a terrorist attack at a Bali

nightclub killed 202 people, that network allowed IMC within eight hours to have in place a medical team, surveying the damage and providing immediate relief. When the tsunami of Dec. 26 struck, killing more than 170,000 Indonesians by the latest estimate, IMC had a team in the remote Banda Aceh region within days.

See **PROFILES**, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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COMMERCIAL

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your serious attitude has ramifications. Could you be creating a downer? By the afternoon, events and close associates help you loosen up and laugh. Work from the premise that your cup is half-full. Tonight: You get frisky at the last minute.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your serious tone sets the mood for the day, or so you think. Others demonstrate their playfulness and shake you out of work mode. You have fun and get a lot done at the same time. Smile. Reach out for others. Tonight: Run errands.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ You might feel financially strapped. Think "tightwad." You have a lot to gain. Romance could add an extra twinkle and glow. Choose to brainstorm with one person. You'll come up with a winner of an idea. Tonight: Gab on the phone.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You want to be serious, but somehow others make it close to impossible. Flow with fast changes and smile away. A partner or friend cannot get enough of you. Don't jump too fast; check out the ramifications. Tonight: Wind down.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Though you might be out of sync in the morning, a co-worker adds a jovial, fun tone to your day. Visit and catch up on news. Let go of a tendency to be a bit dreary right now. Be grateful for what you have. Tonight: Flow with the moment.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours to zero in on what you want. Don't lose your perspective at any cost. Others might encourage a big risk that could affect you emotionally or financially. If possible, get out of work early. Tonight: Consider getting extra sleep.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Those in charge don't hesitate to let you know who's the boss. You cannot change what is, but you can lighten up your attitude. Quit obsessing over a particular facet of your life. Look at the positive parts of your life. Tonight: A friend has much to share.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Information might not be forthcoming. You might feel that you have to pull teeth to get the answers you need. Kick back and think. A softer touch could drop facts, news and people in your lap. Tonight: Out late.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Someone you trust could be quite stern. You could also get a notice or a demanding note regarding finances. Look to options. A friend tosses a whole new perspective on a situation. Don't get hung up on the details and trivia. Pull back and take a complete look. Tonight: Find an expert.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might not be able to loosen up those around you for all the tea in China. Consider letting go and being less vested in having what you want. Happiness comes from relating to a key partner. Tonight: Help someone close feel valued.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might be confused by a difficult co-worker or problem. Someone shuts down. Distance yourself and gain a perspective. A little teasing and understanding will melt the ice. Let others make their own choices. Tonight: Enjoy the sudden attention.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Where creativity usually flourishes, it might not have yet. Your very playful manner touches others, especially someone you trust and confide in. A meeting could actually develop into a social event. Flow with the moment. Tonight: Walk after dinner.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica Pier sweating it out

By Daily Press staff

Despite warm temperatures, the Santa Monica Pier is sweat-free.

The Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. (PRC) board of directors recently approved a policy that ensures all goods bearing the official Santa Monica Pier logo will be made in a safe, humane and non-discriminatory work environment.

The increase in news coverage about abuses in the garment industry is raising the level of discourse on global trade and human rights both here and abroad, leading many corporations and organizations to pursue sweat-free purchasing policies.

“Public taxpayer dollars should not be spent to subsidize sweatshop conditions, but rather to encourage responsible business practices,” said PRC board member Cindy Bendat. “Simply put, we will not allow manufacturers profiting from sub-standard wages and working conditions to do business with the Pier Restoration Corporation.”

In order to qualify as a sweat-free supplier or “responsible manufacturer,” a contractor must provide an affidavit with detailed information regarding the wages, hours and working conditions. Employees must be allowed to unionize if they so choose and cannot be terminated without just cause.

For a copy of the PRC’s policy, call (310) 458-8901 or e-mail to info@santa-monicipier.org

Donor contributes to Elks programs

By Daily Press staff

Tom Scully received a certificate of merit from the Elks National Foundation for his \$1,000 donation to the Elks.

Tom Scully is a past exalted ruler of the Santa Monica Elks. Ken Lady, district chairman, said Scully’s donation will play an important part in future Elks programs.

All donations to the Elks are invested — only the interest is spent. Last year, the California Hawaii Elks received \$2.16 for every dollar that was donated.

Doug Randall, the current exalted ruler of the Santa Monica Elks said the Elks National Foundation has contributed funds to numerous Santa Monica Elks programs.

The Elks National Foundation distributed nearly \$15 million nationwide, \$3.2 million of which went to scholarships. Last year, 107,651 donors contributed \$5,246,317 to the fund, Lady said.

Get close to the bay’s bottom-feeders

By Daily Press staff

There are many creatures lurking in the Santa Monica Bay, and this month a non-profit organization is highlighting of the area’s bottom-feeders.

Heal The Bay, which is dedicated to preserving the Santa Monica bay, is featuring the wolf eel at the aquarium underneath the Santa Monica Pier.

There are several things the public might not know about wolf eels. For example, wolf eels can grow to be 6 feet long, and they emerge after dark to capture and crush the exoskeletons of unsuspecting sea urchins.

The bottom-dwelling wolf eel can be seen up close at Heal the Bay’s Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. For more information, call 800-HEAL-BAY or visit www.healthebay.org.



No one has won last week’s mystery photo contest. The first person to accurately describe where this photo was taken will win a gift certificate to Izzy’s Deli. Here’s a hint: Smokers will be snuffed out by police if they don’t hook up with the outpost. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.



