

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 3 27 28 46
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

5 17 29 32 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 7 0
Evening: 4 3 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:49.07

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

As senior citizens resist the idea of age-specific driver testing, accidents continue in which police suspect the cause was an elderly driver who momentarily confused the gas pedal for the brake. Recent examples: 90-year-old man, crashed into a pharmacy, Scarborough, Maine, November; 83-year-old driver, drove off the second floor of a parking deck, Las Vegas, October; 80-year-old driver, smashed into a Veterans Day parade (one death), Whitman, Mass., November; 74-year-old man, crashed into a coffee shop, Corvallis, Ore., December; 74-year-old man, mowed down pedestrians on a sidewalk (two deaths), Montreal, Quebec, November. And in the most prominent case, George Weller, 87, heads back to court in January, having pleaded not guilty to vehicular manslaughter in the 2003 Santa Monica, Calif., farmer's market "massacre" in which 10 people were killed and 63 injured when Weller couldn't find the brakes for 1,000 feet at 60 mph.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.
In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the Nevada desert began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flats.
In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

INDEX

Horoscopes	
Rent a movie, Capricorn	2
Surf Report	
Water Temperature: 60°	3
Opinion	
Mall plans need to be rethought	4
National	
Rice is ready	8
International	
Insurgents attack	11
Comics	
Yuk it up	12
Classifieds	
Ad space odyssey	13-15
People in the News	
Kidman and the photogs	16

Mall overhaul is now negotiable

21-story towers are off the table for now

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A plan to raze Santa Monica Place mall and extend the Third Street Promenade received an early nod of approval late Tuesday, though officials ordered the developer to put aside its controversial blueprints and first collect opinions from the public.

The Santa Monica City Council voted unanimously to enter into negotiations with the mall's owner, Macerich Co., to plan the future of the 10-acre site, which officials hope someday will serve as a nexus between Main Street, the Promenade, Santa Monica Pier, Civic Center and a proposed light rail sta-

tion downtown.

Macerich officials last November proposed razing the indoor mall and neighboring parking structures, and replacing it with a new, outdoor shopping mall that would rearrange the existing 560,000 square feet of retail space and add 70,000 square feet of offices, 300 condominiums and 150 apartments.

An immediate backlash erupted in the community over the height of the project, which suggested dramatically reworking the Santa Monica skyline with three 21-story condo towers and two shorter buildings for apartments and offices.

Echoes of that backlash continued at Tuesday's City Council meeting, even after Macerich officials presented an emasculated

See MACERICH, page 5

Solicitation not on the menu for SM residents

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Hang a menu on a doorknob, get a ticket.

That may soon be reality in Santa Monica, where city officials late Tuesday agreed to look into banning unwanted advertising left at homes and businesses.

Resident Jill Chapin, who asked the City Council to consider the ban, said the seemingly endless flurry of fliers, leaflets and

other ads are both a nuisance and a safety concern. Uncollected fliers scream out to burglars scouring neighborhoods for a suitable target, she said.

"People are inundated with unsolicited advertising," added Chapin, who suggested a local no-flier list be established much like the national do-not-call list aimed at telemarketers.

Chapin also suggested that like

See DOOR HANGINGS, page 6

Reading glasses



John Wood/Daily Press

Workmen on Wednesday install a pane of glass on the southern exterior of the new Main Library at Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street. Acting City Librarian Greg Mullen said construction on the library is expected to be complete in October, with a grand opening tentatively scheduled for the first week of January 2006. The library project itself will cost \$58 million, and the city plans to spend another \$13 million on additional parking, according to city documents.

Suicide try triggers commuter rail tragedy in LA

BY TIM MOLLOY

Associated Press Writer

GLENDALE — Two Metrolink commuter trains smashed into each other early Wednesday, killing 10 people and injuring more than 180 in a horrific chain-reaction triggered when one train hit an SUV allegedly left on its tracks by a man in an aborted suicide attempt.

The collision hurtled double-deck rail cars onto their sides and knocked over a locomotive parked on a siding. Unharmed passengers and employees at an adjacent store rushed to the wreckage, some of it ablaze, and pulled out the injured as firefighters, ambulances and emergency helicopters converged on the scene.

In a huge triage operation, emergency crews from multiple agen-

cies sent 129 people — dozens in critical condition — to 13 hospitals. Another 60 people were assessed at the scene and released. Anguished relatives rushed to the area north of downtown Los Angeles to find out what had become of passengers on the trains.

Killed were one woman and nine men, including sheriff's Deputy James Tutino, 47, whose flag-draped body was saluted by

law enforcement officers and firefighters as it was carried from the wreckage.

Within hours, authorities said the nation's worst rail disaster since 1999 was allegedly caused by a suicidal man who slashed his wrists, stabbed himself and parked a Jeep Grand Cherokee on the tracks.

Authorities arrested Juan

See TRAIN WRECK, page 7

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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ You are juggling different sides of a problem. Your perspective and different approach might be hard to communicate. Others also might be difficult. Keep facts and opinions to yourself. Take time for a walk or stress-buster at lunchtime. Tonight: Off to the gym.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ The best intentions fall apart. Whatever effort you put out, events seem to back-fire. Unexpected developments take you to a new level. Don't get into the problems of the moment. Remain centered. Tonight: Use your imagination.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Stay centered, realizing what your problems might be. Your finances could easily rock and roll into the red. You also might discover that what seemed obvious is not manageable. Anchor in and get back to the basics. Tonight: Mosey on home.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ What you say and how you say it could impact the responses you get. Recognize what might be happening within a partnership. Another might be attempting to mend fences. Kick negativity away. Tonight: Clear your desk.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Finances shine a disturbing light on work and daily life. You cannot keep skirting the problems you are encountering. Bite the bullet and handle what you must. You will see positive results in the next few months, if not weeks. Tonight: Pay bills first.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ You beam, and usually others respond. But at the moment, you might not draw the normal reaction. Don't get down on yourself. Remember more of who you are and what you want. You cannot please all of the people all of the time. Tonight: Stay chipper.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ Assume a low profile and you will be better off, though you might not agree or see the benefits. Bosses could rant and rave. Know when to bail out and not become part of the problem. Be smart. Read between the lines. Tonight: Roll with the punches.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★ If you agree with a premise, another person disagrees. If you disagree with a premise, you can be sure another agrees. Dip out of the immediate discussions and events, and eye the situations at hand. You might just laugh. Tonight: Choose a mind treat.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★ Yes, you might feel like you are in a pressure cooker, and you are! Others demand, boss and push. Even with the best intentions and your natural strength, you could find yourself in a tizzy. Tonight: Think "tomorrow."

