



Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FOND FAREWELL TO A FRIEND ISSUE

TALE OF THE TICKER TAPE
SEE PAGE 14

A tough break for injured children

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY Imagine sitting in an emergency room for eight hours with your 9-year-old daughter, who is screaming at the top of her lungs from the excruciating pain of a broken wrist. Picture sitting there for hours, wondering if a physician is ever going to treat your child.

It's a parent's nightmare. It's also exactly what Aaron and Anita Astrup experienced on Feb. 15 at Saint John's Health Center, after their daughter, Ariel, injured herself up the street, in the playground at McKinley Elementary School.

That was then, this is now. Now, the couple is angry — angry that they had to wait so long before an orthopaedic surgeon was able to treat their daughter; angry that their daughter was reportedly injected with morphine three times to calm the pain in the meantime; and angry that even

SEE ST. JOHN'S PAGE 9



Photo courtesy

ON THE MEND: Ariel Astrup recovers at St. John's following a lengthy ordeal.



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

SHOULDER TO CRY ON: Anita Purnell is consoled following her talk at a peace march on Wednesday. Purnell's grandson was murdered at the age of 15.

Finding a separate peace

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI To mark the one-year anniversary of the murder of Santa Monica High School student Eddie Lopez, his classmates on Wednesday joined family members and the mothers of other victims of gun violence for a peace march through downtown.

Standing in front of the pictures of minority victims, advocates for peace said intervention and prevention efforts need to be funded at the same level as crime suppression and introduced a five-point plan to combat a sense of hopelessness that leads youth into a life of crime.

"I think the one thing we would like to get across is that many people think murders happen to bad people in bad neighborhoods. That's not the

case," said Marcela Leach, of Justice For Homicide Victims, whose daughter, a graduate of Santa Monica High School, was killed while sleeping in her bedroom in Malibu. "Murders happen everywhere and we want to stop the killing."

The march comes as prosecutors prepare a case against three men believed responsible for killing Lopez and Miguel Martin, both of whom were shot while walking with friends along Pico Boulevard. Lopez, who was killed on Feb. 28, 2006, and Martin, who was killed Dec. 27, 2006, were not affiliated with gangs and are believed to have been the victims of fate, having been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Sadly, if you are a low income person of color, you are at the wrong

SEE PEACE MARCH PAGE 10

Lawmakers unveil package of bills taking aim at gangs

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO Hours before more than 100 people took to the streets of Santa Monica to march in memory of a 15-year-old boy who fell victim to gang violence one year ago, Republican state lawmakers introduced a comprehensive effort to combat street violence.

Headed by Senators Tom Harman (R-Huntington Beach) and George Runner (R-Antelope Valley), the legislators introduced a gang bill package on Wednesday that includes a total of 14 different assembly and senate bills, all aimed at addressing what they call an "urban form of terrorism."

In Los Angeles alone, gang-related violence increased by 14 percent in 2006, according to the Los Angeles Police

SEE GANG BILLS PAGE 11



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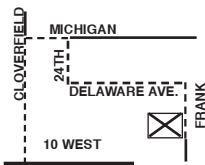
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'What's new this week'

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

The Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library presents a weekly review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad.
Free and open to the public.

Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group

11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo to provide additional leads and referrals to your line of work. Only one person per profession may join.
Call to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

Church Mice

1220 Second St., 3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Music, art projects, Bible stories, games and snacks are offered every Thursday in the Christian Education Building of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. Children 3 years of age through second grade are welcome. For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

Yoga for the Lenten Season

725 California Ave., 8:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

St. Monica's is hosting an all-day yoga event with a focus on how yoga can enhance the Christian experience. The day will include practice, discussion and time for personal reflection. Registration fee is \$75 (includes breaks and lunch). To register contact Larry Donnelly, St. Monica Pastoral Care Ministries, at (310) 319-9764 or e-mail larry@stmonica.net.

Kundalini Yoga

2309 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

This class combines the science of movement, posture, breath, sound and meditation. Donations accepted. For more information, please visit www.shiatsumassage.school.org.

'Junk Drawers'

3301 Pico Blvd., coffeehouse hours

Photography by Richard Gilbert will be on display at the UnUrban Coffeehouse through March 20. For more information on the exhibit, visit www.osmare.com.

Nordic LAttitudes

601 Santa Monica Blvd., Main Library hours

The Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Library, and Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners are presenting a six-week design and discussion called Nordic LAttitudes, an educational exhibit showcasing the best in Nordic furniture and lighting design. For more information, visit www.smpl.org/nordiclattitudes.

'Altar Boyz'

11301 Wilshire Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.

'Altar Boyz' is a musical-comedy spoof about a fictitious Christian boy-band on the last night of their national 'Raise the Praise' tour. Tickets are on sale at the Wadsworth Theatre Box Office, by phone at Ticketmaster (213) 365-3500 and online at www.WadsworthTheatre.com.

Friday, March 2, 2007

Santa Monica Critical Mass bike ride

Santa Monica Pier entrance, 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Ride through the neighborhoods of Santa Monica and Venice once a month. For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaCriticalMass.org.

Samohi Masterworks choral and orchestral concert

601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Samohi Choirs and Samohi Orchestra will perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Donna Nobis Pacem' at Barnum Hall. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors and students. For tickets or information, call (310) 395-3204, ext. 403.

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



CORRECTION

The link to sign a petition to save a historic beach cottage ("Saving Ocean park's history," Feb. 27, page 1) should have read: www.petitiononline.com/Cottage1/



If you derrière

Carson Kressley, fashion savant for Bravo TV's 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' struts his stuff Tuesday on the Third Street Promenade while filming scenes for 'How to Look Good.'

Michael Tittinger editor@smdp.com

Repeat offenders are killing us softly

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

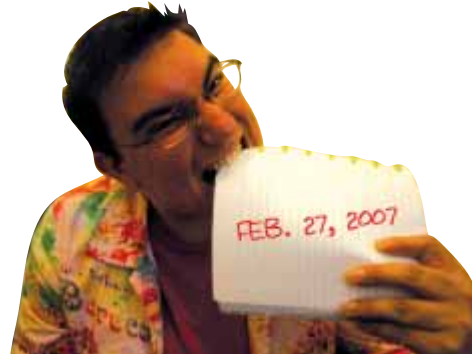
CITY HALL Sitting through another seemingly ceaseless City Council meeting, I couldn't help but hum some Steve Miller Band: "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."

Once again, the council yanked several items off of the agenda Tuesday night, due primarily to the parade of people who came out to speak on two items — the city's new cultural master plan and an update on runway safety enhancements at the Santa Monica Airport.

The agenda was stacked to begin with, so much so that I was reluctant to write about the public financing of City Council campaigns earlier this week out of fear that it would be jerked, and I was right, which leads me back to a notebook I wrote a few weeks ago where I questioned the thought process that goes into formulating the agendas.

Yeah, I've heard it before. The council doesn't know how many people are going to show up for any one item, but it doesn't take a City Hall insider to figure out which issues are going to cause a stir, especially when council members receive a glut of e-mails and phone calls from the public beforehand.

Something needs to be done when it comes to agenda management, and that something needs to happen now because there were plenty of irate people who were upset that the public financing piece was pulled very late in the evening, including Councilman Kevin McKeown, a big supporter of "clean money" campaigns.



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

ONE MAN'S TAKE ON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

"To not hear it (brings) a level of disappointment," said McKeown, who pointed to the contingent of experts on campaign finance reform waiting to speak. "Sometimes, I think it will be necessary for the council to buckle down and realize we can't always go home at 11 o'clock."

For the record, the council adjourned at 11:56 p.m.

Councilmember Pam O'Connor said the council cannot control the number of people who speak on items, and with more than 100 lined up on Tuesday, something needed to be done to end the meeting at a reasonable hour.

"We can't always get to everything," O'Connor said. "We will always have struggles. There will be winners and losers in that."

Mayor Richard Bloom, who is partly responsible for formulating the agendas, said he did not think it would be good

SEE NOTEBOOK PAGE 13

Get out: Universities ease application policies for homeschoolers

BY ANA BEATRIZ CHOLO
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES David Sample wanted to attend the University of California, Riverside but thought it was a lost cause because he had been homeschooled.

The UC system is known for being tough on nontraditionally schooled applicants. For them, the best tickets to UC have been transferring in after taking community college classes or posting near-perfect scores on col-

lege entrance exams.

"For homeschoolers, it was basically a shut door for us because of the restrictions," Sample said.

Last fall, however, Riverside joined a growing number of colleges around the country that are revamping application policies to accommodate homeschooled students.

The change came just in time for the 18-year-old Sample to apply and get accepted with a substantial scholarship.

Under Riverside's new policy, homeschoolers can apply by submitting a lengthy portfolio detailing their studies and other educational experiences.

Sample's package showed he had studied chemistry, U.S. history and geometry, rewired a house and helped rebuild a medical clinic in Nicaragua.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that 1.1 million, or 2.2 percent of all students in the nation, are homeschooled.

Some private colleges have eagerly

recruited those students for years and tailored application processes to include them. Homeschoolers still face challenges when applying to many public universities, but their chances of being considered are improving.