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SURF REPORT

Monday’s swell is due from the NW. This is from a moderately sized system that formed in the western Pacific and traveled at a low enough latitude to bring in some 280-degree surf. Size estimates today point to chest-high+ sets at breaks with good westerly exposure on Monday, slightly bigger on Tuesday.

Today the water is:

59°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:51	2.6	2:33	-0.6	7:02	5.6	9:18	3.6
SUNDAY	1:28	2.5	3:02	-0.8	7:37	5.8	9:40	3.6
MONDAY	2:01	2.3	3:29	-0.7	N/A	N/A	10:03	3.7
TUESDAY	2:33	2.2	3:56	-0.7	8:42	5.9	10:27	3.8
WEDNESDAY	3:05	2.1	4:22	-0.6	9:13	5.8	10:51	3.8
THURSDAY	3:40	2.0	4:47	-0.4	9:43	5.6	11:17	3.7
FRIDAY	3:40	2.0	4:47	-0.4	9:43	5.6	11:17	3.7

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The Q Line

The issue of homelessness is complex, emotional and confusing for most people, especially here in Santa Monica, where the population is larger than in most cities.

The question of what to do about it remains unanswered. The City Council has begun its annual review of social-service programs aimed at getting people off the streets.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “How can Santa Monica better address the issue of homelessness here and throughout the country?”

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defining character and color

Editor:

Ron Smith quotes Martin Luther King’s unforgettable quote, “I have a dream, that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character” (SMDP, Jan. 20, page 4).

Yet, Ron disregards the wisdom of those words and writes an entire article focusing only on skin color.

He states that people forget “the Reverend was gunned down in cold blood in the prime of his life for the simple reason that he was black and influential.”

By that logic were John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were gunned down in their prime because they were white and influential? Of course not. So, what was the real reason?

Let’s go back and look at that word “character.” Random House dictionary defines character as 1) The aggregate of features and traits that form the apparent individual nature of some person. 2) Moral or ethical quality. 3) Qualities of honesty, courage, integrity.

John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were not killed because of their color, but because of the content of their character. It threatens people. It always has. Even back in Jesus’ time. Especially back in Jesus’ time.

The final proof is that millions even billions of people have been born since the 1960s. Why do we remember the few and not the many? Color? No.

John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert and Martin Luther King will be remembered. Martin Luther King will always stand alone. He will forever have a place of honor among all men and women. Not because of color. But because of the content of his character. And, judging by his own words, that’s the way he wanted it.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

Main Street thriving

Editor:

Thank you for your articles on Main Street (SMDP, Jan. 15-16 and Jan. 20, pages 1).

Two quick corrections and some additional points:

The name of the business coming in at Hollister and Main streets is Urth Caffe. It will hopefully be opening within a few weeks.

I am the executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association (formerly the Main Street Merchants Association). I’m not in charge. The association is run by a board of directors chaired by David Lackman, who owns Library Alehouse. Joe Pipersky (Joe’s Diner/Holy Guacamole), Lois Cunningham (Patagonia), Joel Mikkalson (Ritual Adornments), Todd Roberts (ZJ Boardinghouse), Jeanie Madsen (Sewjeannie) and Judy Abdo (neighborhood appointee) also serve on the board.

Regarding your focus on the new developments, while many are looking forward to new businesses coming in the Main and Marine streets development (“Sailhouse Lofts”) and the “Boulangerie” development on the northern end of the street, and many are pleased with the recent arrivals (Undeclared, What To Get, Aura Shop, Sewjeannie), it’s important to note that the backbone of Main Street is the merchants who have been part of the Ocean Park community for years (too many to list), and the neighbors who patronize and appreciate this unique business district. Many of these businesses, including Rick’s Tavern, World Cafe, Library Alehouse and Finn McCool’s, with leadership provided by Paul Diskin at O’Brien’s, and with the help of enthusiastic customers, just raised thousands of dollars for tsunami relief.

Despite some contemporary thinking, the success of a retail business is not automatic. Profits are not automatic. Retail business is a constant challenge, requiring hard work and creative thinking, not all of which always conforms to past practices, not all of which is understood or encouraged within the confines of the status quo. From a strictly business perspective, 9/11 and the economic “downturn” hit hard, and red tape and a failure in some quarters to understand or appreciate the impact of that and the fragility of the current environment continue to haunt us.

The work of the association is to work collectively on what we can to improve the economic health of the street, which contributes to the economic health of the city, knowing that there are larger natural events and human-designed obstacles that are out of our control — terrorism, tsunamis, rent — and need to be reckoned with, knowing that there are other obstacles that, with support and understanding, can be overcome so that this business district can continue to serve the community and compete successfully with others on the Westside.

We are looking forward to a great 2005. The new lights that will light up Main Street each evening starting in a couple of weeks are part of the improvement plans underway. It is an excellent example of the Main Street-City Hall partnership that we are continuing to work on, and special recognition should go to Gwen Pentecost in the city’s economic development department for her tireless work on this.

We appreciate your coverage as it serves to improve community understanding of the integral part small business and business districts play within the city of Santa Monica.

Gary Gordon
Executive director
Main Street Business Improvement Association

GUEST COMMENTARY BY BENNET G. KELLEY

Does Arnold trust the people?

