

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Starbucks conquers the last block on the Promenade

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

In the latest strategic maneuver in Santa Monica's coffee wars, Starbucks is about to stake claim on the last block of the Promenade.

Another Starbucks plans to set up shop on the Third Street Promenade, soon to make its presence known on every block on the outdoor mall.

Hear Music, a high-end CD retailer owned by Starbucks, has filed plans to add a cafe with an outdoor seating area to its store

located at 1429 Third Street Promenade.

The new location will be the 12th Starbucks in Santa Monica. And if that's not enough saturation, the gourmet coffee retailer will have locations on all three blocks of the Promenade. Competition could be fierce since more than a dozen coffee houses are already on the outdoor mall — sometimes less than 20 feet from one other.

"There's a lot out there, and they continue to do well," said Rob York, a consultant for the Bayside District Corp, which

manages downtown Santa Monica with city officials. "It's hard not to question the amount of coffee available downtown. But I think we have to rely on the judgment of some of these businesses. They are in the market and they know what the potential is."

Bayside officials said even though Starbucks may be more of the same on the Promenade, at least it's a place to sit down and get something to eat and drink.

"We're just happy there's going to be more outdoor dining

See COFFEE, page 5

Jury awards woman who fell

By Daily Press staff

The Jonathan Beach Club of Santa Monica won a victory of sorts in court Thursday when a jury sharply sliced the amount it was willing to award a Woodland Hills woman for a slip-and-fall mishap there in mid-2001.

"I saved \$100,000 for my client," said attorney Rhett Warriner, who represented the club. He said the case went to trial because the woman, Gayle Lichtig, a designer, demanded \$175,000 through her lawyer. The club was willing to pay only \$50,000, arguing she was mostly responsible for the accident.

The jury award, for about \$74,750, came because the panel dampened the amount it earmarked for pain and suffering while also deciding Lichtig was 40 percent responsible for the accident.

Both sides could claim victory. But while

Lichtig technically won, her lawyer, David Drexler, was left to ask jurors outside the courtroom why they had settled on such a small amount. Warriner said the Jonathan Club felt gratified by the "sensitivity and conservatism" of Santa Monica juries.

Lichtig's fall occurred at a graduation party for the Campbell Hall school on June 1, 2001 at the club, located on Santa Monica Beach. The auto sprinkler system, which had apparently been malfunctioning, came on mid-party, causing some of the outdoor steps to become slippery. Lichtig, a guest at the party, claimed the club should have taken steps to warn patrons. The club claimed Lichtig should have watched her step.

The case became a made-to-order jury trial when the two sides couldn't settle. At the trial, Drexler

See VERDICT, page 5

Super Bowl matches No. 1 vs. No. 1

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

SAN DIEGO — For all the intriguing matchups through 36 Super Bowls, the one that never occurred was No. 1 vs. No. 1.

On Sunday, that changes.

The Oakland Raiders' dynamic, ultradangerous offense that has trampled nearly everyone faces the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' miserly defense, which has stymied almost everybody. It is a confrontation so juicy, so delicious, that the players are looking forward to it as much as the rest of America.

"I'd pay to see it," said Raiders

defensive tackle Sam Adams, who knows all about immovable objects — he won a Super Bowl two years ago with the stingy Baltimore Ravens. "No. 1 vs. No. 1. Who could ask for more?"

Not the viewing public, which eagerly anticipates watching Defensive Player of the Year Derrick Brooks against NFL MVP Rich Gannon. Jerry Rice, merely the most accomplished receiver in history, against Brian Kelly, the league leader in interceptions. Frank Middleton, the mouthy 330-pound former Buccaneer, trying to block Warren Sapp, the mouthy, 300-pound All-Pro

Buccaneers defensive tackle.

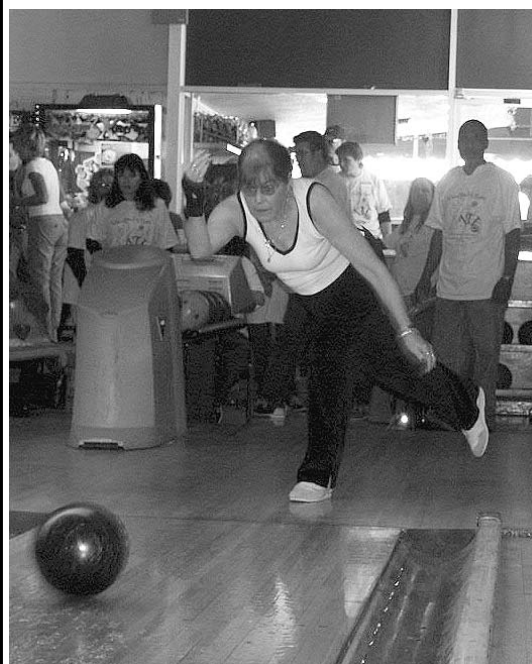
"We're like an inferno, more heat than you can stand," Sapp said, gesturing as if flames were rising around him. "It's like we have guys running around with one gallon of gasoline in their pockets and then setting it off."

Ooooooooooh!

Want more? How about Charlie Garner, the Raiders' versatile, hard-charging tailback, and John Lynch, the Buccaneers' venerable hard-hitting strong safety?

"It's only fitting to have the top offense against the top defense," Lynch said. "I consider this the best year ever in the

Bowling for dollars



Ross Furukawa/Daily Press

Dozens of business leaders spent their Friday afternoon bowling to raise money for homeless service programs.

By Daily Press staff

At an afternoon of friendly competition, more than 60 teams representing various businesses, community organizations and government competed with their bowling and fundraising skills to raise money for the homeless.

Each bowler received an event T-shirt, food and the chance to win fabulous door prizes. Due to what organizers say was tremendous interest, there was three ses-

sions of competition.

Proceeds from SuperBowl-A-Thon VII will be used to support projects of the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition (WSHC). For 20 years, WSHC, a project of community partners, has addressed the needs of the homeless population in the western part of Los Angeles County by coordinating programs — such as food and shelter, job counseling and health services — and providing

See BOWLING, page 3

Buccaneers, but he helped put together what has become a nearly unstoppable offensive

See SUPER BOWL, page 11

Harrah's Odds

By The Associated Press

Super Bowl Sunday at San Diego

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HOROSCOPE

Just let things happen, Aries



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)
★★★★ Reversals follow the nature of the day. If you can loosen up, you could find yourself a bit out of touch. You might not be exactly sure about others, but you don't need to be. Fun seems to happen when you allow it. Playfulness marks old and young alike. Tonight: Let it happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Review recent decisions with an eye to gaining through interpersonal interactions. Just because someone doesn't think like you, doesn't make him or her wrong. Tonight: Allow confusion to flourish.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might feel as if you have more work than you bargained for. You could make this a big deal or let it go. Many choices take you in new directions if you relax. News from a distance takes you in a novel direction. Spontaneity makes you, as well as others, happy. Tonight: Play until you're tired.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your playfulness emerges when dealing with your many different and caring friends. You might not be exactly sure about a child or loved one, but indulge yourself and allow more playfulness and spontaneity into your life anyway. You could go overboard with spending. Tonight: Play as if there is no tomorrow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You put your best foot forward, and as a result, you get the type of results you desire. Whether you're a little askew or driven because of someone's shenanigans is within your control. Just go with the flow, especially with those close to you. Understanding doesn't mean agreeing. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Speak your mind, as you might make a difference where you could not have before. In fact, you might have no idea how important your words could be. Your instincts help you choose the right words at the right time. Confusion surrounds your plans. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Realize that, once more, you could have a problem because of your extravagance and going to extremes. Learn to say "no" when you need to. Others could be quite taken aback by your attitude. Perhaps you don't realize how much money runs your life. A family member is a high priority. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to be expensive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Put your best foot forward. Although a family member might be a bit confused about what is happening, you can add clarity, though maybe not to his or her point of view! Speak your mind, but you could be surprised by what someone really thinks. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Sometimes by sitting back and saying little, you gain a better sense of what is truly going on. You can detach and see loved ones in a light that they cannot. Unpredictable behavior rarely delights you. Recognize your role as provocateur. Tonight: Take a break from it all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Others receive your ideas with a smile and enthusiasm. So why aren't they doing something about them? Realize where you're coming from with a money matter. Just how much are you willing to risk? Understand when "no" is most appropriate. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Have you noticed lately how everything seems to drop on your plate? Here we are — one more time! Take responsibility, as well as a leadership position. You could be a bit out of it or tired. Know that this period will soon pass. Others might be having a difficult time understanding your ideas. Tonight: A must show.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Listen well to someone's sharing. This person has much to say, and you have much to learn here. Recognize the good will that surrounds you. Don't dilute some obviously significant information. Do a better job of listening here. Pitch in and help someone. Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs."