In 2000, 52 percent of all colleges in the country had a formal evaluation policy for applications from homeschoolers, said David Hawkins, director of public policy for

SEE HOMESCHOOL PAGE 11

Dr. Rachel West, D.O. - Board Certified Family Physician of contemporary medicine



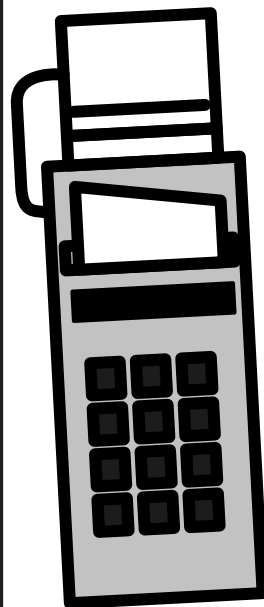
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Better bangers than smokers?
Editor:

I read (The Daily Press') article about the city of Santa Monica's proposal to prevent landlords from renting to smokers or allowing smoking in apartments ("Making SM smokeless a hot topic," Feb. 26, page 1). If the city does that, then I hope it makes a law that landlords can't rent to gang members or child molesters, because if a smoker can't rent a Santa Monica apartment, then gang members and child molesters will have more rights than smokers.

Helen McRoskey
Santa Monica

Slap happy reader the better for it
Editor:

(Re: "Smacking down spanking," Dear Dorie, Feb. 27, page 10)
I am 23 years old, was raised in Nebraska and had a paddle with my name written on it. So did my brother. And we're proof that spanking does work, if administered appropriately. True, spanking is not effective if it is a "panic spasm," because the parents "lost it," as you said. But you also said that in any situation resulting in a spanking you won't find a rational adult contemplating his or her decision.
False.

When I did something severely wrong, I was told to get my paddle. My parents would then discuss with me how many swats this offensive deserved. My father usually wanted many more, but my mother would convince him that a lower number would suffice. While I thought I deserved none! They would then ask me why I was receiving this spanking. I usually denied my wrongdoing at first, but with threats of adding swats I would soon admit that I had lied, stolen, cheated or whatever. I then received the decided number of swats.

Afterwards, my parents would look me in the eye and explain to me that they didn't hit me out of anger, they hit me out of love. My butt may have been sore. But my "oh-so-sensitive self-esteem" was still intact and I sure thought twice about acting badly!

Yes, there is a fine line between effective spanking and child abuse. But there are people who use spanking as an appropriate and effective tool.

Thank you for spanking me, Mom and Dad.
Erik Smith
Santa Monica

That's pretty tight
Editor:

The JetBlue passengers who were stranded on an icy runway at John F. Kennedy International Airport for up to 10 hours, and the commuters recently stuck on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for a similar length of time, understand how frustrating it can be to be trapped in a small space, especially if you need a bathroom break. It's uncomfortable, inconvenient and almost unbearable. But imagine how horrible it is for animals who are packed in crowded transport trucks for up to eight hours and shipped to slaughter without sufficient food, water or veterinary care.

Workers grab thousands of chickens by the feet and shove them into the drawers of 6-foot-high crates, often breaking their legs and wings in the process. Terrified cows are prodded onto trucks and often trample one another during the long journeys in all temperatures. Piglets weighing up to 100 pounds are given no more than 2.4 square feet of space, and farmers are warned that the piglets "probably will get sick within a few days after arrival." Once these animals reach their destinations, they are slaughtered and dismembered, often while they're still conscious.

So the next time you're delayed at the airport or sitting in a traffic jam, take a minute to think about these animals and the conditions that they endure. You can help them simply by going vegetarian.

Heather Moore
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



Iconoclast Blast

Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Feeling a touch ‘Lost’ when disaster strikes

LIVING ON PLANET EARTH CAN BE A dicey proposition. Even as our horizons expand with the global economy and the lightning-speed advancement of technology, instability and disaster are just a moment away. The war on terror, tsunamis, hurricanes, drought, famine, pestilence, Day 19 of the Anna Nicole Smith saga: The world can be a big, bad place that renders unexpected consequences. That's just part of the human condition.

If you've been paying attention to the way life works, you know there's nothing we can do about any of this. We're not living a fairy tale. You just have to strap yourself in and take whatever comes. All of it can make you feel like Dick Cheney: Growling, grumpy, gruff, and in denial about the basic tenets of reality. But don't count on an elite security team whisking you away to a vacuum-sealed bomb shelter every time the going gets rough.

In California, the great unknown is the time and location of the next major earthquake. We all know it's coming, but we don't know when. And while there's little we can do to prevent the next Big One, most experts agree on getting together an earthquake kit in preparation for the impending catastrophe and chaos. When I moved here, this seemed easy enough. There was a simple list of necessities I'd need in the apocalyptic afterworld. Some water, canned goods, a flashlight, fresh batteries, a radio so I could get updates about how utterly screwed all 36 million of us were. It seemed simple enough.

But nearly two years later, I have nary an item on the list. I haven't come close to putting together my earthquake kit, a fact that has caused a little tension between my fiancée and me. Her view is that it's best to be prepared, you never know what's going to happen. And I can't deny that after I miraculously extract myself from the rubble, put a tourniquet around my shattered leg, and shoo looters away from my dwelling, a meal of mineral water, beef jerky and refried beans straight from the can could be a welcomed treat.

On top of all this, we still have the images of the woeful official response to Hurricane Katrina seared in our minds. If you're stranded on your roof with churning floodwaters all around you, don't depend on the federal or local government to rescue you. You better have your own plans to get out of dodge. It's not a charity auction, people.

I think my inability to get together an earthquake kit comes partly from my personal outlook on the world and partly from the fact that I'm an American male in the 21st century. I'm too wrapped up in my own smallish daily challenges and anxieties to be worried about how I'm going to get myself

and loved ones out of the L.A. Basin and through the Mohave Desert after the inevitable tremblor reduces the world around us to medieval times. And there's a measure of denial here as well. I don't want to admit that the relatively perfect, pristine life that I'm fortunate to live, in fact, sits on both a real and metaphorical fault line. Anything can happen at any time.

As a typical guy, I also have a nonsensical fantasy about valor and heroism that I'm convinced will spring forth from the recesses of my pampered, complacent suburban self. If disaster strikes, I'll valiantly strap my loved ones on my back and do anything required to bring us to safety. Fist fight for the last case of clean drinking water for miles around? No problem. Securing gas so we can drive away from the shaken hellhole? I'll find a way. Having access to basic first-aid supplies in the moments after the earthquake. Um, hopefully I'll be able to get to the medicine cabinet?

I'M TOO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN SMALLISH DAILY CHALLENGES AND ANXIETIES TO BE WORRIED ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF AND LOVED ONES OUT OF THE L.A. BASIN.

After all, look at those people on "Lost" — normal people who, when met with the unfathomable challenge of survival in a primitive setting, turned their efforts into a hit TV program. That could be me!

The fact is, none of this is a joke, ask any of the millions who lived through Northridge. It's starkly memorable and I'm sure the possibility of the next earthquake doesn't seem so remote to them. So maybe this weekend, I should act like the responsible man of the house and outfit us with the bare necessities we'd need in a disaster. Or I could buy the first two seasons of "Lost" on DVD. I hear there are some great fight scenes.

Who knows? Maybe I could learn a thing or two that might come in handy down the road.

SETH BARNES can be reached at barnesseth@hotmail.com.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A.

Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Guest Commentary

J. Matt Barber

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The NY Times: All the news that's fit to slant

THEY SAY THAT THE PEN IS MIGHTIER than the sword, and for that reason they also say to tread lightly while criticizing anyone with both a warehouse full of ink and the inclination to use it against you.

But such is not the case with The New York Times, which has so discredited and marginalized itself through across-the-board, overtly slanted liberal "journalism" that its proud pen no longer cuts so deep and its venomous ink has lost its sting.

Rather than objectively measuring the events of our day as America's journalistic plumb line, The Times has become America's journalistic punch line.

It's a question many conservatives have asked for years: Can The New York Times stop its hard left spiral down the media bias toilet bowl of life? (OK, conservatives haven't really been asking that question — they don't particularly care.)

But as the "Gray Lady" shaves her credibility cranium buck bare in a Britney-esque breakdown, it's no wonder that her circulation continues to nose-dive.

Evidence of The Times' liberal bias is plentiful and falls to Earth from its West 43rd Street ivory tower like manna from Heaven, easing the hunger pangs of like-minded liberals wandering aimlessly in search of the "progressive" promised land. There are more examples of New York Times bias than there are fathers to Anna Nicole's baby, but for the sake of clarity, let's focus on one of the most recent.

In a Feb. 18 article titled "Narrowing the Religion Gap," Gary Rosen, Managing Editor of Commentary Magazine, takes a number of jabs at conservative Christians. Although the substance of his article narrowly differs from the hateful words of John Edwards' (D-North Carolina) former anti-Christian campaign bloggers — Amanda Marcotte and Melissa McEwan, his approach is slightly more intelligent and subtle.

While addressing the "religion gap in our politics" and the role conservative Christians play therein, Rosen graciously allows us to bask in the warm glow of his journalistic objectivity.

Painting all conservative Christians with that broad brush of tolerance and diversity, Rosen opines: The "culprits are familiar, having become stock characters in our politics ... McCain called them 'the agents of intolerance' ... For a taste of their views you can visit the Web site of Concerned Women for America (C.W.A.) ... As for dissenters from C.W.A.'s stand on issues like the 'sanctity of

human life,' a handy link to Bible passages explains 'why you are a sinner and deserve punishment in Hell.'"

So, Rosen gently takes his readers by the hand and leads them skipping merrily down the primrose path of social enlightenment where they are to ultimately reach the conclusion he's so carefully laid out for them — namely, that conservative Christians believe everyone must agree with them politically or be made to suffer eternal damnation.

