



Santa Monica Daily Press

February, 4-5, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 72

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

20 24 25 27 44

Meganumber: 6

Jackpot: \$9 Million

FANTASY 5

6 16 17 26 30

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 4 8

Evening: 2 6 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags

2nd: 06 Whirl Win

3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:48.88

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

Scotland Yard agreed in January to pay the equivalent of about \$52,000 to London police Sgt. Leslie Turner to settle Turner's claim that the reason he failed in a 2004 assignment was that he had been "overpromoted" to the job because he is black. Turner said he had been given a job as a guard for Prince Charles, and then for Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, without adequate training and, as a result, made mistakes that caused him to be reassigned.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 35th day of 2006.
There are 330 days left in the year.

On Feb. 4, 1945, President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta. In 1783, Britain declared a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colonies, the United States of America. In 1801, John Marshall was sworn in as chief justice of the United States.

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City scores big with post pattern

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — While residents here cherish Santa Monica's small-town atmosphere, the truth is that the city houses some very large and lucrative industries, one of them being post production.

Whether it's editing sound for music videos, filming pick-up shots at the beach for TV commercials, or coloring major motion pictures, most things post occur in this quaint beach community.

"Post production is pretty much everywhere you look," said Kathryn Dodson, president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "All along the old industrial corridor, around Olympic (Boulevard) and 17th (Street) on down, Lincoln Boulevard, most of those buildings are now occupied by post production houses. They're pretty significant, but perhaps not as easy to see like tourism or the medical field."

See POST PATTERN, page 11



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The staff at Luma, a Santa Monica-based post-production facility that specializes in effects for films, keeps their hands in things.



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

War veterans cultivate the Vet's Garden, a serene, full-functioning garden located on 15 acres of fertile land near the Veterans Administration Hospital in West LA. The former soldiers recently assisted in creating a garden for a Santa Monica resident, funded by a Santa Monica government grant.

Planting the seeds of understanding and conservation

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

NORTH WILSHIRE — When Josephine Miller and her husband Seth purchased their home on 22nd Street, they knew it was going to need a lot of work, particularly the garden.

"It looked ugly, depressing," said Miller, a fan of tranquil gardens, as she knelt down to harvest the celery she planted in her backyard with the help of her three children. "The people living here before us sort of neglected it."

One day, while walking near her home, she spotted a sign posted from City Hall that said:

See GARDEN, page 14

LOCAL

Scratch that: Board to please the DACs

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

DISTRICT HDQTRS.

Following an outcry from the parenting community, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board agreed Thursday to restore one sentence deleted from a description of duties for Community Advisory Committees, or DACs.

Last month, the Board of Education voted to change language describing the overall duties of DACs to better specify and clarify each committees' responsibilities, which can be changed annually to fit particular needs. DACs are advisory

See DAC, page 13

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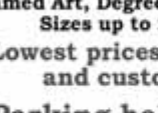
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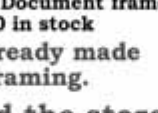
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LOCAL



Hunger strike



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Deputy Police Chief Phillip Sanchez unfurls a strike ball on Friday during the 10th annual SuperBowl-A-Thon at AMF Bay Shore Lanes on Pico Boulevard. Proceeds from the benefit went to the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JAG grant comment sought

By Daily Press staff

The public will soon have the opportunity to comment on the use of police grant funding. There will be a public comment period for proposed uses of City Hall’s application the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice from Feb. 3 through noon on March 1. The grants are expected to total \$41,235.

In 2005, City Hall used its JAG allocation to fund the Santa Monica police “DNA and Advanced Forensic Evidence Testing” program, which allows the SMPD to submit biological and fiber evidence to certified forensic labs for testing and analysis.

City Hall proposes to use its 2006 JAG grant allocation to continue funding the same DNA program for an additional year.

The draft grant application is available for public review and written comment at the records and elections office in City Hall at 1685 Main St. and at the SMPD public safety building at 333 Olympic Drive.

It’s also available on the SMPD Web site at <http://www.santamonicapd.org/>.

Written comments regarding the proposed JAG grant application must be received by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than 5 p.m. on March 1.

Send by mail to Santa Monica Police Department Planning & Research Unit, room 354, 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA., 90401.

Send by fax to Laura at SMPD Planning & Research Unit, (310) 260-2867.

CORRECTION — In the Feb. 2 edition, there was an error in the page 8 story about a crane accident on the Santa Monica Pier. The employees working on the construction project are employed by a private contractor, hired by City Hall.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 15	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

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

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

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

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 16	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
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CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

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

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 11	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

This weekend is when our next NW swell is due. This is another one of those familiar Kamchatka Peninsula originating systems we've been tracking for over a week now being pushed by the jet stream across the Pacific towards our region. This one has been riding a bit lower than recent swells and stayed within the 40N+ latitudes. This is just high enough to keep precipitation away from SoCal, while throwing us some 16-second period swell from around 290 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Hefty NW'er due on the 7th-8th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

FRIDAY

LOW TIDE: 7:04AM 1.1FT 6:41PM 1.02FT

HIGH TIDE: 12:40AM 5.1FT 12:49PM 3.7FT

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE: 8:38AM 1.0FT 7:23PM 1.8FT

HIGH TIDE: 1:29AM 5.1FT 2:29PM 2.9FT

SUNDAY

LOW TIDE: 10:24AM 0.7FT 8:24PM 2.4FT

HIGH TIDE: 2:29AM 5.1FT 5:09PM 2.7FT

MONDAY

LOW TIDE: 11:48AM 0.1FT 10:07PM 2.8FT

HIGH TIDE: 3:39AM 5.1FT 7:04PM 3.0FT

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE: 12:46PM -0.3FT 11:37PM 2.8FT

HIGH TIDE: 4:50AM 5.2FT 7:53PM 3.4FT

WEDNESDAY

N/A

THURSDAY

N/A

FRIDAY

N/A

SUBS AND SNOW (QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL: ALEX@SANDS.COM)



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RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

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The QLine

COUNCIL NEEDS TO SPREAD THE WEALTH

This past week, Q-line asked:

How do you think the Council should spend the budget surplus?

Here are your responses:

"The Council should invest this money in cleaning up this city and making it the lovely seaside attraction it once was. Replace inadequate-sized garbage dumpsters around the city, clean and repave all the alleys, steam-clean the filthy sidewalks — that would be a good start. Any money left over, give to the new skatepark, lighting, additional hours and securites. Not a penny to the bums."

"\$2.5 million is not a princely sum when it renders down to the daily maintenance of the city. I personally would like to see some of the surplus spent on the resurfacing of the California incline between Ocean Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway. The observation deck in Palisades Park needs refurbishing. Redebatement is also needed at the base of the 70,000 palm trees that beautifully line our streets, especially along Wilshire Boulevard. This overgrowth of weeds highlights that the merchants along Wilshire are not willing to engage in weed pulling. Merchants should understand that the aesthetics of the city and the business locations are very important. Finally, potholes are beginning to reappear in the streets of the city. With potholes, a shovelful of asphalt and time saves nine."

"What they should do with this extra money is buy some land, far away, build a camp there and put all the bums there ... Then use the leftover money to get some heavy machinery and clean up all the junk they left behind, hose it down and sterilize it once and for all. That goes for the Promenade and all the alleys as well." "I think it would be an excellent idea to level the streets because now that I am on a wheelchair, it would make it easier for us, disabled people."

"Holy Taxpayers, Batman! The City Council has two and half million dollars left from gouging the public. What do you think is the best thing to do with it? Well, Boy Wonder, most city councils would find a way to refund that money to the people who gave it. But City Hall would have a heart attack taking a counter-revolutionary stance like that. Holy progressive-liberal-big-spenders, Batman! How about mini parking structures along Montana and Wilshire since businesses are allowed to proliferate without adequate or no parking for customers or staff? How about an emergency fund for disasters like earthquakes? Robin, you have to spend money to make money. Saving taxpayers money puts too

much pressure on our comrades at City Hall"

"Santa Monica already had the highest garbage and water rates in the universe and now they gave landlords another raise. New and expanded fees are added every year such as fire and health inspection fees. Instead of funding phoney-baloney program, why not refund the money to landowners to help them pay their bills."

"No doubt that some people will prefer to spend the surplus money on services for the homeless, well the delegation that returned from New York said that they had great success removing the homeless from the streets. I heard a homeless person being cited by the police for sleeping on the sidewalks of the Promenade. She complained that she had lost her New York driver's license. May it be that they left the streets of New York for those of Santa Monica? This sounds like a federal problem. We can't spend federal money based upon where people came from."

"Why not improve the water quality along Santa Monica's coast the Council was speaking of doing and charging the residents of Santa Monica for. The surplus money should be spent on this rather than having the Santa Monica residents pay for that. There is a considerable need based upon the article speaking of a new funding source, to reduce pollution, to reduce bacteria and chemicals. This would certainly be good use of the money."