— Samuel Goldwyn (1882-1974)

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jazz Ensemble to play at the Santa Monica Public Library

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library hosts the talents of Nick Demopoulos, Danton Boller, Greg Gonzalez, and Matt Otto together as Exegesis in the Main Library Auditorium, 1343 Sixth Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard) Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m.

The core elements of this ensemble consist of saxophone, guitar, bass, and drums. Although eclectic, Exegesis has a very identifiable group sound and is committed to maintaining a high level of musicianship and virtuosity during each performance.

During performances, Exegesis often makes use of samplers, tape loops, and other effects and effect processors giving the sonic illusion that there are more than four musicians performing.

Exegesis has performed at jazz festivals and with many talented musicians, including Cecil Taylor, Billy Higgins, Dave Binney, Mark Egan, and the Jazz Mandolin Project. They also have been heard in many clubs in New York and Los Angeles as well as in concerts sponsored by the American Jazz Symposium. This performance is sponsored in part by the Hellenic University Club of Southern California.

For more information, the public may contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

Astoria announces dedication of new wing

By Daily Press staff

Astoria Quality Senior Living has announced the dedication of its new wing to the memory of the late Judge David Korman this week. Judge Korman, father of Santa Monica resident Laurie Korman, was a well-known and much loved juvenile court judge who devoted his life to the children of Los Angeles.

Sophia Rickberg and Inna Levin, the owners of Astoria, have created an intimate residential care home for dementia suffers, managed from a Jewish point of view. They provide a home away from home, in a secure and loving atmosphere, for people afflicted with dementia. Astoria Quality Senior Living is located at 8041 Blackburn Ave. in Los Angeles.

Santa Monica Fire offers free disaster training

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Fire Department is offering Disaster Assistance Response Team training to the Santa Monica community.

The one-day course is designed to provide citizens with the skills to save themselves, their loved ones, neighbors or co-workers in the event of an emergency. Because emergency preparedness is such an important issue in the event of a disaster, the Santa Monica Fire Department-sponsored course is free.

The training will be offered on Feb. 22, and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The course includes hands-on training in light search and rescue techniques, shutting off utility connections, rescuer safety, and disaster first aid.

Participants also will practice putting out fires with extinguishers. The training is open to all adults who live or work in the city of Santa Monica. To enroll in the DART program, call (310) 458-2221.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY



Forecasts promise a strong weekend of surf with new west by northwest swells building.

Waves are expected to see a one- to two-foot increase in height over the week, so we should be in for chest- to head-high surf at exposed spots in the north; some bigger sets in the south.

Porto, which has been pounding all week, should hit head-high to overhead, and occasionally bigger.

Today's swell looks slightly weaker than yesterday's, but it's strong enough to hold surf in the chest- to head-high range throughout the day and into Sunday.

Tides return to moderate levels as we get toward the middle of the moon cycle, and today's 8 a.m. low should bode well for early risers.

We should see light winds in the a.m. followed by increasing, 10-15 knot onshores by afternoon.



Today's Tides:

High-	2:50 a.m.	4.83'
Low-	10:07 a.m.	1.12'
High-	3:48 p.m.	2.92'
Low-	8:58 p.m.	1.71'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-5'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-5'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	3-4'/Poor	3-4'/Fair	A
Breakwater	4-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	B
El Porto	5-6'/Fair	5-6'/Fair	A

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Teams bowl for charity, fun

BOWLING, from page 1

education and advocacy. WSHC brings together more than 25 organizations representing local human service, government agencies and faith-based programs.

Morley Builders is the event's "Perfect Game" title sponsor with "Strike" sponsor First Federal Bank of California and "Spare" level sponsors: The Lobster, Santa Monica Place, Southern California Disposal & Recycling, DoubleTree Guest Suites Santa Monica and the Law Offices of Gordon P. Gitlen.

In addition to the sponsors, teams representing business, government, media and social service organizations "bowed for dollars" for the Coalition, including a Santa Monica City Council team of Mayor Richard Bloom and Council Members: Michael Feinstein, Kevin McKeown and Pamela O'Connor.

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OPINION

Sex, violence and politicians passing the buck



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Joseph Lieberman, the Senator and presidential candidate, and John McCain, the Senator and non-presidential candidate, are currently among the loudest protectors of children when it comes to sex and violence on television.

Others will join them as the campaign drags on, because, except for flag burners, there is probably no easier target than the evil minds of Hollywood.

I'm not always happy with the way sex and violence are treated on television either, but governmental interference with media content is only a hop, skip and a goose step away from telling women what they may wear in public, or deciding what books people may have in their homes, or — heaven forbid — telling you which columnists you may read.

My parents used an interesting system when my brother and I were kids:

If they didn't want us to watch something on TV or go to a certain movie, they told us not to.

My wife and I have used the same approach and it has worked out pretty well. I'm not so naive as to think that children always do what their parents tell them to, but why should the government get any more involved in enforcing parents' wishes when it comes to TV viewing than it does when parents want their kids to have good table manners, do their homework or only hang out with friends that they like?

According to the research, it's not a good idea for children to watch a lot of violence on television. (I wonder how many millions of dollars this startling conclusion cost). But the research also states that the most important factor in determining whether children will imitate the violence they see on the screen is how involved their parents are. Do they use television as a baby-sitter? Do they watch these programs with their kids? Do they discuss the shows' implications with them?

It's not violence per se that experts consider dangerous for children. It's showing violence without showing its consequences. That's where the irrespon-

sibility comes in.

It is indisputable that some people imitate some things that they see on the screen sometimes. But it's not the only factor in determining whether a child becomes a violent person. If we were all that impressionable, why would violent shows be the only kind that we emulate?

In the early days of television, Milton Berle was a huge star. Yet, I don't know of one study that shows that in the 1950s there was a huge increase of men dressing up like unattractive women to try to make other people laugh.

You'd think the current popularity of "reality shows" would mean that we'd all be eating bowls of tarantulas or pretending to be millionaires or getting into the boxing ring to fight celebrities we've never heard of.

With the popularity of sitcoms, why haven't there been outbreaks of people telling jokes all across the country? Why aren't more of us getting fantastic apartments with our friends and then following them around all day, commenting wryly on their foibles? Why don't we all have goofy next-door neighbors who open our unlocked doors and walk into our homes at the most inopportune times?