Of course, in order to achieve his desired result, Rosen has to rearrange words a bit, take them entirely out of context and — oh — lie just a pinch.

Nowhere on CWA's Web site does it suggest that "dissenters from C.W.A.'s stand on issues like the 'sanctity of human life'" deserve "punishment in Hell." In fact, the page from which Rosen takes his quote makes no mention of anything political and simply walks visitors through the Gospel message — a message of faith, sacrifice and hope which is central to Christianity.

Scripture is clear that we're all sinners. The Bible affirms that in our fallen state, we all deserve nothing short of "punishment in Hell." And but for God's grace and Christ's tremendous sacrifice on the cross, that's exactly where we'd all end up. But in typical New York Times fashion, Rosen misleads the reader in an effort to create the perception that Christians are all "authoritarian bullies," "faith-based policy wonks" and "Bible-toting conservatives" as he later calls them while blathering on throughout his piece.

Members of the mainstream media can't seem to get it through their thick skulls that there's a new media in place now to counterbalance that famous left-wing media bias. Rosen's dishonesty and bias only reflects the equally transparent bias shared by the larger New York Times. That bias and dishonesty manifests itself daily within the newspaper's many pages.

So as the "Gray Lady" continues to morph before our very eyes into the proverbial "Old Gray Mare," the familiar tune's lyrics still ring true today. She sure "ain't what she used to be." And unless she changes her tune and makes an attempt to at least feign political impartiality in the future, those compassionate "death with dignity" liberal friends of hers may just have to put the old girl down.

MATT BARBER is an attorney concentrating in constitutional law and serves as cultural issues director for the Concerned Women for America.



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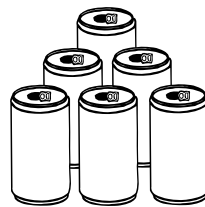
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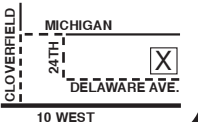
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The Q-Line

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What's all the racket about?

Wailing sirens during the wee-hours of the night. Thumping rotor blades of police copters swooping over the city. Loud squad car radios blaring out of cruiser windows. All sounds of the big city — or in the case of Santa Monica a little big city. We all know that living safe is important, but so is maintaining the quality of life in our hamlet by the bay. What do you think?

This week's Q-Line question asks:

Should these sounds be considered comforting, albeit inconvenient, parts of keeping the peace or just pariahs to the ear?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in next weekend's edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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Schwarzenegger looking for Capitol gains

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made the rounds on Capitol Hill on Tuesday seeking help for his universal health care plan and lecturing Washington lawmakers about cooperating on immigration, infrastructure and other issues.

Members of Congress largely welcomed his message, but he encountered skepticism about his push to redraw legislative and congressional districts. And not everyone was buying the moderate Republican's complaints that Washington is overly partisan and his call "to move forward in a post-partisan way."

"I don't agree with that position, that we're too partisan," Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a conservative from Huntington Beach, said after California delegation members met with Schwarzenegger. "There's a purpose for having a two-party system — it's to give the public a choice of what directions

they want to take the country."

Schwarzenegger said he'd be delivering his message of bipartisan cooperation around the country, but denied harboring political ambitions such exposure could serve. Schwarzenegger can't run for president because he wasn't born in this country. As for U.S. Senate or mayor of Los Angeles, Schwarzenegger said, "I have not thought about it, period."

"The idea is just to put a spotlight on those issues at a national level and remind people what needs to be done," he told reporters. Voters considering their choice for president should take his lead and choose "someone that is inclusive, someone that can make a deal," said the Republican governor, after a meeting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco.

Pelosi said the two "had a very positive discussion about how we can work together in a bipartisan way on issues that affect people of our country, but specifically on some issues where California is leading the way." She mentioned health care and energy independence.

The meetings came on the final day of Schwarzenegger's visit to Washington for a meeting of the National Governors Association. On Monday he pushed his message of bipartisanship in a speech to the National Press Club and signed an agreement with other Western governors to try to reduce global warming emissions.

In 2005 voters rejected a Schwarzenegger-backed initiative that would have established a commission of retired judges to draw legislative and congressional districts. Schwarzenegger wants districts redrawn to make races more competitive — seats in Congress and the Legislature rarely change party hands — and he now has a plan to have local election officials pick citizens to be in commissions and draw the districts.

California Democratic Reps. Zoe Lofgren and Hilda Solis said after meeting with Schwarzenegger that they had concerns about applying congressional redistricting just to California and not other states. Sen. Dianne Feinstein hadn't read up on the plan and seemed bemused by it.

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Diocese to file for bankruptcy on eve of trial

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego said Tuesday that it planned to file for bankruptcy protection to put off going to trial in more than 140 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by priests.

In a letter posted on the diocese's Web site, Bishop Robert Brom said the diocese made its decision because any damages awarded early in a trial could deplete "diocesan and insurance resources," leaving nothing for other victims. He also noted the time the process could take.

Attorney Micheal Webb said the diocese planned to file for bankruptcy protection by midnight, just hours before the first trial was scheduled to go forward Wednesday in a San Diego courtroom.

A Chapter 11 filing automatically halts court proceedings.

San Diego would become the fifth U.S. diocese to file for bankruptcy protection. It also would become the largest, with nearly 1 million parishioners.

Brom said in his letter that the diocese would disclose the names of accused priests who officials are certain participated in abuse, and "we will verify that no known abuser is functioning in ministry."

Diocese officials and plaintiffs' attorneys failed to reach a settlement during two days of negotiations, wrapped up Monday, in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The diocese called plaintiffs' attorneys Tuesday morning to make a "final and best" settlement offer, Webb said. He declined to specify how much the church had offered but said it was higher than total settlements reached in other U.S. dioceses.

"When they rejected it, we were left with no choice," Webb said.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs said the total amount the church had offered was insufficient because San Diego has more plaintiffs than other jurisdictions.

"It's meaningless," said attorney Andrea Leavitt.

They also accused the church of using bankruptcy as a way to keep potentially embarrassing information under wraps. By delaying civil trials, the filing prevents diocese officials from being confronted in court with potentially embarrassing facts, missteps or documents related to past handling of abusive priests.

**WHEN
THEY
REJECTED IT,
WE WERE
LEFT WITH
NO CHOICE."**

Micheal Webb
Attorney to diocese

Primary cause

California lawmakers hope early primary will save their jobs

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California politicians say they want an early presidential primary so the nation's most populous state can play a greater role in the nominating contest.

But it's an open secret here that what they really want is to keep their jobs a little longer.

The early election, which could scramble the dynamics of the presidential race, is the fulcrum of a complicated deal between Democratic leaders and Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that has nothing to do with presidential politics and everything to do with term limits on state lawmakers.

Moving California's presidential primary from June to February next year would give lame duck legislators, who include the Democratic leaders of both houses, one last chance to extend their terms before they are ousted from office.

The deal became more clear in mid-February when the top consultant to the Assembly Democratic leader and a strategist who has worked with Schwarzenegger said they would place a measure on the ballot to revise California's term limits law.

It is tailor-made to help Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata stay in their current jobs beyond 2008, when they otherwise would be forced out.

"The impetus for these politicians is not to put California earlier in the presidential effort," said Paul Jacob, president of U.S. Term Limits, "but for these politicians to line

their own political pockets."

The ballot measure appeared just two days after the state Senate voted in favor of a bill to hold a presidential primary on Feb. 5, while keeping elections for all other offices in June. The Assembly is expected to give its approval as soon as Thursday, and Schwarzenegger has said he will sign the bill.

The idea is to put the term limits measure on the February ballot. If it passes, Nunez, Perata and other legislators can run again in June.

A few Republican legislators are refusing to go along with the deal.



THE IMPETUS FOR THESE POLITICIANS IS NOT TO PUT CALIFORNIA EARLIER IN THE PRESIDENTIAL EFFORT."

Paul Jacob
president of U.S. Term Limits

If the true intent is to give California a greater voice in presidential politics, they say the entire primary should be moved from June to February next year. Refusing to do so only underscores that a February election is about lawmakers trying to extend their political lives.

County election officials told a Senate committee that a February primary would cost the state between \$60 million and \$90 million.

"We certainly didn't need another election," said state Sen. Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks. "We have lots of other things we can spend \$50 (million) or \$60 million on."

Dogs are barking: Eighty-three teams to vie for Iditarod title

BY MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Defending champion Jeff King shot back with one word when asked to describe his team for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race set to start Saturday.

"Fast," said the 51-year-old musher, who will find himself in fleet company again as 83 teams — and some familiar faces — line up for the ceremonial start of the 1,100-mile race from Anchorage to Nome.

The restart, where the mushers get serious about getting a piece of this year's approximately \$795,000 purse, begins Sunday in Willow, moved 30 miles up the trail because of too little, hard-packed snow near Anchorage.

The Iditarod — the longest sled dog race in the world — commemorates a shorter dash of 674 miles by dog teams in 1925 using the mail route from Nenana to deliver diphtheria serum to Nome after an outbreak of the disease threatened the lives of the Eskimos living there.

The modern-day Iditarod trail from Anchorage quickly leaves city-life behind as it courses through miles and miles of wilderness. The trail goes through dense forests, over two mountain ranges and along the wide and often windy Yukon River, then

along the dangerous sea ice up the Bering Sea Coast to the finish line in Nome.

In the first Iditarod in 1973, it took Richard Wilmarth 20 days, 49 minutes and 41 seconds to get to Nome. It was the only time Wilmarth ran the race. He got \$12,000.

