THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006 Volume 5, Issue 64

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
7 14 20 21 47
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $7 Million

FANTASY 5
6 19 26 31 35

DAILY 3
Daytime: 3 4 4
Evening: 9 6 8

DAILY DERBY
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: **1.46.33**

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Stephanie Conley gave an agent for West Virginia National insurance company a $174 check on Aug. 15 (in 2001) for automobile coverage, received the "issued" policy on Aug. 30 ("effective" Aug. 15), and on Aug. 31 was involved in a collision resulting from her negligence. However, by then her $174 check had bounced, and the company considered the policy null and void. In December 2005, the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled that Conley was nonetheless covered on Aug. 31 because the company had not given her 10 days' cancellation notice.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 26th day of 2006. There are 339 days left in the year.

On Jan. 26, 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.
In 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost, and science can never regress."

J. Robert Oppenheimer
AMERICAN PHYSICIST (1904-1967)

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Kidnapping suspect takes to the stand

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — The man suspected of kidnapping a Santa Monica elderly woman twice, then escaped from authorities while on trial for unrelated charges, took to the stand in his jury trial on Wednesday and claimed he had never been to Santa Monica.

Alfonzo Fitzgerald Taylor also testified on Wednesday that crucial evidence with traces of his DNA found near the scene of the crimes — a T-shirt and snowcap — were stolen from him prior to the incidents, though no record of the theft was produced by his attorney.

Taylor walked away from the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles the day before a separate jury trial was set to begin last May on charges of receiving stolen property and unlawful driving of a vehicle, an incident independent of the two alleged kidnappings of a Sunset Park woman that occurred in the fall of 2004.

Taylor, in his 40s, was captured in Georgia and returned

See TESTIMONY, page 13

A thirst for knowledge

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Now into his second week as Santa Monica's top administrator, Lamont Ewell is approaching his new job as a sponge — soaking up all he can, including the warmth of the city's residents as well as the weather.

Ewell, 52, formerly the City Manager in San Diego, sat in his office on the second floor of City Hall this week, discussing his three-pronged approach to stepping into his role: Learn, learn and learn. Ewell had just come from a meeting with the staff at Big Blue Bus, learning about the operation, their issues and what challenges lie ahead.



LAMONT EWELL

For the past nine days, Ewell's met with dozens of people — from department heads to city staffers, City Council members to community groups, and even average citizens on the street. Moving into a short-term rental near Cloverfield Boulevard and Colorado Avenue just before the holidays, Ewell said he has spent that time riding his bicycle about town, picking residents' brains to see what concerns them.

"I would strike up conversations with people without telling them I was the City Manager and I was left with a great impression," he said.

According to Ewell, one of his more notable conversations was when he stopped a city employee to ask for directions, the staffer

See EWELL, page 12

LOCAL

Council hits brakes on reshaping future

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Without a clear path in sight, the City Council voted to remain put Tuesday night, declining to lead the city down what they believed to be roads of uncertainty posed by alternative land use and development plans.

At issue is Shape the Future 2025, a comprehensive action plan detailing how the city of Santa Monica should evolve over the next 20 years. It deals

See SHAPE THE FUTURE, page 14

Making some headway



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Heal the Bay volunteers Shannon Lee (left) and Alicia Cooper examine a 3 1/2 foot California moray eel at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.



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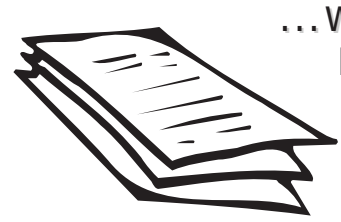
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HOROSCOPES

Talk up a storm, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Use all the information and research you have to revise a stand or make a critical decision. Others respond to your leadership. With leadership comes responsibility. Remember that when there is a backfire. You like the praise as well. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your perspective could be subject to transformation regarding a key association and/or money matter. Decisions made at this point have impact. Verbalize more of what you feel is important. Others will listen, especially with your natural drama. Tonight: Watch a movie or favorite TV show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others continue to dominate. Let it be. Understand what someone's expectations are, but also know that you don't have to meet them or follow through. Someone enlightens you with new facts. You might need to detach in order to absorb the information. Tonight: Quiet time with someone special.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Your efforts will cause a reaction that could change your direction. Your day-to-day life could be much more exciting than it has been if you flex. Honor your opinions and who you are. Schedule interpersonal happenings for late in the day. Tonight: A midweek break. Use your imagination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Tap into your creative spirit to find answers that could affect your daily life. Don't push so hard. Stay centered. Your lively side would enjoy seeing a refreshing change. Use your practical streak for organizing your desk. Tonight: Rest up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Plan all you want in the daylight hours, and you'll gain. Know when to pull back and when to act. Right now, the daylight hours are think time. Your perspective could be a lot different if you step back. Tonight: Let your imagination rumble.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Adjust your plans. A conversation takes you in a new direction. You need to update your frame of reference as a result of a key situation. Come from a point of being centered when making a decision. Tonight: Head home. You need time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A changing financial situation could have you verbalizing and brainstorming. Expenses could be out of whack. Listen to news, but don't jump to conclusions. Talk to others, schedule meetings and visit with friends. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Use the daylight hours. Your personality impresses someone who counts. You need to know when to back off. If you do, you could be the all-time winner. Invite a friend or loved one out to dinner. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Use the daylight hours to plan and understand. Your ability to be resourceful and sleuth out problems helps you come out smelling like roses. Schedule people-type activities for later in the afternoon. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your lively manner and decisive thoughts make a difference to all the people around you. Understand what others think is the first step in helping them change their mind. A discussion will be successful if you follow this piece of advice. Think positively. Tonight: Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You are in the limelight. Verbalize your thoughts or an important hunch. You are on top of a question or an issue. You'll gain if you follow through on a meeting in which you need to bring others together. Tonight: Where your friends are.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

An 'Assembly' of consumer champions

By Daily Press staff

Have you ever wanted to see the voting records of the California Legislature? Now's your chance to find out.

CALPIRG, a consumer advocacy group, has released its scorecard for the 120 members of the California legislature Twelve senators and 28 assemblymembers scored 100 percent for the 2005 session, according to CALPIRG's grading system for consumer-friendly laws. The average score in the Senate was 64 percent and the average assembly score was 62 percent.

"We applaud the 40 consumer champions for their perfect scores," said Steve Blackledge, legislative director for CALPIRG. "They put the interests of consumers over special interests, whether the issue was safe medicine or stopping auto loan rip-offs and their constituents need to know that they were well represented on consumer issues in 2005."

The scorecards enable California voters to learn more about their elected officials' voting records, giving them the information needed to praise or criticize.

Several important new consumer protections were signed into law last year. The laws will protect consumers shopping for new cars, prevent life-threatening fires caused by smoldering cigarettes, require disclosure of instant tax refund fees and require greater disclosure of hospital costs to help consumers find affordable health care. In addition, a resolution was passed that calls for tight conflict of interest rules to ensure the state's multi-billion dollar stem cell research fund is spent wisely.

"CALPIRG thanks Assembly Speaker Núñez, Majority Leader Frommer and Assemblymembers Koretz, Montañez, and Negrete McLeod for authoring these important consumer protections," Blackledge said.

The Legislature also passed several other consumer bills last year that were vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. The list of vetoed legislation includes proposals to improve the state's drug buying pool to access affordable medicine for more Californians; create a Web site for consumers to find affordable medicine options; regulate drug company middlemen, prevent unnecessary gag orders in court settlements that silence consumer complaints and streamline the process for students applying for financial aid.

There are still many consumer protections that have not yet become law because they still need to pass one or both of the Legislative houses. CALPIRG will continue to work to pass those laws in the coming year.

"We're ready and excited to work with legislators and the Governor in the coming year to enact legislation to prevent another Vioxx-like scandal and ensure safe medicine for all Californians, to protect homeowners from insurance policies that penalize them for filing claims and to pass a state budget that reflects the priorities of ordinary citizens," Blackledge said.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:30am - 4:00pm	15	10/12

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	96" - 120"	8:00am - 4:00pm	35	6/6

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	144" - 168"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	150	25/28

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-30"	8:30 am - 10:00 pm	16	8/16

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

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

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-24"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	18	14/14

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-18"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	9	5/11

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 56°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)

Thursday the 26th size will back down even more but a steady flow of shorter period (12 seconds) NW energy should keep most west facing breaks in knee to waist high surf.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Shorter period NW late in the week, but rain and wind???

Tracking long-period NW swell for end of the month...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE:	8:21AM	2.1FT	6:35PM	1.7FT
HIGH TIDE:	1:38AM	4.2FT	1:12PM	2.9FT
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE:	10:09AM	1.7FT	7:24PM	2.1FT
HIGH TIDE:	2:23AM	4.4FT	3:32PM	2.4FT
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE:	11:29AM	1FT	8:26PM	2.5FT
HIGH TIDE:	3:18AM	4.6FT	6:24PM	2.5FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE:	12:22PM	0.3FT	10:12PM	2.7FT
HIGH TIDE:	4:17AM	5.0FT	7:27PM	2.9FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE:	1:05AM	-0.4FT	11:31PM	2.6FT
HIGH TIDE:	5:13AM	5.5FT	7:58PM	3.2FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE:	1:44PM	-1.1FT	N/A	
HIGH TIDE:	6:06AM	6.0FT	8:27PM	3.5FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:31AM	2.4FT	2:23PM	-1.5FT
HIGH TIDE	6:55AM	6.5FT	8:57PM	3.7FT

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM

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The Q Line

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Local officials are critical of a new report, released by the National Coalition for the Homeless, that ranks Santa Monica as the ninth "meanest" U.S. city toward homeless people due to its anti-homeless laws. Pointing to the myriad homeless services offered in Santa Monica, some officials are questioning the methodology behind the report.