“Ignore the politics. And trust the people” was certainly the best sound byte from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s State of the State Address earlier this month and a fitting line from a governor swept into office by a populist revolt. Unfortunately, it is a line well delivered but rarely honored by the governor, who repeatedly has sought to circumvent the will of the people and their representatives.

The governor’s budget proposal is a perfect illustration, as it simply ignores the requirements of Propositions 42, 57 and 98, all duly enacted by the people. The biggest controversy concerns Prop. 98, which guarantees funding levels for K-14 education. Despite a campaign pledge to balance the budget without cutting education, the governor brokered a deal with educators to reduce funding in 2004 in exchange for the promise of returning to Prop. 98 levels in 2005. The governor’s 2005 budget, however, breaks this pledge as well by providing \$2.2 billion less than required under Prop. 98.

What is most amazing is that the governor ignores his own Prop. 57, which passed only nine months ago and enabled the state to borrow \$15 billion to pay down its deficit. Prop. 57 funds are now being used to address a deficit in political courage by diverting \$1.7 billion to help plug the gaps in the governor’s budget.

Similarly Prop. 42, approved in 2002 by nearly 70 percent of voters, requires that state gas taxes be used for transportation purposes in order to reduce traffic congestion. It appears that the governor only trusts the 30 percent who voted “no” on Prop. 42 because his budget diverts \$1.3 billion from this fund as well.

More troubling has been the governor’s attempt to shift power from the Legislature to the governor. The California Constitution establishes the Legislature as the voice of the people with the authority to pass laws without the approval of the governor or by overriding a veto. In contrast, the governor may not enact any measures without legislative approval.

Schwarzenegger’s recent proposals seek to reverse this Constitutional structure to weaken the “voice of the people” and allow him to act without legislative approval. This includes enabling him to enact governmental reorganization measures unless rejected by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, i.e., only one-third’s vote would be required to pass.

The governor’s reorganization plan calls for the elimination of 88 boards and commissions. While promoted as a cost-cutting measure, most of the changes would yield little or no savings. Instead, the changes would eliminate open meetings and public participation and give Schwarzenegger complete control over the regulation of most of the state’s professions. While Schwarzenegger often talks about taking on “special interests,” Julianne D’Angelo Fellmeth of the Center for Public Interest Law explains that these “ill-advised” changes protect special interests by removing the “only interest in Sacramento who’s not a special interest ... the public interest.”

In addition, despite pledging to veto any bills that did not get a full public debate, Schwarzenegger has repeatedly overwhelmed the Legislature by introducing sweeping measures with short deadlines. Now, in another attempt to shift power from the Legislature, the governor wants to enact automatic spending cuts if the budget has not been adopted by a set date.

These are challenging times for California requiring difficult choices. It also is true that a governor with Schwarzenegger’s popularity has enormous potential to implement needed reforms. Yet Schwarzenegger should well know that, if unchecked, a leader with such popularity also can do enormous harm.

It would be a great tragedy if the populist movement that swept Schwarzenegger into office only served to make Sacramento less responsive to the people. Schwarzenegger would be wise to reverse this course by emulating Jefferson more and Conan less. If not, he might, like his predecessor, quickly discover how loud and clear the voice of the people can be.

(Bennet Kelley is a Santa Monica resident, and was the co-founder and former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee’s Saxophone Club).

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.

Bitch!

Whine!

Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The  Line

COMMENTARY



Slow down and let the rain pour down on life



HIP TO BE SQUARE

BY CAROLINE BODKIN

Like most of us, I entered the New Year with gusto. A long list of things I wanted to do, and all the determination in the world to do them. Big plans. Big goals. Big ideas.

But when I got back from my holiday vacation — pretty much as soon as I stepped off the plane — I got sick. Hacking, coughing and, more than anything, exhausted. And suddenly, all those big plans were put on hold because it took every ounce of my energy simply to make it through each day, completing only the most necessary tasks.

Being sick happens. Life throws curve balls (mine was minor, I know). Just when we're geared up to go full throttle, it will blow one of your tires. But I noticed something during those two weeks of limited resources. Once I had to conserve my energy, I realized how freely I usually waste it.

Honking my horn.

Getting upset by a harmless comment.

Retelling gossip.

Worrying.

I had no extra energy to take over the world and/or move full force toward executing my big ideas. Check. But also, I had no extra energy to fight with the world, or myself.

I had to move slower.

I took things easy.

I had to say, "I can only do what I can do."

The stress I might have felt trying to finish something under a deadline. I didn't feel it. The discomfort I usually feel from long commutes or heavy traffic. Absent. Instead, I knew it will get done when I finish it. I will get there as soon as I can.

With each day's basic tasks eating up every ounce of my energy, there was nothing left to fuss with or churn over. There was no fuel to use for worrying.

A car cut me off, and I didn't even shrug. A co-worker was rude, and I couldn't muster up energy to be upset. A fight

could have happened at home, and I just let it pass.

In a world where we fight, fight, fight, I was passive, passive, passive. No extra-neous expenditure. And my world got quieter. I began to listen to what's usually lost in the noise of a full throttle.

There is something to be said for moving slower. It's true, at first you might feel limited. Your day can't be as productive as you'd have it. You can't keep on course toward your better tomorrow.

But after some time, after an hour spent on your couch or in bed, just considering things, you might be surprised as your mind wanders, your body rests and the space that's usually so devoted to your life's missions opens up. Something happens when you stop driving yourself through the world and instead, move along with it.

