



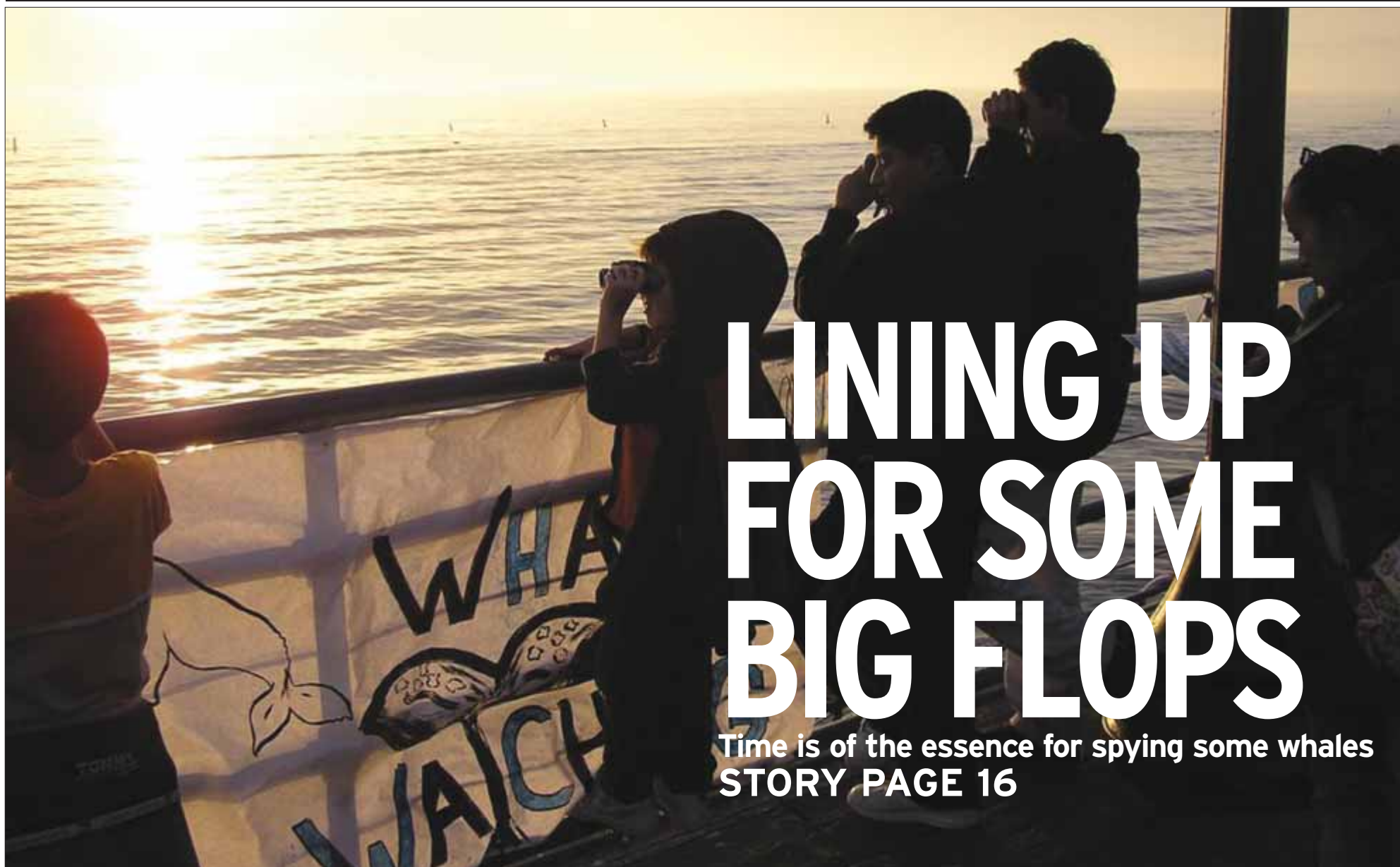
POM-POMS AND CIRCUMSTANCE
SEE PAGE 25

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE BLUBBERING IDIOTS ISSUE

WEEKEND GUESTS



LINING UP FOR SOME BIG FLOPS

Time is of the essence for spying some whales
STORY PAGE 16

Photo courtesy of Tara Crow news@smdp.com

Samohi's teams are tearing it up



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

TOE JAM: Samohi's Daniela DaCosta drives the ball in a 9-0 win over Hawthorne on Thursday.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOH Things could hardly have gone any smoother in Norm Lacy's first year as the high school athletic director.

Next week, all six Samohi winter sport teams — boy's and girl's basketball, boy's and girl's soccer, water polo and wrestling — will begin the second season of high school sports, also known as the CIF playoffs.

"We have some outstanding coaches and a talent base," Lacy said on Friday.

All six teams have fared extremely well this year, with almost all of the teams placing first in the Ocean League. Boy's basketball placed first in the Ocean League, finishing the season 7-3 in conference; girl's basketball finished undefeated in conference, also placing first; 6-2 and second place for water polo; 10-0 and first place for both the girl's and boy's soccer teams.

The wrestling team, the only winter Samohi team that isn't in the Ocean League, finished its season at 3-1 — second place in the Pioneer League.

Based on the run of successes this season,

Lacy hopes to move all the Samohi teams out of the Ocean League, where the competition from other schools is perceived to be weak, to the Bay League, which is renowned for its quality programs, with the likes of Redondo Beach High School and Mira Costa High School.

"The (Bay) league is a stronger league, overall, in competition," Lacy said. "We've completed the second part of the season and now we get to see how good we are."

"The competition gets stiffer."

SEE SAMOH SPORTS PAGE 17

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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, FEBRUARY 10-11, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Hearing Loss Association of Santa Monica Meeting

1527 Fourth St., 9:30 a.m. — noon
Hearing Loss Association of Santa Monica is a support group for individuals with hearing loss and for their family and friends. Valerie Stern, a hearing specialist, will speak about hearing loss problems and issues. Real-time captioning will be available. Parking available at the Ken Edwards Center meeting site. For more information, call (310) 452-8700.

Southern California Linux Expo 2007

5400 Century Blvd., Los Angeles, 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.
Members of the Open Source community will meet at the fifth annual Southern California Linux Expo — an event for businesses, academic institutions and the Linux community. SCALE 5x will be held at the Los Angeles Airport Westin. More information on speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors is available at www.socallinuxexpo.org.

Literature book club

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
A discussion of classic literature led by book reviewer Heather Hoffman on the second Saturday of each month. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Fairview Branch Library at (310) 450-0443.

Real Cooking seminar at Whole Foods

11737 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Hollie Greenwood and Victoria Bloch, founders of Real Cooking, will discuss ways to lose weight, increase your energy, boost your immunity and improve your overall well-being. For more information on Real Cooking, please visit their Web site at www.realcooking.net. For further information, contact Kelly at Whole Foods, (310) 826-4433.

Talking Black musicals, Screening 'Cabin In the Sky'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica Public Library presents a lecture on black musicals by Santa Monica College's Anne Powers, followed by a screening of the 1943 musical, "Cabin In the Sky." Both programs are free. All ages welcome. To be held in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

African-American Arts Festival at STAR ECO Station

10101 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
This free outdoor event includes live music, dance performances, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, world-class capoeira, food, vendors, crafts, games and more. For more info, visit www.ecostation.org or call (310) 842-8060.

Whale watching at Malibu Pier

23000 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Whale watching voyages will sail from Malibu Pier on the 55-foot boat "Aquarius." The trip lasts approximately two and a half hours. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for juniors. For further information and reservations, call (310) 456-8037. Group rates are available.

'Jules'

1404 Third Street Promenade., 8 p.m.
This "Romeo & Juliet" -inspired story is told through the eyes of Juliet, with provocative queries addressing racial and political tension amongst today's youth. For more information, call the Promenade Playhouse & Conservatory at (310) 656-8070.

'Frida Kahlo'

2332 W. Fourth St., Los Angeles, 8 p.m.
This play, written and directed by Ruben Amavizca, and based on the life of the Mexican artist, takes an analytical look at the woman behind the artist. Spanish and English-language versions of the play are both available. For information and reservations, call (213) 382-8133 or visit www.fridakahlotheater.org.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007

Mar Vista Farmers' Market

Grandview Boulevard at Venice Boulevard, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Biology and Intelligent Design Forum

1220 Second St., 11:30 a.m. — noon
Post-worship forum by Dr. William A. Wood in the Renaissance Room of First Presbyterian Church. Come hear Dr. Wood's thoughts on Darwinism as he concludes his science and theology series. Lunch will be served. For more information, call (310) 451-1303.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



Playing out some risky scenarios

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK Fifteen-year-old Nick is in trouble — his grades are dropping, he's lost interest in extracurricular activities and he was recently caught smoking marijuana in the locker room.

What sort of action should Nick's parents take to protect their son?

How parents should deal with scenarios such as this vignette was the topic of a community workshop sponsored by the Service Planning Area 5 (SPA5) Council on Thursday night. SPA5 is part of the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, an advocacy group for children's services.

It's a problem that many parents face as their child transitions from middle school to high school — a time when children must leave the safe confines of their middle school and familiarity and embark on a new chapter that involves thousands of new faces and new experiences.

Led by a panel of probation officers, teenage counselors, a single mom and a former resident of the juvenile justice system, the workshop addressed issues that could later spell trouble in a teenager's life — peer pressure, bullying, alcohol, drugs, depression and gangs.

The workshop was well attended by a local and diverse audience of all races and economic backgrounds. Held in Virginia Avenue Park, near where 20-year-old Miguel Martin was shot and killed late last year by a suspected gang member, the workshop entitled "Our Youth at Risk" also seemed to hold an emphasis in how children could avoid getting caught up in the gang culture.

The main suggestion relayed to parents was to remain involved in their children's lives and to not be afraid to take action. It was suggested that parents enroll their children in after-school programs, keep in close contact with the children's teachers and even administer drug tests to their children if needed.

"It first starts at the home," said Greg Bell, a youth trainer for the Children's Planning Council, who has been involved with community outreach since the age of 17 when he

SEE RISKY BEHAVIOR PAGE 18



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

SCREENING CALLS: SMFD Capt. Thomas L. Riegner works in fire department's former dispatch unit at the Public Safety Building late last year. The Santa Monica Fire Department has since partnered with the LAFD to bolster its 911 response efforts from a downtown LA location.

The 411 on the 911

SM Fire Department contracts with LAFD to improve response

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Frenzied residents calling 911 may find some solace in the revamped emergency response system, thanks to a new partnership with the Los Angeles Fire Department.

In addition to shortening the time it takes to deploy fire trucks and ambulances to the scene, callers will be able to receive medical advice from trained dispatchers while paramedics are en route, potentially saving lives that might have been lost under the former system, which had just one dispatcher avail-

able to answer all incoming calls to the Santa Monica Fire Department.

Under the new partnership, which went into effect Jan. 23 at 10:05 a.m., all calls to the SMFD are now handled by the City of Los Angeles' Regional Dispatch Center, which has 25 operators, two captains and one battalion chief employing state-of-the-art equipment to handle multiple calls and direct resources throughout the region more efficiently in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

In the past, the SMFD had only one dispatcher per 12-hour shift who was charged with handling all calls. With roughly 10,500 such calls coming through yearly, the job had become overwhelming, compromising public safety, according to SMFD Chief Jim Hone. On top of that, communications equipment used by the SMFD was outdated.

"We couldn't get to other 911 calls quick enough with one dispatcher," said Hone. "Now we have the ability to help callers

through childbirth, a heart attack or any other type of emergency they face. We couldn't do that with one dispatcher. You can't be in the middle of helping someone through CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and then 911 rings in you go, 'Hold on a minute, I'll be right back.'

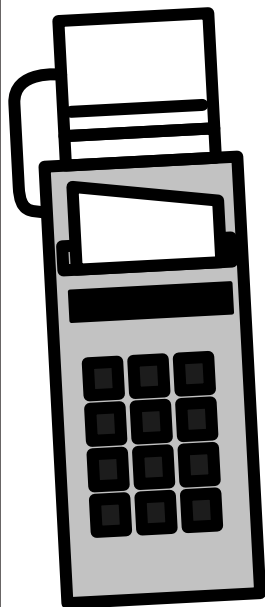
"You just can't do that."

Hone emphasized that all 911 calls are still being handled by the Santa Monica Police Department, which determines what services a caller needs. If it is determined that the caller is in need of the firefighters or paramedics, the call is transferred to downtown Los Angeles, where operators there will answer, "Fire/paramedics, what is your emergency?"

When things are running smoothly, Hone and other officials said a caller will never know the difference.

Roughly three years ago, city officials

SEE 911 CALLS PAGE 19



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court owes successes to providers

Editor:

I applaud Santa Monica’s Community Court, the city’s most recent effort to deal with homeless people in a way that is humane, farsighted and draws on a consortium of human service agencies. Kevin Herrera’s excellent article, “Wiping Slates Clean,” (Feb. 3-4, page 1) captures the ways in which this initiative can help turn lives around. There is more to the story, however.

Every person who came before Judge Tillmon in that landmark first session told the court of his or her stay at the CLARE Foundation, and the recovery from alcoholism or addiction they achieved there. Without this, it is unlikely any of them would have been able to show up at court. CLARE has been working in Santa Monica and other Westside communities for 37 years to provide homeless and low-income individuals more than a handout or a meal or a bed for night. CLARE provides a way out of the cycle of homeless addiction and despair with compassion and treatment. A recent study from the Urban Institute describes what has been known in the recovery community for years, that 80 percent of the homeless population suffers from alcohol or substance addiction.

As demonstrated by the clients present at the first session of Santa Monica’s Community Court, at CLARE, we give our clients the care that enables them to create a life – working, living in their own home, connecting to family and friends – in contrast to jailing them for a few hours or days only to turn them back out on to the streets. We applaud the city in this new endeavor and we appreciate the strong partnership between the city, the CLARE Foundation and the other service providers in Santa Monica.