"I would love to see the city give \$2.5 million if it has excess to the currently hired homeless czar. He should take that money, get all the homeless and vagrants out of town since he has a year to do it, since that's all he's been hired for. That should be plenty of money to get them all out. Then, what that will do is free up \$20 million or more that the city can spend, perhaps, on affordable housing for those who reside in this city, not for ones from the outside who don't live in Santa Monica, but because of federal grants, get to take the affordable housing availability before the local residents do. That, of course, is a pipe dream because what we'll probably end up with is some sort of singing pipes as artwork installed for that \$2.5 million."

"It makes us sick every time we open our gas, electric and phone bills to see our crooked city council is skimming another ten percent off us. Let them give it back."

OPINION

Knitting, purling and the opposite sex



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Knitting was once an activity that grandmothers did when they got together and complained about how infrequently their grandkids called them. In recent years, there's been an explosion in knitting popularity. Now, it's not uncommon for granddaughters to feel they're too busy knitting to call their grandmothers. Younger women have taken up the craft, and so have high school and college students. But one group that's knitting and purling away the evening hours is somewhat of a surprise — adult men.

What's your stereotypical view of what it's like when a bunch of men get together? Are they watching sports? Are they talking about sex? Are they eating hot dogs and drinking beer? Are they scratching themselves? Are they burping and not saying, "Excuse me?" Well, if you add to that image a bunch of guys knitting potholders, you'll get what's going on today.

Once a week, a knitting shop in New York's Greenwich Village has a Men's Only night. There, the guys can exchange knitting tips — while they eat hot dogs and drink beer. Similar places are springing up all over the country and throughout the world. So, women are going to have to get used to hearing things like, "I might be home late. I'm going out knitting with the guys."

Foolish people will probably debate whether knitting is a "manly" activity. Even those traditionalists would have to admit that snowboarding isn't wimpy. Well, snowboarders are among the males who have recently started to knit. They want to make their own winter gear, both as a way of saving money and as a fashion statement.

Men probably knit for the same reasons that women do: some find it relaxing, some want to express themselves creatively, some want to make their own clothes, and some want to be able to say, "I can't answer that phone. My hands are full."

When I was a little kid who couldn't sit still, my grandmother taught me how to knit. She figured that if I'd sit there knitting, she wouldn't have to chase me all around her apartment. It worked. She

never bothered showing me how to end a project or do anything fancier than knit, knit, knit. But that was enough for me. I'd end up with these long pieces that I'm sure she either threw away or ripped apart right when I went home to my parents. But she'd end up with a head that didn't ache.

Most historians believe that knitting began with men. It grew out of knitting fishing nets. After that, came socks, and then sweaters that cost more than what those fishing boats used to cost.

In this day and age, when people can do things previously only done by the opposite gender, it's only natural that men have taken up needles and yarn. And these men don't necessarily fall into any stereotype. One wife reports that her husband who loves to knit also fishes and hunts. He's probably fun to shop with before vacations: "I'll take that shotgun, that reel, and that really cool pattern book to go with this yarn."

The Web site, MenKnit.net has a motto, "Man Enough To Knit, Strong Enough to Purl." Probably some super macho knitters will carry this one step further and have the slogan tattooed on their hairy chests. I just hope they use something safer than a knitting needle to do the tattooing.

I can see a time when inmates in maximum-security prisons will give up weight lifting and scowling for crocheting and knitting. CAVEAT TO WARDENS AND GUARDS: Make sure they aren't knitting extra long scarves to swing themselves over the walls.

So, just as I see as positive the opening up of occupations and sports to women that were historically dominated by men, I see no reason why men should not be allowed to work with needles and balls of yarn just as women have done for years. In fact, not all knitting sessions have to be for just one sex. Men have been known to take women to a knitting class on a first date. This, of course, brings up a new social etiquette question, "Do you kiss after the first knit, or wait until after he takes you purling?"

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

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY GLENN WOICESHYN

'Partial birth' abortion ban unconstitutional

The federal appeals courts in San Francisco and New York were right to declare the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional. Such a ban constitutes a grave threat to women's health and a violation of their rights and should be struck down. When abortion was illegal in America, many women died or suffered serious medical problems from either self-induced or illegal "back-alley" abortions. Women streamed into emergency rooms with punctured wombs, massive bleeding, and rampant infections.

Thanks to the "Roe v. Wade" (1973) Supreme Court decision, women today have access to safe abortions by medically trained professionals, under sanitary conditions. But anti-abortionists are changing all this. A law banning "partial-birth" abortions establishes a precedent for criminalizing other types of abortion — as America slides down the dangerous slope to "back-alley" abortions. Those who are truly pro-life must grasp the ominous implications of and underlying motives behind such anti-abortion laws — before it's too late. Intact dilation and extraction (D&X), most commonly known as "partial-birth" abortion, is designed primarily to be used in the case of 5- and 6-month-old fetuses that are dying, malformed, or threatening the woman's health or life. The procedure involves pulling the fetus from the womb, except for the head which is too large to pass without injuring the woman. The head is then collapsed to allow removal. This procedure is designed for the maximum protection of the woman. The late-term alternative to D&X, one that doesn't require partial removal, involves dismembering the fetus in the womb before extraction — a much riskier procedure. Anti-abortionists coined the term "partial birth" to suggest that the partially removed fetus is no longer "unborn," and, therefore, "Roe vs. Wade" no longer applies — so they allege. But linguistic manipulation can't create an essential distinction when none exists.

A woman has a right to her own body, and, if she chooses to abort, then all effort should be made to protect the woman from injury. To rule otherwise is to negate this right. Banning any type of abortion to "protect the fetus" necessarily grants rights to the fetus — an utter perversion of individual rights. If a woman has no right to her own body, then by what logic does a fetus, which, by definition, is a biological parasite, have a right to the woman's body? Properly, an infant's rights begin after the fetus is removed from the mother's body. It is a woman's individual rights — to her life, to her liberty, and to the pursuit of her happiness — that sanc-

tions her right to have an abortion. Once "fetal rights" are granted to one stage of the pregnancy, nothing will prevent their extension to all stages. "Fetal rights" are a gimmick to destroy a woman's individual rights. Tragically, many "pro-choicers" have conceded the "partial-birth" debate to the anti-abortionists and accept a ban as a compromise, and merely quibble about its scope. Such "pro-choicers" have apparently been hoodwinked by the anti-abortionists' strategy of emotionalism and evasion designed to disguise their deeper purpose. The anti-abortionists' strategy involves focusing solely on the fetus and describing the abortion in gruesome detail. Their professed compassion for the fetus apparently leaves no room for considering the woman's health and happiness. For them, waving a picture of a bloody, mangled fetus constitutes an argument. If so, then so does waving a picture of a woman whose future was ruined because she was denied an abortion — or of a woman bloody and mangled by a "back-alley" abortion. A picture is not an argument — and should not be allowed as a cover-up. While anti-abortionists' attacks are primarily focused on rarely performed late-term abortions, they zealously want all abortions banned. Helen Alvare, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Bishops and a staunch enemy of D&X, has declared, "In a moral sense all abortions are equally awful." According to anti-abortionist dogma, God places the soul in the womb at conception. Hence, via a leap of faith, the fertilized egg — a tiny cell — is granted the status of human being. At that moment, the woman's status is demoted to that of slave and breeding mare — and her womb becomes God's property, which, in practice, means the government's property. The rights of the woman have therefore been sacrificed to the alleged rights of the fetus. According to this dogma, abortion is murder at any stage of the pregnancy, which explains why some "pro-lifers" feel morally sanctioned to kill doctors and bomb abortion clinics. The anti-abortionists' war against "partial-birth" abortions is a smokescreen to ban all abortions. Abortion is a woman's moral right.

"Pro-choicers" must reject compromise and fight any law prohibiting abortion on principle — the principle of individual rights — the principle upon which this pro-rights country was founded.

(Glenn Woiceshyn is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")

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STATE

Late-stage cancer patients flock to Mexico for treatment

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Like thousands of other desperately ill Americans, Coretta Scott King was apparently hoping for a medical miracle when she crossed into Mexico.

For a half-century, patients have flocked to clinics south of the border for treatments that are shunned, prohibited or regarded as outright quackery in the United States. Among the treatments offered: blood transfusions from guinea pigs, colon cleansings, and the zapping of cancer cells with electrical current.

Supporters say the clinics offer an alternative — and sometimes a cure — to people written off by U.S. doctors. Critics say the worst of the clinics do nothing but offer false hope while taking money from people when they are most vulnerable.

“Were patients to return from Mexico cured and doctors saw the unbelievable, positive results, we would pursue it, but we just don’t see it,” said Dr. Jack Lewin, chief executive of the California Medical Association. “We don’t have patients coming back with miraculous cures.”

