

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

8 10 18 31 36

Meganumber: 15

Jackpot: \$15 Million

FANTASY 5

12 16 25 35 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 3 8

Evening: 4 7 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 01 Gold Rush

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1.44.81

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Katie's Pet Depot in La Verne, Calif., is one of the few grooming salons in the country for rats, according to an October Associated Press report. A special \$10 treatment includes lustrous-coat shampooing, claw-clipping and flea and mite treatment, and employee Karri Garrison said the claw-clipping is the hardest: "They have very small feet."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 47th day of 2006.
There are 318 days left in the year.

On Feb. 16, 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.
In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.
In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are two ways to slice easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking."

ALFRED KORZYBSKI
POLISH-AMERICAN LINGUIST (1879-1950)

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Hundreds of shoes piled high caught fire at the city yards this past weekend, as well as a recycling truck and other storage materials. The shoes, intended to be recycled by Nike, have been stockpiled on the property for a month.

LOCAL



JOHN DEASY

Super's intentions: Deasy may head east

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQRTS. — Schools Superintendent John Deasy is considering leaving the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for a similar post in Prince George County, Maryland. Deasy, 45, is one of three finalists for the chief executive officer position at the Prince George County School District, home to 133,000 students, 77 percent of which are African American.

The board of education there is seeking to replace Andre J.

See DEASY, page 10

Tracking the cause of blaze

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY YARDS — Hundreds of shoes, a recycling truck and numerous dumpsters burned here this past weekend, causing at least \$100,000 in damage.

The cause of the fire is unknown and currently under investigation, said Santa Monica Fire Battalion Chief Kent Coble.

Thousands of shoes, which are being stored on the southeast corner of the city yards, ignited shortly after 7 p.m. on Saturday. The fire spread to a nearby recycling truck, which was engulfed in flames by the time fire crews arrived at the scene. Nearby containers also caught on fire. Flames reached about 30 feet high.

"It looked like a big bonfire going," said Coble, who responded to the scene along with three engines. "As far as we can tell, the fire started in the shoes and spread to the truck."

The area, which abuts a nearby trailer park, is typically used for bin and container storage. But a recent shipment of shoes from West Hollywood and Burbank as part of a recycling program arrived and the

solid waste department didn't have enough room to store them in a shed normally used, said Wes Thompson, solid waste supervisor.

Thousands of shoes — rejects from manufacturers as well as used ones — are sent to Nike

See CITY YARDS FIRE, page 6

Surplus attracts a crowd

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Foosball.

Most consider table soccer a trivial game, oftentimes played out in the garage, but for Maurice Goose, foosball is a way to help disabled youth and those at risk find self-esteem ... and stay out of trouble.

If Goose had his way, the City Council would spend some of its \$2.5 million budget surplus on establishing a table soccer league in Santa Monica.

But Goose isn't the only one with his hand out.

From creating a dog park at the beach to increased funding for the arts to the construction of more parking structures, residents from all walks of life politely asked the City Council for money on Tuesday.

The requests for funding — both in person and via letters and e-mails — come as the City Council sits on an estimated \$5.5 million increase in revenue thanks to a thriving tourism industry, strong real estate sales and unex-

See SURPLUS, page 11

Sooth searer



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

SMFD Training Division Capt. Scott Ziegert instructs 10th grader Stephen Taylor, a Boy Scout from Troop 2 of Santa Monica, on how to extinguish a fire. The drill was held at the SMFD training center at the city yards.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Aspiring actors wanted

By Daily Press staff

Emeritus College, a program of Santa Monica College, is seeking actors for free acting workshops starting Feb. 17.

Classes meet Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. at Emeritus, 1227 Second St.

The classes specialize in scene studies, with a performance at the SMC Concert Hall this summer. Registration is required and can occur throughout the term with the instructor's permission. Workshops are led by Barbara Gannen.

There is free parking in Santa Monica City parking structure No. 2 adjacent to Emeritus.

Emeritus College offers classes designed for older adults but there are no age restrictions. For further information about the acting workshops, contact Gannen at (323) 935-6119.

Journey to the center of your soul

By Daily Press staff

Get lost inside your mind on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the First United Methodist Church as Mary Garbesi, coordinator of Labyrinth Ministries, and artist Patrisha Thomson present an afternoon of personal reflection with the help of a portable canvas maze. The maze is a replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth created around 1220 AD.

There will be three two-hour sessions beginning at 1 p.m. Each session will consist of walking the labyrinth, where visitors will be encouraged to meditate or pray. The second hour will consist of an art workshop. Each session will be limited to 12 people. Reservations are required. The cost is \$10.

For more information go to www.santamonicaumc.org or call the church office at (310) 393-8258.

A transfusion-free symposium

By Daily Press staff

Medical care doesn't have to involve blood transfusions.

Saint John's Health Center invites all interested in medical care without blood transfusion to an upcoming symposium on "transfusion free medicine and surgery."

Featured topics and speakers include:

- The amazing functions of blood with Olga M. Olevsky, M.D.
- When angioplasty and stenting is the right choice with Peter Pelikan, M.D.
- Success in major surgery without blood transfusions with Manuel R. Estioko, M.D. and John M. Robertson, M.D.
- How to access quality care without blood transfusion with Michael Miranda, manager of transfusion free medicine.

Complementary lunch will be served and free parking is available with validation. The symposium will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Doubletree Guest Suites, 1707 Fourth St., in Santa Monica.

Medical and surgical care with out blood transfusion is now available at Saint John's Health Center in multiple specialty areas. Transfusion-free surgery is available at the Heart Institute through Saint John's Transfusion-Free Medicine and Surgery Center. Under the direction of the center's medical director, cardiothoracic surgeon Manuel R. Estioko, M.D., patients now have the option of undergoing open heart surgery without blood transfusion. As one of the earliest pioneers in the field, Dr. Estioko has been performing surgery without blood transfusion for more than 25 years. In open heart surgery, Dr. Estioko and his team employ precise surgical techniques and strategies to limit blood loss and avoid bleeding tendencies, while emphasizing total attention to all phases of patient care.

Space is limited. RSVP by Feb. 10 by contacting Michael Miranda at (310) 829-8789 or Dr. Manuel R. Estioko (310) 829-8618.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Granular, Variable, Wet				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 96"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96"-120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 27/28
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

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

MT. BALDY

CLOSED

SNOW SUMMIT

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

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 8"-18"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 10	LIFTS OPEN 3/11
CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)

Today looks smaller, more in the waist high + range. Note that outer water winds are expected to howl on Wednesday night, which could leave Thursday morning with some lump and bump.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW backs off over the next few days...

Small NW for weekend...

Rain in the forecast...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY:
LOW TIDE 1:52AM 2:1FT
HIGH TIDE 7:55AM 5.8FT
3:03PM 9:31PM -0.8FT 4.0FT

SUNDAY:
LOW TIDE 2:24AM 1.8FT
HIGH TIDE 8:27AM 5.8FT
3:27PM 9:51PM -0.7FT 4.0FT

MONDAY:
LOW TIDE 2:54AM 1.6FT
HIGH TIDE 8:27AM 5.8FT
3:49PM 9:51PM -0.5FT 4.0FT

TUESDAY:
LOW TIDE 3:26AM 1.5FT
HIGH TIDE 9:26AM 5.4FT
4:11PM 10:31PM -0.2FT 4.2FT

WEDNESDAY:
LOW TIDE 3:59AM 1.4FT
HIGH TIDE 9:56AM 5.0FT
4:30PM 10:52PM 0.1FT 4.3FT

THURSDAY:
LOW TIDE 4:36AM 1.4FT
HIGH TIDE 10:27AM 4.5FT
4:49PM 11:14PM 0.5FT 4.4FT

FRIDAY:
N/A

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



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The QLine

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Some parents are outraged over what they feel was a weak response by school officials to a rise in tensions after racist graffiti was spotted at Santa Monica High School at multiple locations on campus. School officials say they are working to ease parent concerns and are conducting mediation and counseling sessions with students to discuss the graffiti, its impact and what can be done to foster better relations between different ethnic groups on campus.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"How should school officials deal with racial tensions at Santa Monica schools?"**

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Snail mail falls into terrorists' hands

Editor:

If Congressman Waxman wishes to speed up the postal system (SMDP, Feb. 13, page 1), he should work to eliminate the regulation that all packages weighing a pound or more be hand-delivered to a postal worker. This regulation was designed to fight terrorism, yet it has not only failed to protect us, it's weakened our economy by wasting time and harming worker productivity.

Until 1996, I could enter the Santa Monica post office at 5 a.m., weigh my packages on one machine, buy stamps from another machine, and drop the packages in the mailbox. A time-saver for me, as I often mail manuscripts. A time-saver for other patrons, since they didn't have to wait in line behind me.

Then in 1996, TWA flight 800 exploded. In the post-Oklahoma City atmosphere, anti-government terrorists were suspected. Clinton and Reno demanded tough new security measures to "fight terrorism." Their brainstorming resulted in those mailbox stickers, the ones requiring that all packages weighing a pound or more be hand-delivered to a postal employee.

I never understood how this was supposed to fight terrorism. I guess it's meant to prevent people from mailing bombs or drugs or whatnot. But wouldn't an X-ray or bomb-sniffing dog be more effective? Can't a terrorist as easily give a dangerous package to a postal worker as drop it in a mailbox? I've given packages to postal workers, and it's not like they do anything different if it weighs a pound. No one checks my ID or takes my photo ... Oh wait, better not give them any ideas.