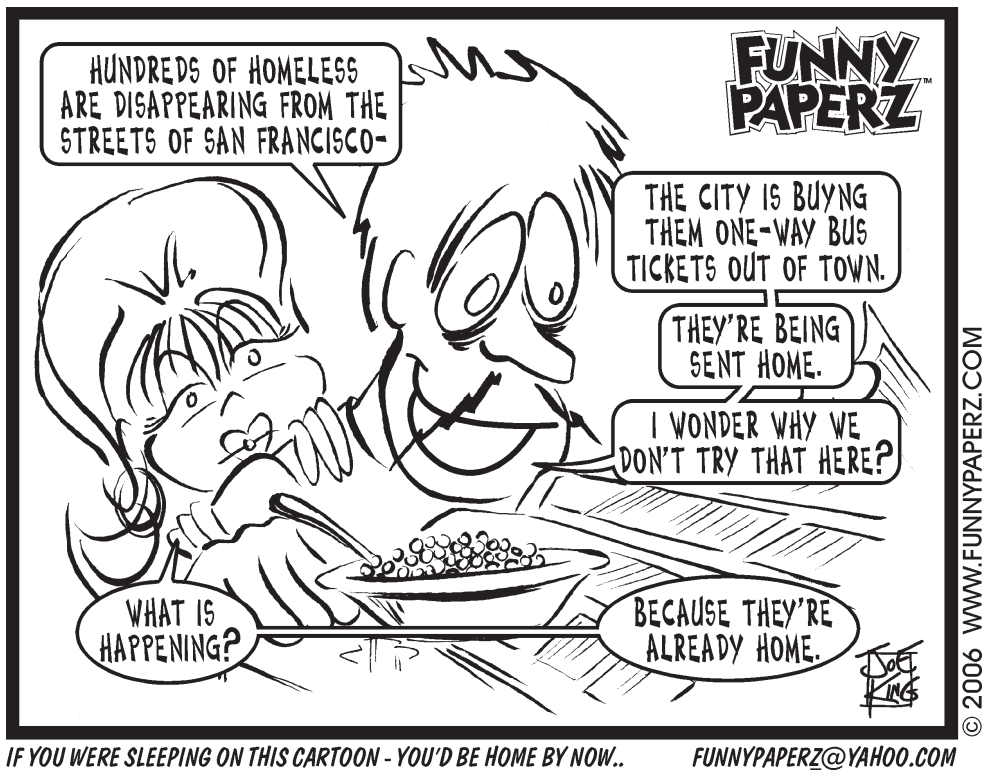
So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"How well do you think Santa Monica treats its homeless population relative to other cities?"**

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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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New library is mainly a waste of space, money

Editor:

At a cost of $74 million, and with a population of about 85,000 as of the last census, that amounts to about $870 per person. Why not, instead of spending this money on this building, staff and upkeep, buy everyone who cannot afford it, a laptop computer and Internet access and then sell the land to somebody and reap the benefits of a bloated land market? The city can also provide wireless networking for the city and still save a ton of money.

This is yet another example of the short sightedness of the people who run not only this city but many others across this state. The library will just become yet another sleeping spot for the countless homeless and illegals Santa Monica seems to embrace and will be an eventual outdated (if it isn't already) money pit for the city.

Billy G. Woody
Santa Monica

Boycott those who put profit before people

Editor:

Funny how history repeats itself. A peaceful solution with Iran is being held up by two nations who refuse to forgo their economic gain — Russia and China. The rest of the free world agrees that Iran should not have nuclear capabilities — "free" does not apply to Venezuela.

The Iraq war was made inevitable by the likes of France and the U.N. — as a body — refusing to give up their streams of revenue, legal and otherwise, from the brutal dictator. Saddam said, after his capture, that he thought France would come to his aid. He bought a U.N. veto but apparently couldn't afford to buy France's army.

As soon as Jacques Chirac said that he would veto any measure that would remove his business partner, a peaceful solution went out the window. Similarly, massive protests against the removal of Hussein told Saddam that he didn't have to budge one inch.

Conversely, two years ago, the "president" of the Republic of Georgia had no choice but to step down after declaring himself leader in a military coup a la Hugo Chavez. Though he had control of a formidable army, he could not fight the entire world and the entire world did stand united against the injustice. It's important to note that no country had a financial interest in Georgia. Hence, justice was undeterred and peace was achieved without firing a single shot.

This is a tangible method of bringing about peaceful resolutions. Bumper stickers are not the answer. By using free market capitalism, we have the power to hit the countries that stand in the way of peace where it hurts. In their precious economies. Boycott France, Russia, China and any other nation that puts profit before people.

Thomas Kenney
Los Angeles

Do you have community news?
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Council, put residents back in their places



EYE ON THE CITY
BY ELIZABETH RIEL

What's the latest threat stalking our city's residential streets? It's not road rage. It's parking rage.

When City Hall first came up with its new plan to sell residential parking permits to businesses, I was willing to give it the benefit of the doubt. But after going to a few city-sponsored community meetings, I can understand why residents are up in arms.

City Hall's transportation management division's "pilot program" is not a carefully considered, long-term solution to meet the needs of both the city's residents and businesses. It's a temporary, patchwork plan fraught with problems from the outset.

First, the plan is inequitable. It doesn't really seem fair to say that business employees should be allowed to park in some neighborhoods but not others. Nor does it seem fair to put all the parking burden on the residents who live on streets immediately north and south of the major business corridors.

City Hall did not survey the streets beyond the first permitted blocks to assess whether parking levels might be lower and therefore more suitable for employee permits. Is it too much to ask employees to walk a couple of blocks?

City Hall's logic is that these first permitted blocks are not yet at "full capacity" — i.e. currently jammed wall-to-wall with cars — so why not pack in some extra cars to really make things cozy? But the reason why residents fought to get these streets permitted in the first place was because they were already experiencing extreme congestion from shoppers and employees — not to mention neighborhood disturbances, increased trash and speeding. Think this plan will solve that? Think again.

Second, City Hall's plan is unenforceable. The transportation planning folks — all three or so of them — say they will personally contact business permit holders when they receive complaints of abuse and "remind" them of the permit rules. I find it a tiny bit unlikely they would have the time to become parking enforcement officers. The Santa Monica Police Department's parking enforcement division doesn't even seem to have the time to do that. When's the last time you saw a parking enforcement officer checking permits in your neighborhood? I only see those little carts on street cleaning day or stalking the meters.

Third, this plan has no evaluation component or criteria for its success/failure. The burden should be on City Hall to prove that employee permit parking is working well for both residents and businesses. But there is no assessment tool other than the opinion of City Hall's transportation management division, and of course, public outcry by residents after the fact. Which leads to a larger problem ...

It's easy to get the impression that because City Hall holds neighborhood meetings on various issues that the residents play a key role in shaping proposals and recommendations presented by city staff to the City Council. While that may be true in some cases, in this instance, to say so would be stretching things.

The parking permit meetings seemed to be more of an exercise in frustration for the majority of residents and handful of businesses who attended. People who just wanted their questions answered were met with evasive answers and more often, no answer at all.

Granted, it's not easy to face a roomful of emotional people, and the way a few residents are reported to have behaved toward the city staff is inexcusable. But a sure-fire way to ignite an angry crowd is to tell people their questions will be answered if they write them down on note cards, and then cherry-pick the five or six easiest questions, ignoring the rest.

And doing things the easy way seems to be what's happening here. As one resident in the Pico neighborhood asked, "why is this the only plan that was researched or presented? Has the city even researched the need for an alternative employee parking plan?"

When City Hall's opinion surveys come back and say parking is the No. 3 concern of Santa Monica's citizens, then why aren't we taking it more seriously, as opposed to developing different plans and criteria throughout the city? If we hope to solve any of the long-term problems facing Santa Monica, patchwork solutions just won't cut it.

(Elizabeth Riel is a Santa Monica resident. She can be reached at elizriel@yahoo.com.)



STATE

Study gives snapshot of life as day laborer

BY PETER PRENGAMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The immigrant men who wait for work on street corners across the United States have families, attend church regularly — and their bosses are more likely to be individual homeowners than construction contractors.

The first nationwide study of day laborers also reported that one in five has been hurt on the job and nearly half have been stiffed by employers.

The study offers the most detailed snapshot to date of the mostly Hispanic and often undocumented immigrants who've become a focal point in the increasingly heated immigration debate. It was based on interviews of 2,660 workers at 264 hiring sites in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The authors said they were surprised by the level of community involvement among men often thought of as transient hands for hire.

"The day labor corner is not as disconnected from society as people think. It's seen as a shadow economy, but that's really not the case," said professor Nik Theodore from the University of Illinois at Chicago, one of three study authors. The others were from the University of California, Los Angeles and New York's New School University.

Standing outside a Home Depot store Sunday morning in suburban Burbank, 33-year-old Raul Sanchez wondered whether he would get work.

The Mexico native said that when he's not working, or waiting for work, he's involved in church and tried to start a soccer league for fellow day laborers. He has been in the United States seven years and lives with his wife and two children, ages 13 and 14.

Sometimes he worries about on-the-job dangers at small work sites with little safety equipment.

"We know nobody is going to help us out if we get hurt," Sanchez said. "There are risks, but what are we going to do — not work?"

As often as not, a day laborer's employer will be a private citizen.

Forty-nine percent of respondents said they were regularly hired by homeowners for everything from carpentry to gardening, with 43 percent getting jobs from construction contractors. Two-thirds said they are hired repeatedly by the same employer.

In all, researchers estimate there are about 117,600 day laborers nationwide, though they warn that number is probably low. They extrapolated the number based on interviews and counts at each site, but did not give a margin of error for their results. The researchers said it would be impossible to count the number of sites nationwide, since some can be spontaneous.

Among the other findings based in interviews conducted between July and August 2004:

■ Just over half of day laborers said they attended church regularly, 22 percent reported being involved in sports clubs and 26 percent said they participated in community centers.

■ Nearly two-thirds had children, 36 percent were married and seven percent lived with a partner.

■ More than 80 percent rely on day labor as their sole source of income, earning a median wage of $10 an hour and $700 a month. That meant the vast majority earned less than $15,000 a year, putting them close to the 2005 federal poverty guideline of $12,830 for a family of two.

■ Of the 20 percent of respondents who reported on-the-job injuries, more than half said they received no medical care because they couldn't afford it or their employer refused to cover them.

■ Three-fourths were illegal immigrants and most were Hispanic: 59 percent were from Mexico and 28 percent from other Central American countries.

The study comes as Congress and the White House haggle over proposed guest worker programs amid increasing friction surrounding day laborers, who have drawn the ire of groups opposed to illegal immigration while providing a supply of cheap labor to employers.

A handful of municipalities have built sites where workers wait for jobs, and Home Depot has as well.

Those sites have prompted a handful of lawsuits demanding the government enforce immigration law as well as protests — including at the Home Depot in Burbank, where Cesar Martinez was among those awaiting work Sunday.