On Thursday, the clinic where the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. died this week was shut down by Mexican authorities. Mexican state officials said the clinic had been carrying out unproven treatments and unauthorized surgeries, employed people who were not properly trained, did not follow proper procedures for treating terminally ill patients, and failed to meet sanitary requirements.

The clinic’s director has a criminal past and a reputation for offering dubious treatments. But its assistant administrator, Cesar Castillejos, defended its record and said he believed the government closed the clinic because of King’s death.

King “wasn’t stupid,” Castillejos said. “She was very smart. She wanted an alternative.”

The area around the border city of Tijuana is a hotbed for the clinics, with about 35 of them, according to Dr. Alfredo Gruel, health services director from 2000 to 2002 for the Mexican state of Baja California.

The first of the clinics opened in the 1950s to administer laetrile, a substance made from apricot pits that is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The clinics received widespread attention in 1980, when cancer-stricken actor Steve McQueen went to one for laetrile treatment. He died there.

Dr. Sergio Maltos, who regulates clinics at Mexico’s Federal Commission for Protection Against Sanitary Risks, said Mexican authorities periodically visit the clinics. But he acknowledged there may be some instances of “pseudo-professionals ... who use treatments that are not backed by scientific evidence.”

In 2001, Mexico closed down a Tijuana clinic for operating without a license. The clinic was owned by a San Diego woman, Hulda Clark, who has claimed that a “zapper” cures cancer patients by eliminating parasites and toxins with a mild electric current.

Peggy Pousson went across the border out of desperation in 1978, when her son, Shawn, was battling leukemia. She credits a Tijuana clinic’s vitamin-heavy regimen for extending her son’s life a year. Pousson said Shawn died at age 10 because doctors at a San Diego hospital

bungled a drug prescription.

For the past decade, Pousson, 65, has ferried patients across the border to clinics in and around Tijuana. She favors those that emphasize nutrition and limit chemotherapy doses.

“There are a lot of bad clinics that I don’t go to,” she said. “A lot of the patients I took there died, so I stopped going.”

The clinics typically charge about \$7,000 a week for treatment, meals and lodging, Pousson said.

Some patients stay at the International Motor Inn, a budget hotel on the border in San Diego. Three buses and two vans shuttle between the hotel and the clinics six days a week.

Tibor Fodor checked in on Tuesday, one day after Las Vegas doctors delivered a grim prognosis for his 57-year-old wife, Marcela, who has lung cancer.

“They told my wife she had three months to live, but I know that’s a lie,” said Fodor, whose wife registered at a Tijuana clinic for radiation and hoxsey, a combination of plant extracts.

Some hotel guests say their treatment has worked wonders. Tim Craney of Pueblo, Colo., said he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1983 and has been visiting a Tijuana clinic for two years. He pays \$200 a day for daily injections of vitamins and minerals.

“I’m not convinced that chemotherapy is the way to go because it kills everything,” said Craney, 78. “Most people I know who have taken it are not alive.”

King, who had advanced ovarian cancer, died before ever getting any treatments at the Santa Monica Health Institute, a beachfront compound in Rosarito, about 16 miles south of San Diego, doctors at the clinic said.

The clinic’s Web site said treatments there include using microwaves to “heat” cancer cells, nutritional supplements, “ultra-violet blood purification” and colonics.

Kurt W. Donsbach, a former San Diego chiropractor, opened the clinic in 1987. In 1988, the U.S. Postal Service ordered him to stop claiming that a solution of hydrogen peroxide could prevent cancer and ease arthritis pain. In 1997, he was sentenced in San Diego federal court to a year in prison for smuggling more than \$250,000 worth of unapproved drugs into the United States from Mexico, according to court records.

“I know of nobody who has engaged in a greater number and variety of health-related schemes and scams,” Dr. Stephen Barrett of Allentown, Pa., wrote on his Web site that tracks health fraud, www.quackwatch.org.

Dr. Ted Gansler, director of medical content for the American Cancer Society and an Atlanta physician, said some of the treatments on Donsbach’s Web site are described in a misleading way or have no scientific basis.

“It’s understandable that people would try anything that offers a reasonable chance of living longer, but the key word is ‘reasonable,’” he said. “Treatments being promoted at a place like this include ones that have been shown not to work.”

Donsbach did not respond to repeated interview requests. However, on the Web site he defends his work and says that if the definition of “quackery” is the practice of nonconventional forms of healing, “I proudly proclaim myself a ‘quack!’”



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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Fire Dept. fined for polluting water

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — State water regulators fined the Ventura County Fire Department more than \$350,000 because an aging fuel storage tank under the Thousand Oaks fire station fouled groundwater supplies.

The 125 violations occurred when pollutants in almost 330,000 gallons of groundwater exceeded environmental limits, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board said Thursday.

The contamination occurred at the Hillcrest Drive fire station.

Fire Chief Bob Roper said the department abandoned the tank, started a cleanup effort in the early 1990s and treats the groundwater under permits issued by the regional board.

But the board found that groundwater contained elevated levels of benzene, petroleum hydrocarbons, oil, grease and other pollutants. The violations were recorded from August 2001 to January 2004.

Mayor miffed about pup’s poisoning

By The Associated Press

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — Mayor Alex Bias believes someone deliberately poisoned his pet Pomeranian.

Foxyey, who fell ill last weekend, was clinging to life Thursday after blood transfusions in an Orange County animal clinic.

Bias was elected mayor in November after a contentious campaign and he believes the dog poisoning was politically motivated.

“If you have looked at some of the things during the election, some of the rhetoric, is it any wonder that some person who has nothing else to do would lash out at me any way they can?” Bias asked Thursday.

"It certainly seems (intentional), in the absence of any other logical cause and considering that we have gone through quite a bit and the poison has still not been identified," Bias said. “We didn’t have any around our home, so the only place is if somebody introduced something.”

Bias first took Foxyey to an emergency veterinary hospital in Twentynine Palms, where the pooch remained until transfer Monday to the dog’s regular veterinarian Kip Madsen in Desert Hot Springs. Madsen recommended sending the dog to All Care Animal Referral Center in Orange County.

Bias said Thursday that Foxyey’s condition was improving, following a blood transfusion, but he added she was not “out of the woods.”

Councilwoman Mary Stephens, who opposed Bias in the mayoral election, said she hopes there was no political motivation behind the dog’s illness.

“There have been some mayors who have made some enemies. (Former) Mayor (Jerry) Pisha had a dead cat thrown in his front yard. But I’d really hate to think that someone would stoop that low to poison an innocent animal,” Stephens said.

“But people vent out because they don’t agree with us. It’s part of being an elected official,” she said.

Man electrocuted while ripping off wire

By The Associated Press

POMONA — A man allegedly stealing copper wire from power poles was electrocuted.

Police found the body Wednesday morning at the base of a power pole on Pomona Boulevard and investigators determined the man was electrocuted while trying to steal wire from an electric pole. The man’s name hasn’t been released.

"They found the power was out at the lumber yard. Then they saw he had cutters in his hand," Sgt. Gordon Jones said.

Approximately 1,000 customers momentarily lost power when the Southern California Edison equipment at the location of the attempted theft was tampered with at 12:45 a.m., utility spokeswoman Jenetta Harris said.

On Thursday, AT&T announced a \$10,000 reward for anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for cutting and stealing telephone cable.

Harris said the copper wire is expensive and can be sold to recycling centers. Generally, thieves don’t target power poles because of the possibility of electrocution, she said.

Studies show lab might be to blame

By The Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY — Studies show elevated cancer rates among residents within two miles of the Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Laboratory, the former nuclear research and rocket engine testing site in the hills along the border of Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Researchers released two studies showing residents near the lab may have been exposed to toxic chemicals through air, water and soil contamination. Cancer rates there are higher than those farther away.

But authors of the two reports warned the results do not conclusively show that contamination from the lab caused cancer and other illnesses in the surrounding community.

“This may be something that has nothing to do with Rocketdyne and Santa Susana, but it’s provocative enough that we have to pursue it,” said Hal Morgenstern, author of one of the studies and chairman of the epidemiology department at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

STATE



‘Governator’ goes moderate — and poll numbers inch up

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — There was no earsplitting rock music. No curls of theatrical smoke. And he didn’t pull up in a Hummer.

When Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appeared at a highway construction site last month, he pumped hands with workers in hardhats and got down to business — signing a bill to speed up expansion of notoriously clogged Interstate 405.

There was banter about bipartisanship, but no digs on “girlie men” legislators or public-employee unions. Everyone within reach got a souvenir pen — even the Democrats.

Three months after a disastrous special election left him politically shaken, the Republican governor has started his re-election year with a retooled message about building highways and schools, a new chief of staff (a former Democratic activist) and a more businesslike image stripped of Hollywood frippery and stunts.