According to the "viewer-see, viewer-do logic," shouldn't you be running into your all-time favorite movie star on the same day when, ironically, you have a huge pimple on your nose? If we can't help imitating TV, why don't we all learn a big moral lesson every half hour?

The issue of violence in our society is more complex than politicians make it out to be and attacking television is not the answer. If Lieberman, McCain and the others really feel strongly that children should not be exposed to immorality, dishonesty, sex without love and violence without thinking about the consequences, I have one suggestion. Maybe they should just urge parents to not let their kids watch politicians.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.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.

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- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!

LOCAL



New restaurant opening in old Teaser's location

COFFEE, from page 1

in that spot," said Bayside executive director Kathleen Rawson. "It might be cool having an outdoor area combined with the music thing."

Councilman Herb Katz, who said he quit drinking coffee three years ago when he reached 10 cups a day, said he thinks Hear Music is a logical location for another Starbucks.

"It would be nice to listen to music and sip coffee," Katz said. "Whether it's economical or if it's feasible, that's up to Starbucks."

"If they can make it, so be it," he added. "I'm amazed at how many coffee houses there are in L.A. and Santa Monica to begin with but it works."

And it appears more chain retailers have their eyes set on the Promenade. A United Colors of Benetton, a high end preppy clothing retailer, will move into the spot held by the locally-owned Midnight Special book store by the end of this summer.

The politically left-leaning book store will close its Promenade location at the end of February because rents along the outdoor mall have increased well above what the store can afford to pay, said Margie Ghiz, the store's owner.

For more than 10 years, Midnight Special's landlord, Wally Marks, has subsidized the store's rent, allowing it to maintain a visible presence on the Promenade. Marks believed in the store and tried to encourage its success, Ghiz said.

Now Ghiz is looking at two downtown locations for the bookstore to move into, one of which is on Santa Monica

Boulevard near the Promenade, York said.

"It'll be in the district and it will enhance an area that has room to grow," York said. "They are a destination but they also want to be in an area with foot traffic and hopefully we can find the right mix for them."

Benetton plans to significantly renovate the store before it opens, York said.

"It will be a nice, quality store," he said. "There aren't a ton of Benettons around and I think they'll do reasonably well."

And it appears other changes are brewing for the Promenade's storefronts.

The city's planning department has approved Barney's Beanery, the famous Route 66 Roadhouse diner, to open a restaurant at 1351 Third Street Promenade, the former location of Teaser's.

Construction on the new store should commence within days, officials said. The restaurant almost was prohibited from opening when planning officials believed owners of the restaurant would need to go through a public process for getting a new alcohol permit.

But business interests and the city council intervened, and asked the planning department to intercede and find a way for the diner to open using the permit previously held by Teasers.

Going through the process of getting a new permit could have taken more than a year, and even then there was no guarantee a permit would have been granted.

"It's all been cleared up and the city approved them to be the tenant in that space," York said. "And that was extremely important for timing reasons."

Some jurors disagree with injured woman's award

VERDICT, from page 1

asked for a total of \$300,000 for his client, noting she had sustained \$60,000 in medical bills and another \$15,000 in lost earnings, and that her injury was infected, painful, and gruesome.

In the end, ironically, that was what the jury awarded. It agreed to \$124,560 in

economic and non-economic damages. But by assigning 40 percent of the blame to Lichtig, it awarded her only about \$74,750. The result left the nominal losing attorney happier than the man who had technically won.

Two of twelve jurors disagreed with the verdict, feeling the amount given Lichtig was too low.

LA judge says man pardoned by Clinton must stay in jail

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Marina del Rey businessman pardoned in 2001 by then-President Bill Clinton must remain in jail on tax-cheating charges until his net worth can be determined, a federal judge ruled.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Wistrich refused to set bail for Almon Glenn Braswell on Thursday, saying he will wait until an outside auditor determines his worth.

Prosecutors contend Braswell, who was arrested last week in Florida, owes \$13 million in taxes. He could face up to 51 years in prison if convicted of tax evasion, filing false returns and conspiracy.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul

Rochmes told the judge that Braswell is an extreme flight risk who "has been banking huge amounts of money offshore so that he could run."

Braswell's attorney, Gerald Feffer, countered that his client never fled, even though he has known since 1999 that he was under federal investigation.

Braswell has vigorously fought the allegations. Another reason he would not flee is his ongoing custody battle over his 5-year-old son, Feffer said.

Braswell, 59, appeared at the hearing in sweat pants and sporting tinted sunglasses. He runs companies that sell supposed anti-aging formulas and health supplements touted as helping depression, sexual vitality and prostate health.

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STATE

Home prices keep going up despite weak economy

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The median price of a home in California reached a record \$282,000 last month and sales continued to climb as low mortgage rates and the uncertainty of other investments drove the housing market, an analyst said Friday.

A total of 50,400 homes and condominiums were sold statewide in December, up 7.9 percent from November and 18.4 percent from the same period a year ago, according to statistics released by DataQuick Information Systems.

"There's no indication of any upcoming crash," said John Karevoll, an analyst with the real estate tracking firm.

It was the strongest December since Dataquick began keeping records in 1988. The statewide median home price — the point at which half the homes sold for more and half for less — increased 15.8 percent last month, up from \$243,500 in December 2001.

For 2002 as a whole, 595,877 homes

were sold, up 12.5 percent from 529,860 in 2001.

In some areas, home prices stayed relatively stable over the past two months. In the nine counties comprising the San Francisco Bay area, the median price in December was \$416,000, the same as the month before.

In Southern California, the median price was a record \$289,000 last month but up just 0.3 percent from November.

Annual price increases, however, ranged from about 10 percent in the San Francisco Bay area to 25 percent in the San Diego area and 17 percent for the rest of Southern California.

"Current price levels are at a peak for virtually all neighborhoods and regions in the state right now. They are still going up," Karevoll said.

Real estate agent Myles Weisman said prices have soared in the San Diego area, which has a shortage of housing and nowhere left to build more. The area remains attractive because of its sunshine and generally lower home prices than areas like San Francisco.

"I'm in a community of 60,000 people. There's only 40-odd homes on the market," Weisman said. "Buyers are clamoring around to find something."

The average home price in his community is about \$350,000.

"It's not for the weak at heart, unfortunately," he said. "This is not the place for a first-time buyer."

Karevoll said low interest rates have made it easier for consumers to buy while shaky financial markets have made real estate an attractive investment alternative.

"People feel more secure putting money into something tangible, something they can live in," he said.

He predicted demand would remain strong for at least the next three months.

Ten state communities with highest median home prices

By The Associated Press

The 10 California cities and communities with the highest median home prices in December:

Rancho Santa Fe, \$1,564,000.
Newport Coast, \$1,200,000.
Belvedere Tiburon, \$1,068,000.
Alamo, \$996,000.
Saratoga, \$990,000.
Los Altos, \$965,000.
Pacific Palisades, \$940,000.
Beverly Hills, \$899,500.
Manhattan Beach, \$897,000.
Burlingame, \$885,000.

Source: DataQuick.

More Hispanics lack health insurance than any group

BY CARRI KARUHN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — More Hispanics lack medical insurance and report being in fair or poor health than any other ethnic group in California, according to a study released Friday.

The report by the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California says Hispanics comprise about half of the 4.5 million Californians under age 65 who lack health coverage.

In addition, 28.7 percent of Hispanic adults perceive their health as being fair or poor, compared to 13 percent of whites and 20.8 percent of African-Americans, the report says.

"We definitely need more access to health," said Lia Margolis, president and CEO of the coalition. "And that's not just health care in the traditional sense but health promotion, health information and ways that Latinos can stay and be healthy."