King, a four-time winner from Denali Park, finished last year's race in less than half the time — nine days, 11 hours and 11 minutes. For winning, he got \$69,000 and a new truck.

King will be in familiar company this year. There's Martin Buser, 48, of Big Lake and Doug Swingley, 53, of Lincoln, Mont., both four-time winners themselves who also will be hoping to join Rick Swenson of Two Rivers as the race's only five-time winner. Swenson last won in 1991.

King, as well as the other top mushers, will be keeping an eye on Robert Sorlie, 48, of Norway, who has won the race twice in only three tries.

While someone else might win, King said it is unlikely.

"I'm into statistics," he said. "Statistically, it is the four of us. There are going to be really long odds on anybody but the four of us winning the Iditarod," he said.

One familiar face will be missing this year. Four-time champion Susan Butcher died of leukemia on Aug. 5, 2006.

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More snow slams Colorado; vehicles by the dozen crash

BY CHASE SQUIRES
Associated Press Writer

DENVER Nearly 30 people were hurt as dozens of vehicles crashed on a slippery Interstate 25 south of Denver Wednesday after a surprisingly potent storm dumped a more than a half-foot of snow on the Front Range.

The State Patrol reported 28 people were taken to hospitals, four with serious injuries and the others with minor to moderate injuries.

A 12-mile northbound stretch of I-25 was closed for several hours north of Colorado Springs, from Monument Hill to Larkspur, because of the wrecks and treacherous conditions.

Master Trooper Ron Watkins said authorities had to send a school bus to collect motorists stranded and bring them to a hotel in Castle Rock.

Watkins' advice to motorists: "Stay away from the area."

The National Weather Service had predicted less than 3 inches of snow for Denver, arriving later in the day, but a wind current began wringing moisture out of the air around sunrise and big flakes

began piling up quickly.

At least 7 inches of snow fell in the suburbs west of Denver and 10 inches in the foothills.

"It's getting to be that time of year, it's almost March," said National Weather Service meteorologist Robert Koopmeiners. "You expect it this time of year."

March is typically one of the state's snowiest months.



IT'S GETTING TO BE THAT TIME OF YEAR,
IT'S ALMOST MARCH. YOU EXPECT IT THIS
TIME OF YEAR."

Robert Koopmeiner, National Weather Service meteorologist

A winter storm warning was in effect for the central and southern mountains. A snow advisory was issued for Denver and the eastern foothills.

Eastern Colorado, hammered by a fast-moving storm over the weekend, remained dry Wednesday. Koopmeiners said the spring weather pattern generally spares those areas. And snow continued falling

across the mountains.

Steamboat Springs ski resort recorded 5 feet of snow in five days at its 10,000-foot summit, spokesman Mike Lane said. The resort had its second-snowiest February with 97 inches by midday Wednesday, he said.

"There's a lot of happy, smiling faces up here," Lane said.

Colorado Ski Country USA said all its member resorts had received some fresh

powder in the past 24 hours.

More snow was expected in the mountains Thursday, with a slight chance of snow across the Western Slope. Skies were expected to clear across lower elevations in the eastern half of the state.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

European, Asian markets drop second straight day

By the Associated Press

TOKYO Chinese stocks bounced back Wednesday after their biggest decline in a decade, but stock markets elsewhere in Asia and Europe fell for a second day amid investor worries about possible slowdowns in the Chinese and U.S. economies.

Shares in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Australia and the Philippines all tumbled more than 2 percent after Wall Street suffered its worst day since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

But as the day progressed, several Asian markets trimmed big early losses, and analysts said the sell-off was most likely a temporary correction to cool overheating markets, although they warned that markets would likely remain volatile for awhile.

"We don't need to worry about a big reduction from here, but this correction could continue for the next couple months," said Shinichi Ichikawa, an equity strategist with Credit Suisse in Tokyo.

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Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

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

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

ents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Thursday, March 1st (7L15-8:45) Santa Monica Main Library, Saturday March 3rd (10:00-12:00 Noon) Santa Monica Main Library, Tuesday, March 6th (7:15-8:45) Montana Branch Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

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

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Parents want schools to brace themselves

FROM ST. JOHN'S PAGE 1

though they wanted to leave for another hospital, they were instructed repeatedly to stay put.

Even more perplexing to them is that Dr. Russ Kino, medical director of emergency services at Saint John's Health Center, has refused their request to send a letter to fellow parents of McKinley Elementary children informing them that the hospital no longer admits children overnight for their emergency care.

"He said he couldn't give me a letter because, in most cases they get, they don't need to be admitted," said Anita Astrup on Tuesday. "They don't want to deter people from coming."

Approximately 99 percent of the children cared for at the hospital are well enough to send home, Kino said on Wednesday. Children who do need to be admitted to inpatient care are transferred to other hospitals that support that service, such as Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center or Cedar



Photo courtesy

BENT OUT OF SHAPE: Ariel Astrup's arm was broken in a school playground fall.

The ordeal began around 11 a.m., when the family arrived at the hospital and didn't end until 11 p.m., when Ariel Astrup was free to leave. The tear-stained girl was not seen by the orthopaedic surgeon until 7 p.m., according to her mother, who claims she was told by nurses that most of the pediatric doctors were out of town for a conference and the one available surgeon was backed up with patients.

Around 2:30 p.m., the parents reportedly asked a nurse if they could take their daughter to another hospital, but was told they would face a similar situation, since all the area emergency rooms were also backed up.

The situation was more than a normally relaxed father could take.

"I asked the nurse if it was possible to get some flies in here to make it feel a little more like a Third World country," Aaron Astrup said.

Even though Ariel Astrup was not seen by an orthopaedic surgeon until 7 p.m., she was treated throughout the day, as doctors administered an X-ray and provided her with pain medicine, Kino said.

The nurses did contact area medical centers to see if any of them could admit another child, but all had their hands full, Kino said.

"It was a perfect storm situation," he said. "We were sort of stuck in an unsavory position of trying to get an orthopaedic surgeon."

Since the incident at Saint John's exactly two weeks ago, Anita Astrup has gotten into contact with Resident Nurse Rachel Bressler of McKinley Elementary School.

"I was really floored to hear all this," Bressler said.

Bressler was concerned the student had the temporary bandage on for so long. The bandage is usually placed on for a short period of time to prevent movement while the child is being transported, she said.

After learning of what ultimately happened to her student, Bressler said she would probably tell parents to take their children to Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center if a similar non-life threatening situation arose again. But Bressler said her referrals will depend on the specific case at hand.

"Saint John's is a couple of blocks away," Bressler said. "I can see it from my window."

melodyh@smdp.com

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

I ASKED THE NURSE AT 2 P.M. AND ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO GET SOME FLIES IN HERE TO MAKE IT FEEL A LITTLE MORE LIKE A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY."

Aaron Astrup

McKinley Elementary School Parent

Sinai Medical Center.

The hospital stopped admitting children overnight a few years ago, after they noticed that there wasn't a big enough volume of sick children at Saint John's to justify the staff training, especially when there are other high quality hospitals in the region that do offer inpatient care for children.

McKinley Elementary School, located just two blocks east of St. John's, has referred children to the hospital for years and there is no need to send out a letter to throw people off their routine, Kino said.

"We do see children in the emergency department," Kino said. "Nothing has changed. This has been the position in the community for quite some time."

THINGS WERE TOUGH ALL OVER

A fourth grader at McKinley Elementary School, Ariel Astrup was playing a chasing game near the school playground slide when she broke her wrist. A school nurse then placed a temporary bandage on the child's wrist to prevent movement and referred the parents to Saint John's because it was closest to the school.

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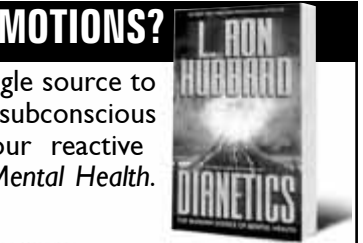
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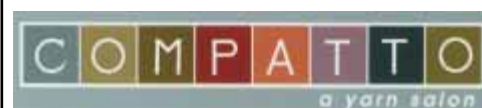
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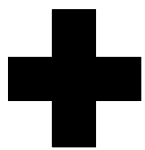
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Use Metro Rail and a \$3 Day Pass to see all the action for the 22nd Annual LA Marathon on Sunday, March 4. This year's course starts in Universal City and winds through the heart of LA to finish downtown. Be sure to check metro.net for information on extensive March 4 bus detours prompted by the race.

Transit Village Underway For Hollywood/Vine

Groundbreaking has been held on the Hollywood/Vine Transit Village at Metro Rail's Hollywood/Vine Station. The multi-use development will include 55,000-square feet of retail space, a 300-room hotel, approximately 375 apartments and a two-story below ground parking structure.

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Help make a difference in the bus service in your community. Attend Metro's Westside/Central Governance Council meeting on Wednesday, March 14 at 5pm at La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. For information, search "Metro Westside/Central" at metro.net.



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WHEEL OF 808



Fabian Lewkowicz fabian@smdp.com

SAYING IT LOUD: Students and residents walk north along Lincoln Boulevard on Wednesday in a show of unity against gang violence.

Ringling in 'a new day'

FROM PEACE MARCH PAGE 1

place all of the time because they are living in communities that are being neglected," said Oscar de la Torre, vice president of the school board and executive director of the Pico Youth & Family Center, which provides after school programs and counseling for children and young adults.

"Wherever poverty and hopelessness exist, we have this problem of young people dying on our streets," de la Torre added. "It is self-destruction. We have young people killing each other and much of that has to do with social and economic inequality."