In a snapshot of the emerging campaign — the month of January — Schwarzenegger commanded wide media attention with his proposed \$222 billion plan to rebuild roads, schools, waterways and flood systems. Meanwhile, he had the political stage nearly all to himself — potential Democratic rivals Controller Steve Westly and Treasurer Phil Angelides were barely visible.

The celebrity governor offered a budget fattened with election-year goodies, banking that an expected multibillion-dollar surge in tax revenue will cover a huge spending gap. His battles with the Legislature over spending and other issues contributed to his decision to call the ill-fated special election.

These days, Schwarzenegger is trying to keep his distance from hostile unions while attempting to rebuild his relationship with Democrats in the Legislature. So far, Schwarzenegger has no significant Republican opposition in the June primary.

His biggest setback lately might have been a fat lip he picked up in a motorcycle crash.

In January, “he has done all the things that he needs to do if he wants to turn things around,” said Democratic strategist Darry Sragow, who is not aligned with a rival campaign. “He had to dramatically alter course. I think he’s done that.”

Critics don’t see a difference. Any new look from the governor “is a change in form, not substance,” Fernando Losada of the California Nurses Association said at a Schwarzenegger protest on Wednesday. “His positions are the same.”

Schwarzenegger is still a long way from reclaiming his former popularity in Democratic-leaning California, much less winning a second term, Sragow and others note. His campaign funds are depleted, and he faces a race that will look nothing

like the chaotic 2003 recall election with 135 candidates that put him in office.

But a voter survey last month by the Public Policy Institute of California suggested he’d rebounded slightly, improving his approval rating among likely voters to 45 percent, from 38 percent in October.

It was hard to go any other way but up, after the special election in which he could only hold his Republican base.

He “still has a reservoir of goodwill. Some people still want him to succeed,” said Democratic media consultant Roy Behr. But “there’s a real question as to whether voters will believe him anymore.”

After veering to the political right in 2005, the governor is trying to restore his middle-of-the-road credentials with programs that appeal to the Democrats and independents who deserted him last year.

Voters in November soundly rejected his proposals to, among other things, redraw legislative districts, clamp down on state spending and lengthen the term teachers must work to gain tenure.

The message from voters? “Cut the warfare, cool the rhetoric, find common ground,” Schwarzenegger has said in defeat.

The combative Schwarzenegger who brawled with teachers, nurses and other public employees is gone, at least for now. He’s attached himself to issues that unite households across the state — education, health care, transit and highways.

As part of his massive public works plan, he wants voters to approve \$68.8 billion in borrowing in a series of elections through 2014 — a proposal that came just months after an election in which he sought new powers to cut public spending.

The new, milder governor was on display at the recent Interstate 405 bill signing, where he joked with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, both Democrats. “When Democrats and Republicans work together, anything is possible,” Schwarzenegger said.

However, the drift to the left has caused unrest within his own party — particularly on issues like state borrowing — that could complicate his re-election strategy. Meanwhile, after spending more than \$44 million in last year’s special election, Schwarzenegger’s re-election committee began 2006 in the red.

He has other problems. Many women, polls show, tends to view him skeptically. President Bush remains unpopular in the state, particularly among independents and Democrats, which could be a drag on the Republican governor.

And his political makeovers — shifting right, then left — could leave voters confused.

After a change of direction “he’s made himself even-money” in the 2006 campaign, said Raphael Sonenshein, a political scientist at California State University, Fullerton.

“If Arnold gets re-elected, it’s because he acted like a Democrat,” he added.

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STATE

Frog that survives within parks is facing extinction

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — The mountain yellow-legged frog has survived for thousands of years in lakes and streams carved by glaciers, living up to nine months under snow and ice and then emerging to issue its raspy chorus across the Sierra Nevada range.

But the frog's call is rapidly going silent as a mysterious fungus pushes it toward extinction in its remaining refuge in national parks.

"It's very dramatic," said Lara Rachowicz, a Yosemite biologist who is leading an effort to save the tiny creature. "One year, you visit a lake and the population will seem fine. The next year you go back, you see a lot of dead frogs scattered along the bottom of the pond. In a couple years the population is gone."

There are about 650 populations left in Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, but most lakes have only one to five frogs — not enough to guarantee their survival — and 85 percent of them are already infected with the lethal fungus.

At one time, the frogs were so thick that tadpoles frothed the water in shallow waters, and it was hard not to step on a frog on shore.

Their decline started when trout were stocked in Sierra lakes — first carried in buckets by mule and then dropped by plane — to supply fishermen. The voracious fish, which are still being introduced into the high Sierra outside park boundaries, are leaving only isolated groups scattered over widespread lakes as high as 13,000 feet.

Despite living within the protective borders of some of the nation's most beloved parks, the remaining frogs can't resist the onslaught of the fungus and can't travel far enough in trout-infested streams to repopulate areas devastated by the fungus.

For the past five years, they've been disappearing at a rate of 10 percent a year, Rachowicz said at a gathering last month of 24 experts trying to save the frog.

The chytrid fungus, which has been linked to the extinction of amphibians in places as far away as Australia and Costa Rica, kills the frogs by growing on their skin, making it hard for them to use their pores and regulate water intake. The frogs die of thirst in the water, Rachowicz said, pointing to a photograph of an emaciated frog floating belly up in a shallow pool.

While the species deserves to be designated as endangered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lacks the funds to complete the process and the frog lingers on a waiting list.

Federal officials also questioned whether listing it as endangered would help, since the immediate threat to its survival isn't coming from agriculture or development that threatens other species and can be curbed.

"It's an act-of-God type thing," said Harry McQuillen, chief of the endangered species recovery branch of the Sacramento office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife who attended the meeting. "How do you deal with something that seems

overwhelmingly out of your control?"

In a handful of years the frogs may be gone, leaving the high elevation lakes in silence, and snapping the local food chain.

"There would be an unraveling of that web of life, because this species plays such an important role," said Roland Knapp, a research biologist with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory.

The frog's disappearance would affect about 300 species in the rugged high country, from the insects they prey on to the garter snakes and coyotes that eat them, said Knapp, who led a survey counting the frogs in more than 6,500 bodies of water in the parks in 2000-2002 and 2005.

What's frightening about the fungus' attack on amphibians is that it kills them quickly even in untouched habitats, scientists said.

"It's a mass extinction in the making," said J. Alan Pounds, main author of an article in the January issue of *Nature* that linked global warming to the fungus first named by scientists in the late 1990s.

His research in the misty jungle of Costa Rica's mountains offers the first solid clue to what's been an international scientific mystery — the disappearance of as many as 112 amphibian species since 1980.

Pounds concluded that global warming has created conditions that favor the fungus, and helps explain why 65 species of vibrantly colored harlequin frogs in Costa Rican forests have succumbed to it in the last two decades — five of them after 1987, an unusually warm year.

No research has been done to prove a link between climate change in the high Sierra and the fungus' lethal spread here, but scientists who gathered in the park in January said they can't wait for those studies.

Park biologists will examine the possibility of breeding the critters in captivity, which no one's done successfully. They may also re-establish frogs in areas where they've disappeared, and continue to remove nonnative trout from some high Sierra lakes. Trout removal has had promising results in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, but might prove unpopular with anglers.

"Recreational fishing is a long-standing, valid activity in the park, and we recognize that," said Steve Thompson, Yosemite's lead wildlife biologist. "But the park has a dual mission, to protect resources and provide for their enjoyment. If you don't protect the resources, it'll prevent the enjoyment."

Amphibians are facing an ecological disaster on a global scale — and the majority of endangered species don't enjoy such dedicated attention.

The Global Amphibian Assessment, a worldwide collaborative survey by hundreds of scientists completed in 2004, found that one-third of the world's 5,743 amphibian species are threatened and 168 are possibly extinct.

"I suspect that climate change is involved in general in these enigmatic declines," said Pounds. "Ultimately we have to have a transition to cleaner energy technologies, to cleaner sources of energy. But by then, it might be too late for the mountain yellow-legged frogs."

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Post facilities flocked to Westside in '90s

POST PATTERN, from page 1

While they only contribute roughly \$440,000 in business licensing fees to City Hall's coffers — 2 percent of total business revenues — post production houses play a significant role in shaping the city's vibe and enhance the area's reputation as a center for new technology and creative thinking, business experts contend.

Post-production also attracts wealthy clients from the region and overseas, employs scores of residents, and is relatively pollution free, all of which make it a valuable asset, according to business analysts.

But the city may be in jeopardy of losing some post-production facilities to neighboring communities, other states, and even countries abroad, which offer incentives, open space and cheaper rents.

"We have to sit up and take notice that there is a lot of competition out there trying to draw these businesses away," said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., which analyzes business activity throughout Los Angeles. "We definitely have competition and Santa Monica is feeling it with a lot of production houses moving even down to Venice and Marina del Rey, no to mention Arizona or the Czech Republic.