Nicholas Vrtaric
Executive Director, CLARE Foundation

A lot of fingers to point

Editor:

I'm a frequent visitor to your beautiful city, where everything looks clean and cared for. However, I have discovered that beneath this beauty is a very dirty secret: (Santa Monica has) numerous raw sewage spills into the bay, most of which are not even reported to the public! (“Big dirty secret,” Jan. 26, page 1)

I have recently seen a case of hepatitis A in a surfer. The doctors responded as though it's a common occurrence! How can (city officials) encourage visitors and vacationers to come to their city when they have this secret – the bay is so polluted, people get extremely ill swimming there? The sand is equally dangerous, as the tides bring this filth to shore. This is a horrible thing, and the people and officials are somehow allowing it to happen.

You are killing your bay and harming all who go near it. Until something is done, I will spread the news of such crime as far as I can!

Pat Fitzpatrick
Santa Monica

Don't sweat the homeless

Editor:

In the early '80s, homelessness began creeping around the edges of American life. Today, the homeless are part of every landscape. Precise numbers of the street people are nearly impossible to pin down. You see homeless men, women and children roaming the streets, eating there, sleeping there.

No one seems to know what to do and just walk by, trying to avoid the hapless plight of the street people. So why worry about it? You could never end up homeless, wrapped in a blanket, huddled in the cold with all your belongings, right?

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Resisting rehab stint is a feather in Biden’s cap

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN WAS IN THE news recently for saying some things that he wished he hadn’t said. Presumably intending to compliment Barack Obama, Biden made some remarks that were patronizing, at best. I salute him.

Do I approve of making thoughtless remarks about African-Americans? Of course not. Do I think he should have thought before he spoke? You bet. But I admire him for what he didn’t do. After saying something stupid and embarrassing and potentially harmful to his career, he didn’t run off to a rehab center.

Biden took responsibility for his actions, didn’t blame them on anything that happened in his childhood and apologized. That kind of heroic behavior is very rare today.

I have great respect for alcoholics and other addicts, people with eating disorders, and those with depression and other medical problems who go into rehab or counseling and try to get help. I’m sure it takes great courage to confront these problems. However, in recent years, the “rehab center” has provided a sanctuary for famous people who have messed up. We hear too much about rehab and not enough about responsibility.

Today, people go into rehab or therapy to supposedly help them after they have spewed vile anti-Semitic, racist or anti-gay remarks. And they go for flirting with minors over the Internet. Then after their 30 days of rehab is up, I guess we’re all supposed to forgive them or forget about whatever they did.

This “quick fix” approach is particularly annoying. I’m sure that some of these people could really use psychiatric help. But let them apologize first, take responsibility for what they’ve done, and then recognize that they may need to be in therapy for a lot longer than a month. When they go into counseling for less time than most of their TV series last, I tend to doubt their sincerity.

Often these stays in rehab or on a psychiatrist’s couch are combined with claims of alcoholism or of being mistreated as a child. Again, these are serious things for a person to deal with, but I don’t see how, for example, Mel Gibson’s being treated for alcoholism could help get rid of his anti-Semitism. The booze didn’t put those thoughts in his head. I’m sure we all know people who’ve gotten drunk who don’t suddenly start blaming Jews for all the wars in the world.

In this age of specialization, soon there will probably be separate rehab centers for different “conditions.” There will be The

Rehab Center for People Who Say Hateful Things, The Rehab Center for People Who Say They Are Addicted To Performing Sexual Acts They Wish They Didn’t Do, and, of course, The Rehab Center for Celebrities Who Haven’t Had Their Names in the Papers Lately.

As these places proliferate, there will be centers for “regular people,” not just celebrities. So, look for people to say things like, “I know I should rinse off my own dishes, but I have a real problem. So, I’m going into rehab for 30 days.” Similarly, we may be asked to forgive people who check themselves into places such

AFTER SAYING SOMETHING STUPID AND EMBARRASSING AND POTENTIALLY HARMFUL TO HIS CAREER, HE DIDN'T RUN OFF TO A REHAB CENTER.

as The Rehab Center for People Who Promise to Call Back But Don’t and The Rehab Center for People Who Never Pick Up The Check.

In other words, I have the feeling that running off to rehab is just going to get worse.

I won’t be surprised if President Bush and his buddies end up going the rehab route. It just might be his way out of the Iraq mess. In fact, it’s perfect for him. Like so many other people these days, he won’t really have to apologize or admit he’s been wrong.

All he and his colleagues will have to do is say they have a problem. Then they’ll check into The Rehab Center for Public Officials Who Are Addicted To Exaggerating Dangers to Convince Us to Go to War.

After 30 days, he’ll come out, people will forgive him, and he can start in on Iran.

LLOYD GARVER writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“There was nothing about his performance or his appearance that stood out.”

— Principal Cynthia Juarez of the Imagine Charter School in Surprise, Ariz., on how a 29-year-old convicted Oklahoma sex offender attended her school for three months, disguised as a 12-year-old

“Chief Warrant Officer Chao valiantly fought for the freedoms that we hold most sacred. His honorable sacrifice is an inspiration to all Californians.”

— Gov. Schwarzenegger on the death of a soldier from Orange City, who died Jan. 28 as a result of wounds suffered when his helicopter crashed during combat operations in Najaf, Iraq

“You’ve heard of six degrees of separation. Well, in New Zealand, it’s more like one and a half.”

— Simon Shattky, an organizer and sponsor of www.madefromnewzealand.com, speaking on New Zealanders’ reliance upon one another at a Santa Monica Waitangi Day event on the beach.

“There were adjustments made depending on the audience.”

— Thomas F. Gimble, the Pentagon’s acting inspector general, on the consistency of intelligence-gathering linking Al Qaeda to Saddam Hussein. The report was conducted by the Pentagon to justify the war against Iraq.

“It’s always nice to see people get together to chat. You don’t see that happen much anymore.”

— Seth Heuiser, a barista at The Talking Stick coffee-house, on the allure of the Stitch n’ Bitch knitting group that gathers at the coffeehouse weekly

“It’s basically telling the community that this is a trustworthy institution of learning. It’s a standard by which all schools strive to say ‘Yes, we are meeting a high standard.’”

— Principal Janie Gates on Olympic High School’s attempts to become accredited

“If you were just going to talk to someone, I don’t know that you would need a wig, a trench coat, an air cartridge BB gun and pepper spray.”

— Sgt. Barbara Jones, a spokeswoman for the Orlando Police Department, on NASA astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak, who is being charged with the attempted murder of her romantic rival

“That will never happen.”

— Ellen DeGeneres, responding to her partner’s (Portia De Rossi) claims that when they decide to have children DeGeneres will be the one to carry

“It is truly a plastic soup out there.”

— Charlie Moore, captain of the Algalita, a marine research vessel, on the roughly 10 million square miles of trash in an area of the Pacific Ocean between Los Angeles and Hawaii

“She didn’t listen. She was too drugged up. She was so wasted.”

— Virgie Arthur, Anna Nicole Smith’s mother, on her attempts to warn her daughter about the company she kept and her drug use



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PROJECT GREENLIGHT: BE WARY WHEN STEPPING OUT IN SM

This week's Q-Line question asked: **Is the city of Santa Monica, for all its efforts to slow traffic and encourage residents and tourists to leave their cars behind, a pedestrian friendly city?**

Here are your responses:

"NO, SANTA MONICA IS NOT A pedestrian friendly place. The very fact that the increased traffic flow is badly managed says it all. Drivers are frustrated, distracted and angry while driving and don't pay too much attention to pedestrians. I walk a block or two out of my way to cross at the light ... never use a crosswalk. But even at cross streets where there is a stop sign, I stop and wait until I feel it is safe to cross. Do not trust that the drivers are really going to stop until they do. And then, even, proceed with caution. Aside from the roadways, though, the pedestrian has a tough time walking on the filthy, broken and out-of-alignment sidewalks. So many people have tripped and fallen, including me."

"DUE TO THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY and the California Incline, the city of Santa Monica will always be awash with automotive traffic. Santa Monica is a gateway city for traffic like no other city in the bay areas between Palos Verdes and Point Dume. Every boulevard in Santa Monica is a major traffic roadway to the east and west, including the 10 freeway. Lincoln Boulevard is almost a direct route to the Los Angeles International Airport. I personally enjoy walking due to walking being an excellent form of exercise and recommend it for anyone who can walk to their destination.

Still, thinking that folks are going to give up their "Beamers" and Mercedes phallic symbols for public transportation is unrealistic."

"WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE OF TRAFFIC in Santa Monica is mentally defective. They slow everything down with their corner curbs that stick out so people can't make a right turn when the idiot n front of them is trying to make a left turn. And they put all these things to narrow the streets and drivers get frustrated. Pedestrians are probably the only ones they can take it out on. So a lot of times, these morons are too stupid to pay attention when they're driving 'cause they're too busy talking on the cell phone. One time, I almost got hit, and when the driver stopped, I reached in and grabbed his cell phone and smashed it. That's what some of these people need to have done to them."

"THE FAMILY OF THE PERSON WHO WAS killed at Euclid and Santa Monica should be ashamed of themselves. People need to take more responsibility for their own actions and not sue other people, point the finger, blame other people for idiotic actions that result in their harm, death or other maladies. Personal responsibility has been lost in our country. It's a shame."

"YES. AS A DISABLED PERSON, EVERY Sunday I come down Santa Monica Boulevard and it's not exactly wheelchair friendly. There's a lot of gaps in the street on Arizona Avenue. I think that this city is making things more pedestrian friendly, but we need to do a whole lot more."

"THE CITY INSTALLED SOLAR-POWERED pedestrian signals instead of AC-powered red flashing lights. They saved a few pennies on electricity and helped green the planet. Now the tax payers will pay millions. This is what you get when you vote for SMRR."

"NO. THIS IS THE LAND OF THE CAR. The Santa Monica Department of Transportation's concern is that traffic flows smoothly. There is no department for pedestrians, nor is as much attention paid to their needs."

"CROSSING THE STREET FOR SENIORS IS a cause for concern every time we walk out of the door. The pavements aren't even. The light changes so quickly, by the time you look around to sense the traffic that might be whizzing around the corner, the traffic lights have turned red. It is a problem some of us face each day because we don't drive and we are of a certain age. Something really has to be done. I wish that City Hall would do something about making the traffic lights a little bit longer."

"PEDESTRIANS ALSO HAVE A responsibility to not step out in front of oncoming traffic, especially those moron mothers who push their baby strollers in front of oncoming traffic as if it were a magic wand. I always wait for the traffic flow to end before crossing, and then I don't talk on a cell phone or look at the sky. I move with a purpose - that is to get to the other side. Look what City Hall has done to aggravate traffic flow and driving enjoyment. People are frustrated, whether it's walk-

ing or driving. But most of City Hall has not directly concentrated on city road infrastructure. How 'bout we concentrate on some City Hall job terminations."

"I THINK SANTA MONICA WOULD BE a wonderful pedestrian city if there were more streets like California Street, where there are stop signs for automobiles, which make it very comfortable for pedestrians to walk that entire length with only one red light stop, on Fourth Street. So I think that would be something excellent. Arizona (Avenue) is not too bad, but it doesn't have the advantages that California Street does."

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LAPD, mayor target city's worst gangs to quell rising violence

BY ANDREW GLAZER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Responding to a surge in bloodshed by brazen street gangs, the mayor and police have launched an initiative that will break past practice and publicly identify the most violent gangs and promises to confront them with new teams of federal and local police and prosecutors.

Authorities had been reluctant to name the worst gangs for fear of boosting their street image. But a 14 percent spike in violent gang-related crime last year — the first increase in four years — requires new strategies, officials said.

"The new strategy abandons the earlier posture and challenges these menaces by exposing their corrosive behavior to the scrutiny of a more informed confident community," according to the plan.

Gangs selected for a "FBI's Most Wanted"-style list have histories of assaulting police officers or target victims based on race, said Lt. Paul Vernon, a Los Angeles Police Department spokesman. For example, one of the groups that made the list, a Hispanic gang called 204th Street, was blamed in the racially charged shooting death of a 14-year-old black girl in December.

There were 400 gangs to choose from in Los Angeles with some 39,000 members, police said. Other agencies estimate the number of gangs in the city as higher than 700.

Other parts of the initiative involve seeking gang additional gang injunctions that prohibit members from congregating in certain neighborhoods; proposing new state legislation to facilitate gang injunctions; holding neighborhood seminars designed to train residents on how to recognize gang members; and creating a list of the top 10 most wanted gang members.

Additionally, police plan to bring together more than 120 top homicide and gang detectives in South Los Angeles, one of the

most gang-plagued areas. Fifty new officers are to be stationed in the San Fernando Valley, where there was the highest surge in gang activity last year. The FBI, meanwhile, has agreed to reserve a spot on its Ten Most Wanted List for an LA gang member.

"Beside Osama Bin Laden," police Chief William Bratton said.

Bratton joined Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Thursday to announce the plans at a police station in a valley neighborhood that suffered from a nearly 160 percent rise in gang crimes last year.

Reaction from neighborhood activists

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE AWAY GANGBANGERS, YOU NEED TO REPLACE THEM WITH SOMETHING."

Elder Mike Cummings
pastor of the We Care Ministries in Watts

and gang interventionists ranged from skeptical to negative.

Skipp Townsend, a former gang member who works in gang intervention, said naming the most dangerous gangs will "add fuel to the fire."

"What's actually going to happen is gangs will want to make sure they are part of the list," he said.

Townsend also is a critic of gang injunctions, which he said inevitably leads to police harassment of innocent young black and Hispanic men wearing hip hop clothing.

A former gang member and pastor of the We Care Ministries in Watts, Elder Mike Cummings worried that heightened gang enforcement would further strain tense police-community relations.