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ You smile, and others grumble. What you can be sure of is that you cannot win right now. This detail might have very little to do with you, but with others in general. A positive approach probably will fall flat. Tonight: Rent a movie.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★ Others dominate, and it doesn't matter whether you agree or think they are wrong. Trying to change the pace is nothing less than futile. Discussions need to be one-on-one. Don't hesitate to vanish if you want. Tonight: Listen and share.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★ Others could be difficult and challenging. You might not be sure about what will work for you. Certainly you will not find out right now. Just work on getting through the day. Bosses and associates pull you in different directions. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.a



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bowling for dollars

By Daily Press staff

The Super-Bowl-A-Thon is rolling back into town. More than 65 teams representing various businesses, community organizations, media and government compete with their bowling and fundraising skills for awards.

The bowl-a-thon will take place on Friday, Feb. 4 from 1 p.m.. to 5 p.m. at AMF Bay Shore Lanes, 234 Pico Blvd.

Proceeds will benefit the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition cold/wet winter shelter, which provides emergency beds for 300 people nightly. For 20 years, WSHC, a project of Community Partners, has addressed the needs of the homeless and low income population in the western part of Los Angeles County by coordinating programs, such as food and shelter, job counseling and health services, as well as providing education and advocacy. WSHC brings together more than 25 organizations representing local human service, government agencies and faith-based programs.

Each bowler will receive an event T-shirt, food and the chance to win door prizes. There will be three sessions of competition and the event is a sellout. Making their debut this year are teams from the Santa Monica Fire and Police departments.

First Federal Bank of California is this year's "Perfect Game" title sponsor with "Strike" sponsor being the Santa Monica Police Officers' Association and "Spare" level sponsors are Harding Larmore Kutcher & Kozal, Fairmont Miramar Hotel, The Lobster, Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau and Santa Monica Place.

Food for the three afternoon sessions will be provided by Arby's Market Fresh Santa Monica, Buca di Beppo, The Victorian/Duck Duck Mousse, New Directions Catering Services, St. Joseph Center's Culinary Program, CLARE Foundation and more.

Awards: At a March 2005 post-event function, awards and certificates will be presented to the individuals and teams with the top scores for each of the three sessions as well as individuals and teams that raise funds through pledges.

School district looking for financial oversight

By Daily Press staff

If you want to keep tabs on the finances of the local school district, you've got until Friday to submit an application to join a citizen committee.

Friday, Jan. 28, is the last day to submit an application for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Financial Oversight Committee, which was reopened to attract additional candidates.

The district continues to seek qualified candidates who will bring a depth of business and/or financial expertise to the committee. Application forms are available through the superintendent's office. Call (310) 450-8338, ext. 240, for more information. Interviews are scheduled for Feb. 1.

Applicants must have:

- A broad perspective.
- Financial and/or management and/or legal expertise/experience.
- Reside, employed or work within geographic boundaries of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

See BRIEFS, page 6



SURF REPORT

Increase surf and increase storm make P-Block be all chumpy track. Today looks like another soggy one. As for the surf, size should back off towards chest to possibly shoulder high as the lagging periods trailing this NW swell finally make it to town.

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

Today the water is:

60°

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

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The QLine

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

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

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

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

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Macerich needs to back down

Editor:

As someone who co-chaired the original Civic Center Specific Plan and chaired the working groups for both the Downtown Plan and the Transit Mall, I am deeply concerned with the proposal to re-develop Santa Monica Place. I urge the City Council to reject the various alternatives presented by city staff.

There are aspects of this current proposal that have shocked many Santa Monicans and have brought people (like me) out of the woodwork. Most objections have focused on the 25-story heights of the condo towers. I assume this was a bargaining ploy to win a compromise of 15 stories or so. Nevertheless, it has gotten the attention of many of us who are now looking more critically at the entire project.

This property is the most strategic site proposed for re-development in the city. It is potentially the missing link — tying together the downtown, the civic center and the pier. But, I believe that the soul of Santa Monica is at stake.

For years a majority of the City Council and our residents have valued the goals of maintaining diversity in our community. This view was reaffirmed by the clear consensus of the 170 residents who attended the general plan workshop this week-end. In contrast, the Macerich plan would greatly accelerate gentrification.

For this, city land and public funds — \$130 million? — are being requested and we are asked to waive the human-scale height limits that have been a part of Santa Monica becoming such a desirable community in which to live and visit. If the height limits are waived, there will be tremendous pressures to raise them for many other projects, like hotels, the most tempting tax-lucrative projects of all.

Redevelopment funds, which are siphoned from the county, which desperately needs money for such niceties as public health, are supposed to be used to fight urban blight.

The Macerich Web site describes its vision: “Where to shop in America: SoHo, South Beach, Santa Monica. Here, the synergy of internationally recognized luxury tenants from Paris, Milan and London are poised to create the ultimate decadent shopping experience. From the affluent to the ultra-rich.”

Macerich’s limited community presentations — where input was not encouraged — gave us more reasons to be concerned: Luxury condos in a gated community with a private park — the sketches resemble the Santa Monica Shores apartments — and shops which look like the Century City shopping mall or parts of Rodeo Drive. The architects’ credits also don’t reassure us the Bellagio and Forum Shops in Las Vegas and Universal City Walk. The new shops, we are told, will look old. Just what we need, another faux downtown, another Grove. The new plan shows no outdoor dining that has been so important to our Promenade, but it will be sanitized of unpleasantness of city life. The food courts are to be moved further away from the rest of the Promenade. What is the public benefit that justifies more high-end fashion shops and luxury condos in a setting that does not resemble downtown?