Many Latinos work for companies and organizations that do not provide medical coverage, said Dr. Michael A. Rodriguez, associate professor of family medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles

and an author of the study.

The report also blames low incomes and immigration status for the lack of insurance. More than one in three Hispanics — or 3.2 million people — live below the federal poverty level in California, making it less likely they can afford out-of-pocket health care coverage.

About 43 percent of Hispanics in the state do have health insurance through their jobs, compared to 76 percent of whites and 61 percent of African-Americans.

The coalition based its report on data contained in the 2001 California Health Interview Survey, which queried 55,000 households between November 2000 and October 2001.

The survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, is one of the largest of its kind nationwide. It covers a broad range of public health concerns.

Margolis said her organization plans to lobby for improved health care on behalf of the Hispanic community and ask state legislators to consider the ramifications of any possible cuts in MediCal.

All dried up



Associated Press

After putting an evidence bag with 15 marijuana plants in his car, asthma sufferer John Watson examines the plants as he prepares to leave the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office in Lennox, Calif., on Thursday. The plants were seized from him last September and returned to him by court order Thursday. Watson said the marijuana appeared to be too dried out for use. His attorney Allen Weinberg said Watson had a doctor's permission to use the marijuana to treat his asthma under California's medical marijuana law. Watson was never charged with a crime.

Groups oppose LA judge selection in higher court

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Environmental, civil rights and women's groups formally announced their opposition Friday to President Bush's nomination of a Los Angeles County judge to a federal appeals court.

They are opposing Superior Court Judge Carolyn Kuhl, a former Reagan administration lawyer appointed to the bench by California Gov. Pete Wilson in 1995. Bush has tapped her for a lifetime appointment to the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The opposition groups, which include the California Abortion Rights Action League, the Sierra Club and the NAACP of San Francisco, said they oppose Kuhl for what they say was her work against legalized abortion, the environment and racial equality.

Hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the 50-year-old's nomination have not been scheduled.

"President Bush has put political opportunism over women's health," said Tracy Salkowitz, executive director of the California Abortion Rights Action League.

As a Justice Department lawyer, Kuhl urged the Supreme Court in a 1985 case to "abandon" Roe v. Wade, the 30-year-old

decision legalizing abortion.

The Duke University School of Law graduate supported parental notification of teenagers to acquire birth control pills, tax-exempt status for Bob Jones University when it was racially segregated and argued for a more-narrowed definition of sexual harassment.

"Confirmation of Kuhl and other anti-civil rights judicial nominees would do irreversible damage to civil rights, workers' rights, environmental protections, freedom of choice and the elimination of racial discrimination," said Eva Paterson, executive director of the San Francisco-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

Kuhl declined comment.

The Bush administration defended its nomination Friday. The administration noted that the American Bar Association ranked Kuhl as well qualified. "The administration couldn't agree more," said Monica Goodling, a Justice Department spokeswoman.

Goodling added that "Judge Kuhl has demonstrated intelligence, fairness, impartiality and professionalism in her seven years on the bench in California."

Opponents point to a 2001 state appeals court decision reinstating an invasion of privacy case that Kuhl had dismissed. A breast cancer patient sued her doctor, who allowed a drug salesman to watch the woman's examination.

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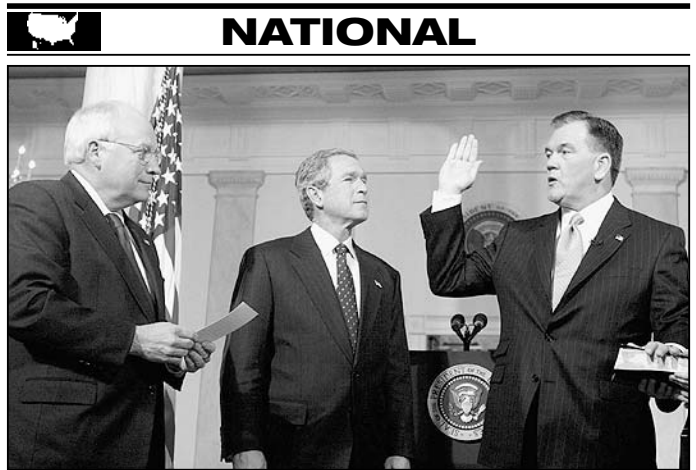
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- Create a team name and select your team's campsite
- Be enthusiastic and urge team members to Fundraise. Most of the money will come from fundraising.

The next team captain's meeting for Relay For Life will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, Room 100B, Santa Monica. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Parking is free.

For more information:
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Ron Edmonds/Associated Press

President Bush, center, looks on as former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, right, is sworn in by Vice President Cheney, left, to be the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security, during a ceremony at the White House in Washington on Friday. Conceived after terrorists killed some 3,000 people on U.S. soil on Sept. 11, 2001, the department was created to keep Americans safer from terrorist attacks.

Tom Ridge sworn in as first Homeland Security secretary

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn in Friday as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security in the largest government reorganization in more than half a century. "It begins a vital mission in the defense of our country," President Bush declared.

Conceived after terrorists killed some 3,000 people on United States' soil on Sept. 11, 2001, the department was created to keep Americans safer from terrorist attack. The government's 15th Cabinet-level agency was formed from the merger of 22 federal agencies with 170,000 employees and followed a drawn-out debate on Capitol Hill. It is the largest reorganization of the federal government since the Defense Department was created in 1947.

Ridge was sworn at the White House. Bush stood by as Vice President Dick Cheney administered the oath of office. Bush called Ridge "a superb leader who has my confidence."

"We've learned that vast oceans no longer protect us from the dangers of a new era. This government has a responsibility to confront the threat of terrorism where it is found," Bush said in the 10-minute ceremony.

Ridge left his job as Pennsylvania governor in October 2001 to oversee the administration's homeland security operations, a job that until Friday had him working in a small West Wing office in the White House.

He becomes the first secretary of the new Cabinet agency, facing the daunting task of pulling together a massive new agency while defending the nation against terrorism.

Ridge's position is 18th in the line of succession for the presidency, ranking after the Veterans Affairs Department secretary, Anthony Principi.

His wife and two teenage children held the Bible on which Ridge swore the oath of office in the ceremony in the Grand Foyer of the White House.

Ridge was sworn in two days after he won unanimous Senate approval.

Bush said the department's birth "begins a vital mission in the defense of our country."

"We're taking the battle to America's enemies," the president said. "We're destructing their networks. We're destroying their camps. We got them on the run. And we're going to keep them on the run."

Bush called Ridge, a longtime friend, "a decisive, clear-thinking executive who knows how to solve problems."

Democrats have accused the administration of shortchanging funding for some domestic security programs.

Ridge's undersecretary will be Asa Hutchinson, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, who received unanimous Senate approval Thursday. His responsibilities will range from border control to aviation security.

The department will have its own analytical unit to examine intelligence gathered by the CIA, FBI and other agencies to look for clues about terrorist plots. It also will coordinate with 2 million police, firefighters, medical personnel and other first responders around the country.

Congress in November passed legislation to create the department after lengthy debate on such issues as whistle-blower protections, maintaining civil liberties, collective bargaining for department employees and the division of labor with the CIA and FBI, which will remain independent.

For the next five weeks, the department will be in a transitional mode. Many of the agencies being folded into homeland security won't actually fall under its authority until March 1.

With a first-year budget expected at about \$33 billion, the department will combine the Secret Service, Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies with security-related functions.

The department's headquarters will be at a secure office complex, run by the Navy, in northwest Washington near the vice president's residence at the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Ridge, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, was elected to the House in 1982 from his hometown area of Erie, Pa., and served for 12 years. In 1994, he became Pennsylvania's governor, winning reelection in 1998.