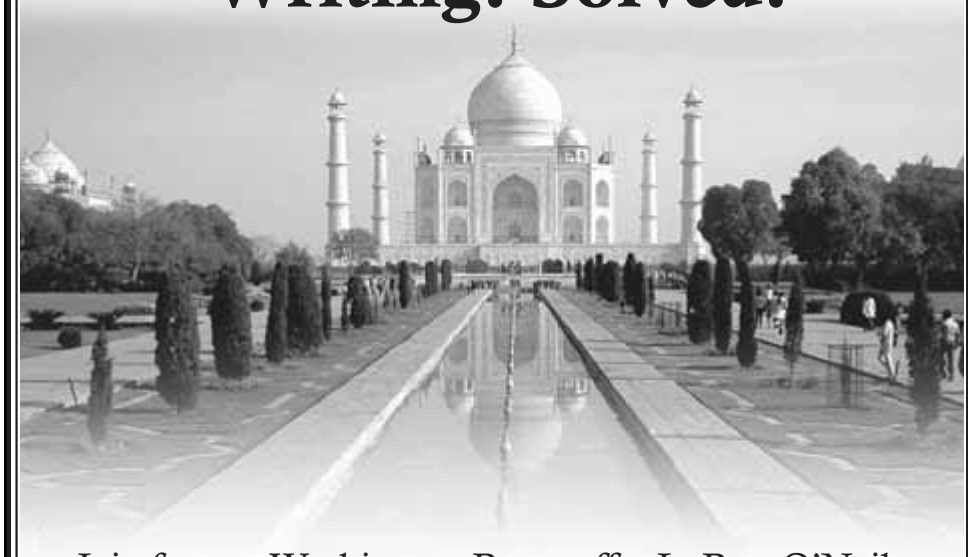
Martinez, 45, is a Guatemala native who has been in Southern California for 15 years without legal documentation. He said he sends $300 to $500 home every month to support his six children, ages 2 to 14, but that sometimes an employer rips him off — including one who stiffed him after three weeks of work.

"I couldn't complain because I'm not here legally but I was so angry because I need every cent," he said. "I'm always thinking, 'Are they going to pay me, am I going to get to work 8 hours on this job, will I get hurt doing it?"'



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The Q Line

STATE

Google's Chinese search engine to censor results

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Online search engine leader Google Inc. has agreed to censor its results in China, adhering to the country's free-speech restrictions in return for better access in the Internet's fastest growing market.

The Mountain View, Calif.-based company planned to roll out a new version of its search engine bearing China's Web suffix ".cn," on Wednesday. A Chinese-language version of Google's search engine has previously been available through the company's dot-com address in the United States.

By creating a unique address for China, Google hopes to make its search engine more widely available and easier to use in the world's most populous country.

Because of government barriers set up to suppress information, Google's China users previously have been blocked from using the search engine or encountered lengthy delays in response time.

The service troubles have frustrated many Chinese users, hobbling Google's efforts to expand its market share in a country that expected to emerge as an Internet gold mine over the next decade.

China already has more than 100 million Web surfers and the audience is expected to swell substantially — an alluring prospect for Google as it tries to boost its already rapidly rising profits.

Baidu.com Inc., a Beijing-based company in which Google owns a 2.6 percent stake, currently runs China's most popular search engine. But a recent Keynote Systems survey of China's Internet preferences concluded that Baidu remains vulnerable to challenges from Google and Yahoo Inc.

To obtain the Chinese license, Google agreed to omit Web content that the country's government finds objectionable. Google will base its censorship decisons on guidance provided by Chinese government officials.

Although China has loosened some of its controls in recent years, some topics, such as Taiwan's independence and 1989's Tiananmen Square massacre, remain forbidden subjects.

Google officials characterized the censorship concessions in China as an excruciating decision for a company that adopted "don't be evil" as a motto. But management believes it's a worthwhile sacrifice.

"We firmly believe, with our culture of innovation, Google can make meaningful and positive contributions to the already impressive pace of development in China," said Andrew McLaughlin, Google's senior policy counsel.

Google's decision rankled Reporters Without Borders, a media watchdog group that has sharply criticized Internet companies including Yahoo and Microsoft Corp.'s MSN.com for submitting to China's censorship regime.

"This is a real shame," said Julien Pain, head of Reporters Without Borders' Internet desk. "When a search engine collaborates with the government like this, it makes it much easier for the Chinese government to control what is being said on the Internet."

When Google censors results in China, it intends to post notifications alerting users that some content has been removed — to comply with local laws. The company provides similar alerts in Germany and France when, to comply with national laws, it censors results to remove references to Nazi paraphernalia.

Google is cooperating with China's government at the same time it is battling the U.S. government over a subpoena seeking a breakdown of one week's worth of search requests — a list that would cover millions of terms.

Reflecting its uneasy alliance with the Chinese government, Google isn't releasing all its services.

Neither Google's e-mail nor blogging services will be offered in China because the company doesn't want to risk being ordered by the government to turn over anyone's personal information. The e-mail service, called Gmail, creates a huge database of users' messages and makes them instantly searchable. The blogging services contain a wide range of personal background.

Yahoo came under fire last year after it provided the government with the e-mail account information of a Chinese journalist who was later convicted for violating state secrecy laws.

Initially, Google's Chinese service will be limited to searching Web pages and images. The company also will provide local search results and a special edition of its news service that will be confined to government-sanctioned media.

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INTERNATIONAL

Nuclear negotiator warm to Russian offer

BY STEVE GUTTERMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Iran's top nuclear negotiator said Wednesday that Tehran views Moscow's offer to have Iran's uranium enriched in Russia as a positive development but no agreement has been reached between the countries.

Chief negotiator Ali Larijani also reiterated Iran's threat to renew enrichment activities if it is referred to the U.N. Security Council.

Moscow has proposed having Iran's uranium enriched in Russia, then returned to Iran for use in the country's reactors.

"Our view of this offer is positive, and we tried to bring the positions of the sides closer," Larijani said a day after talks with Russian Security Council chief Igor Ivanov, which included discussion of the plan. "This plan can be perfected in the future, during further talks that will be held in February."

The West fears Iran wants to develop a nuclear bomb but Tehran says its intentions are peaceful and that it wants only civilian nuclear energy. Uranium enrichment is a possible precursor to making atomic weapons.

A British Foreign Office official, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with government policy, said foreign ministers from the five permanent U.N. Security Council members _ Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States _ plus Germany would meet in London next week to discuss the next steps in the crisis over Iran's nuclear program. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of a donors' conference on Afghanistan.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack also said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was expected to use the Afghan meeting to hold discussions with key nations on Iran's nuclear program.

The meeting comes ahead of a Feb. 2 emergency board session of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which can refer Iran to the Security Council. European countries believe they have enough votes to haul Iran before the council, but they are seeking support from Russia, China and key developing nations.

On Tuesday, Larijani and Ivanov said in a joint statement that Tehran's nuclear standoff must be resolved by diplomatic efforts in the IAEA. The statement reflected Russia's efforts to delay Iran's referral to the Security Council and Moscow's opposition to international sanctions against Tehran.

Larijani said Iran would welcome talks with European countries, though an Iranian proposal to return to talks with the EU was recently rejected.

He warned that any attempt to refer Iran to the Security Council would lead it to move forward with a full-scale uranium enrichment program.

"If they use political pressure, if our dossier is handed over or opened in an unofficial way by the Security Council ... our actions will not be limited to research," he said. "Then we will begin industrial enrichment."

Haggling has continued over the specifics of Russia's offer, including Tehran's proposal to have China involved in the Russian enrichment process.

Larijani suggested it would take some time to work out details of the proposal. Some critics allege the Iranians are using the proposal to stall for time as Western diplomatic pressure mounts.

Russian officials have said further talks on the initiative will be held in Russia around Feb. 16.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw urged Tehran on Tuesday to seriously consider Russia's offer in an effort to end the standoff. Straw also said in an interview with The Associated Press that he hoped the IAEA would refer the matter to the Security Council.

In Washington, Rice said that "referral absolutely has to be made" on Feb. 2, while remaining vague on what action she thought the Security Council should take, and when.

In China on Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said he warned Chinese leaders that allowing Iran to develop nuclear weapons could threaten Beijing's crucial supplies of Middle Eastern oil.

China has refrained from supporting a referral to the Security Council, prompting suggestions that Beijing wants to avoid angering Iran, a major oil source for its energy-hungry economy.

Zoellick said he warned Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and other officials in meetings Tuesday that if they were concerned about energy security, it would be "extremely dangerous" to allow nuclear weapons development in the Middle East, center of the world oil industry.



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Business



SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Copia gets kudos for creativity

By Daily Press staff

On the successful heels of 2005, which garnered Copia Creative a record five awards, the Los Angeles based multi-media marketing agency is planning to further integrate from marketing design to space design.

In 2005, Copia Creative took home three Davey Awards. The International Davey recognizes achievements of "creative Davids" who produce results based on ideas without the need for huge budgets. In addition to the Davey's, Copia received a total of six accolades in a multiple of categories representing their commitment to excellence across all service offerings.

Copia won a gold honor for its seven-minute DVD, a corporate image reel that highlights the marketing and creative services it can offer prospective clients. The piece includes samples of completed projects and image campaigns. The graphics, visuals and production were all completed in-house and reflect Copia's corporate philosophy: Communicating vision.

Copia's first silver award came for its work on the Crowell, Weedon & Co. corporate brochure. Copia produced a custom 16-page brochure which Crowell Weedon could provide prospective clients identifying its position in the marketplace and communicating the human side of its business. Copia also received a silver award for their packaging work on OnAbout Australia. Copia's brief was to execute a marketable product package that communicated the OnAbout's brand identity.

Previous awards include a gold award in the interactive category at the Promax awards for its work on the Web site of an event staffing company called Before the Party.

Copia also was honored for its brand identity stationary design by The American Design Awards for its work on The Victorian at Heritage Square. Print magazine also acknowledged Copia Creative for their brand identity duck, duck, mousse in their selective 2005 regional design annual.

"We appreciate such prestigious acknowledgments for our hard work and creativity," said Michelle Adelson, creative director and president at Copia Creative. "As an integrated marketing and creative firm, it is rewarding to our team to be recognized in such a variety of specialties from multimedia to product packaging."

Copia Creative has made its mark offering integrated marketing and branding consulting and creative services. Utilizing innovative strategies across a variety of medium, Copia Creative's services range from marketing consulting, web development and an array of creative services from brand identity to packaging as well as advertising, print collateral and multimedia.

If early retirement is an option, roll it over



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

You've put in long hours at the office for years, saved diligently even during the hard times and raised your children to be independent adults. Now, with early retirement quickly approaching, you know that your planning has finally paid off. But, before you set out for some wild adventure, there might be some unfinished business you need to consider as an early retiree.

It is important to continue nurturing your retirement nest egg, even after you've quit work. But in order to do so, you will need to decide how to deal with it in a tax-efficient and financially prudent manner, especially if you are retiring early.