Anyway, we now have this utterly pointless regulation. It was later determined that the explosion wasn't caused by terrorism, but by mechanical failure. Naturally, even after terrorism was ruled out, the regulation wasn't repealed. I guess the feds decided that it was still a great way to fight terrorism. Except that the regulation never made sense even before terrorism was ruled out. It didn't prevent 9/11. It didn't even prevent anyone from mailing anthrax.

You may say this regulation is a small thing, so who cares if it's ineffective? Can't hurt. But it does hurt. It hurts our economy. And that's one goal of terrorism. Weak economies create political instability. Weak economies can't afford top security people or equipment.

In New York, I typically waste a half hour in line at the post office, my package all weighed and stamped, just to give it to a clerk who then tosses it into a bin without a glance. And although the Santa Monica post office is quicker, I can't always go during regular business hours. So I burn fuel and add to traffic driving to the LAX post office, just to hand deliver a package I could as easily drop in a mailbox.

Now add up all my time wasted yearly just to hand deliver packages that could as easily be dropped in a mailbox. Multiply that by millions of others waiting on line for the same purpose. If only 10 million people waste 10 hours each a year due to this pointless law, we're already talking 100 million work hours lost to the economy.

All that lost productivity, for a regulation that hinders people from doing honest business, but did nothing to prevent anyone from mailing anthrax.

But can't I give my packages to my letter carrier? I wish I knew. I've tried. It's worked sometimes. But I've also had the letter carrier accept my package, only to return it days later stamped "return to sender" because it wasn't hand delivered at the post office. If they think it may be a bomb, why return it to me?

Yes, it seems a small inconvenience, but that's the most effective way of destroying freedom — chipping away at it rather than taking it all at once. A frog will jump out of a pot of hot water, but if you place it in cool water, then bring it to a slow boil, the frog will remain there until it dies.

Yes, I know some idiots will scream, "Hey, in case you haven't heard, we're at war!" as they defend every law designed to "fight terrorism," no matter how pointless and ineffective and even counterproductive. Such people don't care about my personal inconveniences. They don't even care about their own liberties. But why are they helping terrorists by weakening our economy?

Thomas M. Sipos
Santa Monica

Talking trash to the 'slugs'



ICONOCLAST BLAST

BY SETH BARNES

I live near Santa Monica High School. Since I moved last summer, I've found almost all the students who walk by my house at the beginning and end of the school day to be courteous, pleasant and respectful of the neighborhood. On street-sweeping mornings, there are a few wily young men who seem to have a special knack for poaching the last available parking spot from me as I drive wildly around the block, but perhaps I need to brush up my skills in this area — or move the god-forsaken car the night before.

In any group, there are an unfortunate few whose actions reflect poorly on the rest. Especially when your group consists of hormonally charged individuals who can't leave the house without scruffy sheepskin boots and a cellphone as thin as a communion wafer.

The fact is, Samohi has some legitimate litterbugs on their hands (I think the term "litterbug" is far too cutesy and cartoonish, so I've coined a more standoffish, confrontational term: "litterslug"). Littering isn't a new issue, and compared to quality of education concerns, escalating dropout rates, school violence, and college/vocational readiness, a few spare pieces of trash chucked around the city by a few knuckleheads wouldn't seem to raise many eyebrows.

Nonetheless, over the course of one day last week, I observed three different groups of students litter my street with soft drink cans, McDonald's wrappers and uneaten food. In one instance, a kid back-handed a can across the street as if it were a Frisbee, an action so cavalier and crass that I half expected him to turn over the waste bin that stood no more than three feet away.

The fact that Generation Z (or whatever) is more than happy to fulfill health experts' dire prophecies about obesity and poor nutrition is troubling. The fact they scatter their crap all over the city after doing so, is worse.

Most educational problems are complex: To tackle them we form blue ribbon committees, commission exhaustive status reports, and hold endless community meetings. There's a lot of hand wringing and armchair psychoanalysis. Frankly, not a whole lot gets accomplished.

But the solution to this littering problem is simple. It's a simple self-administered test that every Samohi student, and every litterslug, can take: "Yes" or "no," are you a raging, self-absorbed jerk? If you toss garbage on the street like a mindless barbarian, the answer is "yes." If you actually have the piece of mind, as most students and citizens undoubtedly do, to use the thousands of receptacles that the city and taxpayers have provided, the answer is "no."

This test won't solve the problem outright. But by self-identifying as litterbugs, perhaps this minority can stave off a disagreeable future. The Samohi students, of course, only represent a tiny sliver of the litterslug problem at large. In fact, there's probably a fair chance that they take care of the environment and clean up after themselves in higher percentages than the rest of the population. I can't reach the adult litterbugs, they're too far gone. I'm singling out the offenders among our high school students because they can still be saved from going through life as unadulterated losers totally disconnected from the community.

Many studies have shown that adult litterbugs have significant problems finding gainful employment, and are far less likely to meet attractive members of the opposite sex. Think about it. You show up for a big job interview, toss a McChicken container across the room and hit the hiring manager in the eye. You meet a cute girl on the Internet and she agrees to go on a date. But as she's walking up the steps to your house she slips on a rotting taco and stabs herself in the arm with a crushed Coke can.

Look, I'm not that removed from high school myself. And I'm certainly not going to stand here and claim that I've never littered. In my misguided youth, I probably masqueraded as a rebel litterslug from time to time. When you spend a few years in the real world, start paying for the roof over your head, and start paying taxes so the streets don't resemble the after effects of a drunken mosh pit, it makes you care a little bit more about the community you live in. It makes you a little less selfish.

A wise, furry mammal with a cheap forest ranger hat once said, "Only you can prevent forest fires." I think his words apply to the situation in front of us. Only you can prevent yourself from going through life as a vain, unfeeling, and ultimately unhappy litterslug.

(Seth Barnes can be contacted at barnesseth@hotmail.com).

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



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STATE



Gates outlines further steps to improve computer security

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Looking to simplify online transactions and make them safer, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates showed off a tool that could replace the need to manually enter usernames and passwords to unlock the doors of the Internet.

Gates, the company's co-founder and chief software architect, also broadly discussed Microsoft's efforts to improve security in its upcoming Windows Vista operating system and the tech industry's initiatives aimed at stopping malicious software, hackers and other dangers.

"We've all got a common challenge here, yet an amazing opportunity to let these digital systems be used in the broadest way," Gates said Tuesday at the RSA computer security conference.

Gates highlighted a technology dubbed InfoCard that will help computer users corral their identifying information without running the risk of losing it or having it stolen. It also could be used by companies looking to improve ways of granting access to their networks.

InfoCard is the Redmond, Wash.-based company's latest attempt at identification and authentication services. The first, Passport, was criticized because Microsoft centrally stored and controlled a single identity that was supposed to be used on sites across the Web. Today, Passport remains mainly a tool for accessing Microsoft's MSN sites.

InfoCard is more of a container that holds identities — and other information — created and managed by the user and businesses on the Web.

In a demonstration, Microsoft program manager Richard Turner logged into a fictional car rental site simply by clicking on an InfoCard icon on the Web page and choosing an identity for that site. He was automatically logged in without entering a username or password.

"InfoCard is about making sure that if you have a series of identities, you can have a container kind of like a wallet that you can use to present it at the right place," said Michael Nash, corporate vice president of Microsoft's Security Technology Unit.

InfoCard also runs in a state that isolates it from other programs on the computer, making it less vulnerable to attack

by malicious software or hacking. The InfoCard screen, which runs locally on the PC, prevents users from doing anything else on the PC until it's closed.

Apple Computer Inc. has a password tool called Keychain for its Mac OS X machines, and third-party vendors have developed password-management software for Windows computers. Microsoft's own Internet Explorer also can store usernames and passwords for Web sites.

InfoCard goes beyond that by allowing more information to be stored securely and enabling the possibility for third parties to verify the identity even further. It also supports technologies such as smart cards that offer even more verification.

By deeply embedding the technology into the Web browser or operating system, "people can get their hands on it," said Bruce Schneier, chief technical officer of Counterpane Internet Security Inc. "Microsoft is in a unique position to kick-start some of this stuff."

The technology, which is expected to be available later this year, will support the upcoming Internet Explorer 7 on Windows Vista, Windows XP with Service Pack 2 and the latest version of Windows Server 2003. Vista, the next generation of Microsoft's desktop operating system, is scheduled to be released this fall.

Microsoft did not identify any companies that will deploy InfoCard, though officials said talks are ongoing.

Gates also showed off several security features expected on IE7, Microsoft's antispymware software and Vista. He also said Vista will have better support for smart cards, which would help lessen the need for yet another set of passwords.

In one demonstration, a program downloaded in Internet Explorer was limited to only a specific folder and is only given limited rights to run on the computer.

Separately, Microsoft released patches Tuesday to fix serious flaws in elements of its Windows operating system that could allow an attacker to take complete control of another user's computer. One fix patches a vulnerability in its Internet Explorer browser, while another fix is for a flaw in the way that Microsoft's Windows Media Player processes certain files.

Both of those flaws carry the company's most serious "critical" rating.

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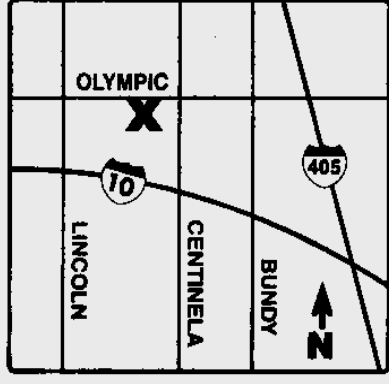
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LOCAL □ STATE



San Diego border wait cost \$3.74B last year

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Delays at U.S.-Mexico border crossings in San Diego County cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$3.74 billion in lost sales, jobs and productivity last year, according to a study released Tuesday by the San Diego Association of Governments and the California Department of Transportation.