"There is a lot of flux in the industry from what I can tell."

THE ATTRACTION

There are 64 post production facilities in the city's 8.3 square miles, according to

City Hall's finance department. They range from industry giants like Riot, which employs hundreds, to small boutiques run by one or two producers.

Many companies moved to the area in the late '80s and early '90s, following the migration of advertising agencies to the Westside after Hollywood became too expensive and crime-ridden.

"If we didn't locate to the Westside, our business would have dried up," said Steve McCoy, president of FilmCore, which had operated in Hollywood for 20 years before moving to Santa Monica in 1998. "In addition to that, a lot of our clients from out of town were flying into LAX and started wanting to stay at Shutters rather than the Roosevelt Hotel."

Santa Monica seemed to be a convenient central location that was open to emerging businesses, particularly those specializing in new digital technologies. The City Council 10 years ago approved changes to zoning regulations in the old industrial area to specifically accommodate post production facilities.

"We really designed our building standards to help them relocate," Mayor Bob Holbrook said. "It seems to have worked out well."

For Greg LeDuc of Aaron & LeDuc, picking Santa Monica as his base of operations was easy.

"The city (government) does show us a lot of support, but what it really is, is that we have everything here," he said. "You've got great views, restaurants, hotels, the beach, ... clean, clear air. Plus, there is really an established creative community here and we help each other when

we can. It's just a great place to work, and the people who do tend to settle here."

LeDuc, who grew up in Santa Monica, said there are three post-production companies in his building.

COMPETITION

Many people may want to live and work here, but as the desirability grows, many can't find reasonable rents or open space to build facilities for an expanding business.

As a result, it has forced some post-production houses to move to neighboring locales or back to Hollywood, which has seen a resurgence in desirability because there has been an increase in economic investment, rents are affordable once again and crime has dropped in recent years.

"All of a sudden, Hollywood is looking up," Kyser said. "Rents are down and it has a lot of character. It's near where a lot of (film and commercial filming) takes place."

Payam Shohadai, president and visual effects supervisor for Luma Pictures, which produces special effects for films, said his company is moving from Santa Monica to Venice where they have purchased a building that can house their expanding operation. Luma Pictures has operated in Santa Monica for more than 10 years.

"There just weren't that many buildings that are of the size we needed and are available in a prime location with a reasonable price," Shohadai said. "We always heard that if you want to dabble in commercials you had to be in Santa Monica, but that's changing."

There also is competition brewing in

other states and in Europe, which offer tax breaks to studios that want to shoot films there. Oftentimes, governments will agree to pay salaries of workers hired from the immediate area if filmmakers agree to spend a certain amount of time filming there.

The incentive programs have now spread to post production in an attempt to keep the entire process of filmmaking in particular regions.

"We haven't seen a drop in our business yet because there are so many types of media out there with the Internet, now cell phones and iPods, so there isn't this strong concern ... but it can't hurt to talk about creating some incentives here," said Ed Zeier of Pacific Ocean Post Sound, which specializes in audio services for the commercial and home entertainment industries. "Santa Monica seems to be doing all right regardless. We located here."

IDEAS FOR ACTION

While no one is ready to sound the alarm, those in the business community said City Hall will attract post-production facilities if it continues to invest in projects that benefit the community as a whole, such as a reliable public transportation system to ease traffic and eliminate air pollution, as well as upgrading the city's infrastructure, particularly the power grid and digital network.

"We are looking at staying here for the long term," Zeier said of POP, which has done sound for Budweiser and Burger King campaigns. "You just can't beat the location and the people here. It's all fantastic."



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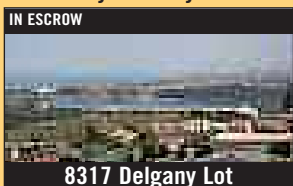
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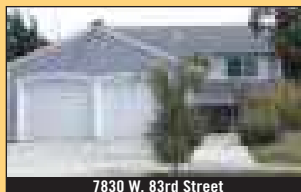


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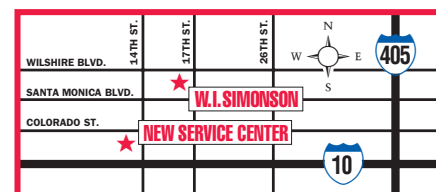
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LOCAL



Board nixes deletion to appease the DACs

DAC, from page 1

councils comprised of parents, teachers and concerned community members specializing in special education, health and child care, among other areas.

While district officials said the removal of the language did not change the function of the committees, those who voluntarily serve on them said they felt the move was intended to decrease their influence in shaping policy at the district. Many were offended by the deletion.

In response, the board decided at its last meeting that it would bring the issue back for discussion.

On Thursday night, members did just that, seeming to lean in favor of restoring the old language, which in their minds, would help restore trust in the community and foster further collaboration at a time when the district is trying to devise its Facilities Master Plan, a 20-year guide for school use and construction.

The board is expected to approve the change to DAC language at its next meeting, scheduled for Feb. 16 at City Hall.

"Trying to be specific inadvertently caused confusion," board member Maria Leon-Vazquez said. "We never intended to silence the public."

"Usually, when you want to clarify something, you don't delete," board member Jose Escarce added.

The sentence that was deleted said the functions of the DACs are "to assist in the overall planning of the educational programming and of budget resources."

The board said DACs are only responsible for advising on their individual pro-

grams and not on overall educational programming and budget allocations.

Following the meeting, Tricia Crane of the Special Education DAC said she was pleased with the board's decision.

"We felt there were never any problems with the way the language was written before," Crane said. "We never felt there was any reason to change it."

GREAT TEACHERS

In other action, the school board also honored those teachers who will receive National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, or NBPTS, a non-profit organization governed by classroom teachers who recognize the best and the brightest educators.

The local district has one of the highest concentrations of certified teachers anywhere in the country, with 8 percent of total teachers in the district holding a NBPTS certificate, according to district officials. There are 54 such teachers in the district.

NEW TURF

The board also approved a joint-use project for John Adams Middle School that will replace the heavily-used grass fields there with all-weather, artificial turf that district officials hope will cut down on maintenance costs.

Santa Monica College, which holds women's soccer practices and games at John Adams, will pay for the project with money from Measure S, a bond passed by voters a couple of years ago. Planners of the project hope to have the new turf installed by mid-summer.

Chiming in



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Gary Goss, 70, plays his father's 'triple octave chimes' recently on the Santa Monica Pier. The chimes reportedly date back to 1897.



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City grants garden wish

GARDEN, from page 1

“Grants.” After inquiring further, Miller, who was in the process of remodeling, learned that City Hall was giving away money — up to \$20,000 — for those who wanted to re-landscape their yards. The catch: Residents must use water conserving techniques and/or plants native to the region.

The grant program, which is still active, is part of City Hall’s effort to reduce citywide water use by 20 percent by 2010. Nearly half of a home’s water use goes towards watering landscapes, according to City Hall’s environmental programs division.

It seemed like the perfect fit for Miller and her family. Still, something didn’t feel quite right.

“I thought it was weird to get money for your own home,” Miller said. “It felt sort of unethical.”

After some consideration, she decided to apply for the grant and accept the money on one condition. She would share it with those who needed it most — veterans.

A frequent visitor of the Vet’s Garden, a serene, full-functioning garden located on 15 acres of fertile land near the Veterans Administration Hospital in West LA, Miller decided to hire former soldiers-turned-horticulturalists to recreate the same kind of peaceful atmosphere in her backyard.



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Josephine Miller tends to her city-funded garden outside of her home just north of Wilshire Boulevard. Area veterans aided in the new digs.

“If I would have accepted the money and not done something like this, it would have felt dirty to me,” she said. “I wanted that feeling of perfection that I felt at the garden. Walking through (there) it felt as if nothing was wrong. There was nothing to be done and nothing to worry about ...

It was like an escape from all of the craziness of LA without having to leave the city.”

The result has gone above and beyond what she or the veterans who participated could have ever hoped for, they said. Not only does Miller have a backyard that protects the environment, and to a certain extent her sanity, she also gained a new appreciation for veterans, who often suffer from damaging stereotypes and rarely are offered the chance to work so intimately with the community.

“Working with (Josephine) meant a lot to the guys because we got the chance to work out in the community, doing something that we all really like to do,” said Korean War veteran Robert Whitaker, while walking through the Vet’s Garden, which provides at a cost its products to upscale restaurants, florists and the general public. “It was a great experience for all of us. We worked hard on the project and we are very proud of how it turned out.”

For Bobbie Shelton, a veteran of World War II, Miller couldn’t have been a better boss.

“She was so nice,” he said. “I loved the way she fed me. Sandwiches and fresh lemonade every day.”