Instead of withdrawing all your retirement plan assets from your employer-sponsored plan — such as a 401(k), you may want to consider rolling all or part of it directly into a tax-deferred traditional IRA.

In general, there are two types of rollovers: direct and indirect. With a direct rollover, all of the assets in your employer sponsored retirement plan are automatically rolled into an IRA, so you won't be subject to any taxes or IRS penalties.

However, with an indirect rollover, you withdraw the full balance of your employer-sponsored plan. You then have 60 days to deposit all or part of these assets into your traditional IRA and maintain your tax deferral status. Because you are withdrawing your assets from your 401(k) without immediately rolling them into another tax-deferred account, however, your employer is required to withhold 20 percent of your balance for federal income taxes and distribute the remaining funds to you.

To complete your rollover, you must replace the 20 percent withheld by your employer with your own funds or with other private funds. If you fail to deposit the entire amount of your 401(k) withdrawal into an IRA during the 60-day rollover period, the amount your employer withheld will be taxed. In addition, if you are younger than 55 when you retire, you also may face a 10 percent IRS early withdrawal penalty on that amount.

If you can afford to replace the 20 percent withholding with other funds, it is in your best interest to do so. You won't owe any additional tax on the distribution and you may be entitled to a refund when you file your tax return. The one setback in the meantime, however, is that you will temporarily lose the use of those replacement funds.

The rollover of your assets from a 401(k) into an IRA may include your employee contributions made on both a pretax and after-tax basis; any employer contributions, including matching contributions; and all earnings on your account. It is important to remember that when you roll over retirement assets into an IRA, the amount you roll over is not included in your taxable income for the year, so it does not increase your tax liability.

Whatever you choose, remember, in order for your nest egg to carry you into the future, continue to evaluate what is best for your retirement portfolio. As things change, you must adapt accordingly to make the most of your assets.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds, financial retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

There goes neighborhood



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

Here at The Daily Reckoning headquarters we are carefree worrywarts. We buy gold and only worry for the fun of it.

What we worry about now is the remarkable lack of worry on the part of others. There is something unfair about it. Since others worry so little, we feel we need to worry more. For the moment, we carry all the world's worries on our shoulders like a demented Atlas. Bond investors continue to accept yields so low they must think there is nothing to worry about. Even the junkiest bonds sell for historically low premia over treasuries.

Stock buyers load up on Google at prices that make us dizzy. It is as if they thought Google would be the last new thing ever to come along. Volatility measures are as low as they tend to go, advisors are consistently bullish, and even the hedge funds have stopped hedging — there was no money in it, and they thought, nothing to hedge against. Hedge funds have joined the reckless chase for quarterly returns. Managers who prudently hedge against risk underperform their competitors. They are quickly shouldered out the way.

What is particularly odd about the present lack of worry is that there seems to be so many things to worry about.

This week, for example, the yield curve inverted. Lenders got more for short-term loans to the government than for long terms. That is odd in itself, of course. Risk increases with time. As the years go by, the more things that could go wrong will go wrong. Investors normally want a little extra yield to compensate for the extra risk they take. Yet, the yield on a three-month U.S. Treasury note was higher on Tuesday than the yield on a 10-year note. Go figure.

Something has clearly gone wrong already. But investors don't seem to care. And they don't seem to care either that an inverted yield curve is a classic sign of a coming recession. There are a lot of recession predictors. But the yield curve humping over in the wrong direction — with long-term yields lower than short-term yields — is the most reliable predictor of on-coming trouble.

Maybe investors don't read the newspapers. Tokyo had to close its stock market on Tuesday. There were so many people trying to sell all at once — with major tech stocks plummeting — the exchange couldn't keep up with it. Could that happen in New York? Who knows? But who worries?

Iran is also in the news lately. The neocons are threatening to bomb the place. We worry about a chain reaction that sets off explosions in the oil market, in derivatives, in emerging market debt, in Russia, in China ... who knows where else? What if oil shot up to $100 a barrel? That seems like the least that might happen.

But again, we worry alone. Investors see nothing to worry about. We read in the Financial Times that Iran's neighbor, Iraq, is planning to sell bonds — $2.7 billion of them. Who would buy bonds from Iraq?

Meanwhile, America's federal debt pushed over $8 trillion recently. The money supply is exploding at a 20 percent annual rate. The trade deficit swells ... along with the Fed's deficits. The economy looks like it has been stung on the face by a wasp. We Americans can barely look at ourselves in the mirror without feeling a little queasy.

Housing also seems worth a worry ... or a mass. Early figures — and anecdotal evidence — tell us that buyers are disappearing. House prices are buckling in many areas. Inventories are rising. Does anyone bother to look on the wall; there must be some handwriting on it. If real estate prices stop going up, householders will lose an important source of easy money in 2006. The ATM machine in their bedroom will be closed down. Consumer spending and housing are 90 percent of GDP growth. Without the housing boom, the economy is almost certain to go into recession. Two million people declared bankruptcy last year — even with house prices rising at double-digit rates. Imagine what will happen when the boom ends?

Already, the highways out of California are getting crowded with people leaving the state. No wonder. The typical house in Los Angeles sells for $495,000. This is remarkable on several levels. First, have you seen the typical Los Angelino's house? It is a misbegotten affair, designed by a company that specializes in schools and prisons, glued together with cheap materials, and graced with no natural charm. It is comfortable, but people feel no loyalty to it; they will get out when the getting is good.

House prices are peaking out, but maybe now more people will be able to afford them. How will it end?

(For more insight and analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com.)

‘Red flags’ increase odds of audit

BY EILEEN PUTMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Certain “red flags” on a tax return increase the odds of being audited: a six-figure income, home office expenses, unusually high deductions or credits, interest or dividend income that doesn’t jibe with IRS records.

And if you’re a high-profile celebrity, watch out — the IRS keeps tabs on them, too.

Last year, the Internal Revenue Service audited 1.2 million 2004 tax returns, up about 20 percent over the previous year. Overall odds of being audited are about 1 in 107 — 1 in 63 for those with incomes over $100,000.

Typically, the first inkling taxpayers have that all is not well is a computer-generated IRS notice, which is considered a “correspondence” audit.

“No one wants to get that envelope with ‘Internal Revenue Service’ in the upper left-hand corner,” said Denise Sposato, spokeswoman for H&R Block, the tax-preparation company. “No good can come of that, usually.”

Not all problems are serious, though. Tax returns with an incorrect Social Security number or no signature can easily be corrected; resolving other problems may only require sending the IRS copies of records or correcting a math error.

More serious tax issues involve underreporting income and overstating deductions, exemptions and credits. A tax return with a large number of deductions may be flagged.

That shouldn’t discourage taxpayers from claiming legitimate deductions and credits, Sposato said, but records should be kept backing up those claims.

The IRS has no single formula that determines which tax returns will be audited, but certain situations increase the odds.

Deducting home office expenses, which has become more restrictive in recent years, may generate a flag. That’s because people can only claim the part of the home used exclusively and regularly for business, and other restrictions may apply.

Trouble can also arise from the many 1099 forms people receive each January showing interest, dividend and other payments they received during the year. Though 1099s don’t have to be attached to tax returns, the information on them has already been sent to the IRS, which may later check the taxpayer’s return to make sure all income is reported.

The IRS also checks information reported on Schedule K-1 documents, which cover income, deductions and credits from partnerships, trusts and S-corporations.

Celebrities have been known to attract the IRS’ attention: Richard Hatch, who won $1 million on the first season of the reality show “Survivor,” was accused of failing to pay taxes on his winnings; former District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts stemming from failure to file tax returns in 2000.

Other high-profile figures with past tax woes include singer Willie Nelson, baseball’s Darryl Strawberry, Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss and hotel magnate Leona Helmsley — who, according to a witness at her 1989 tax fraud trial, once declared, “We don’t pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes.”

Even the rich and famous may quake at the prospect of meeting face-to-face with an IRS agent, and the prospect of that kind of audit seems to bring out the worst in some people.

Richard Davis, an accounting professor at Susquehanna University’s Sigmund Weis School of Business in Selinsgrove, Pa., said he saw some “very aggressive, very annoying, very rude” taxpayers during his tenure in the IRS’ chief counsel office, which handled taxpayers’ audit appeals.

“They somehow get the idea the IRS is out to get them, or maybe they think if they’re really aggressive that will get a better result,” Davis said. “They are so mistaken.” Go in with a respectful attitude, he advises, even if you are contesting the IRS’ findings.

Taxpayers truly daunted by having to meet with an agent should hire a tax professional — an attorney or tax preparer — to go in their stead, Davis said.

And, he noted, it’s always possible that the IRS is wrong.

“A lot of people have the misimpression that IRS agents know all this stuff cold and they never make a mistake,” Davis said. “That’s not the case.”

Taxpayers have the right to appeal IRS findings and, if the dispute can’t be settled, to take their case to the Taxpayer Advocate Service, which is part of the IRS but operates independently and will help taxpayers resolve problems.

The IRS can also work out payment plans for those who owe unpaid taxes, interest or penalties.

Congress set three years as the deadline, or statute of limitations, during which the IRS can go back and make additional tax assessments. But that time can be extended if the IRS suspects serious There is no statute of limitations for failure to file a return or when tax fraud is suspected.

Alternative minimum tax hovers over millions of taxpayers

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — They may not know it, but millions of taxpayers could be at risk this year of owing the alternative minimum tax.

Roughly 3.5 million individuals and families filling out their 2005 tax returns or visiting their accountants this spring will discover they owe the tax. It was originally imposed to make sure that the wealthiest couldn’t use tax breaks or deductions to eliminate their entire tax liability.

But inflation and recent tax cuts push more and more taxpayers into the grasp of the alternative minimum tax each year. Lawmakers had blunted the tax’s effect on upper- and middle-income families in previous years, but ran out of time to keep the fix in place this year. Those laws expired at the end of 2005. This year, more than 15 million additional taxpayers could get tipped into the tax’s reach unless Congress acts first.

Although it’s expected that lawmakers will act to retroactively stop the tax from hitting millions more individuals and families, taxpayers and their financial advisers start the year in a cloud of uncertainty.

“Normally, we tell our clients to plan for the worst case and hope for the best. This one’s kind of tricky,” said Don Weigandt, who advises wealthy individuals at JPMorgan Private Bank.

The alternative minimum tax, also known as the AMT, works as a second system of taxation that runs parallel to the regular income tax. If you owe more under the alternative tax than the regular tax, you pay the higher amount. If you don’t, the AMT can still limit the size of your tax credits.

The alternative minimum tax can be unpredictable, but it tends to hit individuals and families with certain characteristics. Tax advisers say those include middle- to upper-income people who live in states with high income or real estate taxes, have several children or take sizable deductions for things like business expenses.