He pointed out that in the last decade, 38 people have been killed in the Pico Neighborhood, a part of the city that de la Torre and others feel has been neglected.

"Today is a new day," he said. "We need to come together to make things better so young people do not lose hope, so that young people do not risk their lives to take lives, so that young people are not killed for the sake of a street name where they don't even own a home."

Councilman Kevin McKeown, who supports hiring a gang czar to help coordinate regional efforts to end gang violence — much like City Hall has done with homelessness — praised police officers for tracking down the alleged killers of Lopez and Martin, and emphasized the need for community members to join together in assisting law enforcement by taking back their streets.

"We are doing a great job on enforcement, but enforcement is only part of it," McKeown said. "We need prevention and intervention and I call on the community to work very seriously towards that and commit the resources to prevent gangs in Santa Monica. We adults have to show the kids that we care. I don't want to go to any more funerals."

One way residents can get involved is to lobby legislators in Sacramento and the governor to pass legislation targeting gangs and guns (see related story). Several bills were introduced recently that gun control advocates hope will stem the tide of violence.

Some of the bills include requiring all semiautomatic handguns to be equipped with microstamping, so that law enforcement would be able to match bullet casings recovered at crime scenes to the firearms and criminals that fired them, and requiring all gun owners to report when a gun has been stolen.

"Firearm violence makes up approximately 80 percent of all homicides," said Devin Cotter, programs assistant with Women Against Gun Violence. "This package of bills will cut down on the use of illegal guns, which are fueling gang crime and the homicide rate we see here in Santa Monica and throughout California. These bills are anti-crime and with the support of Santa Monica and other cities, we can urge the governor to pass this package."

As organizers of the march spoke, mothers of victims

sobbed in the background, the pain of losing a loved one still fresh as they have been unable to find closure since many of the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

In the case of Lopez and Martin, Santa Monica police, with the help of the Los Angeles Police Department, were able to make arrests earlier this month that they believe will help bring an end to the killings and drive-by-shootings that have plagued the Pico Neighborhood for years.

While she has found some comfort in the arrests, Lopez' mother, Arminda Lopez, still struggles with her son's death, evident on Wednesday as she broke down in tears while gazing at a picture of him when he was a young boy. She said the only thing that has helped her fight through the pain is the love and support she has received from the community, which banded together following Lopez' death.

ALL I CAN SAY IS THANK YOU TO THE POLICE FOR HELPING ME, AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN SANTA MONICA WHO HAVE GAVE ME A LOT OF SUPPORT. WITHOUT THEM, I WOULD HAVE DIED TOO."

Arminda Lopez, mother of Eddie Lopez

That support continues, evident by the scores of students who followed her as she marched along Lincoln Boulevard. Students and faculty at Samohi also held several events earlier in the week to pay tribute to Lopez and others who have lost their lives to violence. In addition to holding a moment of silence, students have been working on a peace quilt that they will present to the Lopez family, and are working on a memorial wall with various art projects.

"I don't know what to say, because so many things have happened in this city," Arminda Lopez said. "My baby was only 15 years old. I just feel bad because these kids [gang members] don't know what they are doing. They are taking somebody's life, hurting their families."

"All I can say is 'thank you' to the police for helping me, and thank you to all of the people in Santa Monica who have gave me a lot of support," Lopez said. "Without them, I would have died too."

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Lawmakers out to stop surge in gang violence

FROM GANG BILLS PAGE 1

Department.

"In Orange County, there's been identified 314 different street gangs, and just last year, we had 35 gang-related homicides," said Harman, before heading back to his district on Wednesday. "It's a problem that is getting bigger and bigger every year."

The package is split into three categories — intervention and prevention; disruption and suppression of street gangs; and justice for gang violence victims — with some bills overlapping into different categories.

Co-authored by Runner and Harman, SB 657 leads the pack. The proposed bill would provide more resources to suppress gang violence in high school campuses, increase penalties to adults who commit felonies with a juvenile accomplice, and give more resources to witness protection programs.

Many gangs start on campuses, so it's vital that new legislation combat the gang culture at the high school level, Harman said.

"They intimidate other hard working students," he said. "This whole package just goes from prison gangs to schools to education to the parole officer."

While Americans are watching terrorism unfold overseas, there is also terrorism occurring right in their own backyard, Harman said. Gang violence has become such a problem that children don't even feel safe visiting parks.

SB 550, proposed by Senator Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield), addresses park safety for children by establishing a 1,000-foot gang crime-free buffer zone around all parks.

Another bill, AB 894, introduced by Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi (R-Lodi), seeks to enforce harsher prison sentences for gang-related crimes, requiring that all offenders serve at least 10 years in addition to other penalties. The sentence would apply to all gang-related crimes, regardless of the age of the offender. He believes the bill will make juveniles think twice before breaking the law.

A series of senate and assembly bills seek to disrupt and discourage gang violence. One even goes as far as requiring that all offenders of convicted gang-related offenses wear GPS monitoring so they can easily be tracked.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE

Several Democratic lawmakers have already introduced their own versions of gang-prevention legislation. Two weeks ago, Assemblywoman Nell Soto (D-Pomona) presented AB 301, a proposal that would create the position of a statewide Gang

Prevention Coordinator with the office of the California Attorney General.

The coordinator is expected to provide cohesion in the state's current efforts to curtail gang violence — efforts which are currently occurring in different independent agencies. The disconnect between the different agencies dealing with gang violence prevention has caused such efforts to be ineffective, Soto said. The program should cost no more than \$150,000 in new state spending.

"Unless we, as Californians, come together to develop solutions, the state's gang problem will only get worse," Soto said.

Her colleague Mary Salas (D-Chula Vista) introduced AB 802, which would create the California Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The bill was brought on after the San Diego City Council

THERE'S BEEN IDENTIFIED 314 DIFFERENT STREET GANGS AND JUST LAST YEAR, WE HAD 35 GANG RELATED HOMICIDES."

Tom Harman
State Senator, Huntington Beach

created a similar commission in November 2006. The commission on the state level would coordinate efforts between the state, cities and law enforcement.

"Gang problems are prevalent throughout the state and we need to take what San Diego did one step further," Salas said.

Approximately 80 percent of gang prevention resources are spent in enforcement and the recidivism rate for gang members released from jail who re-enter the gang life is 75 percent, said Oscar de la Torre, the founder of the Pico Youth & Family Center.

More attention needs to be paid to prevention and intervention, he said.

Jail is not necessarily a deterrent, since many gang members learn the gang culture in prison.

"Anything that strengthens gang culture behind prison walls is going to make it harder for us to keep the peace on the streets," de la Torre said.

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Homeschoolers want respect

FROM HOMESCHOOL PAGE 3

the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Four years later, the number jumped to 83 percent. During that time, 45 percent of colleges reported receiving more applications from homeschoolers, he said.

Major schools that now post application procedures for homeschooler on their Web sites include Michigan State University, Oregon State University and the University of Texas.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also willing to consider home-

schoolers. The highly regarded school does not require a high school diploma. As part of its admissions process, it considers scores from college entrance exams and asks applicants to submit a 500-word essay, detail five extracurricular activities and offer two teacher evaluations.

"We evaluate every student based on who they are," said Merilee Jones, dean of admissions at MIT.

UC Riverside is actively recruiting homeschoolers, said Merlyn Campos, interim director of undergraduate admissions.

"There are a lot of students out there that are very prepared for a college level education," she said.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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Tel. (310) 458-8701 TTY (310) 458-8696 Fax (310) 458-3380

Email: human.services@smgov.net

Applicants are required to attend **ONE** of two proposal workshops:

- **February 27, 2007, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**
Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401
- **March 6, 2007, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

ALL PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007

For more information,
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Dr Lisa Masterson, M.D., is an obstetrician and gynecologist and founder of the Santa Monica-based Maternal Fetal Care International – a nonprofit public benefit corporation – that helps mothers and children survive and enjoy better health in impoverished parts of Africa and India.



Dr. Janet K. Salomonson, M. D., F.A. C.S., is a plastic surgeon and Director of the Cleft Palate Center at St. John's Health Center. She teaches and performs cleft palate reconstruction on children and adult patients in remote countries such as Nicaragua, Guatemala and Peru.



SMPD Detective, Don Doss donates thousands of hours a year in time looking after the well being of Santa Monica's seniors. He is considered to be an expert in the field of elder abuse and advises many agencies and boards on senior issues.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



The "Red Tie Affair" benefits the American Red Cross of Santa Monica.

Wrap it up: Public should keep it brief

FROM NOTEBOOK PAGE 3

policy to go late into the evening when people are tired, hungry and not thinking clearly. Bloom has made it a practice of setting an 11 p.m. deadline for the council to finish its business, which I appreciate, because it means I can go home early, but if that is going to be the norm, the agendas need to be shorter or better planned.

In the end, the public financing piece was put on hold, as was the issue of expanding access to the airport from Santa Monica College's Bundy Campus (a hot-button issue to be sure) and expedited permitting for solar electric and solar thermal systems.

Ironically, agenda management was also pulled off the table.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER

So what did the council do Tuesday night? A lot, actually.

In addition to approving several construction and consulting contracts, including one for a new Big Blue Bus customer service center that Mayor Pro Tem Herb Katz opposed because of the \$650,000 price tag, the council settled a couple of suits — \$75,000 for a sewer backup in a home that forced a family to relocate and \$1.3 million for bus accident that killed a pedestrian. City Hall will pay \$965,000, with its insurer picking up the rest.