NATIONAL



More charitable checkoffs are being put on tax returns

BY JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — There are child abuse funds and wildlife preservation funds. There are funds that benefit the homeless. There are others that raise research dollars for cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

All of them rely on big-hearted taxpayers willing to donate a little portion of their income tax refunds to charity.

Income tax checkoffs raised \$27.3 million in 41 states in 2000, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators. While that was up about \$2 million over 1998, fund directors this year — in a time when private and corporate giving has dropped sharply — are trying to remind the public that a checkoff donation can go a long way.

Checkoff Colorado, a new 10-group coalition, began an advertising blitz last week. Posters and commercials by Gov. Bill Owens will remind taxpayers to give.

"This year it's perhaps more important than it's been in the past because I think the other sources of revenue that they've had have either been cut or reduced," said Checkoff Colorado spokesman Jon Pushkin.

Tax checkoff programs have been growing, from 103 in 1989 to 179 in 2000, according to Ron Alt of the Federation of Tax Administrators. All 41 states with a broad-based income tax have at least one checkoff. Some might have too many.

"The problem tends to be the more you get, it starts to get difficult to put on the tax return, and it makes it more complicated," Alt said.

Virginia has 21 checkoffs on its tax return, from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. California and Alabama have 11 each.

Pennsylvania has five checkoff funds. In 20 years, the Wild Resource Conservation fund has generated \$6.2 million. The Korean/Vietnam Memorial fund has collected \$215,000 in five years.

In Philadelphia last week, the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition kicked off a public awareness campaign. The \$8 given by the average donating tax-

payer raises about \$175,000 yearly, money given as research grants.

"We're dependent on a lot of people donating a little bit of money," said Bonnie Squires, a vice president with the coalition. "It's not as if we're looking for someone who's a millionaire."

Checkoffs first appeared in 1972, when the federal government allowed taxpayers to earmark part of their taxes for a presidential campaign fund. In 1977 Colorado started the first state checkoff program to use refund money.

"We're dependent on a lot of people donating a little bit of money. It's not as if we're looking for someone who's a millionaire."

— BONNIE SQUIRES
Vice president with the coalition.

In Vermont, the Nongame Wildlife Fund is the most successful of the state's three checkoffs, collecting about \$100,000 a year.

"Vermont people, I think, feel that fish and nongame wildlife adds to the quality of life here," said Lilla Lumbra of the Nongame Natural Heritage Program.

The average taxpayer who checks off gives \$10, the Federation of Tax Administrators found. Studies put the average participation rate of eligible taxpayers between 2 percent and 5 percent.

Not all state programs are successful. None of Arkansas' four checkoffs has ever garnered more than \$13,000, said Tim Leathers, deputy revenue director.

To boost giving, Philadelphia will soon insert reminders about the breast cancer program in 31,000 city paychecks.

"This is a painless way for people to get involved," Squires said. "If they designate \$8 from a refund, they didn't ever have it in their hands, so they won't miss it."

Doctor accused of branding uterus during hysterectomy

By The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A woman is accusing her doctor of branding her uterus with his alma mater's initials before removing the organ during a hysterectomy.

Stephanie Means and her husband sued Dr. James Guiler on Wednesday, seeking unspecified damages for emotional distress.

The lawsuit said a videotape of the surgery clearly shows the University of Kentucky booster using a cauterizing tool to write "UK" in letters 2 inches high.

"They want to see that it isn't done to other women," said the couple's attorney, Michael Dean. He added: "This is bizarre. I've never seen anything like this."

Guiler did not immediately return calls Friday.

The doctor performed the surgery Aug. 14 at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington.

Guiler received his medical degree from the university and last year was a sponsor of Wildcat Madness, a fund-raiser for the school's basketball museum.

In New York, an obstetrician lost his medical license after carving his initials into a patient's abdomen in 1999. Dr. Allan Zarkan's lawyer said Zarkan had a brain disorder.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. gets more criticism at forum, this time for conduct of war on terror

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

DAVOS, Switzerland — The United States faced more criticism at the World Economic Forum on Friday, this time for conducting a war on terrorism that opponents claim targets Muslims and violates human rights.

After weathering complaints about their stance on Iraq, American officials were told they are guilty of racial profiling and should try harder to discover the roots of terrorism.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft was first in line, saying the United States expects governments around the world to make preventing terrorism a priority and "desperately needs" help in piecing together information "of acts that are yet to occur."

But Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said focusing on prevention without addressing the causes of terrorism was wrong. Those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks "were incensed over something" and the world should try to understand what motivated them, Mahathir said.

Ashcroft retorted that the Sept. 11 attackers engaged in "hostage-taking to kill innocent civilians," adding that "the targets of terrorism are values and the rule of law."

"I'm not willing to say we have to downplay values we believe in to appease the terrorists," he said.

On the opening day of the forum Thursday, several of the 2,300 business, government and other leaders criticized the United States for its threats to go to war against Iraq over its alleged arsenals of mass destruction.

Kumi Naidoo, secretary-general of the

South Africa-based Civicus-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, criticized "the severe curtailment of civil liberties" in democratic countries, including the United States. He cited the "invasion of privacy rights," bans on meetings by certain groups, and travel restrictions for Arabs and others.

"I don't think we've got the balance right," he said. "We are seeing large levels of alienation of ordinary human beings across the spectrum."

Ashcroft responded, "It distresses me to hear the panel talk about communities offended — and talk about communities as if they're just defined by race. Very frankly I think values define communities much more effectively than race does."

He also disputed the contention that freedom is being sacrificed for security, saying only individuals who violated the law have been detained — and all have access to lawyers.

The only exceptions are a few enemy combatants and those held as material witnesses because they have information crucial to a judicial proceeding, he said.

"I live in the United States, and when I got taken off a flight last year, the content of my character did not play any role in it," Naidoo replied. The 800-strong audience burst into applause.

Ashcroft responded that people from 147 countries had been screened under the new U.S. border policy.

At another panel, titled "U.S. Foreign Policy: Going it Alone?" Kenneth Roth, executive director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, took on Richard Haass, the U.S. State Department's director of policy planning.

Roth said Americans have violated civil rights in the war on terrorism and criticized Washington for being willing to

Still on the hunt



Jassim Mohammed/Associated Press

U.N. arms inspectors prepare to leave the U.N. headquarters at al-Canal hotel in Baghdad on Friday about to head for Al Qa'Qa site, 40 miles south of Baghdad in a hunt for weapons of mass destruction. The inspectors are scheduled to submit a report Monday, Jan. 27 to the U.N. Security Council on their inspections in Iraq, which will be key for deciding U.S. reaction against the country.

go it alone in Iraq without U.N. Security Council authorization. Profiling, he said, is generating "outrage."

"We've got to get the balance right" between security and human rights, Haass said. "Give us some time to fix it."

Ashcroft said he was confident that freedom-loving people around the world

would rally around the United States in its campaign against terrorism.

"We find ourselves in the midst of an historic struggle for the values of democracy. It's more than a duty. It's more than a privilege. I believe that it is the calling of our time. We must rise to the challenge and we must answer the call."

Young heiress comes of age for Onassis shipping fortune

BY THEODORA TONGAS
Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece — A few signatures in a Swiss office and it will be over: half the Onassis shipping fortune will pass to the young heiress who is one of the last descendants of a tormented family.

Athina Roussel, who reaches the inheritance age of 18 Wednesday, takes on a difficult role along with her great wealth.