The report's authors estimated that shoppers, tourists and commuters spent an average of 45 minutes waiting to cross from Mexico into San Diego County in 2005, which cost the U.S. economy \$2.48 billion. That figure includes money passengers would have spent at shops, restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues in San Diego County if the wait were shorter.

Delayed freight had a broader impact across the United States because about 30 percent of trucks had a final destination outside San Diego County. The report's authors estimated that keeping cargo trucks waiting at the border for an average of 2 1/2 hours cost the U.S. economy \$1.26 billion last year.

The delays highlighted the challenge facing U.S. officials as they balance demands from growing international trade with post-Sept. 11 national security requirements. In an effort to ease delays for frequent travelers, the government has introduced programs for prescreened truckers and visitors to cross more quickly than others.

Two of the nation's busiest border crossings link San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. Nearly 17 million passenger vehicles entered the United States through the 24-lane San Ysidro Port of Entry in

fiscal 2005, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The 13-lane Otay Mesa Port of Entry, one of the nation's biggest cargo crossings, handled more than 724,000 trucks in the same period.

The border wait study was based on more than 3,600 interviews with shoppers and commuters at three San Diego-area crossings between November 2004 and February 2005. Estimates of lost economic activity from trucks moving cargo were based on government data and interviews with manufacturers, customs brokers, trucking companies and others.

The San Diego Association of Governments, a group representing 18 local governments, hoped the study will support its campaign for more infrastructure on both sides of the border, including expansion of a four-lane U.S. highway that straddles the border and construction of another border crossing in San Diego.

SANDAG's executive director, Gary Gallegos, said the U.S. government doesn't have to sacrifice national security to shorten the delays. He said better infrastructure is the answer.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be one to the exclusion of the other," Gallegos said.

Deborah Brooks, operations specialist for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said her agency was working closely with local governments to address their concerns.

The report said the Mexican economy also suffered from border waits. Delays at San Diego-area crossings cost Mexico an estimated \$2.24 billion last year in sales, jobs and productivity — about \$2.07 billion from cargo traffic and \$168 million from foregone personal trips.

Just recycling it: Nike grinds up old sneakers to build tracks

CITY YARDS FIRE, from page 1

headquarters in Oregon, where they are ground up and used for athletic tracks throughout the country, Thompson said.

"They go for all-weather tracks instead of ending up in the landfill," he said. Thompson added that the shoes were piled in the back portion of the yards because he was waiting for a load of shipping boxes, which were late in arriving.

"Naturally, the boxes showed up today," he said.

Santa Monica's city yards was the chosen site for "Reuse a Shoe Recycle Program" because it has the most storage space. Nike pays for all of the costs involved in the program, Thompson said. The shoes have been stashed there for about a month.

Firefighters used foam to extinguish the fire, which was smoldering beneath the shoe pile, and emergency workers tapped into the fire hydrant at the trailer park immediately adjacent to the area.

Deborah Ramber, who lives in the park, said she has complained in the past to city officials about the debris left in that

section of the city yards.

"I left a message there on Thursday saying it looked like a pig's sty," she said. "Then Saturday rolls around and I swear to God it looked like the trailer park was on fire. The fire was spreading fast ... the flames were skyrocketing."

Ramber and her neighbors are concerned not only about combustion with debris left lying around but also standing water in the containers and the odor that emanates from the city yards, the recycling center and the transfer station, operated by Southern California Disposal, a private company.

"It's almost like Southern California Disposal points the finger at the city and the city points the finger at the Southern California Disposal," Ramber said. "I think the city should get out of the trash business and let Southern California build an enclosed transfer station."

The area in question is next to Stewart Street Park, separated by a tall fence. On Wednesday morning, several pairs of shoes were strewn throughout the park. A resident walking her dog said she has seen teenagers and homeless people jumping the fence, going for the shoes.

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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Mini Mart clerk proves inconvenient to robber

By The Associated Press

HESPERIA — Sometimes a simple “no” will deter robbers.

A clerk at Rocky’s Mini Mart on Main Street was confronted Monday evening by an armed would-be thief who demanded money from the cash register, said Roxanne Walker, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

“The clerk explained that she couldn’t do that, and that there were other employees inside the store. The suspect then said ‘thanks’ and left the store on foot without taking any money or items,” Walker said.

The same gunman was suspected of robbing the nearby Cigmart a short time later. He again brandished a weapon and demanded money from the clerk, who did as the man asked, Walker said.

City election was an all-time tally

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A city Ethics Commission examination showed last year’s city election set a record for spending by unions, corporations and individuals.

Individual campaign contributors can give no more than \$1,000 to candidates for citywide offices, but a corporation can spend an unlimited amount to support a candidate, as long as it is not done at the request of the candidate.

Nearly \$5 million was spent — most of it during the final 30 days of the campaign — outside the city’s system of campaign finance limits, according to the study released Tuesday. Organized labor accounted for 86 percent of the independent spending, including nearly \$640,000 by the California Teacher’s Association to support then-Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa for mayor.

Ethics Commission leaders renewed a call for public financing of election campaigns.

“The only way to keep a level playing field is to have full public financing,” commission president Gil Garcetti said.

“Just on the face of it, it shows that our system we have now is inadequate,” commission vice president Bill Boyarsky said.

Garcetti said he would bring up the issue at the panel’s next meeting in March.

Mayor announces plan to take over schools

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, convinced schools are failing the city’s children, has formed a fundraising committee to support an election on takeover of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The Mayor’s Committee for Government Excellence and Accountability allows Villaraigosa to raise money for either a local or state election. The formation of the committee was reported to the state attorney general’s office earlier this month.

“Reforming our public schools is the central challenge facing Los Angeles. I am committed to meeting this challenge and exploring all potential pathways to reform. The purpose of this committee is to support that work,” Villaraigosa said in a statement.

The mayor wants to accomplish his takeover of the district within two years.

“The mayor wants to make it known that he’s proceeding in his efforts to advance his policy goals,” said Stephen Kaufman, an attorney who works for Villaraigosa on political campaigns. “Creating a committee is the first step to advancing the goals either by legislation or through the ballot.”

City barked up wrong tree with handler

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — A police dog handler who sued the city because he was denied compensation for care of the animal was paid \$21,301 by the city of Ontario, which is also paying for \$82,249 in legal costs.

Detective Scott Anderson filed a U.S. District Court suit against the city because he was denied compensation for the care of Noa, who was taken out of service in 2002 because of health problems but was never officially retired by the city.

Anderson attorney Dieter Dammeier said the detective provided daily medication to the dog and other care, while also caring for his new police dog Tina. Noa died in 2004.

While Anderson had been receiving overtime compensation for Tina, he did not receive overtime for Noa after the dog was taken out of service, Dammeier said.

Teachers and district learn to cooperate

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — The school district and teachers’ union reached a deal on a three-year contract calling for a 5.19 percent hike in pay.

The Pasadena Unified School District and United Teachers of Pasadena have been in mediation since an impasse was declared last summer. Both sides met with the Public Employee Relations Board mediator about 10 times before reaching the deal announced this week.

The school board and teachers must approve the tentative pact.

The deal includes compensation equivalent to a 3.08 percent raise on the salary schedule, which specifies compensation based on years of service and other factors, to cover increased health care premiums in 2004-05.

The contract also includes a 5.18 percent increase in 2006-07 that the union can distribute between salary and health care costs. Currently, members are charged \$130 a year for health care coverage for one person.

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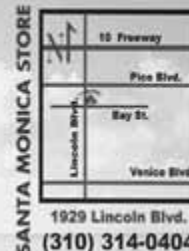
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Applications are invited to fill two vacancies on the Sustainable City Task Force (SCTF). All persons who reside or work in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in April or May 2006.

Application forms and information are available on the internet at www.smeprd.org Applications are also available at the Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail, email or fax by calling (310) 458-2213. All documents are available in alternate format by calling (310) 458-2213

To be eligible, applications must be received at the Environmental Programs Division office by 5:00pm Monday March 6, 2006.





NATIONAL

Senate rips Homeland chief over Katrina

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Republican and Democratic leaders of a Senate committee chastized Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff on Wednesday as a congressional inquiry found that thousands of Hurricane Katrina’s victims could have been spared though better planning and faster action.

Chertoff acknowledged missteps on his watch, “many

lapses” and said he accepted responsibility. He called the storm “one of the most difficult and traumatic experiences of my life.”

Chertoff, on the job for one year today, drew sharp criticism from both the chairwoman and senior Democrat on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The Department of Homeland Security’s performance in responding to the hurricane “must be judged a failure,” said the panel’s chairwoman, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

She called it “late, uncertain and ineffective.” Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, the panel’s top Democrat, criticized Chertoff for going to Atlanta for an unrelated conference on Aug. 30, the day after the storm roared ashore.

“How could you go to bed that night (Aug. 29) not knowing what was going on in New Orleans?” Lieberman asked.

Lieberman said that under Chertoff’s oversight, disaster workers “ran around like Keystone cops, uncertain about what they were supposed to do or uncertain how to do it.”

Collins told Chertoff “I remain perplexed” about his decision to designate Michael Brown, then chairman of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as point man on coordinating the government’s response to Katrina.

Brown, widely criticized for his performance, resigned under pressure soon after. He later accused others in the administration, including White House officials and Chertoff, of dragging their feet and ignoring his warnings of widespread flooding in New Orleans the storm hit.

Chertoff said there was “no reason to doubt his commitment.”

“If I knew then what I know now about Mr. Brown’s agenda, I would have done something different,” Chertoff added.

He reiterated earlier statements that he did not realize that levees in New Orleans had been breached on the day of the storm.

“When I went to bed, it was my belief ... that actually the storm had not done the worst that could be imagined,” Chertoff said.