In designing the garden, Miller worked closely with the veterans as they chose what plants would work best and conserve the most water. They settled on an eclectic mixture, including sage, dusty mel-lows, plenty of herbs like rosemary and fruit trees. Of all the plants they put in, Miller said only two have died.

“From what I’ve been hearing, that’s

pretty rare to have only two die,” she said. “Everything is very happy and so am I.”

Her kids weren’t at first. They loved their grass and didn’t want to see it replaced by dirt and desert grasses. But once they became involved in the process, Miller said they perked up, especially when they each got to create their own mini-gardens. Miller also left a patch of grass for them to play on.

The landscaping may have taken longer than expected — about eight months — but Miller said that never bothered her or her family. She took comfort in the veterans taking their time, making sure everything was perfect. So did her children.

“No matter how bad my day was, when I heard their laughter coming up the street, that flipped my entire day around,” said Miller’s 12-year-old daughter Emma. “They were always laughing.”

Miller said she is still amazed at how “perfect gentlemen (the vets) were and how respectful they were to my family.”

There is hope by both Miller and the veterans that their project will encourage others to open up their homes and their hearts to former soldiers, and realize that many are just looking to contribute to society ... and maybe make some friends along the way.

“I think this garden is a model for what vets can do,” said Joe Ciccone, program director for Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles. “What I would like to do is expand on this and create an employment program where veterans can interact with the community because they have so much to contribute.”

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Agriculture chief says beef is safe for import

BY JON SANCHE
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — An investigation into how veal containing bone was shipped to Japan in violation of a trade agreement will reaffirm that U.S. beef is safe, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Friday.

"This should not have happened, but it did," Johanns told the Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show. "We have to identify why it happened and put in place safeguards to ensure it doesn't happen again."

Japan stopped beef imports in January after the veal

shipment because it considers bone-in beef to be at risk for mad cow disease. The bones are banned under the deal that reopened the Japanese market to beef in December.

Thomas Schieffer, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, said Friday the investigation should be finished and presented to the Japanese government in about a week. Johanns said there was no timetable for completing the review.

Johanns acknowledged that a Japanese importer might have ordered the beef with the bone in, but he said it still would have violated the trade agreement.

"We don't want to blame anybody. The shipment got there and it didn't comply with the agreement we

reached," he said.

Johanns said imposing sanctions on Japan for halting beef imports again would not help.

Johanns said the regulations are nearly complete for a national system to track cattle from birth to slaughter and he hopes it can be in place soon.

He said tracking could someday be mandatory to ensure the health of cattle, even though some ranchers oppose the system. He called it a "crucial tool" in safeguarding animals from disease.

Johanns said Australia and other countries are aggressively marketing tracking systems to help sell their beef.

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NATIONAL

Pols push police to enter immigration fight

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Lawmakers are considering an aggressive approach for trying to lessen Arizona's role as the busiest gateway for sneaking into the country: devoting squads of the state police to catch illegal immigrants who slip past federal border agents.

Over the years, many officials have resisted suggestions for local and state police agencies to confront illegal immigration, long considered the sole province of the federal government. But the notion is gaining political traction as the public's frustration with the state's porous

border with Mexico grows.

A state lawmaker has proposed a plan that includes \$20 million for the Arizona Department of Public Safety to run a 100-member squad to operate surveillance equipment, construct border barriers, target drug and immigrant smugglers and perhaps patrol the border.

"I'm not putting the handcuffs on. Whatever they need to do, they need to be doing," said Republican Rep. Russell Pearce of Mesa, sponsor of the proposal.

A different plan by Gov. Janet Napolitano would include two state police squads to focus on immigrant smuggling cases and, like the other proposal, would provide money for combating gang-related border crime. Both plans also would offer millions of dollars to communities to tackle illegal immigration.

State lawmakers offered mixed predictions on whether the proposals would succeed. Even so, public pressure is mounting for state politicians who face re-election races this year to confront illegal immigration in Arizona, a hub for smugglers who transport immigrants across the country.

Arizona has been dogged by a heavy flow of illegal immigrants since the government tightened enforcement in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego during the mid-1990s. The Border Patrol apprehended 725,093 illegal border crossers in Arizona in fiscal year 2000, though the numbers fell off after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks prompted heightened border security.

State police in Arizona already work near the border, though their role is more limited than is now being proposed. An average of 27 state police officers are near the border at any given time, assisting federal authorities in looking for fugitives trying to leave the country and people attempting to bring ill-gotten cash and stolen vehicles into Mexico.

In the past, a few police agencies have won federal approval to train a limited number of state or local officers so they can arrest illegal immigrants. But immigration analysts said the only other state considering the bolder moves now being proposed in Arizona is California, where an effort is underway to get voters to decide whether to create a state immigration police force.

Analysts said similar proposals might crop up in other states if the federal government fails to overhaul the country's broken immigration system.

Advocates for state and local action said the idea won't fix Arizona's vast immigration problems, but would discourage some people from sneaking across the border.

"If the federal government isn't going to do the job and Arizona is footing billions of dollars a year for illegal aliens, it makes sense for the state to get involved," said Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which favors limits on immigration.

While Pearce said state and local police already have the authority to enforce immigration law, opponents said such local action could face constitutional problems and that local officers lack training in the complexities of immigration law.

"I liken it to police officers pulling over people and asking for their tax returns," said Michele Waslin, director of immigration policy research for the National Council of La Raza, a group that promotes Hispanic issues.

The possibility of racial profiling could increase if local and state police unfamiliar with immigration law were to try to enforce it, opponents said.

It would make it harder for officers to maintain trust and investigate violent crime in immigrant communities, because fewer migrants would cooperate for fear of being sent back home, opponents said.

Pearce's proposal also would create a commission to hand out \$15 million to communities to pay for detaining illegal immigrants and another \$15 million for local police to hire 100 officers to focus on border security.

The grants would be denied to cities that discourage police from inquiring about people's immigration status.

As part of her larger immigration plan, Napolitano has asked the Legislature for more than \$6 million to augment the state police's border efforts. She also has proposed giving more \$70 million to help communities confront illegal immigration and offset some of its costs.

Democratic Rep. Ben Miranda of Phoenix said Pearce's proposal would be a waste of money because it would never confront the central motive for workers to sneak into the country: the prospect of a better life.

"We are not helping ourselves when we take on the duties of the federal government," Miranda said.

The door for local police to take on illegal immigration was opened last year when the Legislature created the state crime of immigrant smuggling. The law didn't provide any money to target smugglers and has produced a small number of cases. In a few cases, prosecutors said witnesses were sent back across the border by federal authorities before local investigations were completed.

The Department of Public Safety and a group representing 950 of its employees declined to comment on the details of the proposed border squads.

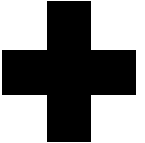
Santa Cruz County Sheriff Tony Estrada, whose jurisdiction includes 50 miles of border, said taking on illegal immigration would overwhelm his department, even if the state gave him money to catch and detain illegal immigrants.

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President to send Congress \$439.3 billion defense budget

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's 2007 budget seeks a nearly 5 percent increase in Defense Department spending, to \$439.3 billion, with significantly more money for weapons programs, according to senior Pentagon officials and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The budget figures, to be unveiled next week, come as the Pentagon prepares to release a separate long-range strategy to reshape the military into a more agile fighting force better able to fight terrorism, while still preserving its ability to wage large conventional wars.

More than a year in the making and scheduled to be released Friday, the strategy review represents the broader thinking that guides how the dollars are spent. It does not call for the elimination of any of the largest weapons programs, as some had expected.

Instead it proposes cutting some smaller programs such as the E-10 surveillance plane, reducing the size of the Air Force, overhauling the Army National Guard and increasing the number of special operations forces like the Green Berets, whose role in the global war on terrorism is rapidly expanding.

The budget, meanwhile, would include \$84.2 billion for weapons programs, a nearly 8 percent increase, including billions of dollars for fighter jets, Navy ships, helicopters and unmanned aircraft. The total includes a substantial increase in weapons spending for the Army, which would get \$16.8 billion in the 2007 budget, compared with \$11 billion this year.

Senior defense officials provided the totals on condition of anonymity because the defense budget was not being released publicly until Monday. The figures did not include about \$50 billion that Bush administration officials said Thursday they would request as a down payment for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007. The administration said war costs for 2006 would total \$120 billion.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld would not provide any details of the budget Thursday but called it appropriate.

"We have been able to fund the important things that are needed. It is a sizable amount of money," Rumsfeld said.

Iran warns that any referral to Security Council will kill proposal to enrich uranium in Russia

BY GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Iran warned Friday it no longer would consider a Kremlin proposal to move its uranium enrichment program to Russia if it is referred to the U.N. Security Council for allegedly violating a nuclear arms control treaty.