The Internal Revenue Service has a tool to help taxpayers determine whether they need to pay attention to the tax. The AMT Assistant, available on the tax agency’s Web site, is an automated version of a paper form and also an indication of the complexity involved in its computations. It’s called the “Worksheet to See if You Should Fill in Form 6251 — Line 45.”

The AMT Assistant could be most helpful for taxpayers doing their returns by hand. Most tax preparation software checks for the alternative minimum tax automatically. Other taxpayers need to complete a draft of the Form 1040 through line 44 to answer some questions about income and certain deductions.

There’s no easy way to know whether the AMT lies in your future without doing some calculations.

“One of the things about the AMT is that the AMT is illogical and inconsistent in its application as to who it affects and why. There’s no real pattern. There’s no logic behind it,” said Alan Dlugash, an accountant for high net worth individuals and a partner at Marks, Paneth and Shron LLP in New York.

“So the way you have to deal with it is you have to say, OK, let’s run the numbers.”

Tax advisers recommend that individuals and families who might fall into the alternative minimum tax next year make some of those calculations, even though Congress will probably make sure that millions of threatened families never pay the tax.

Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, the California Republican who serves as the House’s top tax writer, said taxpayers take a risk if they assume lawmakers will retroactively remove the tax. But he said there’s a bipartisan commitment to addressing the problem. “The question is when and how,” he said.

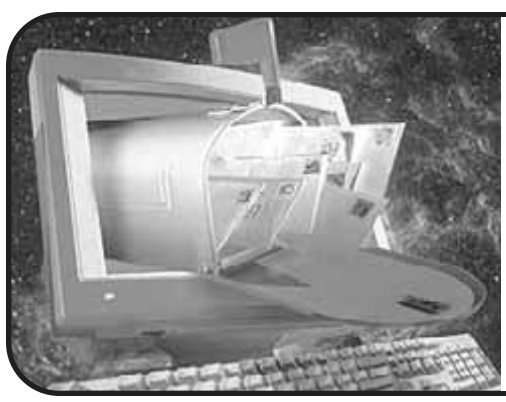
Even if you know it’s coming, it’s difficult to escape the alternative minimum tax. Unless you want to relocate to another state, most planning options involve the timing of deductions and incentive stock options.

“The important thing to understand is there are certain things you can do. They may or may not help you,” said Jackie Perlman, a senior tax research coordinator for H&R Block. “It’s not something that is just totally and completely under control.”

If you’re totally perplexed by the tax, at least take heart that you’re not alone.

“Being somebody who’s been a tax lawyer for over 30 years, I find the AMT to be almost inscrutable,” Weigandt said.

WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
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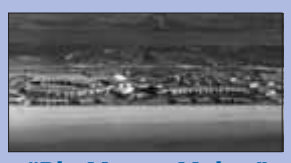
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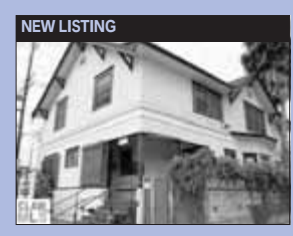


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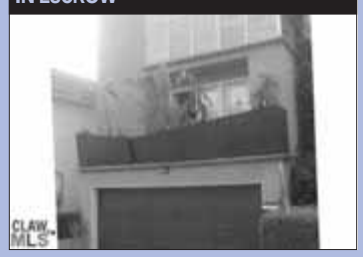
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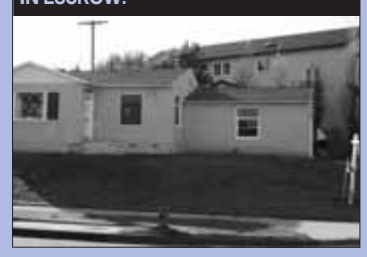
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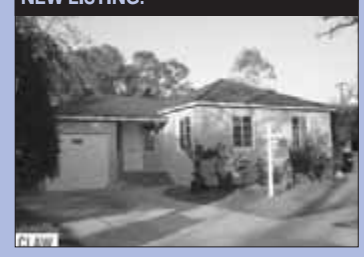
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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

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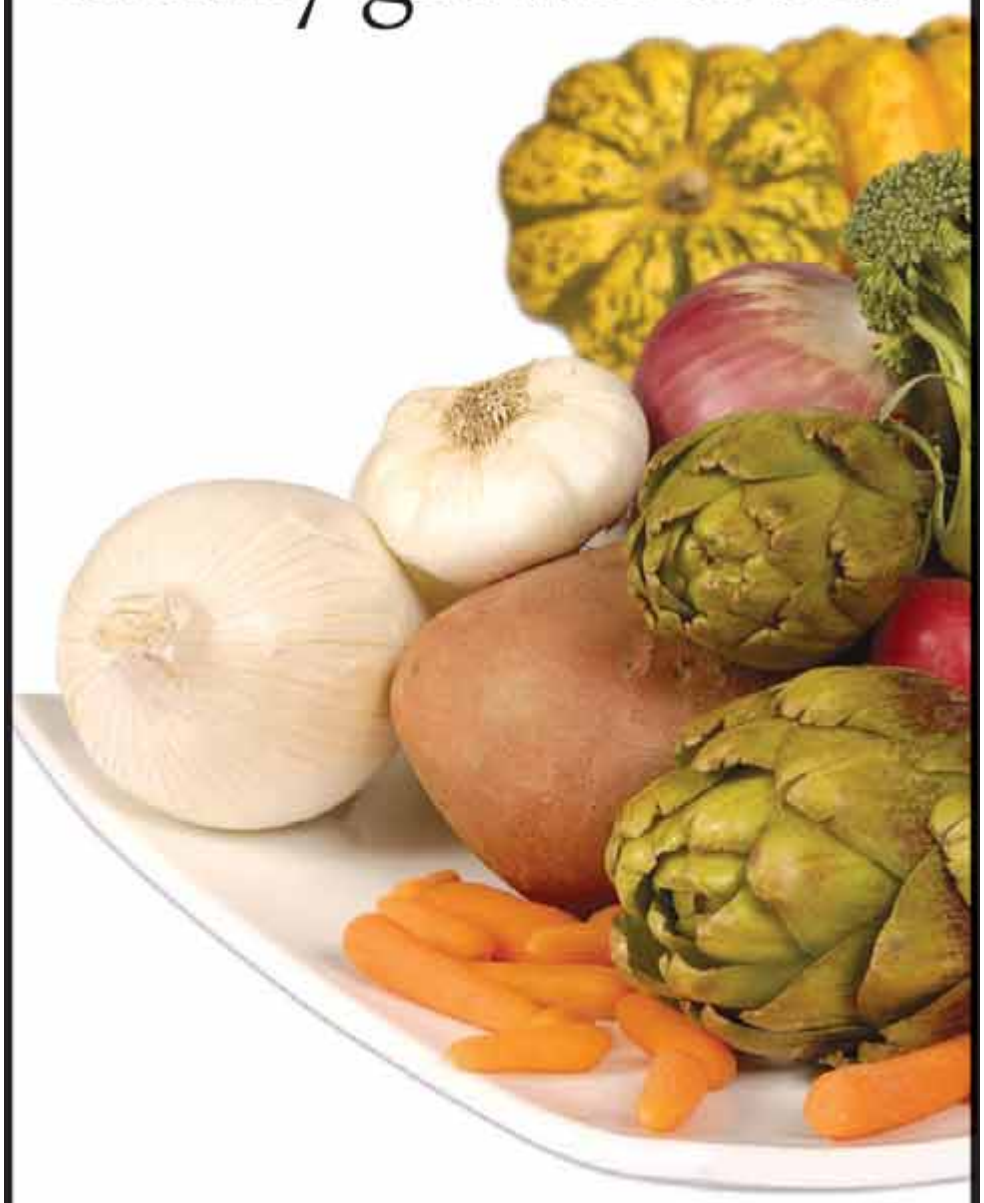
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LOCAL

Ewell takes to streets with an open ear

EWELL, from page 1

spent 10 minutes explaining the history of Santa Monica.

"I have fallen in love with Santa Monica ... It's a small city that you can move around very easily and I think I have toured just about every area of the city, either on bike or walking. It's so cool to stop and talk to people, to touch people."

Ewell's first day of work, Jan. 16, began with a community celebration of Martin Luther King in which the Civil Rights leader's eldest daughter, Yolanda King, spoke to hundreds of Santa Monicans. Following the celebration and dedication of the new MLK Auditorium at the new library, Ewell began to unpack his boxes and put up family photos in his office to feel more at home.

Ewell, who sat in on his first City Council meeting on Tuesday, appeared focused and never lost his composure — even though the session lasted well past midnight and there were plenty of issues to tackle. He admitted on Tuesday morning that he was a bit anxious, but felt confident because he's been making an effort to grasp the issues.

He's also learning the politics of the city, which has historically pitted business interests, including the Chamber of Commerce, with the Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights, a liberal group that has held the majority on the City Council for decades.

But based on the conversations Ewell has had with various groups, most people are excited to work together with a clean slate.

"The groups that I have touched based with so far ... everyone is looking forward to a new start and building new relationships," he said.

Ewell is no stranger to politics — the city of San Diego is reeling from a very public political scandal involving city employee pensions. The make-up of that city's City Council also has changed from a conservative majority to a more liberal one over the past several years.

As a former firefighter, fire chief and city manager, Ewell has an extensive background in public policy. He will earn $245,000 a year in Santa Monica.

Armed with the knowledge he continues to absorb from all of the city's players, Ewell plans to build a strategy and develop a work plan in the next three months that will guide him through the rest of the year.

Ewell starts his job as the mid-year budget approaches and planning for the next fiscal year begins. As a result, the timing is right to focus on the city's finances as a top priority.

"Obviously that is a central priority for any organization, to make sure our financial controls and stability are there," Ewell said, adding the city of Santa Monica is heading into the next budget year with a surplus of about $2.5 million. "Anytime you have a cash reserve, it's a good thing ... If I was sitting in San Diego right now, I would be discussing what we would be cutting."

Last year, the city of San Diego faced a $15 million shortfall and was in the throes of a scandal over public employee pensions, which bankrupted the local government.

The root of the problem in San Diego was that political leaders wanted to spend more than they were taking in. They didn't have the revenue to offer city employees raises. So, instead, they offered increased pension benefits. Now, San Diego's pension system is at least $1.4 billion short and there are legal questions as to whether there were improper conflicts of interest that led to overly generous payments, according to news reports.