Collins told Chertoff that “you did seem curiously disengaged to me” when he attended at conference on Avian flu in Atlanta on Aug. 30, instead of rushing to the storm scene.

A House inquiry titled “A Failure of Initiative,” which was being released Wednesday, concluded that much of the death and suffering might have been avoided if the government had heeded lessons from the 2001 terror attacks and taken a more proactive stance toward disaster preparedness.

From President Bush on down to local officials there was largely a reactive posture to the catastrophic Aug. 29 storm. “The preparation for and response to Hurricane

Storm of controversy

By The Associated Press

Highlights of the 520-page report on Hurricane Katrina by the special House committee investigating the Aug. 29 storm and its aftermath:

LEVEES:

■ The levees were designed to resist a standard hurricane, roughly Level 3, but not the most severe hurricanes. There is no actual “standard hurricane,” however, because of the unique factors that contribute to a particular storm, including its exact path.

■ The reasons for the levee failures appear to be some combination of nature’s wrath (the storm was just too large) and man’s folly (an assumption that the design, construction, and maintenance of the levees would be flawless). ... There was a failure of initiative to get beyond design and organizational compromises to improve the level of protection afforded.”

■ No one is in charge,” one scientist told investigators. “You have got multiple agencies, multiple organizations, some of whom aren’t on speaking terms with each other, sharing responsibilities for public safety.”

EVACUATIONS:

■ Mandatory evacuations ordered in Alabama and Mississippi and for the general population in Louisiana — excluding New Orleans and Jefferson Parish — went relatively well. “Those individuals in all states who had the means to evacuate, but did not do so, must also share the blame for the incomplete evacuation and the difficulties that followed.”

■ Despite adequate warning 56 hours before land-fall, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin delayed ordering a mandatory evacuation in New Orleans until 19 hours before landfall. Evacuations in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish were either declared late or not at all, a failure that “led to preventable deaths, great suffering and further delays in relief.”

■ In New Orleans, city officials failed to evacuate or assist in the evacuation of more than 70,000 people who were in the city when the storm hit. The Superdome was inadequately prepared for the large number of evacuees housed there.

“The incomplete evacuation and floodwaters also required a post-hurricane evacuation, for which federal, state and city officials had not prepared. Because of a lack of preparations, planning had to be accomplished in emergency circumstances, where communications and situational awareness were in short supply.”

■ At least 35 of the 215 nursing home and hospital deaths in New Orleans were due to bad decisions not to evacuate, and faulted chaos and lack of access to medical records for delayed care to countless others.

RUMORS AND FALSE MEDIA REPORTS:

■ Rampant false media reports contributed to unnecessary disorder and delay that hindered the recovery. There were repeated broadcast reports on Sept. 1 that evacuations at the Superdome had been suspended because of shots fired at a helicopter, and unsubstantiated reports of two babies with throats slit. No bullet holes were ever found in the choppers and the shooting reports most likely involved trapped individuals firing in the air to attract the attention of rescuers.

The reports contributed to unnecessary anxiety at the Superdome and scared away truck drivers and others who could have otherwise provided relief efforts and supplies.

At least 1,000 FEMA workers set to arrive in New Orleans on Aug. 31 also were turned away due to security concerns.

• “First the levees were breached and then law and order. As Katrina left people scrambling for food, for water, for supplies for survival lawlessness and violence, both real and imagined, spread, creating yet another problem for authorities who were burdened enough already.”

RED CROSS:

■ The Red Cross was dependent on Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Defense Department for supplies and was unable to fill the

See STORM, page 14

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See KATRINA, page 14

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Winter of their content



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Above) The full moon sets over the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica Bay on Monday morning. (Top Right) Beachgoers took advantage of warm temperatures this past week at Santa Monica Beach. (Bottom Right) A man practices his golf swing during a recent sunrise.



Deasy a finalist for Maryland post

DEASY, from page 1

Hornsby, who resigned as schools chief last year amid an ethics controversy. The two other candidates for the position are W.L. “Tony” Sawyer, schools superintendent in Topeka, Kan., and Marcia V. Lyles, a regional superintendent for New York public schools. A final decision is expected to be made either by the end of this week or next, according to John White, a spokesman for the Maryland school district. “I have very mixed emotions (about being named a finalist),” said Deasy, who joined SMMUSD in 2001. “I’m in one of those positions where if I don’t get chosen, I’m thrilled because I love the job I have. If I do get chosen, I have mixed emotions about leaving a place I love and going to a place I look forward to giving my life to that has many challenges. “The challenges are what attracted me.” Members of the school board said they would hate to see Deasy leave, but understand he is very talented and expected him to move on when the time was right. “From the beginning, he has been very straightforward with us that this would not be his final resting place.” said Julia Brownley, school board member. “He’s very talented, young and has a great career ahead of him.” School board member Oscar de la Torre said if the district loses Deasy, he hopes the same level of energy the superintendent brought to the district will be carried on by board members and whomever they decide to replace Deasy. “We have taken some serious steps towards closing the achievement gap and I think that’s part of the work that needs to continue if he decides to move on,” de la Torre said. “He has some great victories under his belt and many

“From the beginning, he has been very straightforward with us that this would not be his final resting place. He’s very talented, young and has a great career ahead of him.”

JULIA BROWNLEY
School board member

districts are going to be lucky to have his intelligence and, really, his energy.” Deasy flew to Maryland on Monday, at which time he met with members of the school board, district staff, union leaders, teachers and parents, all of whom wanted to get a better idea of what Deasy could bring to their district. His schedule was packed from the moment he touched down to the moment he left, White said. “All of the candidates seemed to be highly qualified and we are all excited and intrigued to see who will be selected,” White said. “The board is looking for someone with extraordinary leadership and who has demonstrated an ability to raise student achievement and I think Dr. Deasy has proven that, especially in the work he has done with the Los Angeles Unified School District and others. “We recognize his experience, which is very diverse.” Deasy said he can’t comment on any part of the interview process, as part of an agreement with the district. “The ability to spend time (with members of the community there) was wonderful,” he said. SMMUSD, with 19 schools, is about

one-tenth the size of Prince George’s system, which includes more than 190 schools, White said. The leadership position in Prince George pays a salary of \$250,000. Deasy said his current salary is \$150,000. “It’s never about the money,” said Deasy. “It’s about policy.” Deasy said the interview is not a signal that he is unhappy about his current position. On the contrary, he is very proud of the accomplishments he has made here and has enjoyed working with staff, parents, teachers and students. He decided to participate in the job interview after he was recruited by a “head hunting” service. He was selected as one of three finalists out of 66 total applicants. Deasy doesn’t believe the interview will change his relationship with the school board and others in the district. “We have always enjoyed a great working relationship with the board and they have expressed that to me, so I don’t see this affecting it at all.” Deasy is still under contract until 2007 with SMMUSD. He received a contract extension in 2003, according to district officials.

COUNCIL COUNTDOWN

(The following is a summation of what went on in Santa Monica City Council chambers during the City Council's meeting Feb. 14, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.)

The Santa Monica City Council meeting began at 5:58 p.m. Mayor Bob Holbrook could not call the meeting to order at the regularly scheduled time of 5:45 p.m. because there were not enough council members present to create a quorum. Council members Ken Genser, Richard Bloom and Kevin McKeown arrived shortly after, the pledge of allegiance was recited and roll was called.

6:01 p.m. Mayor Holbrook wished everyone a happy Valentine’s Day.

6:04 p.m. Council heard from the public regarding consent items on the agenda.

6:10 p.m. Council member McKeown pulled consent items having to do with installing 123 security cameras around the promenade and the pier at a cost of \$1.3 million, and the expansion of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church. The items were debated, but no action could be taken because the items required five votes and only four members were present.

6:30 p.m. Council moves to closed session to discuss potential and pending litigation against City Hall.

8:04 p.m. Council reconvenes. Council member Pam O’Connor and Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver took their seats. The agenda items regarding the church and the cameras were brought back for discussion. The cameras were approved and the church expansion was held over for further study.

8:13 p.m. Council approved remaining consent items on the agenda and received a report from closed session. In the meeting with City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, it was suggested that the council approve a settlement with the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding violations when asbestos was removed from the old Main Library site. The council voted unanimously to approve the settlement, which would require contractors, both prime and sub, to pay a fine of \$256,000.

8:17 p.m. City Hall homeless czar, former Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, gave a report to council regarding his efforts to change the governance structure so that all 88 cities in the county will be able to work together on homeless programs. He also spoke of the benefits reaped from a recent visit to New York City to study their solutions to ending homelessness.

The council also heard from the public on this issue, and briefly discussed supporting a bill by State Sen. Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) that would include a “Fair Share Zoning” requirement for cities to identify in their general plans sites where social services and housing for homeless could be located.

8:50 p.m. The council heard a presentation from city staff regarding roughly \$5.5 million in unexpected revenues to be added to the city’s budget. Council then took public comment regarding spending priorities for the rest of this year and for 2006-07. There were 51 requests to speak on this item. Speakers were given two minutes each.

10:20 p.m. Council called for a short recess.

10:26 p.m. Council members returned and resumed public comment.

10:37 p.m. End of public comment on the mid-year fiscal budget review. Council debated but decided not to spend any money until a report by City Manager Lamont Ewell could be issued detailing the budget needs of city departments. Council did approve motions to help the 18th Street Arts Center restructure its debt, and study capital improvements made by Meals on Wheels West, which is seeking more than \$24,000 in assistance.

The council also directed that an item be put on the agenda for the next meeting dealing with support for AB 359, which would create a temporary dog beach at Dockweiler State Beach. The council also asked for staff to report back on the status of a pilot program for a dog beach in Santa Monica.