On my sick Sunday, at about 10 a.m., I found myself on the couch with my boyfriend. He was doing some work while football played in the background. On any other Sunday I'd be at the gym taking my favorite class and mentally going through what else I had going that day. But on this Sunday, I found myself on the couch with no agenda. And after a minute, I found myself just considering him. His eyebrows and his smile. I felt like I hadn't seen them in months even though I see him every day.

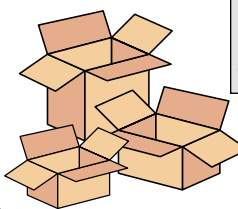
There are so many things we want to do in life. Go after, achieve, see, feel, share, experience. We feel we need to race to finish it all. But this week, as I moved slower than I ever do, I saw more than I ever have.

Goals keep us going. But if they push us at breakneck speed, then how can we experience anything other than that which we are chasing?

What if life really is, like the saying goes, what happens when we're busy making other plans? I hope I leave enough moments undedicated to my major motivators to let unpredictable life in. I hope I can move slowly enough that if life rains on me, I will get soaked.

(Caroline Bodkin writes weekly for the SMDP and works in commercial production to make money. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquarebybodkin@yahoo.com).

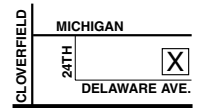
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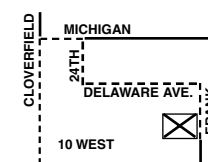
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City to adopt new homelessness plan this week

HOMELESS, from page 1

network of services, the impact of homelessness in Santa Monica remains a top community concern," reads a report on homelessness delivered earlier this month to the Santa Monica City Council.

Quantifying the impacts of homelessness can be difficult. According to the report, 674 calls were made to a special homeless-liaison unit of the Santa Monica Police Department, and paramedics responded to 1,258 calls involving homeless persons from July of 2003 to July of 2004.

What's less clear is how many times police not part of the special liaison unit interacted with local homeless residents, though SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. in the past has said that transients generate one-third of police calls. In 2002, there were more than 3,100 calls related to public intoxication alone.

Meanwhile, residents and merchants continue to complain primarily about transients congregating downtown; panhandling near restaurants; dominating public parks; using public restrooms as washrooms; roaming alleys and digging through trash cans; and sleeping in park-

ing structures, alleys and public parks, particularly Memorial, Palisades and Reed parks, according to the report.

"Some homeless individuals do not abide by the laws and regulations that govern behavior in public spaces," reads the homelessness report, which is prepared annually by city staffers. "The behavior of homeless people with significant mental health and substance abuse problems continues to cause fear, as well as concern for those less fortunate in the general population."

Though City Hall plans to once again give social-service agencies more than \$1.8 million to help fund various aid programs for the local homeless population in the next year, it also is proceeding on several new fronts.

One plan is to open a sobering center where public drunks could be taken rather than to jail or a hospital, thereby freeing up emergency resources and giving social-service providers rare access to entrenched homeless residents when they are not intoxicated.

Another concept discussed at a Jan. 11 public meeting on homelessness was the possibility of operating a special court-

room for homeless offenders, where transients would be given the opportunity to choose help rather than serve time in jail for misdemeanors considered "lifestyle" offenses, such as possessing a shopping cart illegally or sleeping in Santa Monica parks.

Additionally, City Hall might adopt a plan called "Streets or Services," currently used on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Under that program, caregivers work with police to identify routine homeless offenders, who then are given a chance to avoid the court system altogether if they agree to accept help.

City staffers over the past several months also have developed a program to help the most entrenched homeless residents of Santa Monica. A dozen people who have been homeless for between five and 20 years were picked to participate in the program, which has succeeded in keeping eight of the participants off the streets through the efforts of police, city staffers, county mental-health workers and social-service providers, according to Julie Rusk, the city's human services manager.

Perhaps most important to the city's efforts to reduce homelessness in Santa

Monica throughout the coming year is the attempt to get neighboring cities to share the burden. Officials said Santa Monica long has been a magnet for homelessness in Los Angeles.

To help reverse that trend, City Councilman Richard Bloom has played an active role in "Bring LA Home," a panel of county officials and authorities working to end homelessness by 2013. The group held a public meeting in Santa Monica last January and is expected to unveil a comprehensive plan later this year.

The City Council was scheduled to adopt a plan Tuesday for reducing homelessness as part of its annual budget priorities, Mayor Pam O'Connor said. Although public officials frequently have sparred publicly over homelessness in the past, many said they were hopeful this year's changes would make a real difference in Santa Monica.

"I believe the impact of homelessness has become greater" in recent years, City Councilman Herb Katz said. "So far, I haven't seen a heck of a lot of results. Yes, we're feeding some. Yes, we're helping some ... but I think we have to look at it from a standpoint of, 'Can we do better?'"

Too many homeless and too little progress

The Daily Press asks, "What do you think about homelessness in Santa Monica?"



"I think it's ridiculous. We have 100 percent of the homeless here, and 90 percent can work. They are young and healthy enough. Only 10 percent is mentally ill. Those are the ones we need to take care of. The others are just bad people, and we should kick them out."

— Ali Atter, manager of Santa Monica Tobacco



"There's too many. This is just the place they all congregate. Every time I come here it gets worse and worse."