Boy, 14, charged with murder

BY KIM CURTIS

Associated Press Writer

UKIAH, Calif. Boy, 14, charged as adult in shooting death of sister's boyfriend A 14-year-old boy accused of gunning down his sister's boyfriend on a small American Indian reservation shook his head and cried Friday as he was charged as an adult with murder.

Marcos C. Escareno did not enter a plea in Mendocino County Superior Court because his family asked for more time to hire a lawyer. He was held at juvenile hall in lieu of \$550,000 bail and his arraignment was postponed until Feb. 21.

The teen used a rifle Tuesday to shoot Enoc Cruz, 21, in the head and back as the man sat behind the wheel of his van near Escareno's home on the Manchester-Point Arena Rancheria, said Mendocino County Sheriff's Lt. Kurt Smallcomb.

Cruz dated Escareno's 22-year-old sister, but investigators would not discuss a possible motive in the killing.

The suspect, who arrived in court wear-

ing an orange jail shirt with his hands shackled at his waist, is a member of the Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, a tribe spokesman said.

Escareno was arrested at his mother's house on the rancheria, a small reservation where 250 members of the Pomo tribe live near the coast about 140 miles north of San Francisco.

The boy could be sentenced to up to life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder as an adult. His mother, aunt and two of his sisters wept in court during the short hearing.

Escareno's mother, Mary Logan, said she didn't know what happened and that her son did not have other problems with the law.

"No, no, never," she said as she sobbed outside the courtroom.

However, Smallcomb said deputies were familiar with the boy. He had been due in juvenile court next week, but authorities declined to say what charges he faced in that case.

The investigation was continuing, but there are no other suspects, Smallcomb said.

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South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,139,333	\$ 681,333
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Schwarzenegger a party pooper

BY TOM VERDIN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO In his inaugural address a month ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urged Californians to think beyond party ideology and forge a "dynamic center" that was not captive to Republican or Democratic orthodoxy.

Private audio tapes made public this week indicate the Republican governor was heeding his own advice long before giving the speech that kicked off his final term.

Sounding almost like a man without a party, Schwarzenegger skewers the Democratic leaders of the Legislature — saying one lacks passion and calling another "really weird" — as well as Republican legislators in general. He says GOP lawmakers are small-minded, obstructionist and prone to "nitpicking."

His sentiments about members of his own party were especially revealing. They brought into the open a divide between the moderate governor and the conservatives who control the levers of Republican Party power in California.

The release of the tapes from a speechwriting session last March also comes at a particularly sensitive time for Schwarzenegger, who is trying to woo members of both parties to support his \$12 billion plan to overhaul the state's health care system.

"This might be labeled post-partisanship — the dark side," Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College, said in reference to a term Schwarzenegger coined during his inaugural address. "It probably doesn't come as a surprise to anyone that he says these things, but it probably annoys them that it ended up in print."

Schwarzenegger's comments are likely to add extra fric-

tion to the negotiations over his health care plan, meaning he may have to spend extra time courting lawmakers on both sides, Pitney said.

Republicans already were angered by his plan to charge a fee to businesses who opt not to provide health coverage for their employees. Conservatives also have been unhappy with many of Schwarzenegger's spending plans, which include a multibillion-dollar bond proposal on top of the one voters approved last year.

To the party's more conservative elements, the sentiments revealed on the audio tapes only further their suspicions about a governor who has hired Democrats to some of his top policy positions.

"I think that it's his clear statement that the marriage of convenience between him and the Republican Party is over," said Michael Schroeder, a GOP activist from Orange County.

False steps part of Vietnamese-Americans' political awakening

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

WESTMINSTER, Calif. One Vietnamese-American candidate issued a hasty apology after acknowledging his campaign doctored a photo to show him standing next to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Another is criticized for a flier boasting she is supported by "Republicans who dislike Mexicans."

Either misstep could have derailed a candidacy. Yet after balloting this week, Trung Nguyen edged out Janet Nguyen by seven votes in a crowded field for a seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Janet Nguyen is requesting a recount.

The election results reinforce that Vietnamese are a growing political force in Orange County, home to the largest population of Vietnamese outside Vietnam. Yet their candidates sometimes stumble while trying to appeal to voters from two very different political worlds.

The raw, rumor-driven political style that can win points with Vietnamese in the area dubbed "Little Saigon" doesn't always translate to other voters. Likewise, Vietnamese candidates can have a hard time adjusting their style when trying to make inroads with non-Vietnamese.

This week's special election was a case in point, with three Vietnamese candidates using hardball tactics in Little Saigon that

caused them headaches on the larger political stage.

Two weeks ago, attorney Trung Nguyen bought an advertisement in two Vietnamese-language newspapers that featured a photo of him shoulder-to-shoulder with Schwarzenegger. But under closer examination, it actually was a photo of Nguyen's head pasted onto the body of another man who stood to the governor's left. Nguyen blamed a volunteer and apologized.

Janet Nguyen's political consultant, Dave Gilliard, said someone called Vietnamese voters with a recorded message saying his candidate's mother was a prostitute and her father fought with the Communists during

the Vietnam War.

"I am startled about how the accusations fly back and forth," said Gilliard, a veteran Republican operative. "There's certainly a different standard for the truth when they're competing for votes in their own community than when they're not."

Janet Nguyen had issues of her own. Her campaign distributed a flier saying she was supported by "Republicans who dislike Mexicans" and urging Vietnamese to remember their ethnic pride.

Gilliard said the wording was meant to express her opposition to illegal immigrants, not all Mexicans.

The incident was similar to one last fall involving a Vietnamese candidate.

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Aviators taking their commute to the skies

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

ROSAMOND, Calif. Most people have a car or SUV parked in the garage. Scott Loftin has three airplanes.

The 50-year-old aviation enthusiast is a resident of Rosamond Skypark, a tidy subdivision on the edge of the Mojave Desert where single-family homes are adjacent to hangars, and airplane noise isn't considered a nuisance.

Three days a week, Loftin, a biomedical engineer, revs up the engine of his Glasair RV-6 or Cessna 152 and rumbles down a nearby runway to begin his commute to San Jose or Los Angeles.

"There's more to it than the time factor," he says. "It's the mystique of flying to work."

There are some 560 skyparks across the country, ranging from fancy to comparatively modest, with another 20 planned. The popularity of the communities is largely driven by aviation buffs like Loftin, who are looking to use their planes more than just on the weekends.

Actor John Travolta lives with his Gulfstream II jet and Boeing 707 at an exclusive airpark in Florida that includes a country club and inn and the nation's longest private residential runway at 7,550 feet, according to the community's Web site.

Rosamond, on the other hand, consists mostly of empty nesters and retired couples who have saved over the years to afford the

unusual lifestyle.

The neighborhood includes colonial and ranch-style homes distinguished by sprawling backyards that lead to cavernous hangars housing anything from \$90,000 two-seater experimental planes to gliders.

Built in 1986 with 60 lots, the privately owned subdivision has three vacant spots left, starting at \$195,000. Houses average about \$400,000.

Obeying an honor system, residents and visitors typically avoid departures and arrivals early in the morning and late at night. Without an airport tower, pilots navigate backyard taxiways on their own and radio each other before taking off and landing at the 3,600-foot public runway.

In the sky, they follow standard visual flight rules and remain under constant monitoring by the Federal Aviation Administration.

John Wilson moved to the skypark nearly 20 years ago, looking for a bigger home and a place to park his Cessna 182.

Before retiring in 2001, he flew daily to Burbank Airport, then drove six miles in traffic to Hollywood, where he worked as manager of technical facilities at a television network.

"Flying was the shortest part of it," said Wilson, who averaged his air time at about 30 minutes. "All the time, I'd look down and shake my head and sympathize with all the people down there ... I'd say, 'Glad I'm not down there.'"

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR SANTA MONICA PALISADES BLUFF IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City of Santa Monica has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Monica Palisades Bluff Improvement Project. The proposed project consists of stabilization measures to decrease the rate of deterioration of the Palisades Bluffs and resulting bluff top rim recession along Santa Monica Palisades Park. The proposed project also includes several techniques intended to improve the stability of the Bluffs and Palisades Park. In accordance with Section 15072 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of intent to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by the project include:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Construction Effects
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Neighborhood Effects

PROJECT APPLICANT:

City of Santa Monica Civil Engineering & Architecture Division
1918 Main Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90405
Spiros Lazaris, P.E. Civil Engineer
(310) 458-2283



PROJECT LOCATION:

The project site is located in the City of Santa Monica in the western portion of Los Angeles County. The proposed project site, the Palisades Bluffs (Bluffs), is along an abrupt slope face parallel to the coastline along Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and below Santa Monica Palisades Parkway, a portion of which is also referred to as Palisades Beach Road. The project area extends 1.6 miles along PCH, from the McClure Tunnel to the northwestern limit of the City.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposed by the City of Santa Monica is designed to decrease the rate of gradual deterioration of the Bluffs and resulting bluff top rim line recession along Santa Monica Palisades Park. The project would preserve an important recreational and visual resource that has been a prominent part of the City's development for over 100 years. Additionally, the objectives of the project include:

- Protection of public and private property above and below the Bluffs;
- Enhancement of public safety;
- Preservation of the natural appearance and unique visual character of the Bluffs;
- Improvement of traffic flow along PCH; and
- The preservation and enhancement of the Palisades Park's historical character.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration on the proposed project may be viewed at the following locations:

Civil Engineering and Architecture Division
1918 Main Street, Suite 300
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Office of the City Clerk
Room 102
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Planning & Community Development Department
Room 214
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Montana Avenue Branch
1704 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Main Branch
1324 5th street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Ocean Park Branch
2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Fairview Branch
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence on February 5, 2007 and end on March 7, 2007. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public comments on the document during this period. Any written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received within the public review period. Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on March 7, 2007 and addressed to:

Spiros A. Lazaris, P.E.
Civil Engineering and Architecture
1918 Main Street, Suite 300
Santa Monica, CA 90405
Fax: (310) 393-4425
E-mail: spiros.lazaris@smgov.net

Immigrants sue FBI over citizen fatigue

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Immigrants who waited years for their citizenship applications to be processed because of lengthy security checks claimed in a lawsuit Thursday that the delays violated their constitutional rights of due process.

The suit, filed in San Francisco federal court against the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, among others, seeks to enforce rules saying the government should make a decision on a citizenship application within 120 days of the applicant's interview.

**I WAS
DISAPPOINTED
BECAUSE I THOUGHT
AMERICA'S PROCESS IS
FAIR AND EFFICIENT."**

Yinan Zhang
plaintiff

The immigrants cleared traditional criminal background checks and other requirements only to wait years for clearance through the FBI's name-check process, through which all immigration applicants must pass since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the plaintiffs' attorneys said.

"The system is broken, and it's time to fix it," said Maya Harris, executive director of ACLU of Northern California, which filed the suit on behalf of eight immigrants, along with the Asian Law Caucus and the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Bay Area

chapter.

Christopher Bentley, spokesman for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, defended the rigorous background checks as vital to national security.

"The American public expects that, as an agency, we won't grant a benefit such as citizenship to someone who is not qualified," he said. "We will not and do not grant any benefits until all background security clearances have been resolved."

The majority of the 35 million background checks the agency runs every year are cleared within nine months, Bentley said. The others require more research and can take years, he said.

Calls to the FBI were not immediately returned.

One plaintiff, Sana Jalili, is a Pakistani-born mother of two who has been living in the United States since she was 15. She grew up in upstate New York, married an American citizen and settled in Fremont, where she home-schools her daughters.

She applied for citizenship in December 2003, gave her fingerprints, passed a criminal background check and completed the final interview in September 2004. Although Jalili, 26, was told she'd be naturalized in three months at most, she's waited almost three years with no conclusion.

"We are continuously told the same message: that my name has gone for a background check," she said. "But how long does it take to complete a simple background check?"

Another plaintiff, Yinan Zhang, 32, came to the United States legally in 1995, and settled in San Francisco, where he takes care of his elderly father. He submitted his citizenship application in July 2001, passed the citizenship test in September 2002 and has been waiting ever since for his clearance in the FBI name check.

Judge OKs Marine's wish to withdraw guilty plea

BY THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press Writer

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. A military judge granted a Marine corporal's request Thursday to withdraw his guilty plea to charges of murdering an unarmed Iraqi civilian, but warned the serviceman that he could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Cpl. Trent Thomas, 25, pleaded guilty as part of a pretrial agreement to several charges Jan. 18, including kidnapping and murder, in the slaying of 52-year-old Hashim Ibrahim Awad in Hamdania last year. But Thomas said Thursday that he no longer believes he's guilty and was following a lawful order.

"Sir, when my country gives me an order, I follow it," Thomas told the judge, Lt. Col. Tracy A. Daly, adding that the order came from his squad leader, Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins III, and higher up the chain of command. "I believe I had justification," Thomas said.

The judge warned Thomas that he could face the death penalty because he is no longer bound by the pretrial agreement. But the death penalty is a long shot because Lt. Gen. James Mattis, who is overseeing the

case, has said he does not want Thomas or any of the other troops accused in the case to face execution.

Thomas, of Madison, Ill., was one of a squad of seven Marines and a sailor accused last year of hatching a plot to kill an Iraqi in the town of Hamdania. Four others pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Thomas, the squad's second in command, could face life in prison.

Outside court, Kelley said Thomas had an "epiphany" Wednesday night and decided to withdraw his pleas. "Corporal Thomas has always wanted to fight it," Kelley said of the charges.

A former top Navy lawyer said Thomas's move was risky.

"It would be a good move if there is a substantial change in the evidence. If there is not, then it is probably not a good move," said John Hutson, president and dean of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N.H. "It's high-stakes poker."

Hutson, who practiced military law for 28 years, said he could not recall a single military case in which a defendant withdrew a guilty plea after giving lengthy testimony detailing his involvement. Thomas testified last month about his role in the killing.