According to Macerich’s calculations, 60 percent of those living within a six-mile radius of Santa Monica Place have household incomes of under \$75,000. Where are they to shop in Santa Monica?

If the City Council does make the mistake of moving forward, it should not treat this as a routine development agreement where the developer proposes and the city disposes. For example, staff is proposing that the developer conduct public meetings. Rather, the city, through a working group or some other mechanism, should guide the public input process.

This process should be viewed as a public-private partnership. After all, the public’s land and money are involved — not mentioned at all in the staff report. The city, through the public process, should be looking at the community’s interest in the plan. The negotiating parameters listed in the staff report should be a starting point.

It is important to add an economic impact analysis. The community has a right to know all the impacts so we can decide if we will challenge the development agreement at the ballot box.

Paul Rosenstein
Santa Monica

Kenney not keen on recent history

Editor:

The name Ken Lay is so seldom heard in the media I guess Mr. Kenney has forgotten about Enron (SMDP, Jan. 25, page 4). I believe he should get some news somewhere else than Fox. “The users abused the privilege.” Where has this guy been?

Roy Persinko
Santa Monica

Falling off the wagon, marching on to war?

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



(Editor’s note: Ron Scott Smith is on vacation. The following column was printed in the Santa Monica Daily Press on Feb. 17, 2003, the eve of the U.S. attack on Iraq.)

Guy walks into a bar.
Uh oh. It’s the president.

Don’t look now, but has the new sheriff in town fallen off the wagon on his way to the war? There’s something about the way he’s been leaning those elbows on podiums where he speaks. Something about those elbows looking all too familiar with that position.

The man has endured a tumultuous first half-term, which has given us the devastating 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, the crushing counter-attack on Afghanistan, the resulting erosion of civil liberties, which had made this nation stand apart from others, and the nosedive of what was a high-flying economy prior to his inauguration. After all that, and the axis-of-evil too, has the pressure simply become too much to bear for the guy who got a half-million votes less than his opponent?

As this nation lurches drunkenly and irreversibly toward a massive preemptive assault on the ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia — the president, representing all 290 million of us, continually speaks in the first person, “I,” rather than the collective, “we.” He’s taking this leader-of-the-free-world thing personally. When addressing Saddam, he resorts to the language he might have used in the days when he would chastise and discipline his kids — language that, on the world stage, may not be playing as well as it did in his living room.

“I’m sick and tired of the game-playing.”

“This is a rerun of a bad movie and I don’t want to watch it.”

“He wants me to play the game of hide-and-seek, but the game is over.”

“I owe it to the American people to defend this country. And I will do so.”

Actually it’s our 20-year-old sons and daughters who will be doing the defending, sir, if attacking is what defending means.

Those young troops, numbering more

than 150,000 and counting — along with the battleships, aircraft carriers, Stealth bombers, Apache helicopters, and who knows what other vehicles of mass destruction — now surround the arch enemy which can barely keep its own children fed. The Commander-In-Chief blindly ignores world opinion, but, unless he was in a stupor, he couldn’t have missed what looked like that whole world out on the streets in protest.

He disdains the United Nations as a stumbling block, because they have the gall to question this obsessive rush to war. He degrades and undermines the embattled UN team on the ground in Iraq, referring to them as “these so-called inspectors,” because they aren’t telling him what he wants to hear. Who in their right and sober mind would not want to hear that inspections are on track, and that the deadly weapons in question, at this time, do not appear to be there?

On a red white and blue platter, Osama Bin Laden — still “wanted- dead or alive” — is being handed a feast, the intercivizational war he’s been hungering for. If you think the radical Muslim world is united and stirred to action now, what happens when the bombs and missiles start raining down in their geographical heartland, and the toll on innocent life begins to mount?

Meanwhile, back in the home of the brave, America — terrorized at the dreaded level orange and seemingly scared to death of anything that moves — trades in freedom after freedom in the name of a murky and ominous homeland security strategy where Big Brother has been assigned as protector. Total Information Access, anyone? Like extras in a cheap horror flick, we’re rushing to Wal-Marts across the nation to buy duct tape and painter’s plastic in order to seal off windows and doors against the unseen monsters trying to get in. Bin Laden must be pinching himself, thinking, it can’t be this easy, can it?

Guy walks into a bar. Uh oh. It’s the president.

Smacks a hornet’s nest with a golf club, shouts out: “You’re either with me or against me. You — you’re good; you — you’re evil.”

Nations scatter and run for cover. Over in the corner, barely visible in the shadow of Iraq, sit Iran and North Korea — nervous, packing.

There is still no punch line.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

Santa Monica Daily Press: Att. Editor 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or email: sack@smdp.com



LOCAL



Civic Center towers will set precedent, councilman says

MACERICH, from page 1

plan for their central downtown property which removed the towers entirely. Slides of the proposal featured a white block over the residential portion, with the words "To be determined after community input" printed over it.

Mall officials repeatedly have stressed that tall, thin towers are preferable over short, wide buildings, saying they allow for more light and air, and are more interesting architecturally. Still, Randy Brant of Macerich acknowledged the towers likely will be cut way down before the project can proceed.

"When we presented this to the public, it seemed to be a non-starter," Brant said Wednesday. "There's no reason to continue to illustrate something that's been made very clear to us won't work."

A PUBLIC COMMENT

What will work for the property is still unclear. Though the council agreed to proceed, it directed Macerich to hire two consultants to work with City Hall and the public on formulating a plan.

One consultant will facilitate an extensive community outreach program that as of yet is unplanned. The other consultant will perform a financial analysis of the site, taking particular notice of the two city-owned parking structures, which occupy about 20 percent of the property.

Supporters and critics packed the council chambers on Tuesday, and spilled into City Hall's corridors and lobbies, where extra seats were set up with televisions broadcasting the council meeting.

Nearly 30 people addressed the council regarding the controversial plans, including three former Santa Monica mayors.