— Chris Heckmann, Bakersfield



"What the city does? It isn't enough. There needs to be more housing, especially on rainy days, and I wish the library would let me in with my bags. I have nowhere to put them, and the \$40 I'd pay for storage is more the worth of what's in them."

— Roberta Bourbon



"It's bad that just because we help the homeless there are communities like LA bringing people in and saying, 'You deal with it.' But like it says in the Bible, we're always going to have poverty. I hope it could be a rotating thing, where people can come in, get the services they need to find housing and find work and get where they need to go."

— Sandy Dolbee, Santa Monica resident



"Obviously it's a problem here. They heckle and they bother people — one pulled my hair once — but I'm not one to cast judgment. I think we should spend more money on finding them jobs."

— Ryan Mitchell, former Santa Monica resident, now lives in Los Angeles



COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 1

“The way you help people in the middle of civil strife and war, is to help them get back on their feet, not just give them food and medical attention,” says Nancy Aossey, president and CEO of IMC, from her Santa Monica office. “Approaching disaster relief from a long-term perspective doesn’t limit our capacity to do crises response. That’s what we do well.”

These days, Aossey, who grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, spends less time managing disaster sites in third-world countries and more time promoting her organization’s work. But in her 19 years with IMC, she has seen no shortage of human wreckage.

She also has seen her group expand enormously. Founded by Dr. Bob Simon, who in 1984 sold his Malibu home for \$90,000 to start the charity to help Afghanistan, IMC operated last year on an annual budget of roughly \$90 million. The group manages and supplies more than 6,000 healthcare workers, currently runs programs in more than 20 countries, and made the federal government’s short list of organizations to which Americans should send their donations.

As the top spokeswoman for one of the few international aid organizations headquartered in California, and the only such group stationed in Santa Monica, Aossey has made three trips to the East Coast since the tsunami hit to scramble for funds to keep emergency operations running long term.

Last week she met with President Bush. This week, between red-eye flights, she sat down with the Daily Press to discuss IMC, her career with the charity, moving to California and health issues around the world.

How did you get interested in international aid work?

“My dad was a milkman. My mom was a homemaker, and we didn’t have a lot of money, so we didn’t do a lot of international traveling. Actually we did none. But my parents were very interested in making sure their children had a sense of purpose and felt connected to the rest of the world. They instilled in us a sense of community, responsibility. We were involved in Bluebirds, Camp Fire girls, working with the elderly, volunteering with different organizations. My parents were very civic minded and kept us extremely busy. Since that was before the days of the Internet and CNN, our connection to the world was the encyclopedia and National Geographic, trick-or-treating for UNICEF....

“The public education system is outstanding to this day in Iowa, so I went to the University of Northern Iowa, which was a couple of hours away. I stayed involved in charity, but I didn’t really know what I wanted to do. I made my decision between psychology and business standing in the line to choose classes. I had to know what my major was in order to choose, because I had pretty much exhausted all the liberal arts classes. In that split second, I chose business. I thought it would give me the background to pursue whatever I wanted.”

What brought you to California?

“We had horrific winters. What is it now, 75 degrees? Well, swing that 100 degrees the other direction.

“I remember thinking there was not a

lot of opportunity in Iowa for young people just out of college. The economy was bad in the ’80s. Farmers were losing their livelihoods, and I thought, ‘There is a huge world out there I want to see.’ I figured I’d start looking some place where the weather was better.

“So I got a job with AT&T right out of college in Iowa and transferred with them as soon as I could to California, Fresno. When I heard about IMC from volunteers with the organization, I was looking for to get involved in charity again. That’s what brought me to LA and, ultimately, Santa Monica. I moved to LA 19 years ago, when I joined IMC. The biggest mistake I made was not moving immediately to Santa Monica. Until you live in Santa Monica you don’t know what you’re missing. I like the casual environment, the informal atmosphere, all the outside cafés ... LA is huge, and Santa Monica feels like a real city, a small city, which I love, but a real city.”

What’s your least favorite part about Santa Monica?

“Traffic is becoming a big problem, parking. Traffic and parking The planning for traffic could have been a little better. The city seems to attract more cars than the roads can handle.”

How was your meeting with President Bush?

“He was interested in hearing directly from key operational organizations that were active on the ground, about what our experiences were like on the tsunami efforts. He was extremely engaged and interested and incredibly well briefed. Secretary Powell and Administrator Natsios of USA-ID (U.S. Agency for International Development) had just returned from the region and had briefed him. He asked a lot of questions, a lot of follow-up questions, and said that he recognized how hugely devastating this tsunami was to so many communities. He said he was glad to see the outpouring of generosity by the American public but also said he knew there were a lot of tragedies in the world that also needed attention. He also said he would make it a priority that places like the Sudan also received the attention and the support they needed over the long term. The tsunami is terribly tragic and it’s huge, but there are many other places that also need our attention. He was extremely open and extremely complimentary of American aid organizations. We’ve received \$2 million so far in government tsunami aid, and we expect to receive more.”

What was the most dangerous situation you were ever in on the ground?

“In Somalia there were bullets flying, bombs falling, just complete anarchy. There was a city called Baidoa. Baidoa was called the city of death because there were so many children dying who couldn’t even accept solid food. Their bodies were beyond that. It was so violent that we had to have guards accompanying us when we made trips into the more remote areas. One of the guards, who had been with me a couple days — his name was Jackson — was there to protect us while we were loading this plane with relief supplies at the airport in Mogadishu. Someone from an opposing clan walked up behind him and shot him in front of all of us. It was a blood feud between clans, and they picked him for revenge. Jackson’s brother, who was another one of the security guards, heard the gunshots, ran over and found his brother had been

killed. He dispersed the crowd, and we got out of there as fast as possible.