'Damning' it

Pentagon probe finds prewar intelligence work inappropriate

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON A "very damning" report by the Defense Department's inspector general depicts a Pentagon that purposely manipulated intelligence in an effort to link Saddam Hussein to al-Qaida in the runup to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, says the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"That was the argument that was used to make the sale to the American people about the need to go to war," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. He said the Pentagon's work, "which was wrong, which was distorted, which was inappropriate ... is something which is highly disturbing."

The investigation by acting inspector general Thomas F. Gimble found that prewar intelligence work at the Pentagon, including a contention that the CIA had underplayed the likelihood of an al-Qaida connection, was inappropriate but not illegal. The report was to be presented to Levin's panel at a hearing Friday.

The report found that former Pentagon policy chief Douglas J. Feith had not engaged in illegal activities through the creation of special offices to review intelligence. Some Democrats also have contended that Feith misled Congress about the basis of the administration's assertions on the threat posed by Iraq, but the Pentagon investigation did not support that. Two people familiar with the findings discussed the main points and some details Thursday on condition they not be identified.

Levin has asserted that President Bush took the country to war in Iraq based in part on intelligence assessments — some shaped by Feith's office — that were off base and did not fully reflect the views of the intelligence community.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Levin said the IG report is "very damning" and

shows a Pentagon policy shop trying to shape intelligence to prove a link between al-Qaida and Saddam.

Levin in September 2005 had asked the inspector general to determine whether Feith's offices' activities were appropriate, and if not, what remedies should be pursued.

The 2004 report from the Sept. 11 commission found no evidence of a collaborative relationship between Saddam and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror organization before the U.S. invasion.

Asked to comment on the IG's findings, Feith said in a telephone interview that he had not seen the report but was pleased to hear that it concluded his office's activities were neither illegal nor unauthorized. He took strong issue, however, with the IG's finding that some activities had been "inappropriate."

“CLEARLY, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS WILLING TO CHALLENGE THE POLICY OFFICE ...”

Douglas J. Feith
former Pentagon policy chief

"The policy office has been smeared for years by allegations that its pre-Iraq-war work was somehow 'unlawful' or 'unauthorized' and that some information it gave to congressional committees was deceptive or misleading," Feith said.

Feith called "bizarre" the inspector general's conclusion that some intelligence activities by the Office of Special Plans, which was created while Feith served as the undersecretary of defense for policy — the top policy position under Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld — were inappropriate but not unauthorized.

"Clearly, the inspector general's office was willing to challenge the policy office and even stretch some points to be able to criticize it," Feith said.

Colorado regulators approve plan to cut mercury pollution

BY JUDITH KOHLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER Colorado regulators approved a plan this week to cut mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants with rules that are tougher than federal requirements.

The state Air Quality Control Commission signed off on the proposal after weeks of negotiations among utilities, environmentalists and local governments.

The federal government directed Colorado and other states to develop plans to reduce mercury, a powerful toxin. The Colorado rules would take effect ahead of a federal deadline.

"The bottom line is that this proposal will lead to mercury reductions more quickly and more significantly than the federal rule," said Will Allison, a representative of the state attorney general's office, who was involved

with the negotiations.

Coal-fired power plants are among the larger sources of man-made mercury. It gets into the food chain primarily through fish from polluted rivers and lakes.

State health officials recently issued warnings that some large fish in Colorado reservoirs are tainted with mercury.

The debate over how to reduce mercury had been contentious, prompting the commission in November to give the various parties time to work out a compromise.

Xcel Energy, the state's largest electricity supplier, was among the utilities that agreed to reduce emissions earlier in than the federal government required.

"All the parties realized that if we could come up with something we all could live with, that was a better outcome," said Jim Sanderson, an attorney representing a coalition of utilities.



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Diocese goes bankrupt rather than face trial

BY TODD DVORAK

Associated Press Writer

IOWA CITY, Iowa The Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport is in bankruptcy.

Its headquarters will go on the auction block this spring. The bishop's home also is going to be sold, and the diocese has paid \$9 million to resolve cases in which 37 men say they were sexually abused as boys by priests.

But for all the hardship the diocese is undergoing as result of molestation claims, bankruptcy may be better than what the church in Iowa could have faced — the civil trial of a former bishop from a neighboring diocese.

The case of retired Sioux City Bishop Lawrence Soens vividly illustrates the trade-offs at play when dioceses make decisions about handling the national abuse crisis, which is still spinning out five years after a Boston case became a flashpoint for the problem.

"When the bankruptcy was declared ... it

was like hitting a brick wall for so many who were following the Soens case and looking for answers," said Dorothy Whiston, a coordinator of Concerned Catholics of the Davenport Diocese, a group of parishioners and priests focused on church reform. "And for laity, most of them just don't want to hear any more

the time.

Fifteen plaintiffs — all male — stepped forward.

Details of their claims are similar: Under the guise of discipline, Soens brought students into his office, where he rubbed and sometimes pinched their crotches, according to documents filed in the cases. The students

may have been inappropriate, it was not sexual in nature.

"Some actions may have occurred which would not have been appropriate," the report stated. "However, in looking at the definition of sexual abuse in the (policy), we questioned whether any of this conduct described would be for the adult's gratification."

Soens contends the lawsuits should be dismissed based on an Iowa law that shields school officials from liability five years after a student leaves the school. A ruling is pending, but even if the lawsuits are dropped, his lawyer said Soens' clerical career has been ruined.

Soens voluntarily withdrew from public ministry more than a year ago, his name was removed from an award given annually to outstanding youth and he is rarely seen at church functions these days. He retired from the Sioux City Diocese in 1998.

"The damage has been done as far as his reputation and all the good he has done," said Timothy Bottaro, Soens' attorney.

AND FOR LAITY, MOST OF THEM JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE ABOUT PRIESTS OR BISHOP SOENS."

Dorothy Whiston

a coordinator of Concerned Catholics of the Davenport Diocese

about priests or Bishop Soens."

Soens' legal troubles began in 2005 when the first of three sex abuse lawsuits was filed against him for his actions in the 1960s. He was the principal of Regina High School in Iowa City, part of the Davenport Diocese, at

also accused him of frequently pinching and twisting their nipples, an activity described in court documents as "purpling."

Soens denies the charges, and a diocese internal investigation into a complaint filed in 2002 found that while Soens' behavior

Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

SANTA MONICA — An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of February at various Santa Monica locations.

The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 par-

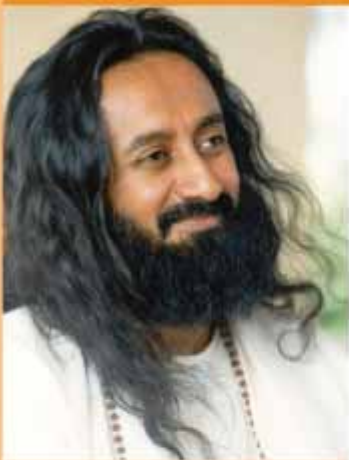
ents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Tuesday, February 6th at the Montana Avenue 7:15PM-8:45PM, Saturday, February 10th at the Santa Monica Main Library 10:15 AM. to 12 PM, and Tuesday, February 13th at the Santa Monica Main Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

Seating is free, but limited by the size of the room. To reserve your seat, call 310-581-7954 leave a message and receive a confirmation

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Consumers still spurning spinach

Worries about E. coli contamination persist six months after recall

BY JANET FRANKSTON LORIN
Associated Press Writer

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. September's national spinach recall has shaken consumer confidence in the safety of leafy green vegetables, according to a new national survey.

Consumers are still avoiding greens and questioning safety issues, months after spinach contaminated with E. coli bacteria killed three people and sickened nearly 200.

Plummeting spinach sales have also prompted the produce industry to seek federal oversight to assure buyers that fresh produce is safe.

"We need to be in front of this to maintain consumer confidence," said Tom Stenzel, president of the United Fresh Produce Association, a leading trade group. "Consumers need to eat fresh produce and feel safe in their choices, he said.

A new national survey to be released Monday by Rutgers University suggests that the broad recall could have lasting effects on spinach and other similar vegetables. As a result, consumers felt uncertain and threw away other bagged produce that was not affected by the recall.

William K. Hallman, director of the Food Policy Institute at Rutgers, called the September spinach recall — and the E. coli contamination at Taco Bells on the East Coast three months later — a "signal event" in the public's perception of food safety.

"Consumers' expectations were violated by the fact that a product they thought was clean and wholesome turned out to be something they did not expect," he said.

The survey showed nearly 9 out of 10

consumers said they heard about the recall, but nearly 1 in 3 said they didn't know the recall was over when the survey was taken. About 1 in 5 who were aware of the recall also stopped eating other bagged produce, and 7 percent threw out fresh produce other

caused confusion, Hallman said.

"This has caused people to take a step back and think about what they're eating in terms of produce, more generally than just spinach, and where it comes from," he said.

The national telephone survey of 1,200

WE NEED TO BE IN FRONT OF THIS TO MAINTAIN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE."

Tom Stenzel
resident of the United Fresh Produce Association,

than spinach during the recall. More than 75 percent of respondents with spinach in their home threw it out.

More than half of the people who ate spinach prior to the recall hadn't returned to eating it when the survey was taken.

Uncertainty generated by the inability to quickly pinpoint the source of the contamination and the broad nature of the recall

people was conducted over three weeks in November, more than six weeks after the spinach recall but before the Taco Bell outbreak. The sampling margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Some consumers like Anna Blanco have yet to buy spinach or bagged salads since the recall. Before the outbreak, she bought spinach once a week.

In Oregon, environment's ship may have come in

BY JEFF BARNARD
AP Environmental Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. Wary of the invasive species and toxic materials that can come with dismantling old ships, two coastal lawmakers want to make Oregon the first state in the nation to specifically require shipbreaking to be done in fully contained dry-docks so nothing escapes into the water.

The bill was prompted by the uproar that greeted a Virginia shipbreaking company last year when it tried to find a site in Oregon to open the only West Coast facility to dismantle obsolete ships from the "Ghost Fleet" of deteriorating government vessels — a problem that has been slowing the disposal of ships in California's Suisun Bay.

"It's simply a matter of protecting our waters," said state Sen. Joanne Verger, D-Coos Bay, a lead sponsor of the bill.

Old ships may be loaded with asbestos insulating steam pipes, cancer-causing PCB fire retardants in electrical transformers, and lead or chrome-based paints. Water in their ballast can carry foreign pests, such as the mitten crab, that wreak havoc if turned loose in a new environment. Other things can hitchhike in the mat of organisms that foul a hull after sitting for years in the water.

The bill would require any shipbreaking to be done in a closed dry-dock, also known as a graving dock, where the ship sits high and dry on land and anything that spills out of it can be cleaned up without getting loose in the water.

Bay Bridge Enterprises of Chesapeake, Va., and the seven other shipbreakers disposing of the 165 aging government-owned ships currently in the U.S. Reserve Fleet, work in the water, according to the U.S. Maritime Adminis-

tration, which oversees the fleet.

"Most people have seen the pictures in India," of derelict ships hauled up beaches for dismantling, said co-sponsor state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose. "I think the industry will tell you, 'We don't do it like that. We're cleaner, environmentally responsible.' Until we have a discussion in the Legislature there will be a certain level of ambiguity about what this industry would do if they do come to Oregon and what expectations Oregonians will hold out to them with respect to stewardship of our environment."

Shipbreaking was common in U.S. ports until the 1970s, when cheaper alternatives on the other side of the world, where environmental concerns and wages are far lower, dried up business.

Most of the world's obsolete ships are towed to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China to be dismantled and sold for scrap.

Page pushes pluralism

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY A polygamy explainer Web page cut from Brigham Young University's official Internet site was up and running again this week — but on its own.

Jim Engebretsen, an assistant dean at the Provo school, relaunched his page less than 24 hours after BYU officials shut it down for violating university policy. The page had not been approved by school officials.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said the incident is being reviewed. She said the site was posted by an information technology staffer who thought approval had been granted.

Engebretsen said he erroneously thought the site had been cleared. He said he has not been reprimanded by school officials.

Engebretsen's new site — www.mormon-polygamy.org — offers historical and scholarly information about the practice of plural marriage, a one-time tenet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that was abandoned in 1890.

The church owns BYU.

"Some people apparently interpreted that it might be the church making a statement," Engebretsen said. "It's not, it's completely independent."

SOME PEOPLE APPARENTLY INTERPRETED THAT IT MIGHT BE THE CHURCH MAKING A STATEMENT."

Jim Engebretsen
an assistant dean at the Provo school

Engebretsen is an assistant dean in BYU's Marriott School of Management and has been in Utah for two years. He said his intention with the site is to provide accurate information about "things written by prophets of the church."

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Stream of consciousness

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Former U.S. Surf Champion Mary Setterholm, of the Surf Academy, puts sixth grader Cheyenne Milliner, of John Adams Middle School, through surfing drills on Wednesday as part of the 21st annual YWCA National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Donors have sense of history

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN Two longtime Santa Monica residents are giving back in a big way, donating \$100,000 to the Santa Monica Historical Society to aid in the planned relocation of their museum to a new 5,000-square-foot facility at the Main Library later this year.

Ann Funk, who played a key role in the early stages of the society, and her husband, Ron Funk, a former managing editor of the Evening Outlook, were looking to do their part in helping the museum properly preserve its collection for future generations.

Thus far, the capital campaign launched in late 2006 has raised \$600,000, according to Louise Gabriel, president and chief executive officer of the museum.

"The Funks have been personal friends for many years, as well as friends of the museum since the Historical Society's founding in 1975," Gabriel said. "Their continuous support throughout the years has helped us tremendously, and it will be forever remembered and appreciated."

In awarding the donation, Ron Funk praised the society's work preserving the city's colorful history and culture.