What will she do with the fortune, estimated at \$700 million to \$1 billion, that has made her one of the world's wealthiest teenagers? Can the granddaughter of Aristotle Onassis, the "Golden Greek," end the bickering and bitterness that have marked her childhood and estranged her from her ancestral homeland?

The answers, it seems, will come only when she is ready to assume a more public profile. She rarely gives interviews and appears to cherish privacy as much as her grandfather thrived in the limelight.

The cliché "poor little rich

girl" has fit her well.

Her grandfather died broken-hearted two years after a 1973 plane crash killed his son Alexander. His other child, Christina, died in 1988, leaving her 3-year-old daughter Athina to be raised in Switzerland by her French-born father, Thierry Roussel, and his Swedish wife.

The fortune was divided two ways: Athina's inheritance from her mother, and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, named for the late son, which controls the shipping business and a vast charitable trust.

Roussel and the foundation have fought bitterly in the courts, trading charges of mismanagement, embezzlement and defamation. Roussel even accused the foundation's Greek trustees of plotting to kidnap his daughter.

Athina was not directly dragged into the fray. But, for many Greeks, she was conspicuous by her absence. Her visits to Greece have been brief and infrequent — the last in 1999.

"I want to forget the name Onassis," she told the Italian

magazine Oggi in 1998. "It's the cause of all the problems."

But it's also the source of her dazzling wealth that reportedly includes gold, art masterpieces, property in France, England, Switzerland and Argentina and the private Greek island retreat of Skorpios, where the family's "Pink Villa" was lavishly decorated by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the former American first lady and second wife of the shipping tycoon.

On her birthday, Athina plans to meet with Swiss authorities and KPMG Fides auditors, who have overseen the estate since 1999.

At that time, the inheritance "officially will be passed into her hands," said Alexis Mantheakis, the former Roussel family spokesman and author of a book on Athina. "It will be a bureaucratic thing, telling her what she has ... this will take a while to wind down."

Management of her estate shifted to the Swiss auditing firm after years of bickering between the foundation and Athina's father. He claimed the trustees

squandered Athina's money and even plotted to kidnap her.

They denied the kidnap claim and a Swiss report said they managed the estate well. The trustees also accused Roussel of isolating Athina from her roots, complaining that she speaks little Greek and doesn't know her family's history.

But Mantheakis said she has taken Greek lessons and knows her family's background.

Snippets of Athina's life have appeared in the tabloid press — most notably her horse-riding and her reported romance with Alvaro de Miranda Neto, a Brazilian Olympic equestrian medalist who is 29 and has a child with his longtime companion.

The rumors of the relationship "haven't been denied by the family," said Mantheakis.

He said Athina, a brunette who resembles her late mother, is fun-loving in private but "very reserved, cautious of herself" in public. She is widely regarded as having had an ordinary upbringing, in-line skating from home to her school bus stop until the

alleged kidnap plot brought in the bodyguards.

Her next dynastic milestone will be her 21st birthday when she could take the reins of the foundation that controls the other half of the Onassis empire, valued at about \$1 billion.

That's not a certainty, however. The foundation's board has indicated it might oppose her taking over the organization's presidency. The current board head, Stelios Papadimitriou, declined comment.

Mantheakis, one of the few Onassis insiders who is willing to talk on the record, expects her to "slowly, slowly get involved with the management of her fortune," but not for several years.

Meanwhile, there's also a \$2 million lawsuit filed by the Greek trustees claiming overtime pay for managing Athina's money.

If it's any consolation for the heiress, the Greek public loves her and hopes to see her ride at next year's Olympic Games in Athens.

"She is an icon in Greece," said Mantheakis. "There is this perception of 'our girl.'"

SPORTS



Overtime next big issue for National Football League

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — The Super Bowl could be decided by a coin flip.

That possibility, so out of place in a sport that rewards skill, planning and hard work, is at the core of the NFL's uproar about overtime.

The sudden-death system in place for the last 29 seasons has skewed heavily in favor of the winner of the coin toss this season. After a record number of OT games during the regular season, calls for change are in the air.

At his annual state-of-the-league news conference Friday, commissioner Paul Tagliabue said change was very likely before next season.

"That advantage of receiving first is becoming unbalanced," Tagliabue said. "How we fine-tune the rule, I don't know."

At first glance, sudden death may seem like the fairest way to do things. But with the kickoff moving back over the years — from the 40 to the 35 and, now, to the 30

— and with offenses getting better and kickers able to make longer kicks more consistently, the team that receives first has slowly gained a greater advantage.

This season, a record 25 games went to overtime and 10 of those (40 percent) were won in the first possession by the team that won the toss. In the 29 years since overtime began, the game was won on the first possession only 28 percent of the time. Over the last nine years, since the kickoff was moved to the 30, the coin-toss winner has won 38 percent of games on its first possession.

"It only stands to reason that if you get into overtime, you should have a fair chance to win," said Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association.

While Tagliabue and Upshaw are convinced change is needed, there is no consensus on what kind of change it might be.

This year, one playoff game went to overtime and Tennessee defeated Pittsburgh 34-31 after winning the coin toss and driving for the winning field goal.

"I feel it's time to look at it," Steelers

owner Dan Rooney said. "It should be some system where the other team gets a chance to have the ball."

The next owners' meeting is in March, and 24 of 32 owners would have to approve a change. Regardless of what they decide, there's no fixing the rule for this year's biggest game, which hasn't had overtime in its 36-year history.

"Overtime seems to be on everybody's mind right now," said Tampa Bay general manager Rich McKay, a member of the NFL competition committee. "It has served the league very well. But things have changed and we need to find out why. Is it a one- or two-year aberration, or is it something more drastic than that?"

Since 1996, the NCAA has used a system in which each team gets the ball from the 25-yard line and keeps it until it either scores, loses the ball or gives it up on downs.

It's fair in that both teams get a chance to score. But it's flawed in several senses — most notably, because if teams keep matching each other score for score, games can go six or seven overtimes. Arkansas has been involved in two games of six OTs or longer in the past two years.

Despite its flaws, many college players and coaches like the system because it separates their sport from the pro game and it assures a winner.

"These kids are not getting paid," said Larry Johnson of Penn State. "I think you stick to the way it is. It seems like equal opportunity to see what both teams can do and the NFL is more cutthroat."

The NFL created overtime in 1974 in part because, while common in sports like

soccer, tie games have never been accepted in American mainstream sports.

They clutter up the standings, leave players and fans with a sense of unfinished business and put coaches in awkward, sometimes untenable, situations.

Lou Saban essentially got run out of Denver with his famous statement "Half a loaf is better than none," which was the way he explained playing for a 10-10 tie against Miami in 1971. Two weeks later, fans showered Saban with half loaves of bread and by the end of the year, he was out as coach.

Harkening back to the classic 1958 NFL title game, Baltimore's sudden-death 23-17 win over the New York Giants, the NFL adopted the rule for the regular season with the caveat that if games went a full extra quarter without a score, it would still end in a tie.

Oddly enough, the first regular-season overtime game ended in a 34-34 tie between Denver and Pittsburgh.

The system has been far from foolproof since.

In 1998, referee Phil Luckett botched the coin flip of all things, hearing "heads" when Jerome Bettis called "tails" in a Thanksgiving Day overtime game between the Steelers and Lions. Detroit got the ball and scored on its first possession for the victory.

This year, Detroit coach Marty Mornhinweg chose to take the wind, not the ball, after winning the toss in overtime. The Lions lost to Chicago and Mornhinweg looked foolish.

Odds favor Oakland Raiders by four over Bucs

SUPER BOWL, from page 1

machine in Oakland.