Business interests urged the council to seize what they called a momentous opportunity to economically boost downtown. Critics derided city officials for considering the plans while they embark on a rewrite of the land use element, the

document that governs development throughout Santa Monica.

"I respectfully request that you set aside this ... plan and come back later with something that is not an insult to even the simplest of minds, something more in line with what is acceptable to the people of Santa Monica," said 49-year resident Emmalie Hodgkin.

"I do believe that they are the ones who have given you your temporary power," Hodgkin continued. "I do hope that you have not come down with the political virus of the season, that causes one who gets his foot in the door to get the notion that he now has a mandate to stomp all over the house."

Those who supported proceeding with the negotiations said the financially faltering mall needed to be rebuilt and reminded the council that City Hall will retain control over the project until it gives final approval. The inward-facing mall is outdated and in recent years has lost many merchants to the thriving, pedestrian-friendly Promenade, mall officials said.

"I don't want to look at unappealing parking structures anymore," said resident Tom Cleys, adding the Frank Gehry-designed indoor mall, which was opened in 1980, always has been disconnected from the rest of downtown. "We need to do something about it. It's not a good experience for the citizens."

Macerich officials suggested a public outreach model that included holding evening and weekend forums at elementary schools in seven areas of the city; calling two large, city-wide meetings; setting up displays of the mall proposal; and soliciting comments on the Internet. It's unclear whether the paid facilitator will opt to change or complement that outreach model.

Assistant Planning Director Andy Agle said Wednesday the public input process would be expedited, but added neither the timeline nor the form was known.

"There's no reason to continue to illustrate something that's been made very clear to us won't work."

— RANDY BRANT
Macerich Co.

"We haven't done something like this," he said. "It's sort of a new process."

CHAIN REACTION

One major reason the council decided to move forward with the Macerich project is because it feared waiting would sabotage the opportunity.

The current mall's two major anchors, Macy's and Robinsons May, enjoy long-term leases signed years ago when indoor malls were built around large stores. The chains only recently agreed to close for two to three years during construction, and likely would opt to renovate their existing properties if made to wait for too long while City Hall decides what to allow, said Arthur Coppola, president and CEO of Macerich.

Still, Coppola stressed the importance of ample public comment.

"We well understand that we have a long public process ahead of us, and that we have to have buy-in from the community, otherwise the project shouldn't be built," he said. "We have to have buy-in from the city."

After agreeing to move forward with the plans, the council also decided to tie together planning for the mall site with planning for a development of as many as 325 housing units in the Civic Center on the south side of Interstate 10.

Planners said tying the two projects together may delay the Civic Center project, but will allow the city to be comprehensive in its approach.

In addition to the new housing developments, mostly along Ocean Avenue, the planned Civic Center includes walkways

and green space surrounding City Hall and the courthouse, as well as the already completed new police and fire station, and a parking structure currently being built behind the courthouse, among other improvements. Officials are considering closing Main Street to vehicle traffic in the Civic Center area.

City Councilmen Ken Genser and Kevin McKeown argued against combining planning for the Civic Center and Macerich projects, saying benefits were minimal and the trade-off of delaying affordable housing too severe.

After losing in that attempt, Genser raised hairs on the council by indicating that combining the two projects would open the door for towers of up to 12 stories high at the mall site, because the City Council already has agreed to consider buildings that high in the Civic Center.

Genser asked that the record reflect his "no" vote against combining the two plans was because he felt it was "inappropriate to approve a plan that would call for 12-story towers at Santa Monica Place."

City Councilman Bobby Shriver took exception to the comment. He immediately sought to correct the record by explaining his vote was not fashioned to set a precedent for building heights at the Macerich site. Mayor Pam O'Connor stepped in to quell the slight outbreak as Shriver and City Councilman Herb Katz called Genser's last-minute addition an "unfair comment."

"We try working together," O'Connor said. "But every once in awhile, yes, we're going to have them (disagreements)."

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LOCAL

Enforcement may be an issue with flier ban in SM

DOOR HANGINGS, from page 1

with the do-not-call list, the offending companies be punished rather than the workers who hang menus and coupons.

City Councilman Herb Katz asked that city staff research the issue further, looking in particular at Beverly Hills, where officials said a similar law exists.

"Like this lady, I am inundated with stuff all over my steps, unwanted," Katz said.

The council unanimously agreed to study the suggestion. The issue likely will return later this year.

City Manager Susan McCarthy cautioned the council

that a similar law already is on the books that bans leaving advertisements on car windshields in Santa Monica, but that the law is not actively enforced.

"I don't think that we could commit" the resources to enforce a new ban, McCarthy said. "Unless of course we dropped all hedge enforcement, for example."

McCarthy was jokingly referring to a 1948 city ordinance limiting hedge and fence heights to three-and-a-half feet in front yards, and eight feet in side and back yards. The law was enforced in 2003 and 2004 after years of dormancy, causing outrage among some residents, who were threatened with fines of \$25,000 a day.

Rather than adopt a new law that may not be enforced,

McCarthy initially had suggested a more traditional approach.

"The most effective way to keep that stuff from building up is for neighbors to take care of neighbors," she said. "The annoying proliferation of that kind of thing is not something that we have a great solution for."

After scant discussion, the council agreed the matter deserved a closer look.

While staff is researching other cities and making its own recommendation, McCarthy said she would happily discuss the issue further with Chapin.

"I'd be glad to talk about it," she said. "Because it piles up at my house, too."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

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- Communicates clearly information resulting from the committee's work.

- Not currently serving as an elected official.

All attempts will be made to have the composition of the committee reflective of the student population.

The Financial Oversight Committee meets approximately once a month in the district's testing room, 165116th St., second floor.

Make-A-Wish, then sip

By Daily Press staff

Good wine, good food will make many wishes come true.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Los Angeles is hosting its annual wine tasting and auction event. The even will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Air Center, 3021 Airport Ave. Individual tickets are being sold for \$125 (pre-sale) or \$150 at the door. Premier tickets are \$250 in advance. Wines from 75 different wineries and food from 40 Los Angeles area restaurants will be presented. The auction will include 400 live and silent packages and artwork from world-renowned artists.