11:20 p.m. Council moved to approve ordinances on the agenda including one which creates a review process on the conversion of any ground floor restaurant on the promenade into retail space. The council also unanimously approved a change to the city’s density bonus and affordable housing incentives and approved the transfer of cable service from Adelphia Cable to Time Warner Cable.

11:25 p.m. Council considered items presented by council members. The council voted to order staff to prepare an ordinance requiring a transitional retention period for employees of grocery stores when those stores change ownership. The idea, floated by McKeown and opposed by grocers, is intended to protect Santa Monica workers from sudden job loss.

Council also directed staff to review a recent report from the California Air Resources Board on the dangers of second-hand smoke and report back on how the report affects people here. The motion was sponsored by council member Bloom.

Council member McKeown asked, and the council unanimously approved, allocating \$1,000 in matching funds to help sponsor the Latina Youth Conference at Santa Monica College next month.

Council member Genser sponsored a motion, and the council approved, to direct city staff to amend an ordinance to permit the use of non-permitted, or bootleg, rental units if the Rent Control Board determines the unit was rented on April 10, 1979 and meets all habitability provisions.

12:25 p.m. Council adjourned in memory of actor Chris Penn, 40, who died Jan. 24 at his home in Santa Monica. Penn, a Santa Monica High School graduate, had been commended by the council for his contributions to pedestrian safety when he starred in a public service announcement “Look Both Ways.”

BY THE NUMBERS

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

Homelessness: 33 minutes

Traffic: Zero minutes

Parking: Zero minutes

Public Comment: 2 hours, 55 minutes

City Council/staff discussions: 2 hours and 8 minutes

LET’S TALK CHIT

“Chits” (Public addressing City Council)

“I have had it. I can’t take it anymore. I have spent the last two nights, gagging, removing human feces out of my garage. It’s bad enough outside, but when you bring it into a closed area, it’s terrible. I’m tired of it. Why is it Santa Monica feeds these people, lets them stay here? I’m asking you to come to my house and clean it up.”

— Vicki Luckenbach

A resident, who became extremely emotional as she told the council that she has had to call the police more than 20 times since November of last year to keep homeless people from sleeping, urinating and defecating on her property. Recently, she said homeless people have been defecating in her driveway.

QUOTE OF NOTE

“If you’re watching this (meeting) live, you’ve still got time. If you’re watching this in a rerun, like Ricky Ricardo, you’ve got some explaining to do.”

— Mayor Holbrook

Reminding those in attendance and those watching and listening to the meeting on TV and radio that if they plan to do something for Valentine’s Day, they better do it soon, or pay the consequences.

LOCAL



Dogged pursuit of surplus

SURPLUS, from page 1

pected money from the state.

Some of the cash already is accounted for to cover employee salaries and restore services that were cut, but roughly \$2.5 million will be left up to the City Council's discretion to spend.

With six of the seven city council members present, residents had a chance to make their voices heard in hopes that some of the money will trickle down to them.

THOSE IN NEED

The largest contingent was from Unleash the Beach, a coalition of dog owners who are lobbying the City Council to set aside a section of the beach for dogs to run free.

The state has jurisdiction over uses at the beach, but the organization is hoping that with some political pressure and help from state legislators, the City Council can move forward with creating a dog beach.

For Flavia Magiolo de Mello, the beach couldn't come soon enough. After reading in a book on how to meet men, she learned that a full-proof method involved bringing pets to public places.

"Well, I have not found a boyfriend yet, or I wouldn't be speaking at a City Council meeting on Valentine's Day," she said, filling the council chamber with laughter. "I have spent all of my free time and hard-earned teacher's (salary) driving south to other cities and counties to take my dogs to dog-friendly beaches.

"Please allocate money in the budget for a dog park here so that (no one) has to spend another Valentine's Day alone."

THE ARTS

Another issue which received plenty of support was the expansion of the arts.

In addition to requests from the city's Public Art Committee, a handful of artists from the 18th Street Arts Center asked the City Council to help them in refinancing their debt, about \$2 million, and use some of their equity, about \$6 million, to expand their facility.

The center provides subsidized work space for artists, as well as workshops and other community-based programs.

"If we were to go through a regular lender we would have to pass on the debt restructuring to our tenants, who are being subsidized. And that is an unacceptable position for us," said Cameron Whiteman, president of the center's board of directors.

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

Having been forced from their home of over 30 years, Meals on Wheels West is asking the City Council to approve more than \$48,000 in funding for meals, and another \$24,800 to help pay for the renovation of a new facility.

"We deliver two nutritionally balanced meals a day, 365 days a year. We also deliver a newspaper and good old-fashioned companionship and today — Valentine's Day flowers," said Rosemary Regalbuto, the executive director of the program. "We have suffered a tremendous financial burden and need your help."

Meals on Wheels West serves 500 meals a day to seniors and those with disabilities living in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Topanga.

City Hall currently funds the program to a tune of \$40,481. Regalbuto is asking for a 20-percent increase.

Nat "Mr. Santa Monica" Trives, chair of development for the Santa Monica Symphony, asked for the City Council to spend \$30,000 on an outdoor concert to be

held on the one-year anniversary of the new Main Library's opening. The event would take place in the library's courtyard.

"Music at times of tear and joy is good," he said. "This would be wonderful for this town."

YOUTH

To continue with their work in keeping peace on the streets and young adults motivated in life, members of the Pico Youth & Family Center showed up in force, asking the City Council for money to expand their facility, create more parking and add educational programs.

Currently, youth at the center said they must share counseling space with the music program, and have had to hold events, such as the Malcolm X Festival, outside in their parking lot, which one youth described as being "disrespectful" to the civil rights icon.

"We need an extreme youth center makeover," said Alejandro Rodriguez. "It's hard to run programs with the space we have."

With state funding for education still hovering near the lowest in the country, Shari Davis of the Coalition for Excellence in Public Schools asked the City Council to continue with their funding of programs for local schools.

IT'S PERSONAL

Then there were the individual requests from residents and business owners.

Cindy Kerry, a business owner working near 17th Street and Olympic Boulevard, called on the City Council to spend money on new a parking structure at the Fisher Lumber site, and remove parking meters along Olympic and Colorado boulevards that cost her employees \$11.25 a day, not to mention an average of \$500 a year in parking tickets.

"The limited parking we are assigned is barely enough for our clients," she said. "It's unreasonable to ask employees who support this city through restaurants and retail to pump the meters."

Russell Sidney of the Sustainable Transportation Club asked City Hall to purchase bikes and scooters to be shared by residents. He also called on the city to expand bike lanes to make them more like "bike boulevards" to handle mopeds and personalized scooters.

"We need real resources to make a difference in our community and make this a greener, more environmentally friendly city," he said.

Zina Josephs, president of Friends of Sunset Park, had 11 categories that needed to be addressed by the City Council. The first was airport runway safety.

"Planes are currently landing and taking off 200 feet from homes," she said.

Josephs also complained about traffic on Ocean Park Boulevard and asked for the City Council to assign parking enforcement officers to an intersection on Ocean Park Boulevard near John Adams Middle School where a student was struck in recent years. She also called for traffic management near Trader Joe's on Pico Boulevard.

Bob Taylor, a resident of Ocean Park near Nielsen Way asked the City Council to add landscaping to protect homes from noise pollution. The area's streets were widened, Taylor said, to accommodate hotel traffic, but the hotels were never built, leaving homes with only eight feet of space between their front doors and the street.

"It's like the streets are pushed right into our living room," he said.





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Business



SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank shells out the dough for local non-profits

By Daily Press staff

Wells Fargo last year awarded \$115,500 to 16 non-profit organizations in the cities of Santa Monica and Venice.

The company remains the largest corporate contributor to non-profit organizations in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and west San Bernardino counties, giving \$11 million to 1,160 organizations last year to support community development, education, human services and cultural/civic projects, bank representatives said.

“Our contributions to nonprofits are an investment in the long-term well being of the communities we serve,” said Shelley Benson, Wells Fargo regional president for the Los Angeles community bank. “In addition to our cash contributions, our team members volunteer thousands of hours and their talents to help make our communities even better places to live and work.”

Wells Fargo contributed more than half of its Santa Monica and Venice charitable donations to education and youth programs. Local programs like Painted Turtle, the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, McKinley Elementary School P.T.A., Neighborhood Youth Association and Will Rogers Elementary School benefited from the charitable giving.

Donations also supported Santa Monica community groups like John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary, the Rape Foundation, the Center for Healthy Aging, the CLARE Foundation, Santa Monica Firefighters, the Musicares Foundation, the Santa Monica Theatre Guild and Special Olympics.

In 2005, Wells Fargo donated \$95.2 million to more than 15,000 organizations nationwide. Business Week magazine ranked, for the second year in a row, Wells Fargo as the ninth-most generous supporter of non-profit organizations in the nation.

SM firm hires two media specialists

By Daily Press staff

Based in Santa Monica, The Phelps Group, one of the nation’s leading integrated marketing communications firms, recently added two new associates to support the agency’s growth in media services. The new hires are Megan Weiss and Kellie Burris, media specialists.

Weiss brings to The Phelps Group five years of market research and media scheduling and buying experience in the automotive, grocery and entertainment industries. She works with the DIRECTV, City of Hope, Monrovia Growers and Cedarlane Natural Foods teams. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Muhlenberg College.