If Iran's nuclear file goes to the Security Council, "there will be no way we can continue with the Russian proposal," said Javad Vaiedi, deputy head of the powerful National Security Council and a top nuclear negotiator.

He was referring to attempts to persuade Iran to shift its uranium enrichment program to Russia to prevent its misuse for nuclear arms. The 35-nation board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the world body's nuclear watchdog, is considering whether to refer Iran to the Security Council over the disputed program.

China's foreign minister said his country was committed to working with the international community to defuse the standoff over Iran's suspect nuclear program.

"China is very concerned about the Iranian nuclear issue," Li Zhaoxing told reporters after meeting with top European Union officials in Vienna.

He did not explicitly say China would vote to report Iran to the Security Council, but EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he had assurances that China would support the referral.

Officials in Tehran have previously suggested referral could endanger the proposal. Vaiedi's comments were the

The budget proposal represents the fifth consecutive year that spending on weapons has increased, after years of cutbacks during the 1990s.

And it gives a more detailed view of the broader themes in the strategy plan, known as the Quadrennial Defense Review. The themes include how the Pentagon needs to collaborate better with other government agencies in the war on terrorism; that the government must forge closer partnerships with other countries to battle terrorists, and that there must be greater investments in efforts to gather, process and distribute intelligence.

John Hamre, president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, said he was not troubled by the lack of program cuts in the Rumsfeld plan.

"It's the common parlance in Washington to measure big decisions by how many trophies are hung on the wall, how many dead animals are hung on the wall that you shot and killed," he said. "That's the wrong way to look at this."

Overall, the budget plan would give the Army \$111.8 billion, including \$42.6 billion for personnel. The Army National Guard would receive about \$5.25 billion for personnel, and the Army Reserves would receive \$3.4 billion.

OTHER PROGRAMS FUNDED IN THE BUDGET INCLUDE:

- \$3.3 billion for the Army's key weapons program, the Future Combat System.
- \$583 million for nearly 3,100 more heavily armored Humvees.
- Nearly \$800 million for 100 Stryker transport vehicles, built by General Dynamics Land Systems.
- \$2.2 billion for the F-22 fighter. Plans are to buy 20 of the aircraft, built by Maryland-based Lockheed Martin, each year in 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- \$2.5 billion for the next Virginia class submarine.
- \$360 million in the budget for development of the new CH53K heavy lift helicopter, built by Connecticut-based Sikorsky Aircraft for the Marine Corps.
- \$5.6 billion for programs for military families, including child care and tuition assistance.
- About \$1.8 billion for 81 Army Black Hawk and Navy Hawk helicopters.

first to state outright that Iran would stop considering the plan, which has broad international backing from nations concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Referral by the 35-nation IAEA board appeared to be a certainty, but its Friday meeting was adjourned until Saturday morning, allowing U.S. and European diplomats to engage in informal negotiations in their bid to seek broad backing for reporting Tehran to the council.

Vaeidi acknowledged that referral seemed unavoidable, telling reporters: "This is an adopted draft."

"It means that the U.S. and the EU-3 are intending to kill two issues, first to stop diplomacy and second to kill the Russian proposal," he said, alluding to the countries proposing referral in a resolution before the board.

He reiterated earlier threats that Iran will resume full-scale work on uranium enrichment and stop honoring an agreement giving IAEA inspectors broad powers to conduct short-notice inspections of his country's nuclear program.

"I advise them not to make a historical mistake," he said, alluding to nations actively backing referral.

Backing for Iran at the Vienna meeting appeared to be limited Friday. Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and a few other countries remained opposed, while India was said to be leaning toward supporting referral.

Egypt, one senior diplomat said, was insisting on a mention of a nuclear-free Middle East zone.

Another new draft made available to The Associated Press showed only minimal changes to the one submitted Wednesday and the key demand — referral of Iran to the council — remained.



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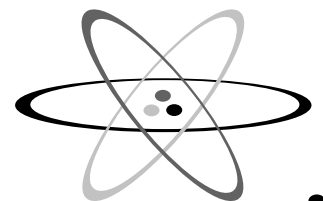
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Check in with Hilton: Heiress diaries up for sale

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Paris Hilton’s diaries, along with photos of her in various stages of undress, are among a trove of the celebutante’s personal affects that have found their way into the hands of a broker aiming to sell them.

David Hans Schmidt, known for handling deals involving celebrity porn, is trying to auction off the Hilton belongings, which had been locked away in a Los Angeles-area storage locker until a few months ago.

The pricetag? \$20 million.

Schmidt told the Los Angeles Times the items include 18 diaries in which Hilton recounts past sexual dalliances, celebrity encounters and other adventures. Also included are photographs of Hilton at “wild parties” on yachts and in private homes, as well as her computers, clothing, videos and furniture.

Hilton’s publicist, Elliot Mintz, has said the belongings were “illegally seized” from the storage facility, but would not comment on Schmidt’s description of the items because he has not seen them.

Mintz said the belongings were left at the storage facility during a 2004 move. The items were sold to an unidentified buyer after a “bureaucratic foul-up” resulted in payments not being credited to the heiress’ account.

Hilton was “incredibly upset and angry” and felt “victimized,” Mintz said, adding her lawyers are threatening legal action against anyone in possession of the items.

Of the videos, Mintz told The Associated Press he was certain there are “personal moments” on the tapes, but added “we’re not talking at all along the lines of the infamous videotape.”

In late 2003, a sex tape made with then-boyfriend Rick Salomon surfaced just before the start of Hilton’s reality TV series, “The Simple Life.”

Schmidt declined to describe the diaries’ contents, but said they include “everything that would be dear to a woman’s heart — relationships, personal feelings, sex, love, breakups, sexual experiences — all those little things that make up a little girl’s life. Her deepest, darkest secrets.”

LONDON — A veteran Academy Award nominee and a 14-year-old unknown will join the cast of J.K. Rowling’s epic Harry Potter series as filming begins next week on the latest movie, producers said.

Millions of fans across the world are eagerly awaiting the adaptation of Rowling’s fifth book — “Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix” — which sees the return of young actor Daniel Radcliffe in the title role.

Filming will begin Monday in Hertfordshire, a county in southern England. The movie is not slated for release until next year.

The plot centers on the arrival of Dolores Umbridge, an unpopular new professor at wizard academy Hogwarts. She will be played by actress Imelda Staunton, nominated for a 2005 Oscar for her performance in the bleak period drama “Vera Drake.”

Potter also wrestles with his attraction to new character Luna Lovegood, a role taken by 14-year-old newcomer Evanna Lynch.

Lynch beat out 15,000 young rivals in an open casting for the part in Britain.

The last film in the series, an adaptation of the fourth book, “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,” was directed by Mike Newell and grossed over \$285 million at the box office.

“The Order of the Phoenix” will be helmed by British director David Yates, who last year made the HBO movie “The Girl in the Cafe.”

LONDON — Kate Moss failed in a legal challenge Friday to prevent damaging allegations about her recent cocaine use from being used in an upcoming libel case.

The 32-year-old British supermodel filed the suit after British broadcaster Channel 5 aired allegations of Moss’s drug use in show called “The Truth About Kate Moss” last year.

The case centers around a claim that the model shared lines of cocaine during a 2001 charity event in Barcelona, Spain, and later fell into a coma in her hotel room.

At a pretrial hearing in London on Friday, Judge

David Eady gave lawyers for the television company permission to use allegations of Moss’s recent drug use, first published by British tabloid the Daily Mirror in September last year.

Channel Five’s lawyer Matthew Nicklin argued that full details of Moss’s drug use, and a public apology she issued regarding it, needed to be brought before the court in order to mount a successful defense.

The case is likely to be heard between October and December this year.

A criminal investigation of Moss by British police is still underway. Moss voluntarily met detectives in London on Tuesday to discuss her alleged cocaine use, but was not arrested or charged with any offense, police officials said.

Police said they would eventually submit a file to prosecutors depending on the investigation’s outcome. Prosecutors will then decide if any charges should be brought against the model.

Moss lost contracts with H&M, Burberry and Chanel after the Daily Mirror published pictures of her apparently using cocaine in a west London music studio.

The model, who has a 3-year-old daughter, has since visited a rehab clinic in Arizona and worked on international assignments.

LOS ANGELES — Wannabe singing stars on “American Idol” have been known to cringe whenever judge Simon Cowell speaks.

Would-be magicians and other Las Vegas-style entertainers could soon become just as nervous if the acid-tongued Cowell finds a judge as outspoken as himself for a new talent competition.

Cowell will create a show for NBC that allows viewers to ultimately decide which performer is rewarded with a headline spot in a Las Vegas show, NBC announced Thursday.

Cowell will executive produce the program but leave the judging to someone else this time.

“Personally, I hope to find the next Siegfried and Roy,” Cowell said of the magicians who were a Las Vegas mainstay for decades.