From there, the council received an update on the Exposition Light Rail line and efforts to bring it to Santa Monica. It was nice to hear from county transportation officials they are still committed to doing so, despite rumblings that it would be put on hold in favor of other Westside projects — namely, Green Line extension and carpool lanes. Keep an eye out for an upcoming article on the Expo Line's progress.



Photo courtesy

IN MEMORIAM: Council dedicated the meeting Tuesday to the memory of former Mayor Mike Feinstein's mother, Beth Feinstein.

Downtown Parking Strategy Plan.

"See, we passed three items in five minutes," Bloom said. "Now we are really moving along."

Not so fast, close to two dozen people came out to show their support for the city's cultural master plan, called "Creative Capital."

I've already written several stories on this so, I won't elaborate. However, I will say that it wasn't necessary for so many people to say what amounted to the same thing. I know it's big and people spent more than a year working on it, but at the end of the day, keep it brief and keep it interesting. Now that would be creative.

The same applies to runway safety. Sentiments not only become redundant, but sameness only dilutes the impact of the statements made. I'm all for the public process, but let's be smart about it and the two or three best speakers and let's get on with it.

And with that, I should take my own advice and end this rant. Time is running out and I still have another story to write before deadline.

But before I go, I have to mention the passing of two fixtures in the community — Beth Feinstein, mother of former Mayor Michael Feinstein, and Steven Alpert, a long-time activist and key member of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

The council paid tribute to both individuals, adjourning the meeting in their honor.

Feinstein was remembered for being very supportive of her son, often attending council meetings and other functions with him, always beaming with pride.

Alpert was a member of the SMRR steering committee and an active member of the Democratic Party, who may have come off as a curmudgeon, Councilmen Ken Genser said, but underneath it all he had a warm heart and cared deeply about Santa Monica.

Both will be missed.

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

THE COUNCIL RECEIVED AN UPDATE ON THE EXPOSITION LIGHT RAIL LINE AND EFFORTS TO BRING IT TO SANTA MONICA. IT WAS NICE TO HEAR FROM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS THEY ARE STILL COMMITTED TO DOING SO.

Next, the council heard from some residents who were appealing a Landmarks Commission decision that denied them the chance to build a new home in the Third Street Historic District.

That took up nearly an hour of our lives.

From there, the council jumped into a few ordinances dealing with hedges and product sampling on the pier and promenade, and then ordered the city manager to purchase some downtown properties to the tune of \$30.9 million as part of the

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Recession not in forecast

Greenspan and co. don't see stock dive as a reason to panic

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Alan Greenspan and the Wall Street nosedive aside, economists think the probability of a U.S. recession this year is fairly low and the likelihood of one in China is even slimmer.

Greenspan, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve, warned this week that the world's largest economy - the United States - could slip into recession this year. That would be bad news for the global economy, too.

However, many economists put the probability of a recession at about one in five.

The biggest risk to the five-year-old U.S. economic expansion is that the housing slump might take an unexpected turn for the worse, analysts say. In one dire scenario, not only would consumers and businesses clamp down on spending and investing, but troubles could spread to lenders dealing in risky mortgages, triggering a financial crisis.

The latest U.S. economic barometers released Tuesday were mostly good, but they failed to ease investors' anxiety. The Dow Jones Industrials closed down more than 400 points. At one point during the day, the slide approached 550.

The National Association of Realtors reported that sales of previously owned homes — the biggest chunk of the housing market — rose by 3 percent in January from

the previous month. That was the largest gain in two years. While the sales boost was helped out by last month's unusually warm weather, it still raised hopes that the worst of the residential real-estate bust may be over.

Even if that turns out to be the case, the pain of the housing slump will continue to be felt this year because the inventory of unsold homes is still bloated. That will take time to fix and may drag down home prices even more.

The nationwide median price of an existing home sold in January sank to \$210,600, a drop of 3.1 percent from last year and the third-largest annual decline on record. The median price is where half sell for more and half for less.

THE PAIN OF THE HOUSING SLUMP WILL CONTINUE TO BE FELT THIS YEAR BECAUSE THE INVENTORY OF UNSOLD HOMES IS STILL BLOATED.

So far, consumers — the lifeblood of the economy — have been spending sufficiently to keep the economy moving ahead. The worry, though, is that people who had treated their homes like ATMs — when values were soaring through the five-year housing boom that ended in 2005 — will cut back on their spending as home prices in some markets drop or go up only a little.

Before Tuesday's huge stock market drop, consumers seemed in buoyant spirits.

Consumer confidence zoomed to a 5½-year high in February with people feeling better about current economic conditions as well as the jobs climate. The Conference Board's

index climbed to 112.5 from 110.2 in January. That should bode well for the national economy because if consumers are feeling optimistic they may be more inclined to spend.

A third report, also released Tuesday, underscored the struggles of the nation's manufacturers, who have been feeling the strain from the ailing housing and automotive sectors as well as intense foreign competition. Orders for big-ticket manufactured goods plunged 7.8 percent in January, the largest decline since October, the Commerce Department said.

Economic growth for the final quarter of 2006 is expected to be downgraded on Wednesday to a subpar 2.3 percent pace

City grants bolstering green boom

By Daily Press staff

David Hertz, principal of David Hertz AIA Architects in Santa Monica, is looking to push the limits of green design in building a new office to house his Studio of Environmental Architecture (Studio EA). Features such as high-tech lighting systems, two types of solar electric systems, natural ventilation strategies, permeable paving and a demonstration living roof are expected to earn the structure a platinum LEED certification — the highest level possible — as well as a \$35,000 a grant from the city of Santa Monica.

LEED is the acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the green building rating system created by the US Green Building Council

"The city's grant really made a difference in allowing me to go farther with green design on this building," Hertz said.

Studio EA's is the first of 10 grants the city will issue to LEED NC-certified private sector projects. Grant awards range from \$20,000 for a basic LEED certification to \$35,000 for LEED Platinum. In addition to grants, the city will expedite new construction projects that are certified under any of the LEED certification programs, including LEED for Homes.

Those interested in learning more about green building are invited to attend the city's fourth annual AltBuild Expo, May 18-19, at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. A green building tour will follow on May 20.

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HOCKEY

Sharks grab Guerin for their playoff push

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. The San Jose Sharks acquired forward Bill Guerin from the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday, adding another veteran to their young club hours before the NHL trading deadline.

The Sharks, who entered the day tied for fifth place in the Western Conference after a recent slump, gave up left wing Ville Nieminen, college forward Jay Barriball and New Jersey's first-round pick, which they acquired last year.

Guerin, a four-time All-Star and one of the NHL's top American-born players, revitalized his career in his first season with St. Louis, scoring 28 goals and 47 points in his 14th pro campaign.

The bruising power forward, who had only 13 goals last season, waived his no-trade clause to leave the rebuilding Blues for

a team aiming to contend for a Stanley Cup.

"I'm very excited about the trade, and I just have to come in and play my game, play the way that they expect me to," Guerin said in a phone interview from the St. Louis airport, where he was waiting for a flight to Chicago and on to San Francisco.

"I know (Sharks GM) Doug (Wilson) had mentioned (getting) an experienced player, and I'm going to have to bring some experience. I've been around a long time."

The deal meant another chance to stockpile draft picks and young talent for the rebuilding Blues, who were 11th in the Western Conference. St. Louis traded Keith Tkachuk to the Thrashers on Sunday and will have three first-round picks in this year's draft and eight selections in the first four rounds.

"What we got in return, I think anybody out there knows we did really well," team president John Davidson said.

BASEBALL

Vets committee throws Hall shutout

BY BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK The Hall of Fame pitched another shutout.

Ron Santo, Jim Kaat, Marvin Miller and all the other candidates were left out Tuesday when the Veterans Committee admitted no new members for the third straight election.

The blank slate could lead to changes before the next vote in 2009.

"We're being blamed because something hasn't happened," Hall member and vice chairman Joe Morgan said. "If you're asking me, 'Do we lower our standards to get more

people in?' my answer would be no."

Santo came the closest to the required 75 percent. A nine-time All-Star, the former Cubs third baseman was picked on 57 of 82 ballots (70 percent). Players needed 62 for election.

Kaat, a 283-game winner and strongly backed by Hall member Mike Schmidt, drew 52 votes. Gil Hodges, who hit 370 home runs, got 50 votes and three-time AL batting champion Tony Oliva had 47.