"I believe that the only way to know the heart and soul of a town or city is through its history, without which it cannot be understood and appreciated," he said in a prepared statement released by the museum. "The only way its history can be known is to gather and preserve the records of how its people lived, of who contributed significantly and of what they accomplished, of realized and unrealized goals, and of the external forces that helped shape it."

"The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum is doing an extraordinary job of compiling and preserving the history of the Santa Monica Bay area."

Ron Funk began his career in the newspaper business working for the Associated Press. In 1956, after having served for five years in the AP's Hawaii, San Francisco and Los Angeles bureaus, he joined United Western Newspapers, a family-owned company which, at that time, published the daily Evening Outlook and the weekly West Los Angeles Independent.

After writing and serving in management positions for both papers, he was named managing editor of the Evening Outlook and, a decade later, was appointed managing editor of the paper in 1970. He remained as editor until 1980, at which time he retired.

soon became officially known as the Santa Monica Historical Society and continued to play a key role in its early development, according to museum officials.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

The museum is appealing to the city's residents and business owners for support, as well as others who at one time may have lived or worked in Santa Monica. Leading the museum's fund-raising efforts are Jean McNeil Wyner, chairperson of the SMHSM board, and Bob Gabriel, chairman of the museum's permanent home committee.

The museum's board of directors also has established a donors' circle hon-

**I BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY TO
KNOW THE HEART AND SOUL OF A
TOWN OR CITY IS THROUGH ITS HISTORY."**

Ron Funk

Santa Monica Historical Society benefactor

During Funk's tenure with the Evening Outlook, he oversaw the publication of a special centennial edition celebrating Santa Monica's 100th anniversary. The 128-page edition, published in 1975, reinforced his love for and pride in Santa Monica. As the paper itself heralded, it was the single largest and most complete history of the Santa Monica Bay area ever compiled, including more than 100 staff-written articles and 200 rare and unpublished photographs.

He didn't do it alone. Ann Funk, a local historian who was born and raised in Santa Monica, assisted her husband in gathering historical documents and images for the special edition, and orchestrated many of the festivities that were held in honor of the city's anniversary. In September 1975, as founding chairperson, she called the first meeting of what

oring contributors who will receive special recognition on the "Wall of Legacy," a permanent fixture in the new museum. For more information, the public can visit www.santamonicahistory.org.

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum is a non-profit organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and make accessible the history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area. Through the advancement of historical information, educational programming and the preservation of its archival collections and historical objects, the museum aims to give residents a sense of roots, belonging and an appreciation for the unique qualities of their city, and to instill a sense of pride in the diverse, multi-cultural past of Santa Monica.

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Whales looking to get lucky this weekend

BY IRENE MANAHAN
Special to the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA PIER AQUARIUM From Santa Monica's shores, chance encounters with shorebirds, dolphins, sea lions and harbor seals aren't so uncommon year-round. But this month, there just might be something bigger in store.

The annual migration of the Pacific gray whale this Saturday and Sunday will be celebrated during "Whale of a Weekend" at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

The Pacific gray whale is not an endangered species, but rather a modern "success story." The gray whale is one of the only animals to ever be removed from the endangered species list, according to Diane Alps, Operations Manager for the National Headquarters of the American Cetacean Society.

Known to scientists by the decidedly clunky "Eschrichtius Robustus" moniker, the gray whale migrates from Alaska to the warm lagoons of Baja California about this time each year. The whales tend to stay in the peninsula for several months in efforts to mate and give birth to their calves before traveling back up to the chilly arctic.

The gray whales' annual migration habits are one of the longest of all mammals (approximately 10,000 to 14,000 miles round trip), according to the American Cetacean Society. Each year, they begin their southward journey right before the winter, taking between two and three months to arrive at the lagoons.

While there is usually a sizable gap



Diane Alps news@smdp.com

WHALIN' WEEKEND: A gray whale breaching may be visible for Santa Monicans this weekend.

between spotting the sizable whales off the shore, in Southern California, watchers get the benefit of seeing whales travel both north and south along the coast.

"We have opportunities to see them from December all the way until the end of May," said Alps, alluding to Santa Monica's close proximity to the Baja Peninsula. While Santa Monicans may have a longer opportunity to catch the whales, it's difficult to predict just how many whales can be seen and when.

Pacific gray whales don't travel in packs

like other sea mammals, like killer whales or dolphins. They are solitary mammals who usually travel alone, unless it is a mother whale and her calves are sticking close by.

This weekend, there should be "a good number of whales" coming into the bay," said Alps. "We stand a good chance of seeing anywhere between five and 20 whales."

BLUBBER SUITS IN VOGUE THIS SEASON

Whether the whales decide to put on a show this weekend or not, the second annu-

al "Whale of a Weekend" promises an informative and entertaining experience at the pier and aquarium.

This year, the pier and aquarium will be whale-themed, said Randi Parent, Community Outreach Coordinator at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, complete with whale watching stations at the west end of the pier. Binoculars will be provided.

Children are encouraged to create their own handmade binoculars at the arts and crafts center, where they can also find colorful whale guides and get their faces painted.

There will also be story times, puppet shows, films suitable for all ages and a public lecture about the migrating and feeding habits of whales.

A blubber experiment station in the aquarium teach attendees how the blubber of the whale works. Participants will have the opportunity to try on a layer of blubber to learn the dynamics of how whales keep warm in cold water.

"Whale of a Weekend" will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, and Sunday, Feb. 11, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. Children under 13 are free with adult. Entrance is \$2 minimum (\$5 suggested donation). Groups of 10 or more require \$2 per person.

For more information, call (310) 393-6149 or visit www.healthebay.org/smpa and www.acsonline.org.

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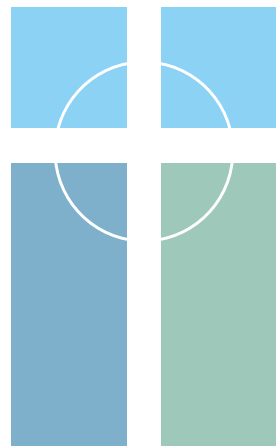
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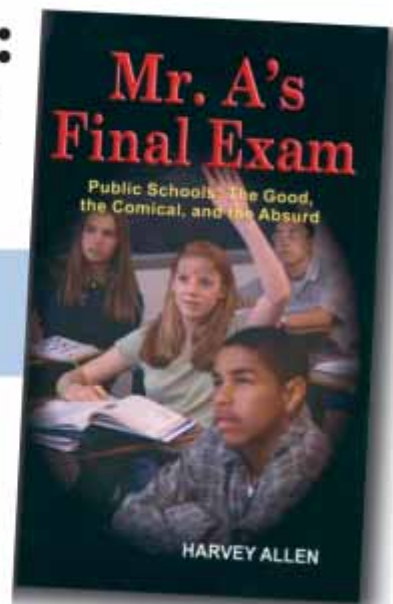
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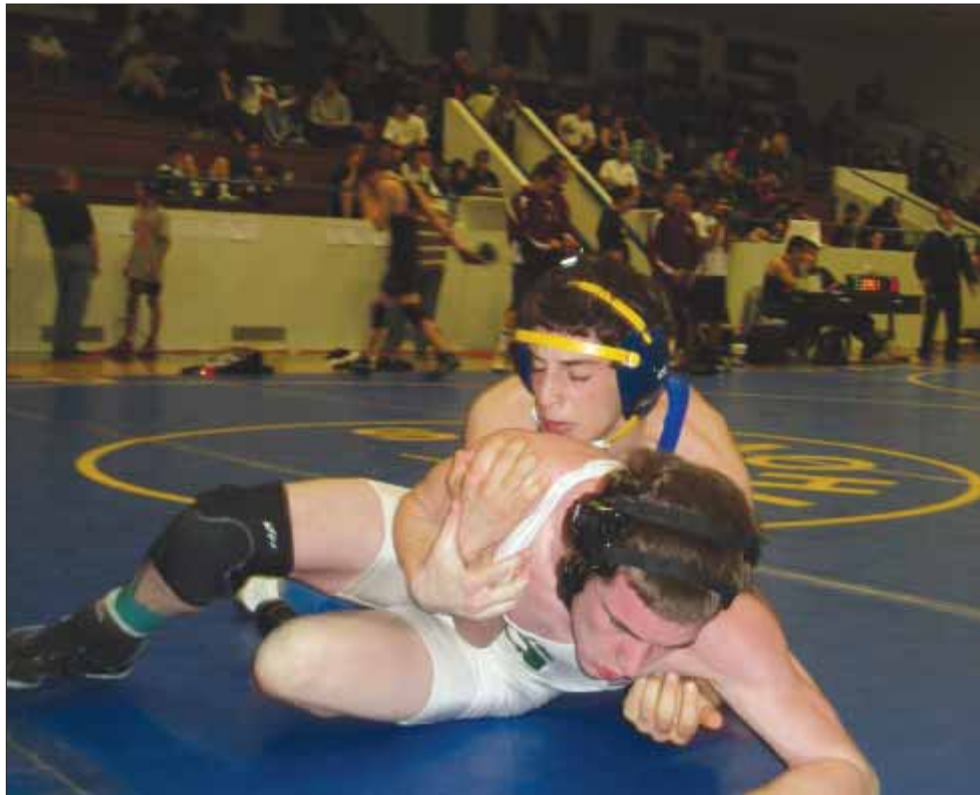
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Bruce Warren news@smdp.com

The Samohi wrestling team advanced to the league championships, finishing 3-1 — second place in the Pioneer League. The wrestling team is the only winter Samohi team not in the Ocean League.

Samohi's teams eye elusive title

FROM SAMOHI SPORTS PAGE 1

None of the winter sports teams have a CIF championship except for men's basketball, which captured the state title in 1928 and 1987.

After going 8-7 in preseason tournaments, nothing could be sweeter for first year girl's basketball Coach Marty Verdugo than finishing undefeated in the Ocean League.

"I knew we could play with almost anyone in the state of California," Verdugo said.

The experience from last year's short-lived run in the playoffs, when the basketball team lost in the first round to eventual state champions Long Beach Poly, is expected to be a beneficial factor in this year's playoffs. The team returns four seniors from last year's squad.

"We know what it feels like to leave after the first round and we want to go far this year," said senior point guard Allie Southam. "We don't want to exit early."

Her counterpart, senior guard/forward Emily Foshag, agreed, saying that the high caliber teams that she saw in last year's tournament made her and the rest of the team work harder in the offseason.

Foshag, who hopes to play Division 1 women's college basketball next year, is now aware that any game this postseason could be her last.

"You want to leave everything out there so you don't have any regrets," Foshag said.

The girl's team will not find out until later this week who they will play against in the first round of the tournament, but they are anticipating a home-court advantage for Saturday's game.

In preparation, the team will meet to re-instill the fundamentals and endure some long practices. Following a mid-week scrimmage, Verdugo said he will give his girls a break for a few days prior to the game.

The pre-game plan also includes some down time to watch the film of the opposition's most recent game.

"I felt all along I was handed a very talented team," Verdugo said. "My goal is to get

them to the right path of being better basketball players."

LEARNING FROM LAST YEAR

Soccer Coach Frank Gatell also hopes to avoid an early bounce from the playoffs after both his girl's and boy's soccer teams were eliminated early in last year's playoffs.

The experience from last year's CIF playoffs caused Gatell to work his players immediately in the offseason.

YOU WANT TO LEAVE EVERYTHING OUT THERE SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS."

Emily Foshag

Basketball player, Santa Monica High School

"Usually, we take a more relaxed approach in spring because we don't have a lot of training space," Gatell said on Thursday. "But this year, Coach (James) Chapman and myself wanted to work on fundamentals."

Spring training seemed to have an effect, as the girl's finished the season with an overall record of 21-1 with three ties, and the boys 15-5 overall.

Both the girl's and boy's soccer teams also return a wealth of experience in the postseason from last year. The girls bring back with them 12 players while the boy's soccer team returns 15.

"The number-one thing is to always keep focus," Gatell said.

The coaches for the men's basketball, wrestling and water polo teams did not respond to requests seeking comment.

melodyh@smdp.com

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Preparing parents for risky behavior

FROM RISKY BEHAVIOR PAGE 3

left the Juvenile Justice System. Bell credits churches for keeping him straight and helping him find a new direction in life.

A parent might think that their child is in the worst and most troubling situation possible, but if the child is still at home and looking their parents straight in the eye, the parents still have a chance, Bell assured the audience.

Never lose hope that a teenager will find their way, said Ansar "Stan" Muhammed, an executive director for Venice 2000.

"It's never too late to attain a full meaningful life," Muhammed said.

Muhammed has the life story to back up his claim, speaking as a former gang member, ex-convict, drug dealer and user. He is one of the cofounders of Venice 2000, a gang intervention and prevention organization.

If parents are having trouble, they can turn to religion, he said.

I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCES THAT MY DAUGHTER WILL FACE WHEN SHE GETS TO HIGH SCHOOL."

Lalida Nakatani
Single mom, Santa Monica

"Once you put the spirit in the kid so they can fear God, they'll respect their parents," Muhammed said.

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

Parents split up into seven groups and were assigned a different vignette to analyze. Each group then compiled a list of questions to address to the panel regarding how they would handle the situation outlined in the vignette.

The vignettes were based on real-life situations that a panelist or someone they know had experienced. At least two of the vignettes came from Panelist Patricia Barnett, a single mother of three children and a community liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's STD Program.

The scenarios covered everything from teenage depression as a result of bullying to bad grades to peer pressure.

One of Barnett's vignettes described a scenario in which she found difficulty in enforcing house rules on her eldest son, who used his size to intimidate his mother. Her biggest fear, according to the vignette, was that her son would use his anger on the streets in a way that would land him in jail some day.

In answering an audience question on how the panelist would handle the situation, the first question that Muhammed asked was whether or not the teenager had a father.