Burris is working on The Phelps Group’s travel accounts, including Tahiti Tourism, Malaysia Airlines and Fairmont Hotels, on creating and maintaining annual media plans. She brings six years of experience in media planning for automotive clients in general and Hispanic markets. She holds a bachelor’s degree in communication studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

The Phelps Group is an integrated marketing communications firm. It offers public relations, advertising, direct response, promotions, strategic alliance and interactive services. Its clients, most of which are leaders in their industry, include ARA-MARK, Tahiti Tourisme, DIRECTV, City of Hope, Fairmont Hotels, Malaysia Airlines, NuSil Technology, Panasonic, PETCO, Whole Foods Market, Dunn-Edwards Paints, Western Dental and Monrovia Growers. For more information, visit www.thephelpsgroup.com.

Local architect gets high marks

By Daily Press staff

The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced that Patrick J. Tighe AIA is one of six recipients of the 2006 AIA Young Architects Award. The award is bestowed upon individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession of architecture at an early stage of their career. The award marks the fourth National AIA Award that Tighe has received since opening the doors of his namesake firm, Tighe Architecture in 2000.

“It is an absolute privilege to receive this award,” Tighe said. “I am humbled to be in the company of the other recipients and of those who have received this honor in the past.”

The firm’s work in retail, commercial, mixed-use, public-sector and residential arenas has gained considerable recognition from the Architecture and Design community over the past few years — last summer the office won a competition to design and build an installation for Santa Monica’s Clover Park. Tighe Architecture has earned several National AIA Honors: The Collins Gallery (2003) received a National AIA Honor Award for Interior Architecture as did the Jacobs Subterranean project (2001), a 1,200-square-foot gallery beneath an existing post-and-beam structure on a severe hillside site. The firm received a 2005 Small Project Award for a residence named The Black Box.

Tighe Architecture also has received local AIA awards for projects such as an affordable housing project in Norwalk, Conn. and for the Live Oak Studio in Hollywood. The firm won American Architecture Awards two consecutive years in 2003 and 2004.

Raising awareness for the boss

By Daily Press staff

We’ve all done it — played that movie over and over in our minds of our confident entry into the boss’ office and asking for — no, demanding that elusive pay raise. However deserved, reality often plays out far differently, with many relegating themselves to their boss’ budgetary and emotional discretion.

Yes, asking for a raise can be tricky as there are so many factors that come into play: The business culture, company policies regarding regular job assessments and wage reviews, and the subjectivity of your boss. Asking for a raise can be more than anxiety provoking. It can be downright depressing. So, what are the throngs of underpaid, though deserving, employees throughout corporate America to do?

John McKee, world-class business success coach and author of “21 Ways Women in Management Shoot Themselves in the Foot,” who has received, denied and granted literally thousands of pay raise requests throughout his management career, offers these potentially profitable insights:

■ For those employed in companies with policies regarding wage reviews, the first thing is to find out how frequently those are supposed to occur. In most large companies, it will be an annual activity with the human resources department providing supervisors with guidelines for how to appraise individuals, and what type of increases are appropriate based on how the employee is rated for performance, attitude and potential growth on the job in the future.

■ Take advantage of the formality and regularity of such annual wage/performance review events by preparing an honest self-assessment of your job performance. This should include recommendations for any additional training that could enhance the results of your work, as well as any and all accomplishments complete with specific measurements and dates to ensure those highlights are not overlooked.

■ For employees of smaller companies that do not have formalized policies regarding annual assessments and/or pay raises should request a meeting with the boss to specifically discuss performance and commensurate compensation. This is easy if the company is led by someone who is enlightened and recognizes indi-

vidual contributions, and rewards or compensates employees accordingly. However, for those who are not lucky enough to have such intuitive bosses and feel they are not making the kind of money they should be, preparedness is key. Before the meeting you should have a complete record of what and how you’ve done since the last raise, wherever possible citing specific metric results related thereto, with dates, to show that your merit is not subjective, but rather based on performance fact.

■ Presence pays. It is important not to get over zealous and storm in to the boss, demanding a raise (as empowering as that fantasy is), as doing so will put the boss in a defensive mode that is not conducive to a positive discussion or outcome. Simply tell the boss you would like to discuss the subject, and ask when it would be convenient for him or her to do so. Then, prepare, prepare, prepare.

While some may feel this next piece of advice is counter productive, I do recommend that you offer to give your self-assessment to the boss before the meeting so he or she can understand your point of view and prepare accordingly. By no means is this telling the enemy your strategy, rendering your defeat inevitable. Rather, in any negotiation — and this “is” a real negotiation for you — it is best to lay out your cards in an honest and forthright manner. If the boss wants to keep you happy and on staff, your information will help he or she understand your value in undeniable terms. If, on the other hand, the boss has no intention of rewarding you in a manner that you feel is fair and appropriate, he or she will always find a way to justify that decision. So, providing the boss with your input prior to meeting will only make it easier to find out the ultimate, final outcome and you can make an educated decision regarding your future with that company accordingly.

In the spirit of providing ambitious business people with a viable resource that can pay dividends in their upward business mobility, McKee is offering a new online one-on-one coaching program entitled “11 Steps to Total Success” at an introductory price of just \$99. This E-Course helps individuals create and manage a completely balanced life plan covering all facets of life: career, financial and personal. Visit www.BusinessSuccessCoach.net for more information.

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Bet on it: Inflation is a dead certainty

THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER



Ben Bernanke was sworn in last week, but he wasn't born yesterday. He knows how the central bank works. Or, at least he thinks he does. The secret, he believes, is in the plumbing. You have to keep the money flowing. And when things get a little sluggish, you have to open a few more valves and sluice gates.

Since he can only create "money" and not real wealth, the deeper secret — one that requires hip waders and a nose clip — is that a central banker must hoodwink the public into thinking it has more wealth than it really does. Consumers, investors, politicians and businessmen all feel the flush of cash, and readily spend some of the wealth they think they've come upon. After a while, they're all giddy from the

sewer gas and have forgotten that they have to pay the money back.

Under these circumstances, inflation is a dead certainty. The only unknown is how and when it appears. Until now, it has happily gone into asset prices. Stocks — then real estate — rode high on the tidal wave of money, while consumer prices, mostly, stayed put. But the dollar is vulnerable, warned the experts. Bill Gross, who manages the largest bond fund in the world, claims it is "doomed." When doom will show up and in what guise we do not know. But we bet that when it does show, it will yank up the cost of living for consumers. Prices of imports — at say, Wal-Mart — will shoot up. Anticipating this unwelcome variety of inflation, the central bank may

turn the screws longer than expected.

Maestro Bernanke is now, officially, the world's most powerful central banker, but, from Chicago, evidence is emerging that the great economic tide over which he presides may already have begun ebbing. The Midwestern city reports that almost 25,000 people applied for jobs at a new Wal-Mart opening up nearby. We have heard of thousands of people in India applying for jobs at Google, but that is not surprising — there are millions of jobless people in India ... and Google pays well.

But Wal-Mart? The merchandiser is Scrooge-like with its employees, and U.S. employment, supposedly, is at record highs. We are continuously reassured that we have a "full employment" economy. Whence then, cometh these eager jobseekers?

That is the problem with America's prosperity: It has a cheap and gaudy character to it, like too much make-up on an aging tart. The wrinkles show through the cracks in the rouge.

People are lining up to work in Wal-Mart for the obvious reason: They need

the money.

Last year, foreclosures rose 25 percent. Energy and health care costs are soaring. What's a poor boy to do but don a blue jacket and push more consumer junk at "everyday low prices" to people who can't really afford it?

We read in the press that Britain is ahead of us. Reports vary, but the bubble in real estate prices in the U.K. apparently peaked out a year ago. Since then, bankruptcies have hit new heights. The Financial Times recently warned that British consumers might be beginning to put their prehensile thumbs to family budget work; they might soon be "pinching pennies," says the FT.

We don't know. But, we wouldn't be at all surprised to see American consumers begin to squeeze their nickels a little tighter, too. True, the present generation has little experience at it, but they might get the hang of it mighty fast, if they had to.

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

Phishing, other scams, typically abound at tax time

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Common sense says the IRS doesn't e-mail taxpayers offering tax refunds in exchange for confidential personal information. And yet, every year people are fooled by those and other

bogus tax schemes.

"If somebody comes to you and says what's your bank account number, it's probably not us," said IRS spokesman Anthony Burke. "We contact taxpayers by U.S. mail first and provide a toll-free number to call the agency."

AARP gives free tax prep to elderly

BY EILEEN PUTMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As an accounting major, Diane Flook had studied income tax preparation, but the subject truly came alive when she took that knowledge into a senior citizens center and helped elderly people with their tax returns.

"One of the things I ran into was a lot of seniors don't really know anything about their money," Flook said. "Their husband always did their taxes but he died, and the woman came in and it was hard to make her understand it."

Flook is one of more than 32,000 volunteers for AARP's Tax-Aide program, which helps nearly 2 million elderly people with their taxes at some 7,800 sites during tax season. Sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service, Tax-Aide is the largest free tax counseling and preparation program in the country.

Richard Davis, an accounting professor at Susquehanna University's Sigmund Weis School of Business, has been coordinator of the Tax-Aide program in Selinsgrove, Pa., for several years. Every tax season, he and his students help 150 or so elderly taxpayers with their federal, state and local tax returns.

"The students have all gone through my tax course and I also give them some material the IRS publishes just for this program that helps them get ready for it," said Davis, a former IRS official in the agency's chief counsel office, which handles taxpayers' audit appeals.

Complicating taxes for many elderly people is income they receive from part-time jobs that supplement retirement benefits or from investments that generate capital gains. And while some elderly people have incomes too low to require filing federal taxes, they may still have to file state or local tax returns.

The IRS provides training materials for Tax-Aide volunteers, mainly about tax issues that pertain to the elderly — like the sale of a home, pension and Social Security income, dividends and bank interest.

Some clients know little about their finances, often because a spouse or relative handled them, Davis said. That's especially true for widows, he said.