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STATE



Union chair faults train setup in fatal LA crash

TRAIN WRECK, from page 1

Manuel Alvarez, 25, who had superficial injuries, said Glendale Police Chief Randy Adams.

Alvarez, formerly of Compton and recently transient, was hospitalized in stable condition but was expected to be booked for investigation of a "homicide-related offense," said police Sgt. Tom Lorenz. The man had "a prior drug history" but there was no indication he was under the influence, Lorenz said.

"He's been extremely cooperative," Lorenz said.

District Attorney Steve Cooley said no decision had been made on charges, and that intent would be critical in determining the appropriate charge. "The state of mind of the suspect is a central issue: What led him to do whatever acts he did do?" Cooley said.

The police chief described Alvarez as "a deranged individual that was suicidal."

"I think his intent at that time was to take his own life but changed his mind prior to the train actually striking this vehicle," the chief said. "He exited the vehicle and stood by as the southbound Metrolink train struck his vehicle, causing the train to derail and strike the northbound train."

Alvarez's sister-in-law, Maricela Amaya, told Telemundo TV that he separated from his wife, Carmelita, three months ago. She said the wife got a court order to keep him away but he had tried to see his wife and son.

"He was having problems with drugs and all that and was violent and because of that he separated from her," Amaya said in Spanish.

Amaya said Alvarez came by two weeks ago and she called her sister to tell her to not come home.

"A few other times he went around as if he wanted to kill himself," Amaya said. "I said if you're going to kill yourself, go kill yourself far away. Don't come by here telling that to my sister."

She said he also threatened suicide in front of his son.

In was the worst U.S. rail tragedy since March 15, 1999, when an Amtrak train hit a truck and derailed near Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people and injuring more than 100.

Teams from the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Railroad Administration were dispatched.

"The magnitude of the incident requires a large team," said Department of Transportation spokesman Robert Johnson.

One Metrolink train was inbound to Los Angeles' Union Station from Moorpark, a western suburb. The other train was outbound from Union Station to the San Fernando Valley. With its locomotive pushing from the rear, the inbound train hit the SUV with its leading "cab car" about 6 a.m. and traveled a quarter-mile before its front end hit a parked freight locomotive and another part of the train struck the passing outbound train.

Passengers were thrown down the aisles of the trains.

"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder," said passenger Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "And next thing I knew the train tilted, everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life. I held on for what seemed like a week and a half it seemed. It was a complete nightmare."

Workers at a Costco store next to the tracks rushed out to help dazed passengers and help others escape the mangled wreckage. Other passengers joined the rescue effort.

In a light rain, more than 300 firefighters climbed ladders into windows of battered train cars. Firefighters had to carry 75 people out of the train cars, including a dozen who had to be extricated from wreckage.

Before his rescue, one trapped man used his own blood to write a note on a seat bottom. Using the heart symbol, he wrote "I love my kids" and "I love Leslie." The man's identity wasn't known. Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Rex Vilaubi said the man was alive when he was removed.

Passenger Paul Konkirati, 28, of Burbank, said he was in a front car that broke in two.

"I felt the train sliding so I braced myself and put my foot on the chair next to me and held onto a bar. We hit and then somebody's head landed on my thigh."

Konkirati, his jeans covered in blood, said he tried to comfort the woman, "then it got really smoky, so smoky that I had to leave. I don't know what happened to her."

George Touma, 19, of Burbank, said he was called by his mother, who was on one of the trains.

"She told me she was bleeding in the head and her arm was really hurting," said Touma, who was near the scene searching for her. "I'm really worried because she has vertigo and when I tried to call back she wouldn't answer."

"She said she remembered hearing sequential loud noises and then somebody pulled her out of the train while it was burning. She was in a panicked mode and now she's not picking up."

Hugo Moran, 34, was one of the Costco employees who rushed out to the tracks behind the store as flames erupted from the wreckage and the smell of diesel fuel hung in the air.

An elderly man, covered in blood and soot and with apparent broken arms and legs, was pulled out but died after thanking his rescuers because he didn't want to be burned, Moran said.

Moran could not come to grips with the idea that a suicide attempt led to the tragedy.

"There's a lot of ways to do it without hurting someone else," Moran said. "Was he mad at himself or mad at the world? I don't understand it."

Past crashes have raised questions about whether rail lines should be physically separated from roadways to prevent the possibility of vehicles getting onto train tracks. But Wednesday's tragedy also drew criticism over the configuration of the train that struck the SUV.

Timothy Smith, state legislative chairman for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, faulted the rail line for its use of the "cab-car" to lead the train, with the locomotive pushing from the rear. Unlike a locomotive, a cab car has a small control booth for the engineer, along with passenger seating.

If the heavier locomotive was at the front of the train, Smith said, it would have probably pushed the Jeep off the tracks and avoided a derailment. Having a locomotive pushing from the rear also creates an "accordion" effect on the middle cars, increasing damage, he said.

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Rice wins Senate confirmation to be secretary of state

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice won easy confirmation Wednesday to be President Bush's new secretary of state, despite strong dissent from a small group of Democrats who said she shares blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

The Senate voted 85 to 13 to confirm Rice, who succeeds Colin Powell as America's top diplomat and becomes the first black woman to hold the job.

Plans were made for her to be sworn in

at the White House Wednesday night, take her place in the State Department Thursday morning and have a more elaborate swearing-in by Bush at the agency on Friday.

The Senate vote showed some of the partisanship that delayed Rice's confirmation vote by several days. Most of the votes against Rice were Democrats, including some of the Senate's best-known members such as Massachusetts Democratic Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and John Kerry, who was the party's pres-

idential candidate in last year's election.

Democratic foes of her appointment focused mostly on the way Bush and Rice took the United States to war in Iraq and how they have handled the war with insurgents since deposing Saddam Hussein.

They said mistakes had led to mounting American casualties. As the debate drew to a close, word came from Iraq of the crash of a U.S. military transport helicopter in bad weather, killing at least 30 people in the worst U.S. loss since the war.