The city of San Diego's books have been under review by federal and local investigators since February 2004, including the Security and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The wrongdoing goes back as far as the mid 1990s, Ewell said.

To deal with a multi-million dollar deficit in San Diego, Ewell had to make difficult budget decisions, and return the city to core services. Among the cuts were 200 positions, justified by the fact that 78 percent of San Diego's budget was payroll. There are about 11,000 people employed by the city of San Diego, which has a budget of about $2.4 billion.

"I took a lot of heat making those tough decisions," he said.

Recruited by San Diego in 2001, Ewell was named Assistant City Manager, responsible for the day-to-day operations of all city departments. He was then appointed as San Diego's City Manager after Michael Uberuaga was forced out in March 2004. The following November, after voters passed a strong mayor form of government measure, Ewell announced he would quit in June 2005.

"The mayor asked to me to stay on as CEO but I wanted to stay true to my profession and I believe in a City Manager form of government ... I didn't want to have to answer to one person," Ewell said. "And this City Council here has a good, solid commitment to Santa Monica and is an intelligent, respectful body that wants to do the right thing for the people of this city."

That is one of the reasons Ewell was attracted to Santa Monica, among many.

"The list is as long as my arm," he said, adding he was recruited by other cities, but none measured up to Santa Monica. "Santa Monica has a reputation for dealing with issues head on and I like dealing with issues head on. I don't like to sidestep issues."

Ewell said he sees his role as taking the local government's policies and translating them into everyday services for citizens of Santa Monica.

"City Hall should not be the edifice that everyone comes to but we go to them," he said, adding local government should automatically meet the needs of the public. "When the public doesn't even think about city government, then we've done our job."

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Defendant's alibis are shaky

TESTIMONY, from page 1

to custody in Los Angeles County within weeks of his May 2005 escape, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Taylor's jury trial, which began last Friday, concerns the kidnapping and home robberies that occurred in the 1000 block of Bay Street in Santa Monica. Taylor faces seven felony charges related to those two incidents that occurred on Oct. 18 and Nov. 4, 2004. Last February, Taylor was charged for the Sunset Park crimes that included one count of kidnapping, two counts of first-degree burglary, two counts of first-degree residential robbery and two counts of making criminal threats.

Taylor has also faced one count of unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle, one count of receiving stolen property, one count of resisting a police officer and one count of driving as an unlicensed driver. Those charges, which he was to stand trial for last May, stem from him allegedly stealing a car in Las Vegas, according to the District Attorney's Office.

On Wednesday, Taylor took the stand as the last witness in the Sunset Park kidnapping case. Wearing a blue and white striped, long-sleeved dress shirt and blue jeans, Taylor admitted that he had been convicted of several crimes since 1984 that occurred in California and Georgia, but vowed that he'd never even set foot in Santa Monica.

"I've never been to Santa Monica, and I didn't do it," Taylor told the court.

In California, Taylor is a twice convicted felon — he served two years in state prison for a 1991 conviction for burglary and served another 12 years in state prison for a 1994 burglary conviction. Both crimes occurred in Torrance, according to the DA's Office. Prior to his California convictions, Taylor had been convicted in Georgia of several robberies and thefts that date back to 1984, according to the DA's Office.

Taylor, who has short black hair, brown eyes and a beard, stands six feet, four inches tall and weighs 215 pounds. The defendant seemed attentive, calm and polite during Wednesday's proceedings.

Prosecutors allege that in the fall of 2004, Taylor kidnapped Betty Tomeo, 76, whom he stole from and threatened to kill, first with a syringe and later with a screwdriver.

Closing remarks are to be concluded by Thursday, after which the jury is expected to begin deliberating on the case.

TAYLOR'S TESTIMONY

Originally, former Olympic Silver Medalist Danny Harris was charged with the kidnappings in November of 2004. Police arrested Harris after trained bloodhounds following the scent of the black snow cap left by the kidnapper led authorities to Harris' room at the Clare Foundation, a rehabilitation facility located off Lincoln Boulevard south of Interstate 10.

Harris tested positive for drugs in 1996 and was barred from competition. He has struggled for years with cocaine addiction. Harris, who captured a silver medal in track in the 1984 Olympics, spent nearly two months in jail before he was cleared of the charges.

Subsequent laboratory tests showed the kidnapper's snowcap contained Taylor's DNA. According to the DA's Office, scientific analysis indicated there was a one in fifty million chance the snowcap may not have been Taylor's. In addition to the snowcap, prosecutors said a black T-shirt was found near the crime scene that also belonged to Taylor. According to DNA analysis, it was even more certain the T-shirt belonged to Taylor than the snowcap. The odds of an error were one in a trillion, prosecutors said.

Taylor was already in custody on the stolen car charges. The two men, who share similar physical characteristics, claimed not to know one another.

Prosecutors initially refused to drop the charges against Harris, claiming the two men may have been working together. Although Tomeo only saw one kidnapper, at one point she said the kidnapper threatened to kill her and burn down her house, and referenced that he had two accomplices.

Prosecutors at the time pointed to three eyewitnesses who picked Harris out of a photo lineup. The three witnesses were a next-door neighbor who chased off the kidnapper with a gun, a nearby resident who saw the kidnapper strip off his shirt while fleeing the scene and the victim, who picked Harris along with two other people in the photo lineup as possibly the person who assaulted her. Tomeo testified last week she was "positive" it was Taylor who robbed her, but waited to see all the possible suspects before making her determination official, because she wanted to be certain she wasn't mistaken.

Deputy District Attorney Kevin Halligan, prosecuting the case, told the court on Wednesday that when Taylor was initially questioned about the crimes, he denied having taken part in them. Then, after the DNA analysis pointed to him as the main suspect, he admitted he must have been the perpetrator, since the evidence proved it. Later, as the case approached trial, Taylor said he had been a drug addict when the crimes took place and couldn't recall if he had committed them or not, prosecutors said.

Taylor told the court on Wednesday that the snowcap and T-shirt had been stolen from him in early October of 2004, weeks before the alleged kidnappings had taken place. Taylor said the items were in a bag which he set down while playing basketball at Venice Beach. After finishing his game, Taylor said he went to retrieve the bag, but it was gone.

Taylor's attorney, Charles Elliot, was unable to provide the court with a copy of a police report to document the alleged theft.

Halligan rebutted that, prior to Taylor's testimony on Wednesday, Taylor had neglected to tell investigators the snowcap and T-shirt had been stolen.

Halligan asked Taylor if he hadn't committed the kidnappings where he was when the kidnappings took place.

During the first kidnapping, Taylor said he was likely writing in an alley located behind the homeless shelter where he was living.

"I'm a writer," Taylor told the court. "I often write about the world and government."

During the second kidnapping, Taylor said he was likely hanging out with a friend.

There were no witnesses available to vouch for Taylor's whereabouts at the time the crimes were committed.

"It's clear Taylor didn't have a chance to come up with a story, until now," Halligan told the court.

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LOCAL

Bergamot Station area is debated

SHAPE THE FUTURE, from page 1

not only with commercial and residential development, but with mass transit construction and the preservation of open space. Shape the Future will also determine the pace of growth — a major concern for residents, many of whom are afraid of losing the small-town feel of Santa Monica.

During the council meeting, officials with the Transportation and Planning and Community Development departments laid out four land-use alternatives for the council to consider.

But before the council would debate which plans they liked and would want to study further, a majority felt it was necessary to put on the breaks, review material already on the table, and come back with a clear method for developing a vision for the city, along with a series of goals to meet that vision.

There was a complaint from residents — echoed by council members Herb Katz and Ken Genser — that the alternatives proposed had no clear objectives or goals.

"There is no 'there' there," said Geraldine Kennedy of the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, who complained of a lack of an overall vision in the alternatives, specifically in the area of growth. "The authors have given you a pig and a poke and said 'trust us.'"

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The council instructed staff to dig up the current land-use plan, last updated in 1984, to see if some of the objectives listed there could be applied to Shape the Future. Staff was also instructed to incorporate as much as they could from recent community outreach sessions so as not to give the impression that they were starting from scratch or that the previous community input was useless.

"I think we're not far away from (developing goals and a vision)," said council member Pam O'Connor. "People always react. It's human nature. I think instead of focusing so much of the negative we should look at the positives (of all the alternatives).

"I'm not saying it's not important to look at the goals, I just don't think they will answer every question, so we need to look at every alternative."

The alternatives presented Tuesday were: Neighborhood Centers, Uptown/-Downtown, Grand Boulevards and Status Quo. All plans relied heavily on the construction of light rail in the city, either by Santa Monica itself or by the County of Los Angeles in the form of the Exposition rail line.

Most of the council members and residents seemed supportive of the Neighborhood Centers approach because of its intention to preserve the identity of small neighborhoods while limiting growth and making public transportation more easily accessible — to help increase foot traffic and decrease the number of cars on city streets.

City officials said the concept of Neighborhood Centers would focus on mixed-use development along already established corridors such as Pico, Wilshire and Lincoln boulevards, as well as development at the Bergamot Station, which will link up with St. John's Hospital and help support more medical-related uses.

Centers would also help create diversity as each would be designed to reflect the uniqueness of a particular community.

BOULEVARDS OF BROKEN DREAMS

The alternative that seemed dead in the water is the Grand Boulevards concept, which O'Connor jokingly said suffered mostly because of the inclusion of the word "grand" in the title.

The concept would focus development on major corridors and foster a pedestrian-friendly environment by linking mixed-use development with mass transit stops. Streets would have light commercial on the bottom floors of buildings with apartments and work-live studios on the second or third floors. Bicycle use would be a priority. Downtown would continue to be the focal point of activity.

Another alternative that did not fair well with council members was the Uptown/Downtown concept that would create a smaller downtown-like community near Bergamot Station with work-live lofts for artists and an attention to light rail. Members feared this proposal would create too much development, bringing with it traffic problems already seen in downtown. The plan may also divide the city in half, council members feared.

Most residents wanted a no or limited growth proposal that would set a cap for commercial development while focusing more on increasing affordable, workforce housing. Therefore, it would seem that the Status Quo concept would be appealing. It wasn't. Residents are not pleased with the way development is taking shape.

"We cannot go back (to 20 years ago) and change the mistakes that have been made, but that doesn't mean we have to go downwards," said Arthur Harris. "If the council is going to be captured by special interests it should be the populous that elected you, not the developers who have already blighted downtown."

Many residents are unhappy with the way commercial development has taken over the city, bringing with it people from outside the community who cause traffic jams during rush hour as employees travel to and from work.

The growing number of condominiums and high-end apartments have changed the face of the city, residents said, and not for the better, as lower income renters have been forced to leave.