“Jackson was literally executed with an AK47 in the back right in front of my eyes. I watched him die. That was a real shock.”

What was IMC like when you first joined?

“When I first started with the organization in early 1986, my office was a bedroom in a house donated by (later LA mayor) Richard Riordan. He helped us in so many ways get off the ground. I mean how many people do you know who would let people move into their house to run a nonprofit?

“Our founder Bob Simon is this brilliant physician who was interested in helping people in Afghanistan rebuild their health system. He went to the country and was shocked to see how remote and dangerous these places were. So he appealed to aid groups, but they all said the same thing: Too remote and too dangerous. They would go to the border and set up refugee camps, but wouldn’t go inside. So he decided to found an American-based organization that would help people in their communities, where they wouldn’t have to leave and go to a camp, and to not only help them through direct assistance but help them become self-reliant through training programs that build capacity for health care.

“I used to spend time in the field, trying to build relationships with international donors, trying to prove we could do what we said. It was very slow going. We were an unknown start-up agency, and we were doing something that no other agency was doing, approaching disaster relief not so much from a disaster perspective but from a long-term prospective. It was a radical concept in the early ’80s.”

What was the response like after the tsunami?

“The tsunami has reminded me again how extraordinarily generous Americans are, with their hearts and with their pocketbooks. We had an outpouring of goodwill, financial support and volunteers from the local community. I was so touched by the flood of phone call, e-mails, people who literally just walked into our offices off the street and said, ‘How can I help?’ It was really touching, because the last few weeks have been tough.

“We had people dropping by checks. One person asked for more brochures, and then his neighbors came by with checks. These types of gestures never go unnoticed. Whatever their part is, it’s always known, always remembered and always appreciated.”

What’s IMC’s strategy for tsunami relief?

“We’re going to be over there for the long term, rebuilding and rehabilitating. These communities have had their lives completely shattered. Beyond immediate aid, getting people water and immunizations for disease, what we’re going to do will focus on psychosocial services, then child protection, and helping communities to rebuild their health system, which means training medical workers. More than 50 percent of the health workers in Banda Aceh lost their lives, so there’s a lot to be done.”

What else is IMC involved with right now?

“We’re operating in about 25 coun-

tries. We were at the forefront of the Darfur/Sudan crisis and had teams on the ground immediately when things began to heat up. We have a very high profile in Afghanistan, a lot of strong relationships in the local communities. In Afghanistan we have over 1,500 health workers in the country and only a handful are foreigners. Over half the countries we work in are in Africa, places like Burundi the Democratic Republic of Congo. We’re also doing some work in Iraq.”

You tense up at the mention of Iraq, and other medical aid groups, such as Doctors Without Borders, have pulled out of Iraq. How have you stayed?

“Iraq’s a tough place to work. We were inside the country before the fall of Baghdad, in January of 2003, and we’re still there but trying to keep a very low profile because the situation is not good.

“Our focus is training the nursing system, because a good nursing system didn’t exist in Iraq. The local Iraqis are the only reason we can continue programs there quietly. We haven’t had anybody killed, but it’s a very dangerous place. We try to keep a low profile and the rest is luck.

“Recently with terrorism and other types of violence, relief workers have been increasingly targeted at the local level. Those people that want to help their people are often seen as working at odds with people that don’t want to help their people, and so they’re attacked. They may be kidnapped or executed. If it got out they were working with us, they could be in great danger.”

You say recently that the perception of relief workers has changed. What happened?

“It used to be that relief workers — local and from other countries — the biggest danger that faced them was that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It might be a vehicle ran over a land mine. It might be shrapnel from a bomb that didn’t target them. It might be a stray bullet. It was risky, but relief workers were not targets.

“That started changing in the early ’90s under the Milosevic regime in Bosnia, where the strategy there among the Serbian militia was to target journalists, because journalists told the story and they didn’t like the story being told, and to target relief workers. That was the end of the notion that relief workers might be harmed from being in the wrong place at the wrong time but wouldn’t be targeted.

“That’s the one thing that really keeps me up at night is the safety of our people in the field, and that includes our local people. I worry about them a lot. They’re the people living with that danger every day.”

What are your goals as CEO?

“I want to make us better known. I want us to be one of those organizations that’s a household name. We haven’t invested very heavily in marketing, and my goal is to help educate the public about what can be done in developing countries. We delivered around \$90 million in program services last year, but a lot of our funding is highly restricted, highly earmarked for specific programs.

“When a sudden crisis occurs, you can’t use that money, which is why the most important support we get is from the person who writes in an individual contribution and says do with it what you see fit.”



Variety of local views represented at meeting

DEVELOPMENT, from page 1

opinion, members of the Planning Department started the event by passing out oversized post-it note pads to residents and asking them to write down their comments and stick them on poster boards at what were dubbed “issue discussion centers.”

Participants used the boards as personal wish lists by suggesting everything from more bike lanes and traffic lights at every intersection to luring more independent bookstores and sidewalk cafes to Santa Monica.

Most people asked for the same things: More affordable housing and better homeless services. However, not everyone agreed.