Rice's nomination was never in doubt, however. Republicans had hoped to hold the vote last week, on the same day that Bush took the oath for his second term, but Democrats asked for more time. The GOP accused Democrats of inappropriately delaying Rice's confirmation to make political statements about Iraq policy.

Rice, 50, is Bush's trusted national security aide and a main architect of his policies on Iraq and the war on terror. She becomes the first black woman to serve as the nation's top diplomat.

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NATIONAL



Ariz. Officials scramble to enforce Prop. 200

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona is now the first state that requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

That has elections officials scrambling to enforce the voting provisions of Proposition 200, which Arizona voters approved in November. It became law Tuesday after the Justice Department signed off.

"I look at my crystal ball and say I hope we are able to make this as smooth for the public as possible," said Secretary of State Jan Brewer, who oversees elections. "But any time you have a change of this magnitude, there's going to be some hiccups along the way. It's learning a new system, learning a new rule and understanding all the provision. That's where the confusion's

going to come in."

The law is aimed at preventing voter fraud. It will affect an estimated 200,000 people who register to vote yearly in Maricopa County and up to 1.6 million residents eligible to vote in the next general election.

It also creates new responsibilities for election officials statewide who are rushing to streamline the verification process before March elections. Proposition 200 requires them to verify citizenship by checking those documents.

Under old requirements, officials did not verify citizenship of voters who simply checked a box and signed a registration form affirming they were U.S. citizens.

Proposition 200 also requires proof of immigration or

citizenship status when applying for public benefits.

Attorney General Terry Goddard has instructed state agencies to apply Proposition 200 only to welfare programs.

But Randy Pullen, one of the measure's key backers, disputed Goddard's interpretation with a lawsuit seeking an expanded definition to include more services.

Goddard has requested the case be dismissed. A hearing on the matter is scheduled Thursday.

Meanwhile, both of Proposition 200's voting and public-benefits provisions are under fire in a separate lawsuit. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund alleges it is unconstitutional in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Tucson in November.

Pheonix residents have reached the boiling point

BY BETH DEFALCO

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Filtration problems at a Phoenix water treatment plant prompted city officials to warn 1.5 million water customers to boil drinking water as a precaution until noon Wednesday, and to take conservation measures.

Mayor Phil Gordon said testing Tuesday showed the water was safe, and that the warning issued earlier in the day was only a precaution until final test results become available by midday Wednesday.

"We're asking everyone not to panic, not to overreact," Gordon said during a City Hall news conference. "It's a significant inconvenience ... not life-threatening."

Still, residents were leery of drinking from the tap on Tuesday.

"Who wants to take a chance and put something bad in their body?" asked Sonja Goddout, a 66-year-old retired Mesa woman who picked up 18 bottles of water at

a Wal-Mart.

"It is scary, and that's why we're buying the water," said Goddout, who was shopping with her 90-year-old mother. "My mom lives in Phoenix, so I was concerned about her getting good water."

Muddy water caused by recent storms was flowing into one of the city's two operating water treatment plants, increasing the sediment in the water, which in turn was slowing water filtration and water output levels at that plant.

Two other treatment plants had previously been shut down for routine maintenance, and a third was closed after being flooded by the recent storms. That left only one of the city's five water treatment plants producing at full capacity on Tuesday.

Water customers may see cloudy water flowing from their taps but that posed no serious health effects, water and health officials said.

Bottled water was to be used for drinking, brushing teeth, making ice, food preparation and washing dishes.

Phoenix residents were also asked to take short showers and shut off lawn sprinklers. Annie DeChance, a spokeswoman for the Phoenix Water Services Department, said conservation is necessary because it was taking longer to treat the muddy water.

Ida Carter, a 79-year-old Phoenix resident, said she planned to forgo a shower altogether on Tuesday until the water is deemed safe again.

"I live by myself," she said. "I don't have to take a shower."

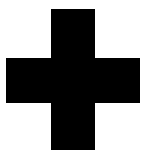
Several Phoenix-area restaurants stopped serving tea and coffee because of the problems and some even closed.

Einstein Bros' Bagels closed about 20 stores in Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe.

"We don't feel it's safe enough to take the risk," said Ron Vail, a company spokesman. "We're just taking the precaution until we get the confirmation the water is safe."

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NATIONAL

Wave of concern: Panel warns of vulnerability to tsunamis

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With up to a one-in-five chance of a cataclysmic earthquake occurring off the West Coast in the next 50 years, the United States should sharply increase spending to detect and prepare for a major tsunami, lawmakers and experts said Wednesday.

Experts told the House Science Committee there is a 10 percent to 20 percent chance of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the West Coast that could wreak havoc from northern California to southern Canada.

Such an earthquake, in the so-called Cascadia subduction zone, would be similar to the quake that resulted in the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed at least 160,000 people last month.

An earthquake of that magnitude would send a 45-foot tsunami crashing into the West Coast in as little as 15 minutes, severely damaging roads, bridges and tunnels and "rendering emergency response nearly impossible," said Jay Wilson, earthquake and tsunami programs coordinator for the state of Oregon.

Wilson and other speakers hailed a

Bush administration proposal to upgrade and modernize the nation's tsunami warning system, but said the \$37.5 million plan may not go far enough.

"Nature is the real weapon of mass destruction," said Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash. "For less than we spend in one day in Iraq, we can have a system to prevent a cataclysmic event" that could kill tens of thousands of people.

Inslee and Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., chairman of the Science panel, support a bill authorizing \$40 million a year to deploy at least 40 high-tech buoys in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans, as well as coordinate and forecast international warnings about tsunamis.

Retired Brig. Gen. David Johnson, director of the National Weather Service, said the administration plans to quadruple the size of the warning network in the Pacific by mid-2007 and build similar protections for the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf coasts.

The plan by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration envisions a network of 38 high-tech buoys attached to pressure recorders on the ocean floor. Twenty-five buoys would be added to the six now in the Pacific, five new buoys

would be installed in the Atlantic and two in the Caribbean Sea to provide coverage for the Gulf of Mexico. None now exist in those areas.