Umpire Doug Harvey received 52 of the necessary 61 votes on the ballot for managers, umpires and executives. Miller showed a strong increase in getting 51 of the potential 81 votes.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 57°**

SWELL FORECAST (6-9 FT)
Today should see the last of the Gulf swell duo with surf expected to run head high at most west facing breaks for the very early AM sessions. Size will be diminishing throughout the day with size only waist high or so by nightfall. Conditions are still looking rather messy, although winds will calm somewhat and rain should be gone as well.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SMALL WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 20, 2007**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)	Number of sewage spills -- 10 Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4 Number of wet days -- 11 Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 31 Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 15	The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from
--	---	--

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Camillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	WVA Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A	C
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	WVA Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	WVA Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	F
Ermaul Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	A+	WVA Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	A
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A	C
Loriga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	C
Selena Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Powers State Beach at creek mouth	C	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	C
Maine Canyon storm drain at Powers Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Serfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	C
Serfider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Tappan St.	A+	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- flagpole tower	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballinas Creek mouth	B	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	C	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pine Creek at Las Torres County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	C
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	B	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	D
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	B	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A			

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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

A must appearance, Scorpio

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Don't even question if you will need your creativity at play. This is a day where you feel much is resolved, and then suddenly everything is a mess. The end results will be excellent if you stay calm, cool and collected. Tonight: Let off steam with a favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You will need to stay centered, as others make what you perceive to be unnecessary demands. You also might need to listen to a friend or associate. Revise your thinking, and you will find events easier. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a way with words that draws several different reactions. Some might love what you say, and others might react negatively. Just be yourself and stay centered. Others often react to news, but it doesn't mean you have to change your style. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might be on overload and spending way too much money. Someone might encourage you to continue on this very wild path. Be smart and say "absolutely no." Claim your power, and you will be a lot happier. Tonight: Design a reasonable budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might find that to make your point, you need to be overly serious and direct. Others prefer to be in a witty state of mind in which they don't need to digest or handle issues. Tonight: Just be yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ Know when to back up and approach a situation in a novel manner. You might not be comfortable, yet you need to let events play out. A real estate investment could be very beneficial. Tonight: Some private time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Follow the action. Pressure builds, especially with an older or very serious friend. With your good nature, you'll make the right choice. Soothe someone's nerves by talking and understanding. Tonight: What would make you happy?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Someone isn't kidding, especially a boss or someone who has a position of authority in your world. You might need to spend some money in order to make some. Establish boundaries. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Reach out for experts. If a problem arises or a solution evades you, get more information. You will get the answers. Your positive attitude carries you through any tumultuous situations that you need to deal with. Tonight: Relax your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be giving far more of yourself than you realize. Know when to back off and say you have had enough. Your energy, combined with another's insights, makes you a powerful team. No one will want to say "no" to you. Tonight: An important talk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might not be getting someone's message as clearly as he or she would like. Consider revising your thoughts about a relationship that frequently somersaults from good to bad. How much are you willing to endure? Tonight: Don't interfere or try to change someone's mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might be fed up with work but have little choice but to do what you have to do. Pressure builds, and you get irritable or vague. You might be successfully screening information that you don't want to deal with. Tonight: Relax with the moment.

Born Today
Bandleader Glenn Miller (1904)
Musician Harry Belafonte (1927)
Director Ron Howard (1954)



Happy Birthday!
You have spirit and imagination this year. Your focus will remain on your day-to-day life and what you achieve. In some way, you need a change or a way of revitalizing your life and/or work. If you use your ingenuity, you will come up with many different ideas. Test them out; see how they work. If you are single, though you might enjoy a relationship, sometimes it isn't everything it's cracked up to be. You might opt to be single for a while. If you are attached, you, as a couple, will benefit from going out and about. You enjoy that time with each other.

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'Hangin' at 75 Fashionably late Taylor dazzles at birthday bash

ELIZABETH TAYLOR, decked out in diamonds and fur, arrived fashionably late to her 75th birthday party.

The Hollywood icon was in a wheelchair when she came down the red carpet Tuesday at a Las Vegas-area resort. She was escorted by her 52-year-old son, Christopher Wilding, who shares the same birthday.

Some guests had been at her party more than two hours when Taylor arrived,

smiling and batting her trademark violet eyes as photographers sang "Happy Birthday." Aides said her plane was delayed arriving from the Los Angeles area.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, she quipped: "Hangin' in."

Some 75 people were expected for a Mardi Gras-themed dinner of jambalaya, prime rib, collard greens, sweet potatoes and cake.

Guests including Debbie

Reynolds and her daughter, Carrie Fisher; magicians Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn; and model Kathy Ireland turned out for the private party at the Medici Cafe and Terrace at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas.

Among Taylor's closest friends are pop star Michael Jackson, whose spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday in a news release that he is now living in Las Vegas.

Taylor said she spoke with Jackson earlier in the day but didn't expect him to attend her party. Besides Christopher, her children Michael Wilding, 54; Elizabeth "Liza" Todd, 49; and Maria Burton, 45 were there.

The Academy Award-winning actress, who uses a wheelchair because of back problems, has dismissed tabloid reports that she was being treated for early Alzheimer's disease. AP



TAYLOR

LEARNING FROM AN ICON



HEPBURN

A school in eastern India built with money raised in the auction of **AUDREY HEPBURN'S** iconic black dress was inaugurated Wednesday by French author and philanthropist Dominique Lapierre.

Some 200 children will be able to attend the school in Bishnupur, a village nearly 30 miles south of Calcutta, the capital of the West Bengal state.

"I am very happy that my efforts are fructifying. Things are changing with more and more children going to school," Lapierre told cheering students.

The school is one of 15 to be built in the state with \$807,000 paid by high bidder Givenchy, now a division of LVMH, at an auction in December. AP

Hilton could be checking into jail following latest driving faux pas

PARIS HILTON could have her probation revoked — possibly resulting in jail time — if she is found to have been driving with a suspended license because it would violate conditions of her previous sentence for reckless driving, authorities said Wednesday.

The 26-year-old hotel heiress and star of "The Simple Life" was ticketed for misdemeanor driving with a suspended license after her blue Bentley

Continental GTC was pulled over on Sunset Boulevard on Tuesday, Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Duane Allen Jr. said.

She was stopped about 11 p.m. after authorities saw the car speeding with its headlights off, Allen said.

"Our office is waiting to obtain a copy of the citation," said Nick Velasquez, a spokesman for the Los Angeles city attorney's office. "Once we're able to verify that Miss Hilton was driving the vehicle, we will

request that the court revoke her probation and set a probation violation hearing."

Hilton could face up to 90 days in jail if a judge finds she violated her probation, he said.

"That is certainly one of the possibilities," Velasquez said. "The judge would make that determination."

A call to Hilton spokesman Elliot Mintz wasn't immediately returned.

In January, Hilton pleaded no contest to

alcohol-related reckless driving stemming from a Sept. 7 arrest in Hollywood. She was sentenced to 36 months' probation, alcohol education and \$1,500 in fines.

Earlier, Mintz said Hilton was on her way home Tuesday from buying DVDs at Virgin Megastore in West Hollywood after spending the day at home for a photo shoot.

Mintz said Hilton didn't realize the car's headlights weren't on. AP

Farrow details desperation in Darfur

MIA FARROW says she encountered burned villages and terrified refugees with no help in sight on her recent trip to Central African Republic and Chad.

At a news conference Tuesday, the 62-year-old actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador recalled impressions from her visits earlier this month to villages and refugee camps along border areas where violence has spilled over from Sudan's Darfur region.



FARROW

Farrow said her convoy stopped on a seemingly desolate road in northwestern Central African Republic after passing "burned village after

burned village after burned village — it was numbing and dispiriting."

She said she heard that people were living along the roadside, even though the area appeared to be uninhabited, and that they might appear if the unarmed convoy paused.

After waiting silently for 15 minutes, people began to emerge "like specters, emaciated, with remnants of clothes or no clothes at all, terrified," she told a

U.N. news conference.

From talking to them, Farrow said she learned the people were too scared to return to their villages and rebuild — but they were also afraid of who might find them in hiding.

At the sound of a vehicle approaching on the road, "you could hear the pounding of feet on the hard clay ground as 300 people vanished, vanished into the bush in sheer terror," she said. AP

Jolie is out to get Darfur evil-doers

BY PAUL BURKHARDT
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA Angelina Jolie made a two-day trip to a camp in eastern Chad this week, where she visited refugees from neighboring Sudan's Darfur region.

"It's always hard to see decent people, families, living in such difficult conditions," said Jolie, who reached the 26,000-person Oure-Cassoni camp after crossing a Saharan sandstorm.

"What is most upsetting is how

long it is taking the international community to answer this crisis," she said in a statement released Wednesday by the Geneva-based U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Oscar-winning actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador completed her trip Tuesday. Jolie said it is about time that those responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur face international justice.

"Today, many refugees seemed to have a new sense of hope and they want to see those guilty brought to

trial," said Jolie, who welcomed the first accusations by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor against individuals for war crimes in the four-year-old Darfur conflict.

On Tuesday, the ICC's chief prosecutor linked Sudan's government to atrocities in Darfur, naming a junior minister as a war crimes suspect who allegedly helped recruit, arm and bankroll the murderous desert fighters known as the janjaweed.

The conflict has claimed more than 200,000 lives and displaced 2.5 million people. Fighting erupted in

February 2003 when ethnic African tribesmen took up arms, complaining of decades of neglect and discrimination by the Khartoum government. Sudan's government is accused of unleashing the Arab janjaweed, which is blamed for widespread atrocities against ethnic African civilians in Darfur.

"In order to feel safe enough to return home, these people said they would need to know that the men who attacked them had been stripped of their weapons," Jolie, 31, said.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
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Our Daily Bread (Unser taglich Brot) (NR)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street
Promenade
(310) 458-1506 ext. #706

Amazing Grace (PG)
1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45
Astronaut Farmer (PG)
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55
Babel (R)
1:05, 7:05
Because I Said So (PG-13)
4:30, 10:15
Gray Matters (PG-13)
2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:10

AMC SANTA MONICA 7
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4AMC

Breach (PG-13)
2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
Bridge to Terabithia (PG)
2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Children of Men (R)
2:35, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
1:10, 4:00, 7:20, 10:05
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
4:25, 9:35
Reno 911!: Miami (R)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10
Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls (PG-13)
1:55, 7:15

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
1:20, 7:00
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:10, 4:35, 8:15
Starter for 10 (PG-13)
1:50, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
Venus (R)
4:30, 9:55
Volter (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

MANN CRITERION
1313 Third Street
Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Ghost Rider (PG-13)
11:00am, 11:40am, 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40
Music and Lyrics (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Norbit (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
The Number 23 (R)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
Smokin' Aces (R)
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
(310) 281-8223

Factory Girl (R)
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
The Last King of Scotland (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

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

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SPEED ANONYMOUS

FEINSTEIN & BORUS

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

TOUGH LUCK GETTING SEATED NEXT TO MORBIDLY OBESE GUY.