Resident Kent Strumple said that while development has become a problem, that cannot deter the council from moving forward with a plan to accommodate the inevitable.

"Growth is going to happen," Strumple said. "I think planning for that is prudent."

Officials developing Shape the Future said the reason why they did not have many specific targets for growth, such as how many apartments would be built, is because they are merely studying initial alternatives to see what tradeoffs they can make and still adhere to the community's wishes that there be limited growth with a focus on more affordable housing, historical preservation, and a well-functioning mass transit system. To put certain limits early on would be premature and may force the design of one plan over others with equal benefits, said Andy Agle, interim director for the Planning Department.

Staff instructed the council Tuesday to choose three alternatives to be studied in detail. After Tuesday's meeting, it is unclear what those three alternatives will be, or if they will be considered at all following the council's latest move to gather more input. The issue is expected to come before the council again in the coming weeks.



COUNCIL COUNTDOWN



The following is a summation of what went on in the Santa Monica City Council chambers during the council's January's 24 meeting, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.

5:45 p.m.: The council convened and recited the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver was not present.

5:52 p.m.: Consent items 1-A through 1-H, with the exclusion of 1-C, were approved without discussion.

6:03 p.m.: Council went into closed session to discuss litigation, as well as threats to public facilities with chief of police.

7:06 p.m.: Members reconvened and returned to item 1-C. Council member Herb Katz excused himself over a conflict of interest and the remaining members approved a tract map for a five-unit housing project on 11th Street.

7:07 p.m.: Council heard testimony from students regarding funding and expansion of programs at the Pico Youth & Family Center. Public comment is limited to two minutes because of the number of speakers scheduled (more than 90).

7:25 p.m.: Transportation and community planning officials presented four proposed plans for Shape the Future 2005, a 20-year plan on future land use, from commercial and housing development to mass transit and parks.

7:52 p.m.: Public comment on Shape the Future 2005 began.

9:25 p.m.: Public comment ended. Council voted to take a 10-minute recess, during which a female gadfly wearing a red bonnet and blue wool overcoat started pointing and scowling at the council, at times yelling, "sexual harassment, sexual torture." She was warned by a police officer to remain quiet. She complied.

9:39 p.m.: Council reconvened and voted to move Item A-8, which dealt with mid-year budget changes, to the Feb. 14 meeting.

9:42 p.m.: Council discussed alternatives for Shape the Future and ordered staff to return with ways to collect community input and establish a set of goals to guide the plan.

11:06 p.m.: An ordinance regulating the conversion of restaurants into retail on the Third Street Promenade is opened to public comment. Council debated and ultimately passed the ordinance, but with the understanding that a more equitable solution would be developed with Bayside District Corp.

12:02 p.m.: Ordinance on changing affordable housing incentives and density bonuses in accordance with state law is approved as is the transfer of the city's cable service to Time Warner. Item 13-A, dealing with an appointment to the Pier Restoration Corp., was moved to a later date.

12:04 p.m.: Council heard public comment regarding the alleged eviction of homeless people from storage lockers near 14th Street and Memorial Park. A comical rant from Will B. King, a street performer, capped off the night along with a resident complaint about drug dealing and a series of robberies in the Pico Neighborhood.

12:12 p.m.: Council convened in honor of the late USC baseball coach Rod Dedeaux, who passed away recently at 91

BY THE NUMBERS

Time spent on the top three issues facing Santa Monicans based on city surveys:

Homelessness: 0 minutes
Traffic: 1 hour, 40 minutes
Parking: 40 minutes

Public Comment: 3 hours, 25 minutes
City Council Discussion: 2 hours, 27 minutes

Time spent Discussing:
Policy: 3 hours
Land use: 2 hours, 30 minutes
Resident initiated concerns: 3 minutes



LET'S TALK CHIT

"Chits" (Public addressing City Council)

■ I'm glad it's your decision and not mine."

Judy Abdo
Former City Council member, alluding to the present Council's task of developing a new land-use plan for the entire city.

■ "There is no 'there' there. The authors (of the Shape our Future report) have given you a pig and a poke and said 'trust us.'"

Geraldine Kennedy
Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, on a perceived lack of vision in the alternatives for land use development.

QUOTE OF NOTE

"I can't claim to be good at preventing deviousness."
City Attorney Marsha Jones Moutrie, making a joke in response to a Council member Ken Genser's request to see if his proposed motion on land-use was promoting a particular agenda.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jacko spotted wearing black robe, veil

By The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Michael Jackson visited a mall in Bahrain's capital Wednesday, covering himself in a black abaya robe traditionally worn by conservative Bahraini women and a veil hiding his face.

The 47-year-old pop star was accompanied by three children whose faces were covered with dark scarves. They wore yellow shirts and sweat pants or khakis, without robes.

Jackson was seen leaving Marina Mall holding a young child by the hand. On the way out through a back door, he shook hands with security guards.

He was wearing an abaya, a robe with long sleeves, under which his pants, white shirt and men's shoes could be seen. His head and face were wrapped in a black veil and he was wearing black gloves.

The veil, abaya and gloves were of a style typically worn by conservative Bahraini women, though Jackson appeared to be wearing them to hide his identity.

A woman wearing an abaya, jeans and a scarf over her head that partially covered her face accompanied Jackson. She asked photographers to respect their privacy, saying they were scaring the children.

Since his June acquittal in California on child molestation charges, Jackson has made several trips to Bahrain as a guest of Sheik Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the son of Bahrain's king.

In November, Jackson stirred a small controversy in the United Arab Emirates by entering the ladies room in a shopping mall. His publicist, Raymone K. Bain, said Jackson didn't understand the Arabic sign on the door and left the bathroom when he realized his mistake.

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Victor Willis, the original policeman in '70s disco band the Village People, skipped a court hearing where he was due to be sentenced on drug and gun charges and now faces more than three years in prison, prosecutors said.

Willis, 54, had been scheduled to surrender Tuesday after four months on the run but he failed to show up for the hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court, prosecutors said. It was his second no-show.

He was facing a maximum of 16 months in state prison after pleading no contest to charges he had cocaine and a loaded handgun when he was arrested in Daly City in July. Prosecutors said he was on probation for another cocaine conviction at the time.

Willis was freed in lieu of $100,000 bail, but failed to show up for his sentencing hearing in October. His case was featured on the television crime show "America's Most Wanted" in December. The segment is scheduled to re-air in February.

The songwriter and performer left the Village People in the late 1970s. His last known address was a trailer park in Daly City.

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles middle school attended by high-profile attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. will be renamed in his honor, officials said.

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to rename the 1,900-student Mt. Vernon Middle School after the lawyer best known for representing O.J. Simpson.

"This extraordinary, superb lawyer with movie-star celebrity status was an outstanding student at Mt. Vernon Middle School and Los Angeles High School," said Scott Schmerelson, principal.

Cochran died last March in Los Angeles at age 67. He was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in December 2003.

Besides Simpson, Cochran's celebrity client list included football great Jim Brown, whom he defended on rape and assault charges, actor Todd Bridges, who faced attempted murder charges, Tupac Shakur on a weapons charge, Snoop Dogg on a murder charge and Sean "Diddy" Combs on gun and bribery charges stemming from a nightclub shooting.

LONDON — The Arctic Monkeys sold almost 120,000 copies of their debut album in a single day, and it may become one of the year's top-sellers, retailers said.

The British band shot from obscurity to fame in a matter of months, thanks partly to savvy use of the Internet to market their music to fans.

A stream of adulatory media articles followed, and the group's debut singles, "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor" and "When the Sun Goes Down," both topped the British singles chart.

The band's album, "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not," sold 118,501 copies within 24 hours of its release Monday, more than the rest of the top 20 album chart combined. If sales hold up, it will become Britain's fastest-selling debut, surpassing the 306,631 copies sold by Hear'Say's "Popstars" in 2001.

Phil Penman, head of music for retailer HMV, said Tuesday the Monkeys were "well on their way to having the first million-selling album of 2006."

Formed in 2003, the quartet from Sheffield in northern England signed last year to Domino, the independent record label that is home to Scots rockers Franz Ferdinand.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES FOR JANUARY 24, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 Third St.
(310) 458-1506

King Kong
1pm 4:45pm 8:30pm
Tristan & Isolde
1:15pm 4pm 7pm 9:45pm
Walk the Line
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:30pm 10:30pm
Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World
2:15pm 5pm 7:45pm 10:15pm

Mann's Criterion Theatres
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Hoodwinked
12:20pm 2:30pm 4:40pm 6:50pm 9:00pm
Munich
11:20am 2:50pm 6:30pm 10pm
Memoirs of a Geisha
12:30pm 3:40pm 7pm 10:20pm
The Ringer
12pm 4:50pm 9:30pm
Hostel
12:10pm 2:40pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:10pm
Rumor Has It
2:20pm 7:10pm
Last Holiday
11:10am 1:50pm 4:30pm 7:20pm 10:30pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4AMC

Cheaper By the Dozen 2
2:15pm 4:40pm
Chronicles of Narnia
1pm 4pm 7pm 10:05pm
The Family Stone
7:10pm 9:40pm
Fun with Dick & Jane
2:30pm 5:10pm 7:40pm 9:50pm
Glory Road
1:40pm 4:30pm 7:20pm 10pm
The New World
1:10pm 4:10pm 7:15pm 10:20pm
Syriana
1:25pm 4:20pm 7:25pm 10:15pm
Underworld: Evolution
2pm 4:50pm 7:30pm 10:10pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
(310) 394-8099

Brokeback Mountain
12:15pm 3:45pm 7pm 10pm
Casanova
1pm 4:10pm 7:20pm 9:55pm

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Match Point
1:10pm 4:05pm 7pm 9:55pm
Mrs. Henderson Presents
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:10pm 9:45pm
Good Night, and Good Luck
1:15pm 4:30pm 5:45pm 8pm 10:15pm
Why We Fight
1:55pm 4:40pm 7:30pm 9:50pm

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.
In 1841, Britain formally occupied Hong Kong, which the Chinese had ceded to the British.
In 1861, Louisiana seceded from the Union.
In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.
In 1911, the Richard Strauss opera "Der Rosenkavalier" premiered in Dresden, Germany.
In 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.
In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon _ but the probe missed its target by some 22,000 miles.
In 1979, former Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller died in New York at age 70.
Ten years ago: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton testified before a grand jury connected to the Whitewater probe. Hours before a midnight deadline, a confrontation-weary Congress voted to avert a third federal shutdown and finance dozens of agencies for seven more weeks. Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz was fatally shot at the suburban Philadelphia estate of John E. du Pont; du Pont surrendered 48 hours later. (Du Pont was later convicted of third-degree murder but mentally ill; he's serving a 13- to 30-year sentence.)