Bill Callahan, whom Gruden hired with the Raiders, now oversees the AFC champions, in their first Super Bowl in 19 seasons. Tampa Bay is in its first ever.

And each side brings the very best unit: Oakland's star-studded offense and Tampa Bay's headliner-filled defense.

Consider that Rice, at 40, had one of his best seasons of an unparalleled career, with 92 catches for 1,211 yards and seven touchdowns. Or that Tim Brown, who did not have his best season, still caught 81 for 930 yards. And has really come on in the postseason with a team-high 12 catches.

Garner not only rushed for 962 yards (5.3 average) and scored seven times — he certainly would have broken 1,000 yards had the Raiders not thrown so often — but he caught 91 passes, most by any running back in the league.

There's more. Third receiver Jerry Porter has become a real threat, averaging 17.5 yards on 10 playoff catches, with two TDs. Zack Crockett is a force near the goal line. Lincoln Kennedy, the massive tackle, is an All-Pro having his finest season. Center Barret Robbins also is an All-Pro.

"Honestly, we're at the peak of our game right now," Kennedy said, "and it is the right time. The exact right time."

Ah, but is there ever a right time to meet the Buccaneers' fearsome defense? It has allowed 16 points in the postseason, and it yielded a league-low 196 points, 45 fewer than any other team.

End Simeon Rice led the NFC with 15 1/2 sacks. Linebacker Brooks ran back three interceptions and a fumble for touchdowns. Kelly had eight pickoffs and he isn't even the Bucs' best cornerback. Ronde Barber is.

Barbecue and cigars at stake in mayoral superbet

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND — On the gridiron, the Raiders and Buccaneers will be playing for fame, fortune and a Super Bowl ring.

In the executive mansions of Oakland and Tampa, however, mayors Jerry Brown and Dick Greco are vying for barbecued ribs, beer and premium cigars.

If the oddsmakers — favoring Oakland by four points — are correct for Sunday's Super Bowl, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown will soon be blowing smoke rings from a box of Cuesta Rey Florida cigars.

And after those ashes have fallen, Brown will be enjoying a weekend at Tampa's Marriott Waterside, coupled with a behind-the-scenes tour of Busch Gardens. Finally, Greco is offering Guava jelly, sangria and a cookbook featuring Tampa cuisine.

If the Bucs win, Greco will be Brown's guest at his "executive warehouse" fol-

lowed by dinner at the renowned Everett & Jones restaurant for a meal of barbecued ribs in Jack London Square. Two cases of Brothers Brewing Company beer is also on the table.

As if that wasn't enough, Brown offered a boat ride on Oakland's scenic Lake Merritt.

"I'll sweeten the bet with a gondola ride around Lake Merritt," Brown said.

In what has now become a sporting tradition, the mayors of the two competing cities made their wagers in the spirit of civic pride as a sidebar to the main event.

Previous playoff game victories have won Brown a box of gourmet mustard from Hempstead, N.Y. Mayor James Garner, whose town is the training base of the Jets, and soon to come is a bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey and a Bible from Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, whose Titans lost last week in Oakland.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Patsy
 - 7 Gimlet flavoring
 - 11 "Betrayal" playwright
 - 12 Cameo stone
 - 13 Acid user
 - 14 Rocker in black
 - 15 You're reading them
 - 16 Don Diego's alias
 - 17 Boat part
 - 18 Not tough
 - 19 Tale teller
 - 21 Have a bite
 - 22 Mall section
 - 25 Chess pieces
 - 26 Speech problem
 - 27 "Yeah, right!"
 - 29 Field cover
 - 33 Place
 - 34 Polite denial
 - 35 Pierre's state
 - 36 Shylock's home
 - 37 Split
 - 38 Wears down
 - 39 Went 90
 - 40 Castle parts
- DOWN**
- 1 Mote
 - 2 Owner's paper
 - 3 As scheduled
 - 4 Moor of drama
 - 5 Turns right
 - 6 Blunder
 - 7 Use a password
 - 8 Sequentially
 - 9 Generous words at the restaurant
 - 10 Urge
 - 16 All but one in a million?
 - 18 Unsaid
 - 20 Did nothing
 - 22 Pen type
 - 23 Not active
 - 24 So far
 - 25 Greedy bunch
 - 28 Restrained
 - 30 Stage comment
 - 31 Kitchen gadget
 - 32 Iron
 - 34 Infamous emperor
 - 36 Chicken tender?

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POT	INN TUB
ALIAS	ARISE
LIMIT	COMER
STEMS	SEEDS

Yesterday's answer

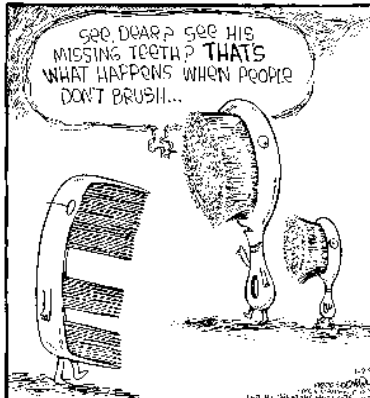
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1-25

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3168! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Artist confines herself to desk at N.Y. gallery

For 12 days in November, Yugoslav performance artist Marina Abramovic, 56, confined herself to three raised desks at a New York City gallery, where she denied herself all external stimulation (except being stared at by visitors), subsisting on water, and carrying on all bodily functions in full public view, in order to heighten her senses so that, she said, she and the audience could efficiently transmit energy between them. (Previously, for the same purpose, she and a partner sat at ends of a long table for seven hours, not moving and trying not even to blink.)

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Joint Chiefs struggle for proper response... - News Item

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Man takes on AOL

By The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — When America Online wouldn't stop billing a man's credit card for services he wasn't getting, he didn't just get mad, he got even.

Artist Tom Dukich, 56, took aim at AOL's aggressive marketing and promises by making metal garbage can lid versions of the company's ubiquitous free promotional discs. The 21-inch discs are on display through Jan. 31 at the Spokane Art School.

"Version 7 says you get 1,025 hours for free if you use the time within 45 days of signing up," Dukich said. "There are 1,080 hours in 45 days. So to make use of their offer, you'd have to be on the Internet around the clock for 43 days."

His discs say buyers get service free for life as long as they use it in 45 days. The discs cost \$76, a dollar for every year of an average person's life span.

Officials at AOL headquarters did not return telephone messages seeking comment.

Robber has a change of heart

By The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Police arrested a man who was restrained by bank employees after he apparently thought better of his plan to commit a robbery.

Police Capt. Allen Soukup said the 27-year-old man entered a Cornhusker Bank branch Thursday and asked to use a phone. Minutes later, the man reached inside his bib overalls and told the teller to give him all the money, Soukup said.

As the teller led him to the vault, she asked if he was sure he really wanted to rob the bank. He first said "Yes," but then said, "No." He then said, "Call the cops."

The man crawled under a swinging door leading to the teller areas and was restrained by bank employees until police arrived, Soukup said.

He was arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery.

\$100K, man vanish

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The driver of an armored car has vanished — along with more than \$100,000, police said.

The Loomis Fargo armored car was found abandoned Thursday with its engine running and door open in downtown San Diego, a few blocks from a major command center police have set up in preparation for the upcoming Super Bowl.

The 29-year-old driver had dropped off a fellow security guard moments earlier at a city administration building for the final pickup of the day, police Lt. Jim

Collins said. When the passenger walked out of the building 10 minutes later, the truck was gone.

Police were trying to determine whether the robbery was an inside job.

"We're covering our bases," Collins said. "We're treating it both ways."

Honor roll retired

By The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Minn. — High school students who make the honor roll here used to look forward to public recognition. Now, they'll have to settle for a certificate.