"Things have changed in our country for the better, but we're still dealing with 80- and 90-year-old people who grew up in an era where, gender-wise, things were very different," Davis said. "Husbands took care of everything and the wife doesn't know what her husband did and it's a very real challenge."

Flook, a 21-year-old senior from Corning, N.Y., who plans to work for a regional accounting firm when she graduates, was among Davis' students who helped seniors with taxes last spring and will do so again this year. Much of what she learned wasn't in any textbook.

"While on campus you're in a little bubble," Flook said. "It is nice to go into the community" and "see the people you help because a lot of them would have no idea what to do without us, and they like having the chance to interact with younger people."

The IRS provides tax preparation software for AARP sites and encourages electronic filing. But "at our site we do it all by pencil and paper," Davis said.

"Our senior citizens prefer that we sit down with them and do it the way they've done it for maybe 50 years with a pencil and 1040 and go through the return line by line," he said. "I think they're a little uncomfortable when you pull out the computer and do it electronically."

Jan Cooper, operations coordinator for AARP's Tax-Aide, said volunteers will do a paper return for anyone who refuses electronic preparation.

Among the scams making the rounds this filing season is the latest twist on "phishing": e-mails purporting to be from "tax-refundsirs.gov" aimed at tricking taxpayers into revealing personal information that is later used to steal their identities or cause other financial damage.

Typically, such e-mails use the same logos and e-mail addresses as legitimate companies and organizations, fooling people into thinking they are genuine. Recipients are directed to a Web link that asks for information such as a Social Security number or credit card information.

The Internal Revenue Service does not ask for personal identification or financial information via e-mail.

"We might ask you in a notice or a letter to explain your answer on something but it would be very unlikely for us to ask you your Social Security number because we already know it," Burke said.

Anyone uncertain whether a purported IRS communication is genuine should call the agency at 1-800-829-1040. Don't open attachments to suspicious e-mails because they may contain malicious code capable of infecting computers.

Other scams that appear around tax time include:

—IRS tax "collectors": Don't let anyone into your home unless they have iden-

tification. IRS special agents, auditors and collections officers carry photo IDs and will normally try to contact you before they visit. If you think the person at your door is an impostor, lock the door and call police. Then call the Treasury inspector general's hot line at 1-800-366-4484.

—Big refunds for "free": Con artists may ask to "borrow" your Social Security number or give you a phony W-2 to make it look as if you qualify for a big refund. They may promise to split the refund with you. Don't sign a tax return without looking it over to make sure it's correct (and honest).

—Pay taxes, win a prize: A caller claims you've won a prize and only have to pay the income tax due on it. It's true that taxpayers who win prizes may need to make estimated tax payments, but the payment goes to the IRS, not the caller. A legitimate prize-giver sends you a 1099 form showing the total prize value that should be reported on your tax return.

—Social Security refund: If you're offered refunds for Social Security taxes paid during your lifetime, don't be fooled — the law doesn't allow such a refund. The scam artist usually asks victims to pay a "paperwork" fee of \$100, plus a percentage of the anticipated refund, to file a refund claim with the IRS.

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Response to Katrina ‘disturbing’

KATRINA, from page 8

Katrina should disturb all Americans,” said the 520-page report, written by a Republican-dominated special House committee chaired by Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., and obtained Tuesday night by The Associated Press.

“Passivity did the most damage,” it said. “The failure of initiative cost lives, prolonged suffering, and left all Americans justifiably concerned our government is no better prepared to protect its people than it was before 9/11, even if we are.”

The hard-hitting findings allocated blame to state and local authorities and concluded that the federal government’s single largest failure was in not recognizing Katrina’s likely consequences as it approached. That could have prompted a mobilization of federal assets for a post-storm evacuation of a flooded New Orleans, the report said, meaning aid “would have arrived several days earlier.”

It also found that Bush could have speeded the response by becoming involved in the crisis earlier and says he was not receiving guidance from a disaster specialist who would have understood the scope of the storm’s destruction.

“Earlier presidential involvement might have resulted in a more effective response,” the inquiry concluded.

White House spokesman Allen Abney declined to comment Tuesday night. On Monday, White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend said Bush was “fully involved” in Washington’s preparations and response to Katrina.

Katrina left more than 1,300 people dead in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, hundreds of thousands homeless and tens of billions of dollars worth of damage. Bush has accepted responsibility for the federal government’s shortfalls, but the storm response continues to generate finger-pointing.

Violent protests erupt for third straight day in Pakistan

BY RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press Writer

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Gunfire and rioting erupted Wednesday as tens of thousands of people took to the streets in several Pakistani cities during the country’s third consecutive day of violent protests over the Prophet Muhammad cartoons. Three people were killed, including an 8-year-old boy.

More than 70,000 people flooded the streets of the northwestern city of Peshawar, said Saeed Wazir, a senior police officer. The massive crowd went on a rampage, torching businesses and fighting police, who struck back with tear gas and batons.

A bus terminal operated by South Korea’s Sammi Corp. was torched, police said.

Protesters burned a KFC restaurant, three movie theaters and the offices of the main mobile phone company in the country. A Norwegian mobile phone company’s offices were also ransacked. Gunfire was heard near the burning KFC, as police tried to clear people from a main street, witnesses said.

An 8-year-old boy died after being struck in the face by a bullet fired by a protester, police officer Shahid Khan said. A 25-year-old man was killed by an electric cable that was snapped by gunfire, said the man’s cousin, Jehangir Khan.

At least 45 people were being treated for injuries in Peshawar’s two state-run hospitals, Khan and witnesses said.

Paramilitary forces were deployed, and the government announced that schools and colleges would be closed in northwestern Pakistan for one week to protect

STORM, from page 8

void with supplies and staffing as those agencies scrambled to respond.

■ The lead relief agency in the disaster, the Red Cross was aware of crowding at the Superdome but was unable to staff that and other locally operated shelters because its workers were denied access.

■ When the Red Cross placed orders for food such as Meals-Ready-to-Eat through the government, many of the requests got lost in an overburdened FEMA computer system.

CONTRACTORS:

■ Poor planning for emergency supplies such as food and ice contributed to waste and abuse in federal contracts.

■ In one case, Mississippi officials requested from FEMA 450 trucks of water and ice, as well as 50 trucks of Meals-Ready-to-Eat in the days after the storm. “FEMA tried, but Katrina’s magnitude exposed significant weakness and inefficiencies in the process.” As a result state officials were forced to buy from the commercial market at an untold cost.

■ A heavily criticized \$236 million contract with Carnival Cruise Lines for temporary housing was reasonable, and similar “unfounded negative publicity” could hurt relief efforts in the future.

FEDERAL RESPONSE:

■ President Bush’s remarks, shortly after Katrina hit, that “I don’t think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees” showed he was not being briefed by a disaster specialist as the crisis unfolded.

■ Fifty-six hours before it hit, federal officials knew Katrina had the potential to flood 75 percent of New Orleans, killing tens of thousands of residents and trapping hundreds of thousands in up to 20 feet of water. The threat also posed the high possibility that a million people would need to be evacuated from homes that would be destroyed, and that the metropolitan area would be uninhabitable for several months or even years.

■ Federal delays in assigning the Pentagon relief missions “may have been avoided if the President had been advised of the need for early presidential involvement.”

■ Homeland Security Department chief Michael Chertoff should have activated plans “to shift the federal response posture from a reactive to proactive mode” to save lives and speed relief.

■ Despite reports from FEMA and the Coast Guard the night Katrina hit, the Homeland Security Operations Center failed to conclude that New Orleans levees were

breached. “Perhaps the single most important piece of information during Katrina was confirmation of the levee breaches in New Orleans.”

■ FEMA sent unprecedented amounts of supplies to the region, including 11 million liters of water, 19 million pounds of ice, 6 million ready-made meals and 17 truckloads of tarps. But they initially went untouched because of confusion by state and federal officials.

■ FEMA failed to prepare adequately for emergency disaster supplies and had poor accounting of what was needed and what resources it had on the ground.

■ FEMA’s failure to negotiate contracts in advance led to chaos and the potential for waste and fraud due to last-minute agreements for emergency assistance.

■ The agency’s contract staffing was inadequate given the size of the disaster.

COMMUNICATIONS:

■ Damage to communications in the region was extraordinary, but officials failed to adequately plan for alternatives. Multiple levels of government failed to prepare for the loss of power and its impact on communications, which hindered the response effort, particularly in New Orleans and along the Mississippi Gulf coast. “Despite the devastation left by Katrina, this needn’t have been the case. Catastrophic disasters may have some unpredictable consequences, but losing power and the dependent communications systems after a hurricane should not be one of them.”

■ Government failed at all levels to deal with long-standing problems of “interoperability,” the ability of different public safety units to communicate with each other effectively. Although hundreds of millions of federal dollars had been spent over time, communications systems still were not always working effectively. For example, first responders in helicopters were unable to talk to crews patrolling in boats, and National Guard commanders in Louisiana and Mississippi used runners to relay orders.

MISCELLANEOUS:

■ Visits to emergency operation centers by politicians and celebrities, including talk-show host Oprah Winfrey and actor Sean Penn, distracted personnel from their more urgent tasks.

■ Medical care was poorly planned and reactive rather than proactive.

■ Shortages of supplies and delays in care abounded.

■ New Orleans failed to provide evacuations and help for special-needs and dialysis patients.

■ New Orleans police were ill-prepared and completely overwhelmed and lost “almost all effectiveness.”

students from violence. Authorities also announced a ban on rallies in eastern Pakistan for an indefinite period. Most shops, public transport and other businesses were also closed.