The show, scheduled to debut in the summer, will feature hopeful future stars from across the country who audition before a panel of celebrity judges. The show has yet to be named.

NBC Entertainment President Kevin Reilly said Cowell is a natural for the executive producer job.

“Simon has his finger on the pulse of pop culture,” he said in a statement.

Cowell has been a judge on Fox’s “American Idol” since its 2002 debut, and has become known for bluntly telling contestants what he thinks of their abilities.

LONDON — A former rock singer claimed his coat was made of fur from the endangered gorilla — outraging many in Britain and prompting an investigation. But the shaggy garment turned out to be made of monkey pelts, so the entertainer will not face charges.

Pete Burns of the 1980s band Dead or Alive made his unpopular fashion claim on a reality TV program called “Celebrity Big Brother,” upsetting fellow contestants as well as viewers.

Investigators seized the coat for testing at London’s Natural History Museum, which determined the coat was made from fur of black and white colobus monkeys, police said.

The monkeys are native to Africa, and it has been illegal to import their skins to Britain since 1975, so police next tried to determine when the coat was made.

Judging by its poor condition, a statement from the Crown Prosecutors Service said, the pelts had likely been imported sometime in the 1930s or 1940s.

So while Burns may have committed a fashion crime in the eyes of British television viewers, “there is no evidence to suggest that this garment was imported illegally,” the prosecutors’ statement said Thursday. The coat will be returned to Burns, they added.

NEWARK, N.J. — Russell Simmons has received a key to the city for his dedication to young people.

About 2,000 students from Weequahic High School attended the presentation Thursday for the 48-year-old

co-founder of Def Jam Records, creator of HBO’s “Def Comedy Jam” and chairman of Rush Communications, which includes Simmons’ Phat clothing empire.

Newark Mayor Sharpe James honored Simmons for his work with the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, a group Simmons founded to help at-risk youth.

Simmons said he wanted the students to learn they can be successful with hard work, dedication and faith.

“Whatever they can imagine for themselves they can accomplish,” he said. “Anything you can dream about, you can do.”

One of the summit’s initiatives is Hip-Hop Team Vote, a 50-city program that worked to register and mobilize young voters across the country in 2004.

Simmons, who lives in Saddle River, is not the only celebrity to appear around Newark lately. Last month, city native Queen Latifah held a special premiere of her movie “Last Holiday” at a downtown movie theater.

NEW YORK — Eli Wallach, Marian Seldes and Frances Sternhagen will be among the readers next week at a tribute to Arthur Miller, whose collected works are being published by the Library of America.

The readings are to take place Feb. 10, the first anniversary of Miller’s death, at St. Bartholomew’s Church in midtown Manhattan. The event, for which admission is free, is sponsored by TIPA (Toward International Peace Through the Arts), a nonprofit organization. Miller’s sister, Joan Copeland, will also appear at the reading.

Miller, one of the world’s most celebrated playwrights, is best known for his classic “Death of a Salesman.” He died last year at age 89.

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors accused actor Tom Sizemore of failing another drug test and of getting thrown out of a drug treatment program for arguing with another person.

Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney told a judge that Sizemore violated his probation by testing positive for drugs on Jan. 23 and being ousted from a treatment program Tuesday.

But Sizemore told Superior Court Judge T.K. Herman he was just talking with the other person at the program, adding the man would testify on his behalf when his hearing resumes Tuesday.

Herman called the hearing Thursday to determine if Sizemore’s probation, stemming from a conviction for methamphetamine possession, should be revoked a second time because of the latest accusations. If that happens, the 44-year-old actor could face 16 months in prison.

Sizemore’s probation was revoked in July after he admitted using a prosthetic device to fake a drug test and failing to be checked for drugs every three days.

Superior Court Judge Paula Mabrey reinstated probation in October after concluding Sizemore had begun to make “remarkable” progress in his battle with drugs.

The actor, who appeared in “Saving Private Ryan” and “Black Hawk Down,” was convicted in 2003 of domestic violence involving his ex-girlfriend, former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss. He is free on bail pending an appeal.

LOS ANGELES — Former teen idol Leif Garrett has voluntarily checked into a strict live-in drug rehabilitation program to “make sure he doesn’t fall off the wagon,” his attorney said.

Garrett, 44, told a Superior Court commissioner Thursday he needed more help than what he was getting at an outpatient treatment program. The decision came after the actor-singer failed a recent drug test, said attorney Andrew Flier.

Garrett agreed to enter the outpatient program for violating probation in a cocaine case stemming from a 2004 arrest.

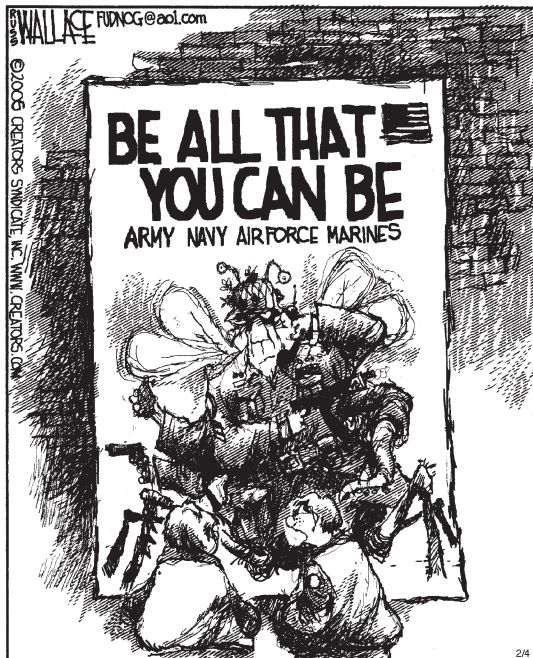
A warrant for Garrett’s arrest had been issued in December after he failed to appear in court for a status report on his progress in the less stringent program.

Garrett was charged with felony possession of hero-in last month after officers stopped him for allegedly trying to ride a Los Angeles subway train without a ticket and said they found suspected narcotics. Garrett has pleaded not guilty in that case.

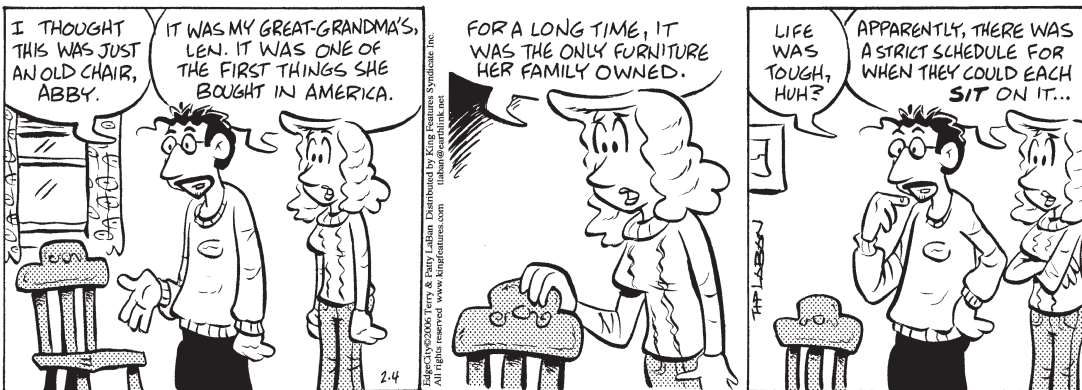
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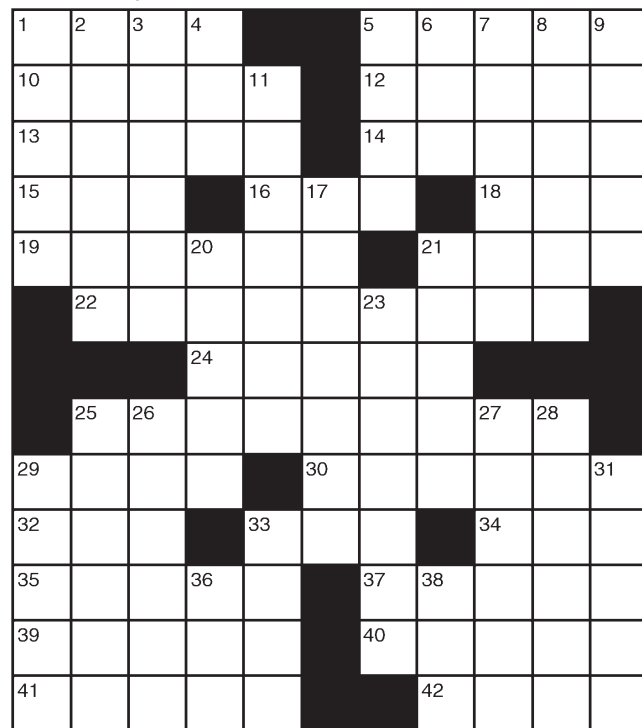
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