In fact, many of the challenges that a teenager faces stems from the absence of a parent, specifically a father, said Bell, who stressed the importance of a male role model in a son's life.

"I don't think a [single] female could raise a son better than a [single] man could," Bell said.

Bell, who spent two years in the Juvenile Justice System, said he was raised by a single mother and did not find any peace in his life until he met a male role model after leaving the system. When Bell saw that his role model had a steady career, money and a family, he realized he wanted to turn his life around.

Many of the parents who came to the workshop did so because they were experiencing a similar situation with their children at home. Lalida Nakatani, a single mother whose child is an eighth grader at John Adams Middle School, fears the experiences her child will face next year as a freshman at Santa Monica High School.

"I wanted to find out what kind of influences that my daughter will face when she gets to high school," Nakatani said, as she picked up a stack of pamphlets on after-school programs and counseling.

Nakatani attended an international private school in Indonesia that was attended by the children of politicians and ambassadors. She often feels a disconnect with her daughter, who was born in America and often says, "Mom, you just don't understand."

"I took a lot of notes and will make copies and pass them out for my friends who couldn't make it," Nakatani said.

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SMFD dispatch ditch seen as step forward

FROM 911 CALLS PAGE 3

began looking at a number of strategies for increasing dispatch capacity, from hiring more staff members to linking up with neighboring cities such as Culver City and Beverly Hills. Eventually, it was determined that the best idea would be to join a regional dispatch system, a recommendation made by the 9/11 Commission and the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, which is comprised of fire chiefs from 31 municipalities in Los Angeles County.

Through the association, SMFD was able to secure \$2.4 million in "no match" grant funding that was made available through the Department of Homeland Security.

Currently, there are six regional dispatch centers, which work together to move resources from one city to another in the event of an emergency, such as a large brush fire or an earthquake. When one city's resources are overwhelmed, chiefs at the dispatch centers can quickly move a fire truck or two to that city to provide added support, something known as "automatic aid."

"Any move to a more regional approach to public safety is a benefit," said Jon McDuffie, the first vice president of United Fire Fighters Los Angeles. "This allows us to work more closely together in times when there is automatic aid to Santa Monica or Los Angeles. This helps us respond better to incidents and helps our operability."

In addition to extra personnel, the agreement with Los Angeles offers the SMFD more radio channels with which to communicate. In the past, firefighters had just three channels — one dedicated to tactical operations, another to dispatch and a third strictly for firefighters to use in case they were trapped underneath a collapsed roof or found themselves in another life-threatening situation.

"We can now have two or three incidents going on in the city at one time and we won't be stepping on each other's toes," said Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Davis, who was in charge of overseeing the switch. "We had only three channels for the last 40 years."

In addition to the contract with Los Angeles, the \$2.4 million grant also helped pay for new radios, computers and other technology firefighters use daily. Some of that money was also used to pay for services, resulting in a savings for City Hall, according to Davis.

"With all the things that were broken or outdated, we would have been in really dire

straights if they were not taken care of with this grant," Davis said. "We would have had to spent around \$2 million just upgrading our communications systems, so the timing couldn't have been better for the transfer."

"Everything has been replaced with the best equipment available."

To operate the SMFD dispatch center in 2005, City Hall was paying \$551,000, which included salaries, benefits, overtime and equipment maintenance contracts, according to a city staff report.



WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT WERE BROKEN OR OUTDATED, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN REALLY DIRE STRAIGHTS IF THEY WERE NOT TAKEN CARE OF WITH THIS GRANT."

Bruce Davis
SMFD Deputy Fire Chief

The current contract with Los Angeles is similar in size, but Davis said City Hall will eventually save money as more cities join in, helping subsidize the costs for one another.

No dispatchers lost their jobs due to the transfer, Davis said. The old dispatch center is now being used as storage space for city staff and could become offices for future SMFD employees.

With any transfer of that magnitude, there will naturally be problems. Davis said there was a slight computer glitch the first day the transfer was made, but that was fixed immediately without any major problems. He also said that one resident called in and heard an old recording that let people know they had reached the LAFD.

"The guy was taken aback," Davis said. "He thought he had called Santa Monica and ended up getting Los Angeles. That was actually one of the very few oversights that we missed. We immediately corrected the recording."

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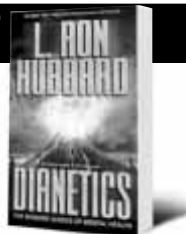
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Down to Earth

EU plans to punish those found trashing the environment

BY AOIFE WHITE

AP Business Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium Companies and individuals found responsible for environmental disasters should face criminal charges, the European Union's executive said Friday in proposing a measure that would punish serious offenses across the 27-nation bloc with up to five years in prison or a \$975,000 fine.

Under the proposal, European courts would be allowed to put a company out of business and order those convicted to clean up the environment.

EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said those found responsible for such disasters as last year's dumping of toxic waste in Ivory Coast, in which 10 people died, should be punished.

"The recent hazardous waste disaster in the Ivory Coast shows how environmental crimes can have devastating effects on people and the environment," he said.

The proposal faces a tough review by

member governments and the European Parliament, which will have the final say on whether to adopt the measure.

Several nations, including Britain and Denmark, are reluctant to give the EU a say over such a sensitive national issue as criminal sanctions — laws traditionally drafted by national parliaments and not the EU institutions in Brussels.

EU Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini said the measure was "crucial to avoid criminals profiting" from different judicial systems among member countries. "We cannot allow safe havens of environmental crime inside the EU."

Frattini said corporations were behind 73 percent of environmental crimes. "It is not enough to punish and prosecute managers. It's very important also that corporations pay fines," he said.

Dumping toxic substances, shipping hazardous waste or trading in endangered species can have devastating effects on health and the environment, the EU executive said.

"In serious cases, criminal sanctions such as prison sentences should be applied, as they have a much higher dissuasive effect than, for example, administrative sanctions," the proposal said.

This law would not cover oil spills, which would be included in separate proposal on pollution from ships later this year.

N. Korea to talk disarmament

BY BURT HERMAN

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING International talks on North Korea's nuclear program resumed this week after Pyongyang's envoy said he was ready to discuss initial steps toward nuclear disarmament, raising hopes for the first tangible progress at the talks since they began more than three years ago.

"We are prepared to discuss first-stage measures," North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan said on arriving in Beijing for the six-nation negotiations, which began later Thursday at a Chinese state guesthouse.

American experts who visited Kim in Pyongyang last week said North Korea would propose a freeze of its main nuclear reactor and a resumption of international inspections in exchange for energy aid and a normalization of relations with Washington.

Kim said Thursday that any moves by North Korea would depend on the United States' attitude.

"We are going to make a judgment based on whether the United States will give up its hostile policy and come out toward peaceful coexistence," he said, adding that the U.S. was "well aware" of what it had to do.

North Korea has twice boycotted the nuclear talks for more than a year, claiming various U.S. policies show the Bush administration intends to topple its communist government.

"I'm not either optimistic or pessimistic because there are still many points of confrontation to resolve," Kim said.

His comments marked a change in North Korea's position from the last round of talks in December, when Kim refused to even discuss disarmament and demanded the lifting of U.S. financial restrictions against a Macau bank where North Korea held accounts.

China planned to circulate a draft disarmament plan Thursday among delegates that would call for freezing the North's nuclear reactor within a few months in exchange for energy aid, South Korea's

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Gates: U.S. can show Iran helps insurgents

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

MUNICH, Germany Serial numbers and other markings on bombs suggest that Iranians are linked to deadly explosives used by Iraqi militants, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday in some of the administration's first public assertions on evidence the military has collected.

While the Bush administration and military officials have repeatedly said Iranians have been tied to terrorist bombings in Iraq, they have said little about evidence to bolster such claims, including any documents and other items collected in recent raids in Iraq.

The assertions have been met with skepticism by some lawmakers still fuming over intelligence reports used by the administration to propel the country to war with Iraq in 2003. Gates' comments came as a new Pentagon inspector general's report criticized prewar Defense Department assertions of al-Qaida connections to Iraq.

Gates told reporters Friday that markings on explosives provide "pretty good" evidence that Iranians are supplying either weapons or technology for Iraqi extremists.

"I think there's some serial numbers, there may be some markings on some of the projectile fragments that we found" that point to Iran, he said.

Gates' remarks left unclear how the U.S. knows the serial numbers are traceable to Iran and whether such weapons would have been sent to Iraq by the Iranian government or by private arms dealers.

Explosives have been a leading killer of U.S. forces in Iraq, where more than 3,000 servicemen and women have died in the nearly four-year-old war.

In Iraq on Friday, the military reported three more American soldiers killed in combat, pushing the U.S. death toll to 33 in the first eight days of the month.

Separately, U.S. helicopters targeting insurgents mistakenly killed at least five allied Kurdish militiamen in the northern city of Mosul early Friday.

Last week, Gates said that U.S. military officers in Baghdad had been planning to brief reporters on what was known about Iranian involvement in Iraq but that he and other senior officials had delayed the briefing to assure the information was accurate.

On Friday, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said such information would come from U.S. officials in Iraq, though she did not say when.

"There has been discussion about how to detail out some of that evidence," she told reporters. "Decisions on that are being made out of Baghdad."

State Department spokesman Tom Casey said Friday that officials hoping to publicly release the information face another problem as well.

He said, "Under the circumstances and given the attention that this has gotten, we want to make sure that we provide you the best information possible, but do so in a way that doesn't compromise sources and methods, that doesn't make it harder for us to deal with the situation that's there."

Envoy sees 'desire to make progress'

FROM NORTH KOREA PAGE 20

Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unnamed "high-level source" familiar with the talks. Earlier Thursday, the main U.S. envoy said he sensed "a real desire to have progress" by the North Koreans at the talks.

U.S. envoy Christopher Hill denied a Japanese newspaper report that the United States and North Korea had signed a memorandum during bilateral talks last month agreeing that the North's first steps toward denuclearization and U.S. energy support would begin simultaneously.

Hill said he was hopeful the talks would lead to progress such as working groups to

discuss technical issues.

At the formal opening of the meeting, Chinese envoy Wu Dawei highlighted the contacts between Washington and Pyongyang since the six nations last gathered, which he said would "provide a more solid basis for this session."

Wu said the sides would discuss initial actions and establish working mechanisms to implement the North's disarmament.

Japan's envoy Kenichiro Sasae demanded that the North halt operation of its reactor and allow inspections as initial steps "within a reasonably short period of time."

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Militant Islamics eyeing YouTube

BY TARIQ PANJA
Associated Press Writer

LONDON Anyone with an Internet connection can watch videos of bombings and sniper attacks against U.S. forces — shot and edited by Islamic militants and broadcast on YouTube, the world's largest video-sharing Web site.

With the global spread of high-speed Internet connections and the relative anonymity afforded by the world's biggest and busiest sites, extremists have found a new theater to display violence and anti-American propaganda.

On Friday, prosecutors in Britain charged six suspects in an alleged plot to kidnap and kill a British soldier — an act that police allege was intended to be recorded and posted on the Internet.

Parviz Khan, 36, is accused of plotting to carry out the alleged abduction while four other men are accused of acting as his accomplices, prosecutor Patrick Stevens told the court hearing. A sixth man is set to appear in court on Saturday.

Until recently, videos shot by terrorist groups were posted predominantly on specialist Internet forums, which often only those knowing what to look for could find.

But more are turning to mainstream sites like YouTube, which draw millions of visitors around the world each day.

"They can always bring down a video, but it's very easy to create a new one. It's like an uphill treadmill for YouTube," said Sajjan Gohel, director of international security at the London-based Asia-Pacific Foundation, a counterterrorism think tank.

Jeremy Curtin, a U.S. State Department official responsible for monitoring Internet propaganda, said authorities were aware of the footage on sites like YouTube but had not made any real headway in tackling the problem.

"It's new to everybody, we are trying to find out how best to engage with Internet companies," he said.

European intelligence agencies, while acknowledging existence of the videos, also say there is little they can do to stop them from popping up.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff, Thomas de Maiziere, who oversees intelligence agencies, said authorities are struggling to glean information from cyberspace.

"Trying to uncover Internet meetings of terrorists is like searching for a needle in a haystack," he told the online magazine Netzeitung. "The security agencies have

their hands full trying to keep pace and get into these chat rooms."

That poses problems for companies like YouTube, which features a range of weird and wonderful videos directly uploaded onto the Web site by users around the world. The most popular videos now include a panda sneezing, a song by an "American Idol" entrant and a music video by hip hop star Naz.

"YouTube has clear terms and conditions which prohibit, amongst other things, hateful content," the company said in a statement. "Our community has been highly effective in policing the site, and YouTube removes videos if our community flags them as inappropriate."

But like other video-sharing sites, YouTube generally takes down video only



THEY CAN ALWAYS BRING DOWN A VIDEO, BUT IT'S VERY EASY TO CREATE A NEW ONE. IT'S LIKE AN UPHILL TREADMILL FOR YOUTUBE."

Sajjan Gohel

director of international security at the London-based Asia-Pacific Foundation,

Although scores of Web sites let anyone post and share video clips for free, YouTube is the most popular, receiving some 65,000 new clips a day. Users collectively watch more than 100 million videos on YouTube daily.

YouTube — owned by Mountain View, Calif.-based Google Inc. — says it reserves the right to remove videos that users flag as unsuitable.

after receiving a complaint. Someone else can easily repost the video under a different account, and it would remain available until YouTube receives a complaint on that as well.

It's similar to the challenges YouTube and other sites face trying to keep copyrighted clips from appearing as technology makes sharing video among everyday users increasingly easy.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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TENNIS
Roddick, Blake vying
for top American title

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. The way Roger Federer is dominating men’s tennis, Grand Slam titles and the No. 1 ranking seem to be out of reach for Andy Roddick and James Blake.