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



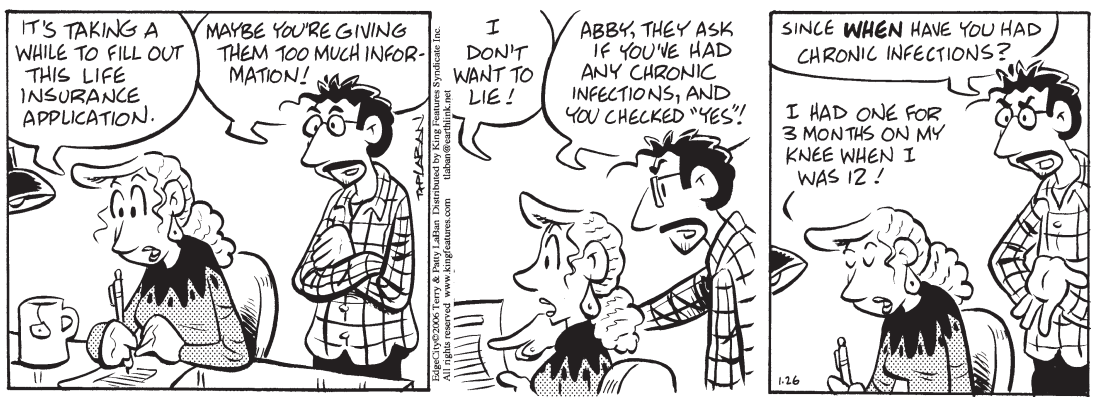
Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



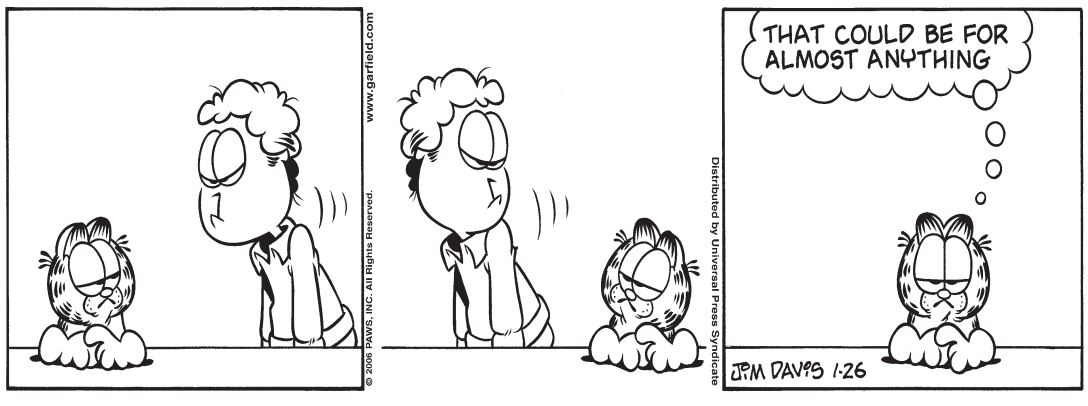
edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



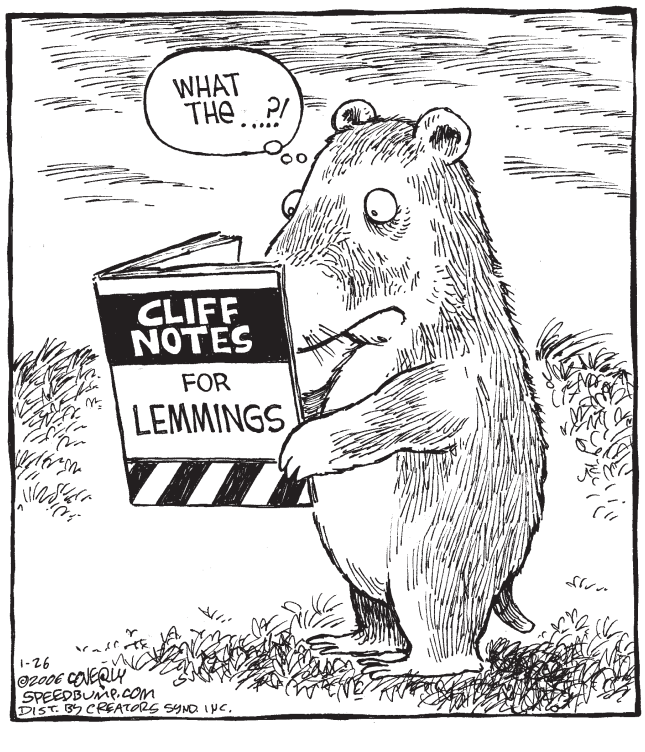
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Seedy fruits
5 Interfere
11 "— soup yet?"
12 Is jealous of
13 Kilauea flow
14 Expiates
15 Makeup kit item
17 Major no-no
18 Car part
22 Move like a cat
24 Kilt's kin
25 Wrestler's victory
26 Clock numeral
27 Pays to play
30 Salad green
32 Burner setting
33 Distress call
34 Trial prop
38 "Jane Eyre" writer
41 Meter or liter
42 Pearl producer
43 Goblet part
44 Influences
45 Throw

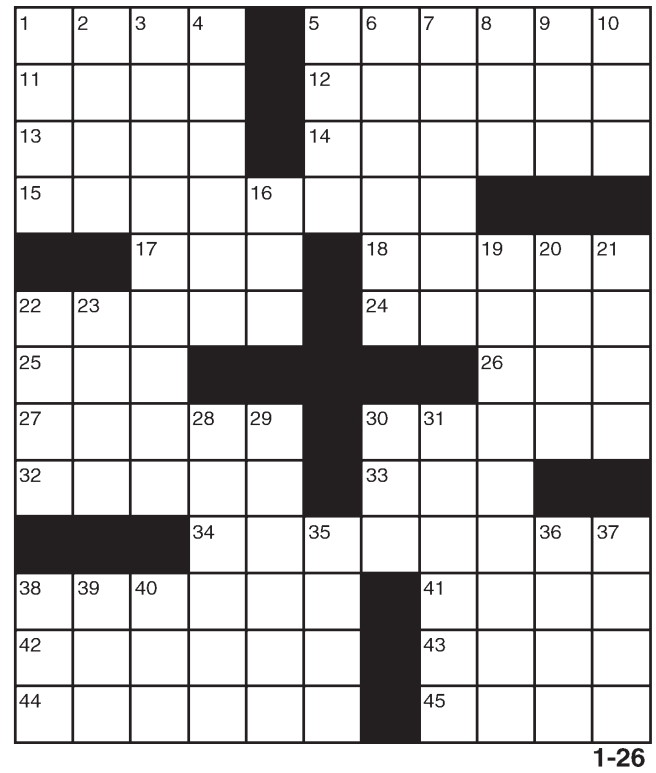
DOWN

1 Dossier
2 Brit's exclamation
3 Is beaten by, as temptation
4 Lenin's successor
5 Cruel
6 Keys in
7 "New World Symphony" composer
8 Clamor
9 Golfer Trevino
10 Snaky letter
16 Press need
19 Immerses oneself in
20 Eye part
21 Singer Redding
22 Health clubs
23 Pocket fuzz
28 History makeup
29 Trio doubled
30 Vegas-set series
31 Hearty
35 Sub
36 Execs' neckwear
37 Money machines
38 Swamp
39 Deli choice
40 East, in Berlin

A	C	T	S	■	E	X	T	R	A	S
S	O	A	K	■	D	E	R	I	V	E
I	N	K	Y	■	G	R	A	D	E	A
S	E	E	■	S	E	X	Y	■	■	■
■	■	C	E	A	S	E	■	T	A	P
P	R	O	X	Y	■	S	P	A	C	E
R	A	V	E	■	■	■	A	K	I	N
E	J	E	C	T	■	S	L	E	D	S
P	A	R	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	■	O	W	E
K	I	B	I	T	Z	■	A	V	I	D
O	R	A	C	L	E	■	N	E	R	D
P	A	R	K	E	D	■	T	R	E	Y

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Notices

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Please take notice that a public auction will take place at 924 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, California on the 2nd day of February, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

The following property will be sold:

wooden desk, wooden chairs, leather chairs, food storage container, electric heater, wall pictures, black metal desk, white boards, cork boards, conference table, wooden cabinet, TV holder, blinds, stool, fake plant, telephones, TV stands, DVD player, CD players, monitor with keyboard and mouse, small TV, sticker printer, black metal box for money, lettering system, portable keyboard, fan, large trash bins, small trash bins, clock, desk tops, file cabinets, paper shredder, metal holders, internet router with cables, mirrors, cable boxes with remote, red board, surfboard, wall speakers, black stands, battery charger, exercise ball, yoga mats, exercising steps, bookshelves, exercise mats, ladder, hammer, plastic storage box, exercising equipment, orange cones, stand with exercising positions, curtains, vacuum, brooms, wooden pole, and fire extinguisher.

The property being sold was owned or held on behalf of former tenant, Adventure Training Consultants, LLC, located at 2461 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, California 90404.

The terms of the sale are: cash in lawful money of the United States, with sale going to the highest bidder in competitive bidding. The property must be paid for and removed by the purchase at the time of sale.

Dated: January 17, 2006

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN746919 2-2-06 Jan 19,26, 2006



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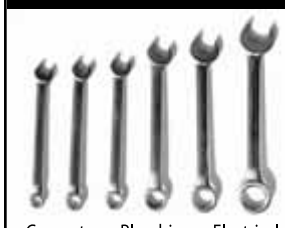
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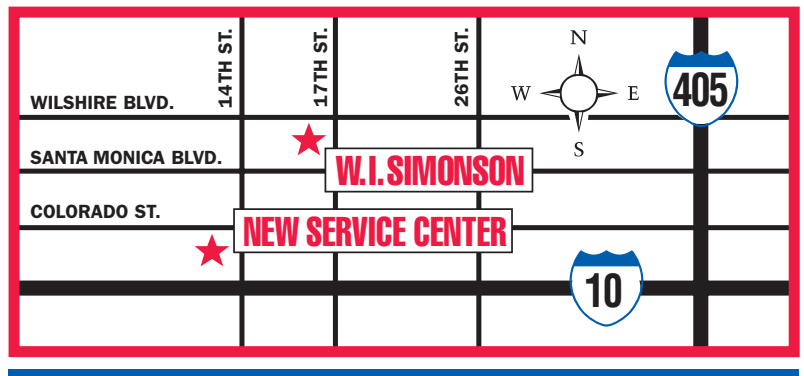
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