RESTROOMS

ACTUALLY, we've BECOME FAST FRIENDS.

RESTROOMS

I'M SUPPORTING HIM IN HIS DECISION TO FIGHT CORPORATE GREED BY NOT BUYING TWO RIDICULOUSLY NARROW SEATS.

AND HE PROMISES TO ACT AS A FLOTATION DEVICE IN THE EVENT OF A WATER LANDING.

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By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

LETHARGIC? DEPRESSED? OUR GYMERSIZER IS GUARANTEED TO PUT YOU IN A DIFFERENT FRAME OF MIND.

THAT'S JUST WHAT I NEED.

TRYING TO ASSEMBLE YOUR GYMERSIZER HAS DRIVEN ME COMPLETELY INSANE!

SEE? IT WORKS.

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adrian.raeside@raskickart.com

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

ONLY ONE PERSON IN THIS ROOM COULD HAVE MURDERED MR. THOMPSON, AND THAT PERSON IS...

OH...A QUESTION. YES, YOU WITH THE PICKAX?

UM...MAY I BE EXCUSED?

AND TO THINK I COULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING JON'S SOCKS TUMBLE DRY

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JIM DAVIS

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

CLOMP! CLOMP! CLOMP! CLOMP!

CLOMP! CLOMP! CLOMP!

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO THROW OUT A HALF-EMPTY BOX ONCE IN A WHILE?!

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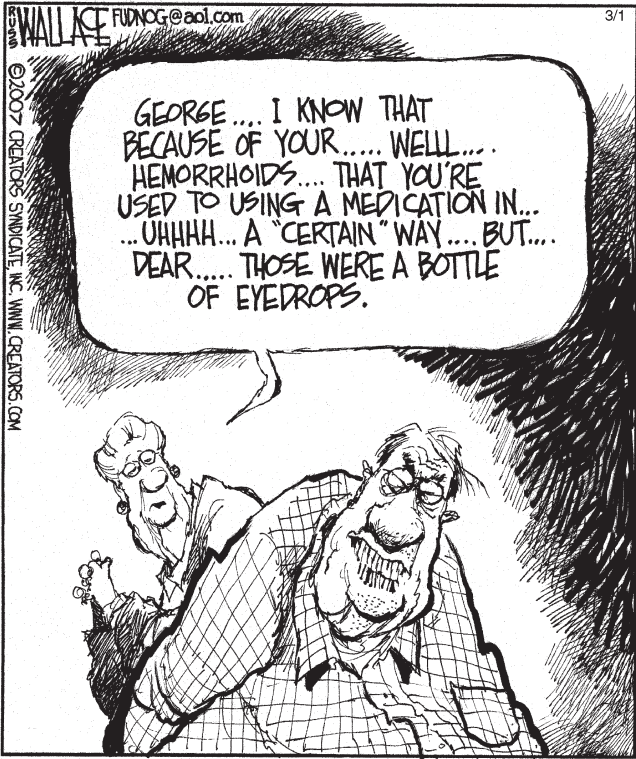
ALAN

By Brian Anderson

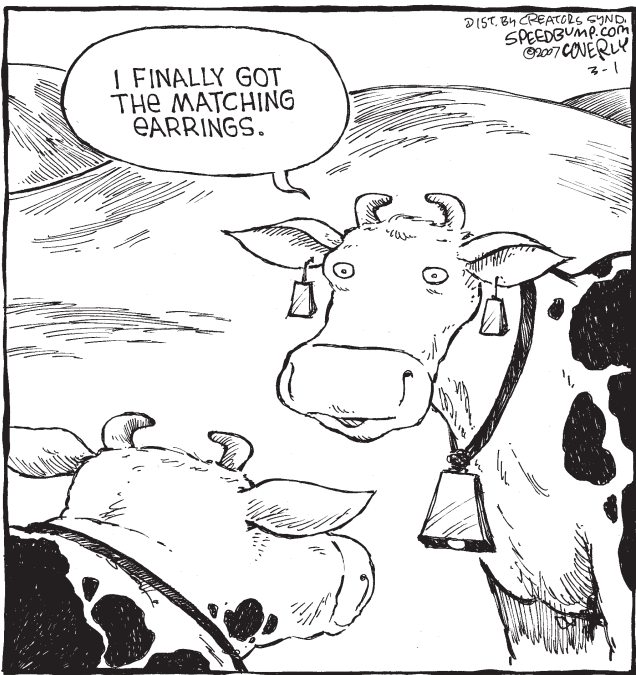
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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Highlands group
 - 5 Old Nick
 - 10 Superb
 - 11 Multihued cat
 - 12 Campus mil. org.
 - 13 Ready to go
 - 14 "Clockers" director
 - 16 Mötley Crüe drummer
 - 20 Cruise rooms
 - 23 Gardner of "Mogambo"
 - 24 Some woodwinds
 - 25 Dead duck
 - 27 Jazz group: Abbr.
 - 28 "Gun-smoke" star
 - 29 "My Name Is Earl" star
 - 32 "Fever" singer
 - 36 Salad base
 - 39 Bring home
 - 40 Near-ringer
 - 41 Litmus reddener
 - 42 Schlemiel
 - 43 Roger of "Cheers"
- DOWN**
- 1 2006 Pixar film
 - 2 Aerobatics feat
 - 3 Nay voter
 - 4 Cravat
 - 5 Witch trial setting
 - 6 Bowling site
 - 7 "— the season ..."
 - 8 One in a hand
 - 9 Word of denial
 - 11 Placates
 - 15 Millennia
 - 17 Bowling site
 - 18 Times for preparation
 - 19 Rabbit features
 - 20 Linking wd.
 - 21 "Mamma Mia" group
 - 22 Big snakes
 - 25 Diver Louganis
 - 26 Calendar unit
 - 28 Hiss of history
 - 30 Speculate
 - 31 "Forget it!"
 - 33 Doily stuff
 - 34 Huron neighbor
 - 35 Goals
 - 36 Pipe bend
 - 37 "The Matrix" hero
 - 38 "— Kapital"

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

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MEGA MILLIONS
18 31 44 45 48
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$267M

Super LOTTO
3 9 13 26 42
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$47M

Fantasy 5
10 11 19 20 37

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 4 4 9
EVENING: 8 7 1

DAILY DERRY
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:47.19

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ About half the students who attend the Jewish primary school King David, in Birmingham, England, are Muslims, and in fact, their parents work hard to get them in because they so respect the school's ethos and its halal-like diet. All students learn Hebrew, recite Jewish prayers, and celebrate Israeli independence, but there is a Muslim prayer room, also, and Muslim teachers are hired for Ramadan. However, confided one parent, the school tries to keep a low profile so as not to inflame the religious rabble-rousers.

■ Robert "Drew" Stephenson, on trial in Fort Worth, Texas, in January for "torturing" an ex-girlfriend, acknowledged her severe burns but said it wasn't his fault. He said the two were having sex in a house that had no heat, and to warm himself, he ran the flames of a lantern up and down his arm. According to him, his girlfriend said she wanted to be warmed up with flames, too. (He was convicted, and in February, after four other women testified that he had beaten them, was sentenced to life in prison.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 286 Roman Emperor Diocletian rises Maximian to the rank of Caesar.
- 1457 The Unitas Fratrum is established in the village of Kunvald, on the Bohemian-Moravian borderland. It is to date the second oldest Protestant denomination.
- 1565 The city of Rio de Janeiro is founded.
- 1692 The Salem witch trials begin in Salem Village, Massachusetts.
- 1790 The first United States census is authorized.
- 1803 Ohio is admitted as the 17th U.S. state.
- 1847 The state of Michigan formally abolishes the death penalty.
- 1872 Yellowstone National Park is established as the world's first national park.
- 1896 Henri Becquerel discovers radioactivity.
- 1912 Albert Berry makes the first parachute jump from a moving airplane.
- 1936 Hoover Dam is completed.
- 1961 President of the United States John F. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.
- 1962 American Airlines Flight 1 crashes on take off in New York.

WORD UP!

surreptitious \suh-uhp-TISH-uh; suh-rep-uh-, *adjective*: 1. Done, made, or gotten by stealth. 2. Acting with or marked by stealth.

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7 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
APR 6.655%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.0%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
APR 7.0258%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.25%
APR 7.1%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5%
APR 7.24%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1%**
APR 8%	

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT M. JACOBS CASE NO. SP007074

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROBERT M. JACOBS.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KATHLEEN K. CHRISTENSEN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KATHLEEN K. CHRISTENSEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 05/04/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

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 ROGER L. LUND GOSE, LECHMAN & LUND 1200 PASEO CAMARILLO #295 CAMARILLO, CA 93010 3/1, 3/2, 3/8/07 CNS-1094694# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Notices

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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 ROGER L. LUND GOSE, LECHMAN & LUND 1200 PASEO CAMARILLO #295 CAMARILLO, CA 93010 3/1, 3/2, 3/8/07 CNS-1094694# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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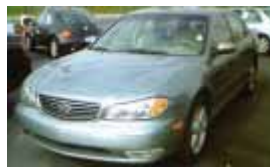
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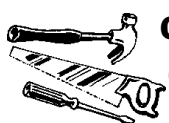
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