So, for now, the two friends and rivals will have to settle for competing for the title of top American.

“If we keep going back and forth, it will be hopefully fun for the American public, the viewers, the fans,” Blake said. “It’s tough to have us holding up Grand Slam trophies because of that guy Federer. But hopefully we’re two of the more exciting players in the game that can compete with him.”

Blake ended 2006 as the No. 4 player in the world, two spots ahead of Roddick. They’ve flipped spots so far this year, with Roddick moving up to fourth after making to the semifinals in Australia and Blake dropping to sixth following his fourth-round exit.

There are only two other American men in the top 60 — Mardy Fish at No. 25 and Robby Ginepri at 48 — but Roddick disagrees with critics of the state of American tennis.

“You know, there’s a lot of countries who would like to have our state,” he said. “I think it would be nice to have a couple more younger guys come out, but I think we’re doing OK.”

Blake and Roddick will join forces this weekend when the U.S. Davis Cup team travels to the Czech Republic for a first-round matchup.

With two top-10 singles players and the top doubles team in the world in twins Bob and Mike Bryan, U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe hopes this is the year the country will end its Davis Cup drought. Long the dominant country in Davis Cup play with a record 31 titles, the Americans have not won it all since 1995.

“I think we’re certainly lucky that we have our best players that are committed to Davis Cup,” McEnroe said. “Obviously, we’ve had some disappointing first-round losses since I have been the captain. But we have also been in the hunt. We have been in a couple semi-finals. We have been in a final. We are certainly in the hunt again this year.”

The best-of-five series will be on an indoor red clay court, a surface that often bothers the Americans.

FOOTBALL
Chargers fast becoming changers

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO Nearly a month after they melted down in the playoffs, the San Diego Chargers are looking at another big loss.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips was hired as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, following offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and two other assistants out of town for better jobs.

“Change in our business is inevitable, whether you win or lose,” coach Marty Schottenheimer said. “When you have the kind of success we’ve had in the last three years, you’re going to have people interested in your staff. We’ve lost two excellent coordinators to opportunities that are richly deserved.”

Schottenheimer said Phillips did a “terrific job for us” in three seasons, during which the Chargers were 35-13. “His contributions helped us become one of the best teams in

the NFL, particularly on defense.” General manager A.J. Smith wasn’t surprised to see Phillips leave, but sounded concerned at losing both coordinators.

“Both in the same year — Wow,” Smith said. “We shall see what happens.

“I wish it wasn’t two guys in the same year, speaking personally as GM, but I’m happy for the guys, because the aspiration is to become a head coach,” said Smith, who lets Schottenheimer hire and fire assistant coaches.

The coaching exodus follows the Chargers’ shocking 24-21 loss to the New England Patriots on Jan. 14. After going an NFL-best 14-2, the Chargers had four turnovers and committed numerous other mistakes. Cameron was hired as Miami’s head coach on Jan. 19.

Tight ends coach Rob Chudzinski became the Cleveland Browns’ offensive coordinator, and linebackers coach Greg Manusky was hired as the San Francisco 49ers’ defensive coordinator.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

SWELL FORECAST (10-15 FT)

Saturday's swell is expected to drop about 10-15% in size, with at least chest high surf for west facing breaks, maybe even some head high plus-es at times. Sunday the 11th is when our next WNW swell is due, and this is looking significantly sized.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

TRACKING LIGHT NW FOR 14TH...
SOUTHERN HEMI MODELS SHOWING POTENTIAL SW FOR 23RD...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD

HEAL THE BAY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

February 6, 2007

HEAL THE BAY

1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 17

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4

Number of wet days -- 7

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 30

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	D
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	B

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	D	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Tomescal Canyon drain	D	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	D
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	C	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	F
Venice Beach-- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+

Heal the Bay's Beach Report CardSM is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Absorb a new view, Aries

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★	Dynamic	★★★★	Positive
★★★★	Average	★★★	So-So
★★★		★★	Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Pressure marks your interactions. Someone might push you in a direction that you prefer not to go. A loved one or child could be difficult. Take in the big picture. Tonight: Absorb a new view.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Pressure builds to a new level. Think through a decision. No matter which direction you turn, events seem to challenge you. People also might not be the easiest. Let go and let live. Tonight: A partner shares.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ What you say falls on deaf ears and draws a reaction you hadn't anticipated. If you want something done, do it yourself, as delegating and communicating could be tough. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Creativity and risk-taking could take you in a direction you might prefer not to go. Chill out. Pressure will build financially if you aren't careful. Pure fun touches your life. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Your attitude could be the issue more than different situations. At this point, you might have difficulty seeing matters clearly. If getting strong feedback, you don't need to totally internalize or accept it. Yet there might be grains of truth to it. Tonight: Close to home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might want to talk about what you are feeling rather than hold back. You might not understand the implications of holding back. Plans change, and you might feel a bit out of kilter. Your imagination colors your perspective. Tonight: Listen and share, even if you are uncomfortable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Money matters run out of control. How you see a situation could change dynamically because of someone's attitude. While you might have gone 100 percent out of your way for a certain person, you might not be willing to any longer. Tonight: Fun doesn't need to cost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your good intentions might be hard to communicate. How you see a situation could change dramatically because of a conversation or interaction with someone you look up to. Count on you and only you right now. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Knowing when to do nothing might be as important as taking action. You can rest assured that you aren't getting all the facts. Someone might not be intentionally holding back, but just doesn't have the full story. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Friends mean well. You enjoying hanging out with your pals. Avoid all money commitments, as you might not be getting the complete story. Think positively about what can happen, but don't formalize actions yet. Tonight: Relax with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ You are in a pressure cooker and not as sure of yourself as you would like to be. Someone might be making comments that could demoralize you. Relax knowing that there is a tomorrow. Tonight: A must appearance, even if you aren't in the mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
HHHH Dig into your creativity. Be sure to be realistic, and if you aren't up for something or feel like you need to cancel plans, do so. Unusual solutions will head in your direction if you acknowledge what you cannot do. Tonight: Let your imagination lead.

Born Today
Actor Robert Wagner (1930)
Actress Laura Dern (1967)
Author Vernor Vinge (1944)



Happy Birthday!
This year you often might feel as if you are between a rock and hard place. Note that you might feel more negative or tested than in past years. Be aware of what isn't working; you might want to consider changing your course. Your friends are in your camp and support you in fulfilling your desires. Once you let go or move away from what doesn't work, better things will come toward you. If you are single, though you meet a lot of people, this year might not be the best to formalize a tie or bond. If you are attached, your relationship could be touchy or difficult.

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Haggard heals Country star explores green energy venture

MERLE HAGGARD is bur-nishing his rebel image with talk of setting up an alternative energy busi-ness in his oil-rich home-town.

The 69-year-old country music legend said he's con-sidering buying a second home near his native Oildale and founding a

"sensible" green energy project to help the United States kick its fossil-fuel habit, the Bakersfield Californian reported.

The project with local resident and actor Charlie Napier could also feature a museum and live music venue.

The Grammy Award-win-

ning artist is best known for such songs as "Okie from Muskogee," "Pancho and Lefty" and "I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink." In the song "Kern River," he sings, "I grew up in an oil town, but my gusher never came in."

Haggard's friend Willie Nelson has championed the

development of alternative fuels, developing the BioWillie brand of biodiesel for truckers.

Most of California's crude oil and onshore pro-duction is generated in Kern County, according to 2004 figures from the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

Haggard hasn't lived in the Oildale area in 30 years, but Kern County officials recently voted to rename a portion a road as Merle Haggard Drive. Haggard held a concert Wednesday in Bakersfield to help pay for the change.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCRUM SCUTTLEBUTT

RUSSELL CROWE says his rugby league club's cheerleading squad is being cut because skimpily clad cheerlead-ers detract from the game and make specta-tors uncomfortable.

The Oscar-winning actor, who is part-owner in the South Sydney Rabbitohs club, said the club had become con-cerned that the cheer-leaders – whose uni-form includes fishnet stockings and tasseled miniskirts in the white, green and red team col-ors – were inappropriate entertainment.

"It makes women uncomfortable and it makes blokes who take their son to the football also uncomfortable," Crowe said.

"We examined game day and wanted to con-temporize and make the focus (on) football," he said. A team of percus-sionists will replace the cheerleaders, the club announced this week. The club's Web site invited drummers to audition.

AP

'Good Will' director draws up diversion

GUS VAN SANT, who was arrested on drunken driv-ing charges in December, has agreed to an alcohol diversion program, his attorney said Friday.

Van Sant had a blood-alcohol level of 0.19 per-cent, more than double Oregon's limit of 0.08 per-cent, when he was arrested Dec. 21 on a main down-town street, police reports said

The 54-year-old direc-tor, whose films include "Good Will Hunting" and "Drugstore Cowboy," appeared briefly in court Friday morning, avoiding reporters who were told that his hearing was to be held later.

The state diversion pro-gram for driving under the influence of intoxicants, or DUII, requires participation in an evaluation and educa-

tion or rehabilitation pro-gram for one year.

Participants must enter a guilty or no contest plea to enter the program, but if it is successfully complet-ed, no DUII conviction is entered, according to the Oregon Judicial Department.

An assistant to William Uhle, Van Sant's attorney, said Van Sant pleaded no contest.

AP

From ugly duckling to beautiful swan

Being ugly may be in fash-ion for TV viewers around the world, but not for those who experience its reper-cussions in real life, says **ANGELICA VALE**, star of the popular Mexican soap opera "The Prettiest Ugly Girl."

"At one point they fired me from my job as the host of a television program because it's true, I was pretty fat," Vale told The Associated Press in an interview about her charac-ter's recent transformation from ugly duckling to swan.

But Vale's perceived physical disadvantages became a blessing when she landed the part of Leticia Padilla Solis, a nerdy office worker with thick black glasses, greasy hair, pimples and braces.

"The Prettiest Ugly Girl" is one of the most popular telenovelas in the history of Mexico's dominant Televisa network. It is broadcast in numerous countries, including the United States.

In the last few episodes of the show, which ends

Feb. 23, Padilla rapidly transforms into Aurora, a stunning and mysterious woman whose loud make-up, red hair and long dress-es with gloves recall images of Mexico's movie-star divas of the 1940s and 1950s.

"This is the first change for 'Lety' because there will be more surprises" before the finale, Vale said recently. "I'm very content with it, though, because what they wanted was to create a scandal that would draw a lot of attention, that

would not go unnoticed."

The long-running show is one of numerous adapta-tions of the original Colombian telenovela "I Am Ugly Betty."

Mexico film star Salma Hayek launched an American version, "Ugly Betty," last year. The show won a Golden Globe Award for best comedy series, and star America Ferrera won for best actress in a comedy.

"Ugly Betty" airs on ABC, which is owned by The Walt Disney Co.

AP

Anna Nicole autopsy may hold clues

BY SUZETTE LABOY
Associated Press Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. A medical examiner began an autopsy Friday on Anna Nicole Smith, whose moth-er blamed drugs for the former Playboy playmate's sudden death that ended an extraordinary tabloid life at just 39.

"I think she had too many drugs, just like Danny (Smith's late son)," her mother, Vergie Arthur, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Friday. "I tried to warn her about drugs and the people that she hung around with. She didn't listen."

"She was too drugged up," Arthur said. "By the last interview I saw of her, she was so wasted."

Smith's attorney, Ron Rale, said the one-time reality TV star had been ill for several days with a fever and was still depressed over the death five months ago of her 20-

year-old son from what a private medical examiner determined was a combination of methadone and two antidepressants.

On Thursday, authorities say, a private nurse found Smith uncon-scious in her room at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and

called 911. A bodyguard performed CPR, Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger said, but Smith was declared dead at a hospital.

Late Thursday, sheriff's deputies carried out at least eight brown

paper bags sealed with red evidence tape from Smith's hotel room.

Several detectives are reviewing the hotel surveillance tapes to see if they might provide a clue to what happened, Deputy Police Chief Michael Browne said Friday. He said they had interviewed everyone con-

nected to the death and no one was under suspicion.

"Nothing about this death seems suspicious. We're not treating it that way," Browne said. "We're being very thorough. We're going to look at

everything."

Edwina Johnson, chief investiga-tor for the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said an autopsy was under way Friday morning to try to determine the cause of death.

If Smith died of natural causes, the findings will likely be announced quickly, but definitive results could take weeks, said Dr. Joshua Perper, who was performing the autopsy.

"I am not a prophet, and I cannot tell you before the autopsy what I am going to find," he said.

Smith's son's death in the Bahamas on Sept. 10 came just a few days after she gave birth to a daugh-ter, Dannielynn, whose custody remains in dispute. The birth certifi-cate lists Dannielynn's father as attorney Howard K. Stern, Smith's most recent companion, who Rale said was with Smith at the hotel and was too choked up to talk when he called Rale with the news.