The administration also plans to spend up to \$2.75 million a year to educate coastal communities on how to prepare for and respond to a tsunami, Johnson said.

Several lawmakers questioned the emphasis on technology, calling detection just one element of an effective tsunami warning system.

Boehlert said he was surprised at plans to spend just \$1.5 million on education and outreach on the Pacific Coast, the area considered most vulnerable to a tsunami.

"A million-point-five in this town is tip money," he said.

Boehlert and other lawmakers also questioned why three of six buoys now in use in the Pacific are broken.

"That (.500 average) doesn't get you into anybody's hall of fame," said Boehlert, whose district includes the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Johnson agreed, but said adverse weather and other problems made maintaining the buoys difficult. One reason to

increase the number of sensors is to ensure that some are working while others are down or under repair, he said.

"NOAA's not sitting back," he said.

Wilson, the Oregon tsunami expert, said the proposed buoy network would do little to protect communities along the Oregon coast, which would have only minutes to evacuate in the event of a tsunami.

"The most cost-effective means of limiting loss of life from locally produced tsunamis is ... a long-term, relentless public education campaign aimed at developing the 'culture of awareness' that will cause people to leave these dangerous areas when they feel a large earthquake at the coast," Wilson said.

Northwest lawmakers called Wednesday's hearing timely, noting that it came 305 years to the day after a major tsunami hit the Pacific Northwest. The Jan. 26, 1700, storm drowned coastal forests and sent large waves to Japan that destroyed fishing villages.

Scientists have calculated a major earthquake happens in the area once every 300 to 500 years.

"We are in the yellow zone, if not the red zone," said Rep. David Wu, D-Ore.

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INTERNATIONAL



Insurgents attack political offices, polling stations

BY SAMEER N. YACIOUB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents staged attacks against U.S. forces, schools to be used as polling stations and political party offices on Wednesday, as they pressed a bloody campaign to undermine Iraq's weekend elections. A U.S. Marine transport helicopter crashed in western Iraq.

Three car bombs exploded Wednesday in Riyadh, a tense town north of Baghdad, killing at least five people, including three policemen. One of the car bombs targeted a U.S. convoy but there was no report of casualties, police said.

In Baghdad's Sadr City district, Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops raided a Shiite mosque, detaining up to 25 followers of a radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, police and the cleric's supporters said.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the helicopter crash, which took place Wednesday morning near the town of Rutbah while the aircraft was transporting 1st Marine Division forces, the U.S. military said in a statement.

A search and rescue team has reached the site and an investigation into what caused the crash is underway, the military said.

Meanwhile, a U.S. convoy was attacked on the dangerous road to

Baghdad airport and at least one vehicle was destroyed, witnesses said. The U.S. and British embassies banned their staffs from traveling on the road last year because of repeated attacks on the highway. There was no word on casualties.

U.S. troops found at least six bombs at different locations around Baghdad, the military said. Iraqi police discovered two more bombs in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, where turnout in the Sunday national elections is expected to be high.

In a statement, the U.S. command said the six bombs were discovered early Wednesday in widely scattered areas of the Iraqi capital.

"We've been very successful finding and destroying improvised explosive devices in Baghdad, limiting the insurgent's ability to kill or injure innocent Iraqis," said Maj. Philip Smith, a spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division and Task Force Baghdad.

The car bombs in Riyadh, located about 40 miles southwest of Kirkuk, exploded at a police station, in front of the mayor's office and along a road used by U.S. troops, police said. Nine people were injured in addition to the five deaths.

Residents of the insurgent-filled city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, reported clashes there Wednesday

between U.S. troops and rebels. The fighting erupted when militants attacked a U.S. patrol with rocket-propelled grenades, the residents said. One Iraqi was killed and two were wounded, doctors said.

Insurgents also attacked buildings linked to Sunday's national elections. The rebels have threatened attacks against polling centers, candidates and voters in an attempt to derail the vote.

Two schools slated to be used as polling stations were bombed overnight, and a bomb was found in a third school but defused.

A ground floor classroom in one of the buildings, a preparatory school for girls, was littered with shattered glass and its main entrance was blackened and clogged with debris.

Al-Arabiya television broadcast a videotape showing three men identified by insurgents as election workers who were kidnapped in the northern city of Mosul. The satellite station said the three were abducted by the Nineveh Mujahedeen, which threatened to attack polling stations on election day.

In other election-related attacks, gunmen opened fire on the local headquarters of the Communist Party and a major Kurdish party north of Baghdad on Wednesday, a police official said.

Assailants blasted the two buildings with heavy machine gun fire and also shot dead a traffic policeman in the city of Baqouba, said police 1st Lt. Hassan Ahmed. The buildings house the city's offices of the communists and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. There was no word on casualties in those shootings.

Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislatures. Sunni Muslim extremists have threatened to sabotage the election and many Sunni clerics have called for a boycott because of the presence of 170,000 U.S. and other foreign troops.

On Tuesday, a video showed an American kidnapped in November pleading for his life as the hostage-takers pointed a rifle at his head.

In the video, a bearded Roy Hallums, 56, said he had been taken by a "resistance group" because "I have worked with American forces." He appealed to Arab leaders, including Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, to save his life.

Hallums was seized by gunmen Nov. 1 along with Robert Tarongoy of the Philippines at their compound in Baghdad's Mansour district. The two worked for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army. The Filipino was not shown in the video.