“Focus less on affordable housing and more on letting the market take care of prices,” one note read.

“This is democracy for all its pluses and minuses,” another resident said.

The workshop’s turnout was greater than anticipated, with some participants standing because seating had run out during the break-out group discussions.

“We didn’t know there would be this level of intensity,” said City Councilman Kevin McKeown, adding he credits the large turnout to the Macerich Co. and its proposal to build 21-story skyscrapers, which would replace the Santa Monica Place Mall.

“Macerich did us a big favor” by introducing its proposal while the city’s overall general plan is being updated, McKeown said. He called the project a catalyst for motivating people on both sides of the issue to get involved in the decision making process.

THE HIGH-RISE QUESTION

Statements including “Not too tall, we are not New York” and “No high-rises” completely covered the “How should buildings look” poster boards. Many participants listed specific height restrictions, ranging from three to 11 stories, that they would like to see in place.

Some people were more receptive to new buildings, as long as they are similar to existing buildings to “keep the

flow and harmony” throughout town.

Others mentioned the Macerich project specifically. A few wrote “No mall development” on their pads.

Many residents said they weren’t opposed to overhauling Santa Monica Place, but they were concerned about large development.

Marilyn Korrade-Wilson, a 20-year resident, said she is opposed to approving the proposed tower heights. She fears that approving such a large project will make it easier for similar projects to be built.

“If they allow this, it opens up the possibility of many more,” she said. “Having 21-story buildings so close to the ocean is not advantageous.”

CONSIDERING BIG-BOX RETAILERS

Allowing “big-box” retailers like Wal-Mart into Santa Monica also created a stir amongst the residents.

Most of the comments reflected keeping the bigger stores out of Santa Monica and supporting local businesses, although some residents thought a Target would be OK. The City Council a few years ago rejected a proposal from the retailer to develop an outlet in downtown Santa Monica.

“My favorite part was when I looked at the board and saw ‘No Target’ right next to a note that said ‘Target Yes,’ McKeown said.

Karen Miller said she might be one of the few residents who wouldn’t mind one of those retailers in Santa Monica.

“I feel like I have to pay more for things than people everywhere else do,” she said, adding Santa Monica has an image to maintain, but there are many low-income residents in the area who need more affordable shopping. “I rather Santa Monica’s image be more mixed and have a cheaper place to shop.”

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

After writing their comments, participants were sent to tables in small groups to discuss the directions they would like to see the city take in the next two decades.

Consultants Dyett & Bhatia, who served as facilitators for the meeting, asked participants what they thought about building heights and where they would support new development.

Santa Monica resident and community activist Brunia

Finkel and her group decided that they would support high-rise buildings in an area away from the ocean, closer to “the Los Angeles side.”

The discussion soon turned back to Macerich and the effect such a large project will have on traffic.

“I’m not necessarily opposed to the height,” for aesthetic reasons, said Santa Monica resident Richard Dickinson. “I’m concerned about traffic.

“But the only way to limit the traffic is to limit the building,” he added. “Build it and they will come.”

Residents also worried about new development taking away from Santa Monica’s “beach-town feel.”

“These density and height concerns need to be balanced with a need for growth,” said six-year Santa Monica resident Kent Strumpell.

As the groups shared ideas with each other, common themes began to develop. Residents consistently talked about creating a “sustainable city,” one that does not over develop, recycles its resources and devises ways to limit pollution.

Andy Agle, assistant director of Planning and Community Development at City Hall, said a sustainable environment includes using less fossil fuels and building “green” buildings that have a minimal dependence on electricity.

To ease pollution associated with cars and buses, residents suggested everything from more electric cars to having residents drive around in electric golf carts. They also supported a light-rail system that would end in Santa Monica.

“If it can work it Catalina, it can work in Santa Monica,” said Josh Hamilton, a 30-year Santa Monica resident.

The community workshop was the first step in a six-month process to obtain comments from residents. The process will include phone surveys and Internet surveys. Information packets will be sent out to all residents, and city staff will interact with the community. All information regarding the process will be made public and can be seen on the city’s Web site, www.shapethefuture2025.com.

City Hall’s planning director Suzanne Frick urged all residents to participate in the process.

“Change is coming whether we like it or not,” she said.

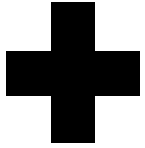
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This business is conducted by: co-partners
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In the county of LOS ANGELES. Luis A. Romero, 2032 S. 6th Street, #B, Alhambra, CA 91803 , Ricardo Romero, 2032 S. 6th Street, #B, Alhambra, CA 91803 This business is conducted by: husband and wife. The above declares that all information in this statement is true and correct. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit: 01/10/05, 01/17/05, 01/24/05, 01/31/05

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located at 241 Winston Street #7, LA CA 90013
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Jin Yee Kim, 2233 Fargo Street, LA CA 90039
This business is conducted by: an individual
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Obituaries

EDWARD HOWARD LASH

Born: November 29, 1927 - Coffeyville Kansas
Died: December 22, 2004 - Thousand Oaks, California

A true American success story. Born in Kansas to meager means, raised by older Siblings, he served in the US Army & the Korean War. After returning, he went west with a young family & began two successful careers - first, as a Musician, & second as a civil engineer. His jazz sax entertained Army Troops, concert goers, friends & family alike. As a Civil Engineer, he served the City of Santa Monica for 25 years. He managed the City's Water, Cemetery, & Sewer departments until 1988. In his later years, "Big Ed" was an avid Ham/CB radio operator & touched many friends through this pursuit, both near & far. In keeping with Ed's wishes, no services are planned, & his Ashes will soar in the warm winds over Oahu. Donations, may be made in his name to the Thousand Oaks Health Care Center.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Late-night king Johnny Carson dies at 79

BY LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Carson, the quick-witted "Tonight Show" host who became a national institution putting his viewers to bed for 30 years with a smooth nightcap of celebrity banter and heartland charm, died Sunday. He was 79.