Demonstrations around Asia and the Middle East over the cartoons — which first appeared in a Danish newspaper in September and have been reprinted by other Western newspapers — have subsided in recent days, including in Afghanistan, where 11 people died in riots last week.

Many Muslims regard any depiction of the prophet as blasphemous. They reject the newspapers’ explanations that the cartoons have news value and represent free speech.

But the protests have gathered momentum in Pakistan this week. Islamic groups and traders’ associations have organized shutdowns and street rallies that have descended into violence.

Intelligence officials say members of outlawed Islamic militant groups have joined the protests, and may be inciting violence to undermine the pro-Western government of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Hundreds of Afghan refugees joined the protest in Peshawar, the capital of the conservative North West Frontier Province. Many chanted “Death to Denmark!” and “Hang those who drew the insulting cartoons!” Others burned Danish flags and effigies of the Danish prime minister.

Rioting also broke out Wednesday in the northwestern town of Tank, near the South Waziristan tribal region where security officials have said al-Qaida-linked foreign fighters are hiding. Protesters set fire to 30 shops selling CDs, DVDs, and videos, said Attiq Wazir, a local police

official. Suspected Islamic militants had warned music shops to close, witnesses said.

One policeman was injured when a protester opened fire to resist arrest.

In the eastern city of Lahore, fighting flared up for the second straight day. A 30-year-old man was shot dead in a clash with police as about 1,500 students staged a rally outside a university, hospital and police officials said.

On Tuesday, thousands of protesters went on a rampage in Lahore, burning Western businesses including McDonald’s, KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants. Two people died and police detained 125 people, a police official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Violent protests also erupted Tuesday in the capital, Islamabad. More than 1,000 students forced their way into a heavily guarded enclave housing foreign embassies. They damaged cars and a bank building, but were quickly expelled from the area with tear gas and water cannons.

Elsewhere in Asia, hundreds of Muslim protesters ripped apart and burned Danish flags Wednesday in a rally at the Danish honorary consulate in Manila, the Philippines.

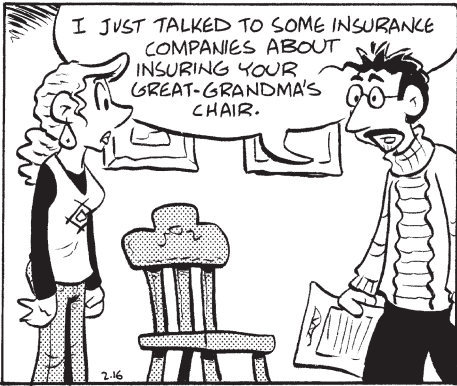
In Muslim-majority Malaysia, the government ordered Guang Ming, the country’s third largest Chinese-language newspaper, to halt publication of its evening edition for two weeks as punishment for printing a photograph in which the cartoons were visible.

Indonesia’s importers association also announced a boycott of Danish goods until the Danish government apologizes for the cartoons.

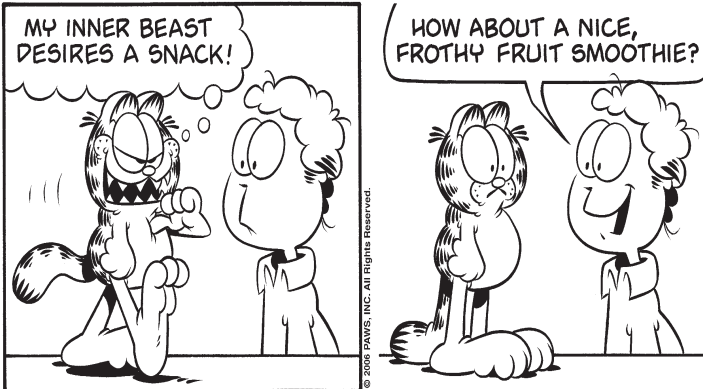


COMICS

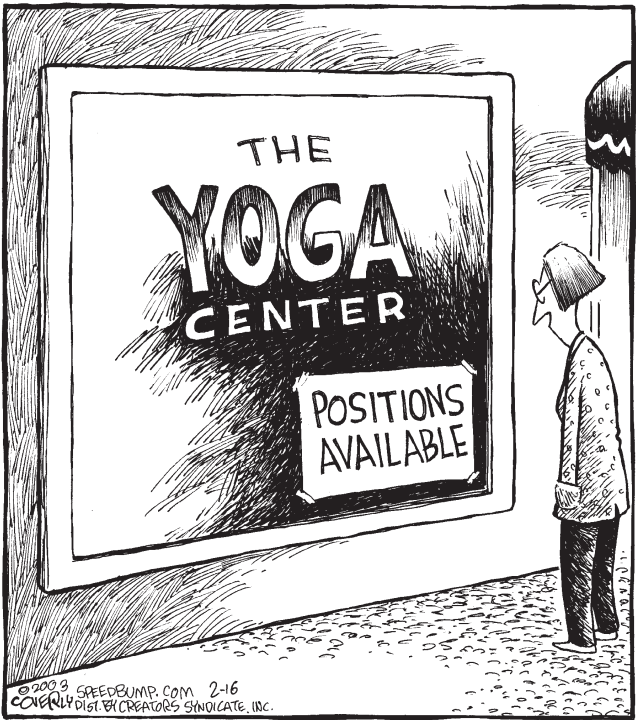
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



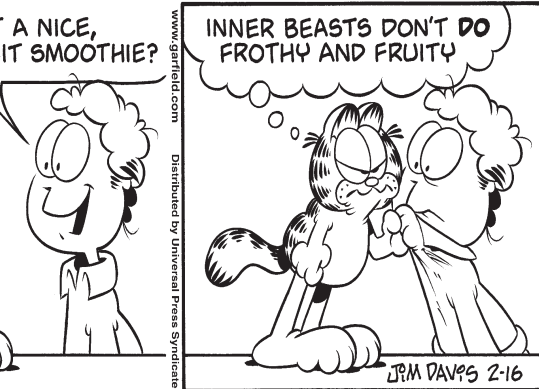
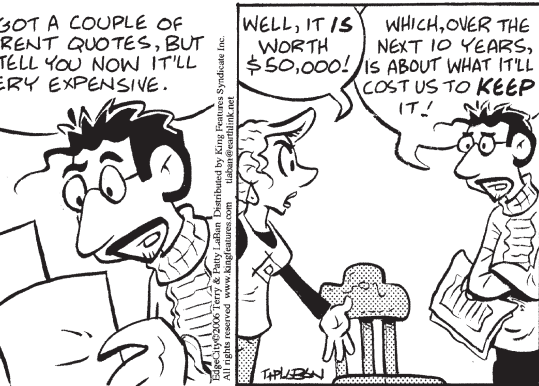
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Less bright
- 6 Make pigtails
- 11 Sprightly
- 12 Philosopher John
- 13 Cowled group
- 14 Devoured
- 15 Prize
- 17 Jotting spot
- 19 Rascal
- 20 Need to pay
- 23 Come in
- 25 Tied up
- 26 Position of control
- 28 Wander
- 29 Turn suddenly
- 30 Merino mom
- 31 One of the Hardy boys
- 32 German article
- 33 Lack of musical skill
- 35 Billiards shot
- 38 Of the highest quality
- 41 Postulate
- 42 Roof feature
- 43 Answer
- 44 Aids in crime

DOWN

- 1 Tennis star
- 2 Before today
- 3 Baseball hit
- 4 Antlered animals
- 5 Fidgety
- 6 Censor's sound
- 7 Wander
- 8 Deed
- 9 Mamie's hubby
- 10 Bear lair
- 16 "Nature" essayist
- 17 Mission man
- 18 Quiver unit
- 20 State of high activity
- 21 Zigzag
- 22 Come in
- 24 "— had it!"
- 25 Jargon ending
- 27 Popeye's adopted son
- 31 Pry
- 33 Awl or adze
- 34 Medina native
- 35 Roadster
- 36 Log chopper
- 37 Tear
- 39 Came together
- 40 Road curve

S	P	I	K	E			W	A	D	E
C	A	R	O	L			G	A	L	A
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T	I	T	L	E			A	N	T	I
S	E	T	S				B	O	O	N

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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Obituaries

Rose Silverton, 96, formerly of Santa Monica, passed away in San Luis Obispo, Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at a local care facility. Scattering at sea has been requested and will take place at a later date. Arrangements are by Wheeler-Smith Mortuary and Crematory of San Luis Obispo.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: August 3, 2005
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: JULIANOS RAW LLC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 609 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 2/16/06, 2/23/06, 2/2/06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24073 et seq.)
Escrow No. 40440-JH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax Numbers and business address of the seller(s)/licensee(s) are: ROYAL STAR

to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 03/09/06 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
RICHARD W. SHARPE
COMSTOCK & SHARPE, INC.
11100 WASHINGTON BLVD.
CULVER CITY, CA 90232
2/16, 2/17, 2/23/06
CNS-927623#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
EARL F. REINBOLD
CASE NO. BP096738**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of EARL F. REINBOLD.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LINDA LEE REINBOLD in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LINDA LEE REINBOLD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 03/15/06 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section

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**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JANE CHENOWETH
CASE NO. BP096711**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JANE CHENOWETH.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by NICHOLAS D. MANZELLA AKA DANNY MANZELLA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NICHOLAS D. MANZELLA AKA DANNY MANZELLA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority

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Notices

form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
GARY K. OLSEN, ESQ.
LAW OFF. OF GARY K. OLSEN
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 0167964 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Cell Phone Club, 1632 Barry Ave, #11, LA, CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Shahram Babakhani, 1632 Barry Ave, #11, LA, CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Shahram Babakhani
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/24/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/16/2006, 2/23/2006, 3/2/2006, 3/9/2006

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