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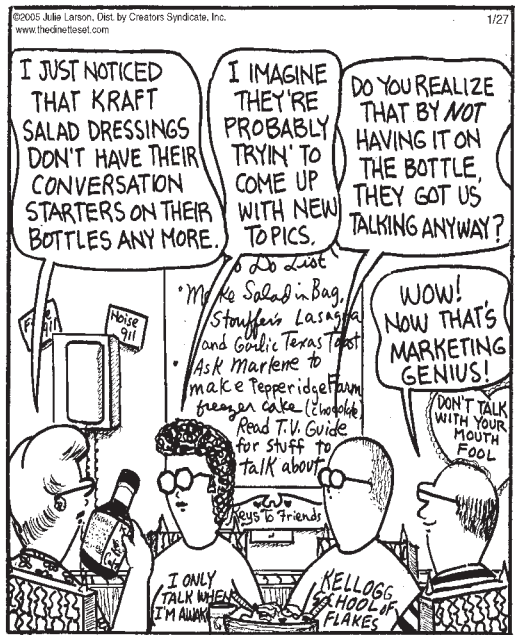
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- 11 Pot starter
- 12 Cause of darkness
- 13 Wee pest
- 14 Nucleus part
- 15 Choose, at last
- 17 Inventor Whitney
- 18 Basil-based sauce
- 22 "Maid in Manhattan" star
- 24 Do a butler's job
- 25 Copying
- 26 For both teams
- 27 Brink
- 30 Friend of Archie
- 32 Fine, to NASA
- 33 Cut dramatically
- 34 Organizes anew
- 38 Feed like a duck
- 41 Poet Sandburg
- 42 First name in flying
- 43 Singing group
- 44 Breaks the limit

45 Slant

DOWN

- 1 Luggage parts
- 2 Last Stuart ruler
- 3 Hiker's spot
- 4 Kitchen whistler
- 5 Imbibe
- 6 Moon of Jupiter
- 7 Expiates
- 8 Cave flier
- 9 Before now
- 10 Mil. bigwig
- 16 Columnist Smith

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Boarder's spot
- 20 Pinball no-no
- 21 Just
- 22 Kilauea output
- 23 Bread spread
- 28 Text error
- 29 Lens cover
- 30 Scrooge cry
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13. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2561-2566.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kidman asks for restraining order against photogs

By The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman has asked a court to issue a restraining order against two Sydney photographers, their lawyer said Wednesday.

Roland Day said his client, Jamie Fawcett, and another photographer he represents had been served papers saying Kidman’s application would be heard Thursday in Waverly Local Court. Day wouldn’t name the other photographer.

Police officers were called to Kidman’s home Sunday after an electronic listening device was found near a security vehicle that was monitoring her mansion from the street.

The bug was apparently discovered when security officers searched the grounds in preparation for Kidman’s return to film her new movie, “Eucalyptus.”

It wasn’t immediately clear whether Kidman’s application for a restraining order was related to that incident.

“Ms. Kidman appears to be trying to control how the media covers her personal and public life,” Day said.

He said his clients were merely doing their jobs and that granting Kidman’s request would “have the dangerous consequence of encouraging anyone under the scrutiny of the media to do the same thing.”

Kidman’s chief bodyguard, Neil McMaster, said Monday that surveillance footage taken from the house provided “conclusive evidence” that the device had been intentionally planted to intercept conversations among Kidman and her bodyguards.

Her father, Sydney psychologist Antony Kidman, said Tuesday that photographers had been staking out his daughter’s home since Sunday.

“She’s concerned that people will not let her alone — she’s here to make a film, she wants to promote

Australia and she’s almost a prisoner in her own house as a result,” he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. television. “I would be very pleased if people would just let her get on with her life — she makes herself available for pictures in many instances.”

Kidman, 37, won a best-actress Oscar for her role in 2002’s “The Hours.”

NEW YORK — Soon after Johnny Carson’s death last weekend, NBC announced the 79-year-old entertainer had died of emphysema, a respiratory disease that can be attributed to smoking.

Carson was a heavy smoker during his “Tonight Show” days, wielding a cigarette as a prop on air until smoking on television passed out of favor.

“I feel guilty ... it’s compulsive,” Carson told Mike Wallace on a “60 Minutes” interview in 1979. “I should go to one of those places where they shock you or do something or show you old reruns of ‘Gilligan’s Island’ to make you give up smoking.”

The interview was to be rebroadcast Wednesday night on CBS’ “60 Minutes Wednesday” with footage that wasn’t shown in 1979.

The interview remains one of Wallace’s most treasured.

“Johnny Carson stands with the Ayatollah Khomeini and Vladimir Horowitz among my favorite interviews,” Wallace said in a statement. “He was a fan of ‘60 Minutes.’ He invited me on his show and on the show I said, ‘Why don’t you do ours?’”

NEW YORK — Billy will be boffo on Broadway a little while longer.

Comedian Billy Crystal’s autobiographical one-man show, “700 Sundays,” has been extended through May 21 at the Broadhurst Theatre where it has done potent

business since opening in December. It originally was set to close in March.

Last week, a tough week for business because of the weekend snowstorm, the show still played to capacity, grossing \$810,281, more than many Broadway musicals. In “700 Sundays,” Crystal tells the story of his parents, growing up on New York’s Long Island and his early days in show business.

Tickets for the extension will go on sale Feb. 6.

LONDON — A security guard at the London theater where Christian Slater had been performing was involved in a knife attack last week, a spokesman for Slater’s play said.

Slater had already left the West End theater when the attack occurred Friday, said Tom Coupe, a spokesman for “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” which ended its successful five-month run Saturday. The theater security guard wasn’t injured, Coupe said.

The 35-year-old actor “wasn’t nearby, he didn’t see this person (the attacker). He had already left the theater,” Coupe said Tuesday.

“Christian wasn’t directly involved,” Anna Arthur, Slater’s publicist, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. “It’s something that happened in the streets outside, there in the West End. It involved the security guards but not Christian.”

British media had reported that a man tried to stab Slater as he left the theater. The Daily Telegraph quoted a witness as saying that Slater’s bodyguard moved in front of the actor to block an attack.

London’s Metropolitan Police said a 44-year-old man was attacked with a knife, which penetrated only his clothing. The Metropolitan Police refused to name the victim and said no arrests had been made, but that the knife had been retrieved and the investigation was continuing.



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Upcoming Headliners

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Doctor Wu

(Tribute to Steely Dan)

Canyon Son

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Broken Remotes

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

Cubensis

(Tribute to Grateful Dead)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Atomic Punks

(Tribute to early Van Halen)