Carson died early Sunday morning, according to his nephew, Jeff Sotzing. "He was surrounded by his family, whose loss will be immeasurable," Sotzing told The Associated Press.

He did not provide further details, but NBC said Carson died of emphysema — a respiratory disease that can be attributed to smoking — at his Malibu home.

Carson often had a cigarette in hand in the early years of "Tonight," eventually dropping the on-air habit when smoking on TV became frowned on. But he remained a heavy smoker for some years afterward, said a former associate who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The boyish-looking Nebraska native with the disarming grin, who survived every attempt to topple him from his late-night talk show throne, was a star who managed never to distance himself from his audience.

His wealth, the adoration of his guests — particularly the many young comics whose careers he launched — the wry tales of multiple divorces: Carson's air of modesty made it all serve to enhance his bedtime intimacy with viewers.

"Heeeeere's Johnny!" was the boom-

ing announcement from sidekick Ed McMahon that ushered Carson out to the stage. Then the formula: the topical monologue, the guests, the broadly played skits such as "Carnac the Magnificent."

But America never tired of him; Carson went out on top when he retired in May 1992. Actress-singer Bette Midler, who memorably serenaded Carson during the final show with "One More For My Baby," recalled him warmly Sunday.

"I was his last guest, and it was one of the most moving experiences of my life. He had it all. A little bit of devil, a whole lot of angel, wit, charm, good looks, superb timing and great, great class," Midler said in a statement.

His generosity to up-and-coming comics who got their big break on "Tonight" was lauded by Bill Cosby and others.

"Johnny was responsible for the beginning and the rise of success for more performers than anyone. I doubt if those numbers will ever be surpassed," Cosby said in a statement.

McMahon said Sunday that Carson was "like a brother to me."

"Our 34 years of working together, plus the 12 years since then, created a friendship which was professional, family-like and one of respect and great admiration," McMahon said in a statement. "When we ended our run on 'The Tonight Show' and my professional life continued, whenever a big career decision needed to be made, I always got the OK from 'The Boss.'"

Carson's personal life could not match the perfection of his career. Carson was

married four times, divorced three. In 1991, one of his three sons, 39-year-old Ricky, was killed in a car accident.

Nearly all of Carson's professional life was spent in television, from his postwar start at Nebraska stations in the late 1940s to his three decades with NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

Carson chose to let "Tonight" stand as his career zenith and his finale, withdrawing into a quiet retirement that suited his private nature and refusing involvement in other show business projects.

In 1993, he explained his absence from the limelight.

"I have an ego like anybody else," Carson told The Washington Post, "but I don't need to be stoked by going before the public all the time."

Carson did find an outlet for his creativity: He would send a joke occasionally to Letterman, who lost the battle for "Tonight" but remained a Carson friend. Some bits made it into Letterman's monologue.

He also wrote short humor pieces for The New Yorker magazine, including "Recently Discovered Childhood Letters to Santa," which purported to give the youthful wish lists of William Buckley, Don Rickles and others.

Born in Corning, Iowa, and raised in nearby Norfolk, Neb., Carson started his show business career at age 14 as the magician "The Great Carsoni."

After World War II service in the Navy, he took a series of jobs in local radio and TV in Nebraska before starting

at KNXT-TV in Los Angeles in 1950.

There he started a sketch comedy show, "Carson's Cellar," which ran from 1951-53 and attracted attention from Hollywood. A staff writing job for "The Red Skelton Show" followed.

The program provided Carson with a lucky break: When Skelton was injured backstage, Carson took the comedian's place in front of the cameras.

Producers tried to find the right program for the up-and-coming comic, trying him out as host of the quiz show "Earn Your Vacation" (1954), the variety show "The Johnny Carson Show" (1955-56), the game show "Who Do You Trust?" (1957-62).

In 1958, Carson sat in for "Tonight Show" host Paar. When Paar left the show four years later, Carson was NBC's choice as his replacement.

After his retirement, Carson took on the role of Malibu-based retiree with apparent ease. An avid tennis fan, he was still playing a vigorous game in his 70s.

Carson won a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 1992, with the first President Bush saying, "With decency and style he's made America laugh and think." In 1993, he was celebrated by the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors for career achievement.

His nephew said there will be no memorial service.

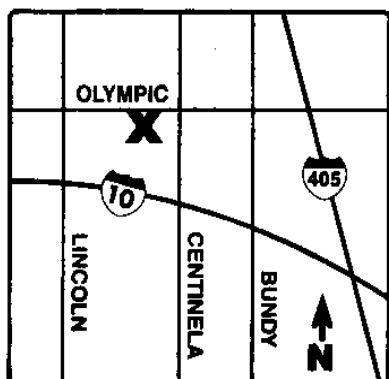
(AP Writer Jeff Wilson contributed to this report.)

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