NOTHING ABOUT THIS DEATH SEEMS SUSPICIOUS. WE'RE NOT TREATING IT THAT WAY"

Michael Browne
Deputy Police Chief

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Avenue
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Friday
Oscar Docs
7:30
Saturday
The Sting
s7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Babel (R)
1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45
Because I Said So (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45
Blood Diamond (R)
4:40, 10:20
Breaking and Entering (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
Queen, The (PG-13)
1:50, 7:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Casino Royale (PG-13)
5:00, 10:25
Catch and Release (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 8:00
Children of Men (R) 1hr 49min
11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
10:35am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
Epic Movie (PG-13)
10:50am, 12:55, 3:00, 5:15, 7:50, 10:00
Messengers, The (PG-13)
10:30am, 12:35, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15
Night at the Museum (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
10:40am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Departed, The (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Notes on a Scandal (R)
11:30am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
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Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:10am, 4:40, 10:10
Hannibal Rising (R)
1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20
Last King of Scotland, The (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Norbit (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:30
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:50, 7:30
Smokin' Aces (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

			2	7				
	7					4	1	
6	1		3	5		8	7	
1	3			2				
		7				6		
				4			5	8
	2	6		1	7		3	4
	5	1					9	
				3	5			

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

8	7	4	1	5	6	9	2	3
9	1	5	3	8	2	6	4	7
6	3	2	7	9	4	8	1	5
5	4	9	6	3	1	7	8	2
7	8	6	5	2	9	4	3	1
3	2	1	8	4	7	5	9	6
1	5	8	9	7	3	2	6	4
4	9	3	2	6	5	1	7	8
2	6	7	4	1	8	3	5	9

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



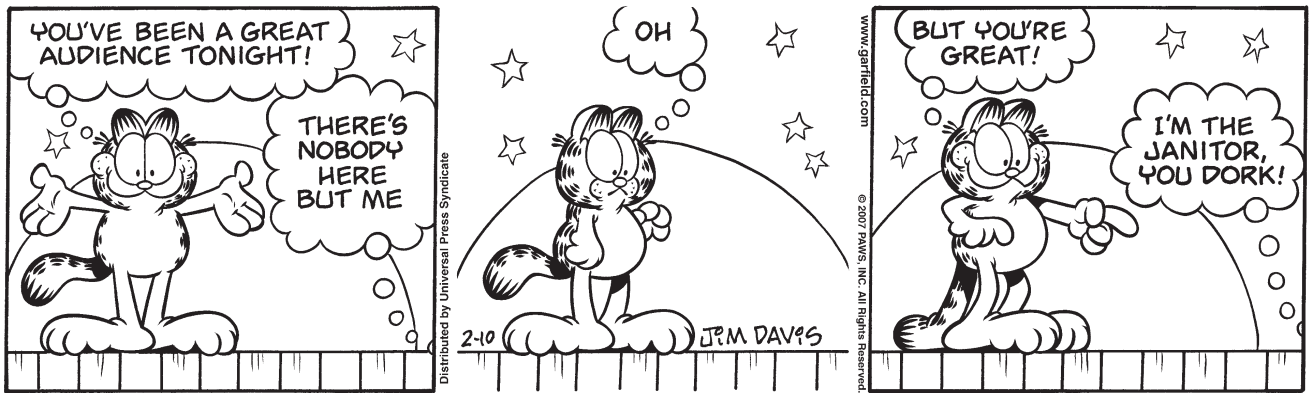
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



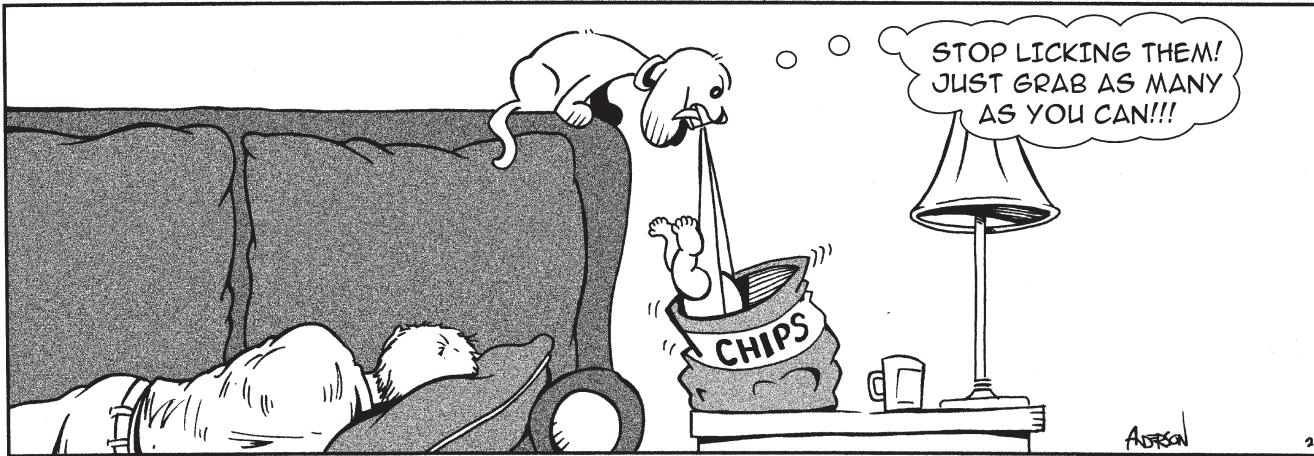
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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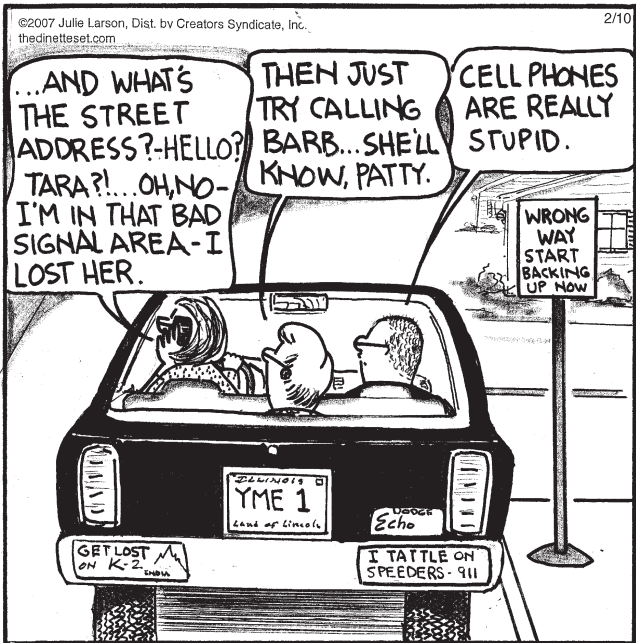
Bank.

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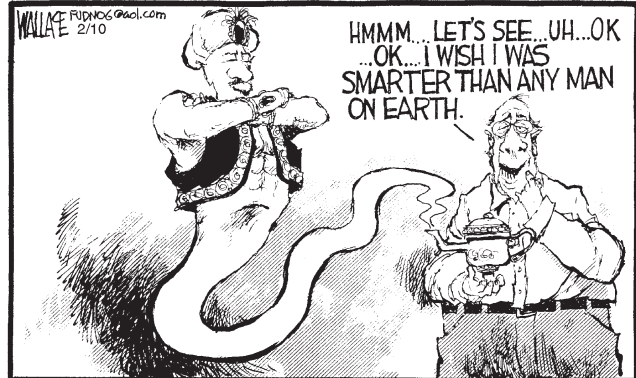
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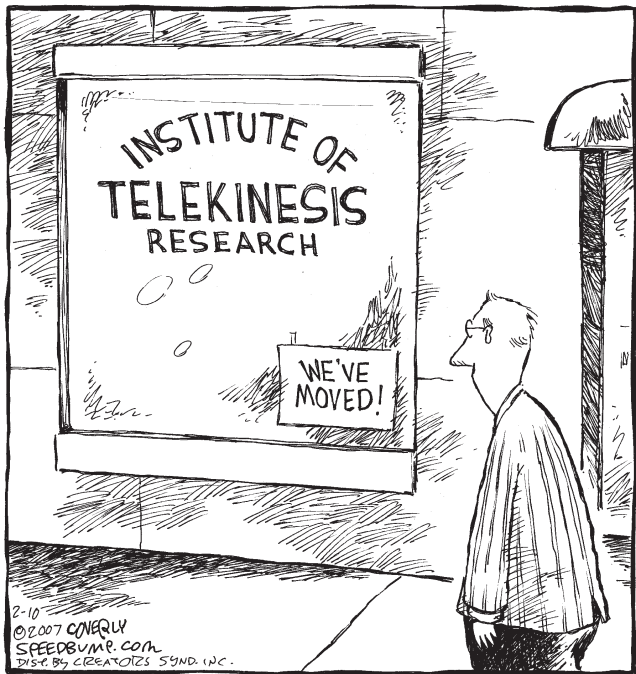
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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Mystery Photo
David Leonard is the winner of the latest Mystery Photo contest, being the first to identify that this shot was taken of the art installment atop the new affordable housing building at 15th Street and Broadway. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Monday's edition of the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gator's kin
 - 5 Trough eaters
 - 9 Motif
 - 10 Hinds' mates
 - 12 Swift
 - 13 Cager Shaquille
 - 14 Snobby sort
 - 16 Put away
 - 17 Boxer Norton
 - 18 Checks in the dictionary
 - 20 Unwavering
 - 22 Comfy spot
 - 23 Dwight's wife
 - 25 Lucille's husband
 - 28 Spiritual
 - 32 Every-thing con-sidered
 - 34 Flock holder
 - 35 Compete
 - 36 Island strings
 - 38 Bakery workers
 - 40 Desert carrier
 - 41 Course chunk
- DOWN**
- 1 Home in the Alps
 - 2 Feel fretful
 - 3 Skip
 - 4 François has one
 - 5 Snap
 - 6 McKellen of "X-Men"
 - 7 Travolta film
 - 8 Rank
 - 9 Arduous journeys
 - 42 Calendar entry
 - 43 Register section
 - 44 Car scar

R	O	M	A			H	U	F	F	
A	L	I	C	E		I	S	A	A	C
T	I	L	E	D		V	E	R	N	E
E	V	E			G	O	E	S	F	O
S	I	S	T	E	R	S		R	U	E
	A	F	I	R	E		L	O	T	S
		R	M	S		M	O	M		
S	H	O	E			F	I	G	H	T
T	O	M		M	A	S	S	E	U	R
A	T	H	L	E	T	E		A	X	E
S	T	O	O	L		R	A	V	E	S
H	U	M	I	D		S	U	E	D	E
	B	E	N	S			K	N	O	W

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Nodded off
- 15 Health-food buy
- 19 Understood
- 21 Throw off
- 24 Brought about
- 25 Michelangelo sculpture
- 26 Draw out
- 27 Shirt part
- 29 Early hominids
- 30 Let up
- 31 Resided
- 33 Evicts
- 37 Wash against
- 39 Silver or Glass

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14					15			16		
17				18			19			
20			21				22			
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36				37		
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Meganumber: ...
Jackpot: \$...M

Super LOTTO
Meganumber: ...
Jackpot: \$...M

Fantasy 5 ...

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: ...
EVENING: ...

DAILY DERRY
1st: ...
2nd: ...
3rd: ...
RACE TIME: ...

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 at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ We License Fishing, But We Can't License Parenting? (1) Shawn Mohan, 20, was arrested in January for shooting his infant son several times with a BB gun. Mohan said it was an accident, but the St. Charles County, Mo., sheriff pointed to similar bruises on the baby's face, left arm, hand, foot, hip and buttocks, and said Mohan was on probation for an earlier child-endangerment conviction. (2) Samaritans stopped on Interstate 465 in Indianapolis in December to help a wandering 3-year-old boy wearing only a diaper and T-shirt. Police tracked down his mother, Nancy Dyer, in her filthy apartment, where her 2-year-old daughter was eating spaghetti off the floor. Dyer's first reaction to news about her son: "Oh, he got out again." ■ For two months late last year after a pair of convicted murderers escaped from Sudbury prison in England, the local Derbyshire police refused to release their pictures. According to the police, "Photographs of named people that are in police possession are classed as data, and their release is restricted by law" to instances where there is a "proper policing purpose." Derbyshire authorities said that since the escapees had probably left the area, there was no such purpose, and the photographs should be kept confidential.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1967 the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, went into effect as Minnesota and Nevada ratified it.
1763 Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War.
1840 Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.
1841 Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed united under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament.
1942 the former French liner Normandie cap-sized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy.
1949 Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

WORD UP!

bucolic \byoo-KOL-ik\, *adjective*: 1. Relating to or typical of the countryside or its people; rustic. 2. Of or pertaining to the life and occupation of a shepherd; pastoral. *noun*: 1. A pastoral poem, depicting rural affairs, and the life, manners, and occupation of shepherds. 2. A country person.



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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COUNTY OF Los Angeles, Department of Public Works has a vacancies for Intermediate Typist-Clerks, Exam Number: C-2214-E, for the Malibu area. Monthly Salary: \$2,180.18 - \$2,781.45. Requirements: Six months of office clerical experience involving typewriting in the County service or in districts under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County -OR- One year of office clerical experience involving typewriting outside the County service -OR- A certificate or Associate of Arts degree in clerical procedures or office administration from an accredited college. How to apply: County applications can be downloaded at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>. Mail your application and transcripts to County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Human Resources Division, Recruitment and Selection Unit, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Lobby Floor, Alhambra, CA 91801-1331.

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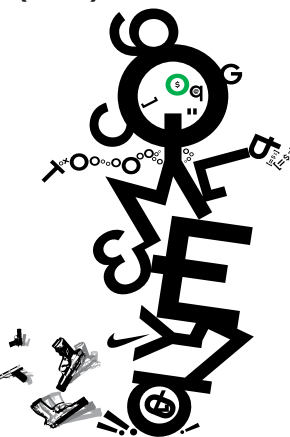
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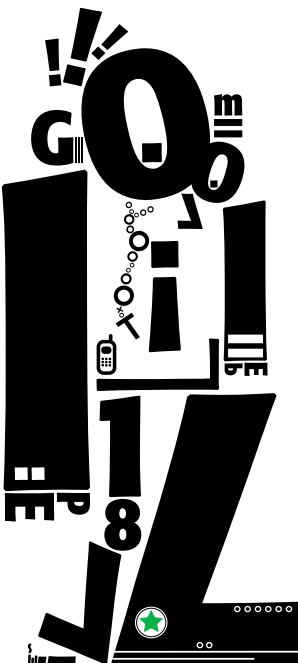
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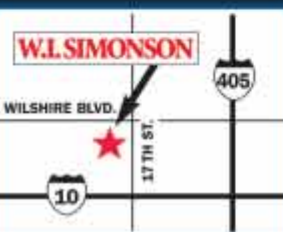
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