Principal Joe Brown said he decided to end publication of the honor roll as a matter of data privacy. That's because school policy barred students who met grade requirements from the list if they had discipline problems.

"It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that certain students had gotten in trouble with school and/or legal policies," Brown said.

Brown said the change was his idea and was not prompted by complaints from parents or students.

"I've always felt uncomfortable about releasing an honor-roll list that wasn't fully complete. People would be calling and saying, 'I know so-and-so's a straight-A student. Why isn't he or she on the list?'"

Brown says he'd be open to hearing other views.

"If I heard from more folks who want it publicized, we might consider doing that," he said.

After first quarter, only one person called to inquire about the absent honor roll, he said. "It's not a hot issue until we get three calls," Brown said.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003

TODAY

Organic Farmer's Market every Saturday. 8:30am to 1pm, Arizona and Third Street. (310)458-8712

SMASH Rummage Sale and Car Wash, Saturday January 25 9 a.m. to noon Corner of 5th and Ocean Park Blvd. Info: 396-2640

Santa Monica Family YMCA presents Communication 101: A Toolkit of Basic Skills. 10am to 11:30am, Rutherford Senior Center, Dewind Activity Room, 2nd Floor. FREE ADMISSION (310)393-2721 ext. 109

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

Cat & Kitten Adoption Fair: Every Sat & Sun, 12pm to 4pm @ Centinella Feed, 1448 Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica. Donations include spay/neuter, 1st vaccines, flea/worm treatment as needed. Knowledgeable support for new adopters. Rescue Me Pet Foundation. (310)452-9568.

Lecture & Discussion by Marlow Russell, Ph.D. Topic - Adoption: The Lifelong Impact. Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd. Drescher Hall, Rm. #207. \$30 per person. 1pm to 4pm. For more information please call (310)829-1438.

The Red Ribbon Squares, Santa Monica's official square dance club, invites you to enjoy an evening of plus level square dancing, alternating with round dancing, with an A-1 tip during break time. We dance every Saturday at Marine Park from 7:45pm to 10:30pm. Pre-rounds begin at

7:15pm. Admission is \$5 for dancers, including refreshments. Spectators are free. For more information, please call (310)395-3383

SUNDAY

The Santa Monica Public Library will host a FREE performance featuring "Exegesis," a Jazz Ensemble from New York City. The ensemble features the talents of Nick Demopoulos, Danton Boller, Greg Gonzalez, and Matt Otto and will take place in the Main Library Auditorium, 1343 Sixth Street (at Santa Monica Blvd.) Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, the public may contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

Farmer's Market every Sunday. 9:30am to 1pm, Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California! (310)458-8712.

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MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. The Hours (PG-13) 11:15, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Adaptation (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:30, 10:35. Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00. Gangs of New York (R) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. Narc (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 10:40. National Security (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45. Darkness Falls (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days 7:30.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1313 3rd Street
Just Married (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:30. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 2:30, 6:45, 10:30. Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:20. Chicago (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15. 25th Hour (R) 12:40, 3:35, 10:25. A Guy Thing (PG-13) 1:45, 4:05, 7:20, 9:45. Kangaroo Jack (PG) 12:10, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25. Shanghai Knights 7:15.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30. The Pianist (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
City of God (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Far From Heaven (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55. Frida (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

AERO THEATER

1328 Montana Ave.
My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

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KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Feds looking into elk birth control to limit population

BY REBECCA HUNTINGTON

Jackson Hole News & Guide

JACKSON, Wyo. — Birds do it. Bees do it. But when elk want to do it biologists are stepping in.

Researchers do not want to limit the activity per se, just the results. Biologists are studying the potential of limiting elk populations by using birth control to prevent pregnancy.

In Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, biologists are field testing for the first time a shot that prevents pregnancies in cow elk.

"This is purely for research purposes," said Ryan Monello, a natural resource specialist with Rocky Mountain, where elk numbers have grown to 3,000 from 500 in the 1960s. "We just wanted to know if this is even something we should consider."

As research proceeds in Rocky Mountain, wildlife managers at the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming are weighing the pros and cons of birth control in a study that will serve as a blueprint for elk and bison management there and in nearby Grand Teton National Park. A draft is due in November.

Even if proven effective in Rocky Mountain, birth control is controversial. That's especially so among the thousands of hunters who are drawn to the region annually to shoot elk. Some 3,000 elk a year are killed from the 13,000-strong Jackson elk herd in an annual Wyoming rite.

Already hunters are competing with wolves, said Mike Rinehart, president of Elk for Tomorrow, a pro-hunting group that formed in response to the refuge and park study. "Why would we want to implement birth control when the Canadian wolf is doing it for us?" he asked.

Wolves already eat enough elk calves in the greater Yellowstone area to keep elk populations more than

under control, he said. Moreover, Grand Teton differs from Rocky Mountain because it has wolves and allows hunting, he said.

"I would be more than happy to donate Wyoming wolves to take down there and help," he said.

Hunting opponents like the Fund for Animals say birth control should be seriously considered, but representative Andrea Lococo said she has reservations.

The Fund would like to see birth control as only a short-term solution to reduce herd sizes until wildlife numbers can be naturally regulated by predators and the carrying capacity of the habitat, she said.

The Fund is most interested in birth control as a non-lethal method to reduce bison numbers in Grand Teton and on the refuge, she said. And while Rinehart vehemently opposes birth control for elk, he does not oppose its use on bison. Elk for Tomorrow views bison as competing with elk for valuable refuge habitat.

"They can give it to the bison — not the elk — unless they want to teach wolves how to kill bison," Rinehart said.

Dan Baker, a research biologist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is leading the study in Rocky Mountain.

Baker first began testing birth control on captive elk four years ago at the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Foothills research lab in Fort Collins. Those experiments showed the drug administered to cow elk was 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, he said. Moreover, Baker monitored the animals' body weight, eating and general health and did not detect negative side effects, he said. But field testing is needed to determine the true efficacy of contraceptives, he said.

So last August and September, right before breeding season, biologists and veterinarians captured 34 elk in Rocky Mountain. Seventeen were injected with the con-

traceptive and the other 17 were treated as controls. Biologists fitted both sets of elk with radio collars to track their movements and behavior.

This spring, biologists will recapture the treated elk to see if they're pregnant.

Atrix Laboratories of Fort Collins makes the contraceptive drug, leuprolide, which is a hormone therapy also used to suppress hormonal secretion in men and women. Biologists inject a biodegradable implant that sits under the elk's skin and dissolves, Baker said.

Biologists are trying to develop a dart gun to deliver the drug from a distance. Today's method of capturing and hand-injecting each animal increases the cost and reduces the effectiveness of the drug, Baker said.

Unlike many state wildlife agencies, the Colorado Division of Wildlife views birth control as a promising tool. State agencies have no incentive to replace hunting with birth control since much of their revenue comes from hunting licenses, Baker said. But the Colorado Division of Wildlife sees contraceptive as a supplement to hunting to control elk populations in urban areas where hunting is not allowed or unsafe, Baker said.

To reassure hunters that birth control is not a replacement, states could adopt policies that restrict the use of birth control to areas where hunting is not an option, such as Rocky Mountain, he said.

"Our agency is being very progressive and trying to deal with the problem of overabundant elk, in this case, in urban areas where hunting is not really feasible or acceptable," Baker said.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is less enthusiastic.

"We just don't support any kind of proposal that applies immunocontraceptives to the overall population," said Doug Brimeyer, wildlife biologist with Wyoming Game and Fish.

DID YOU KNOW?: The oldest inhabited city is Damascus, Syria.

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