

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 16 20 30 34
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$13 million

FANTASY 5

2 20 26 29 31

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 2 5
Evening: 8 1 3

DAILY DERBY

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2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:48.11

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Mutaa, the 1,400-year-old Islamic tradition of "temporary" marriage (typically, for one-night stands or for financial reasons), has proliferated in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, embraced by Shiites even though condemned by Sunnis, according to a January Los Angeles Times dispatch. (2) Under sharia law, a Muslim husband can end a marriage at will, but apparently there are formalities. In Kuala Lumpur in January, a judge said the declaration had to be made in court and thus fined a Malaysian lawmaker the equivalent of about \$150 after he tried to declare divorce first by text-messaging his wife and then by voicemail.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 68th day of 2006.
There are 297 days left in the year.

In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.
In 1796, the future emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais. The couple divorced in 1809.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion."

C. NORTHCOLE PARKINSON
"PARKINSON'S LAW"

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Your place or mine? 17-19

No body to lean on



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Students from Santa Monica High School run laps on the track, passing by David Legaspi's new mural of a Viking on the west side of the gym building.

Samohi students may gain Access

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS. — In attempts to make life easier for Santa Monica High School students, school board members are expected tonight to debate the creation of a new administrative post that would hopefully fit the bill.

The CEO of Student Life and Access, a position initiated by the board that could pay in upwards of \$100,000 a year, is intended to help those students who have historically been underrepresented by linking them up with additional support services, such as enhanced counseling outside of the district.

According to Interim Superintendent Mike Mathews, the board is responding to a request from parents to look at ways to help those who are at a disadvantage and have shown signs of struggling academically.

While board members are expected to discuss the position's expected duties, the creation of the position itself will likely be

bandied about tonight as faculty and administrators at Samohi seem hesitant to support the idea.

In addition, the governing board of the teachers' union has come out strongly against the new administrative position, asking the board to instead look at spending money in the classroom.

If approved, the CEO of Student Life and Access would be the ninth administrator at Samohi, according to the union.

"Additional resources should be used to reduce class sizes, provide teachers and students with new materials and textbooks," said Harry Keiley, a spokesman for the Santa Monica-Malibu Teachers Association. "An additional administrator is not necessary."

Mathews said the board is merely discussing the issue tonight and has not directed district staff to create any administrative position.

Samohi Principal Ilene Straus said the idea of helping students achieve is obviously one that she

See STUDENT LIFE, page 10

Beast of 'burden': Rising rents are taking a toll

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Even families who earn more than \$66,000 a year are having trouble living here without becoming financially burdened by rapidly escalating rents, according to a report to be released today by the Santa Monica Rent Control Board.

Since a state law was passed in 1999 allowing landlords to raise rents to market rate when a tenant

vacates a rent-controlled apartment, the price of affordable units has jumped by at least 50 percent for a bachelor's pad, and 89 percent for a unit with three bedrooms or more; the average rent today being \$967 and \$2,248, respectively, according to the report.

Based on the increases, a family of four would have to earn at least \$82,876 a year to be able to afford a three-bedroom apartment before becoming "rent burdened," which is

spending more than 30 percent of a family's income on housing.

The report also found that only those earning \$66,100 a year, considered a moderate income by the federal government, can afford a bachelor apartment without becoming burdened by their rent. No apartments rented at market rate are affordable for low-income households whose income is \$32,000 a year.

The net effect of the spike in rents has led to the loss of more

than 8,000 units that were previously affordable for low-income renters, according to the report.

"It's been increasingly frustrating to see all of this housing disappear," said Alan Toy, chair of the Rent Control Board. "We are trying to preserve as much as possible through whatever legal means we can."

For Toy, the report offers plenty of bad news, including the fact that

See RENTS, page 10

Despite caps, record campaign spending is predicted

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — With new restrictions on political giving, this was supposed to be a challenging year for candidates to round up cash in the race for governor.

But with the contest barely under way, some experts already

predict that the 2006 campaign will set a record for statewide political spending.

Even with first-time caps on donations, the combined \$130 million spent by then-Gov. Gray Davis and other candidates for governor in 2002 is almost certain to be eclipsed. Davis' campaign spent a state record \$78 million that year,

and some say that figure might be toppled, too.

"All the factors, all the indicators, look to me like they are pointing toward record spending," said Garry South, chief strategist for state Controller Steve Westly, a Democrat seeking to challenge Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"It's just never been proven you

can reduce the amount of money that flows into politics, no matter how hard you try," South said.

For the first time this year, candidates for governor must live within the strictures of Proposition 34, which was enacted by voters in 2000. Individuals and political

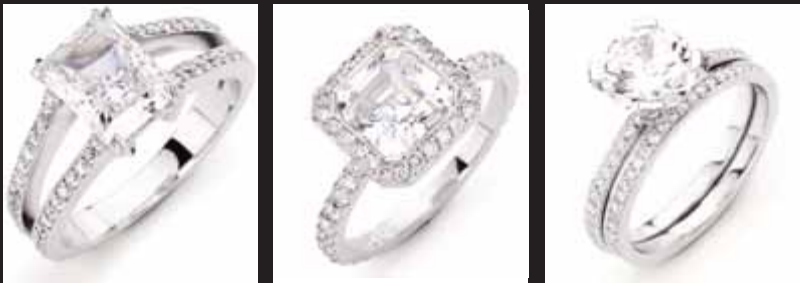
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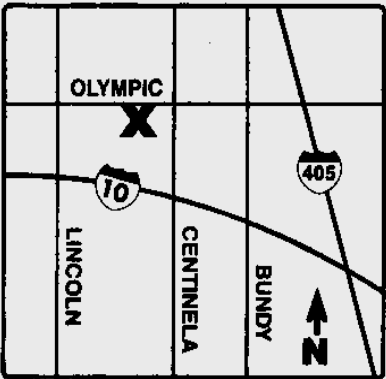
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HOROSCOPES

Take your time, Leo

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★★ Your instincts will take you in a new direction if you permit them to. Understanding a partner could be instrumental to your well-being. Get down to the fundamentals rather than let someone simultaneously add flourish and hassles to your day. Tonight: Easy does it.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Don't hesitate to clear out complicated feelings. How you see a situation could be a lot different from reality. Consider your alternatives more carefully before you nix a wonderful offer. Tonight: Out and about.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Expenses might bother you, and with good reason. Knowing when to say "no" could have long-term implications. You work way too hard to have problems. Lighten up and relax with those around you. Tonight: Get into a favorite sport or pastime.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You are the cat's meow no matter how you look at it. In fact, you could enjoy yourself even more if you relax and talk about what is on your mind. Express your imagination. Others delight in what they hear. Tonight: As you like.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Your intuitive sense comes forward. You will like what you see and what is going on. You might want to evaluate a personal situation with a bit more optimism than you have in the recent past. Loosen up. Tonight: Take your time. Is there really a need to rush?



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Zoom in on what you want. Your friendly way mixes style and spirit. Others are only too happy to chip in and make a difference. You have a way of expressing yourself that makes others want to help out. Tonight: Where your friends are.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Taking charge will allow you to have more say in the results. You have a way or style that draws many to you. While many do not know what to do, some do. Listen well, and you'll gain ultimately. Tonight: You are in the spotlight.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take a gander at all the possibilities that surround your life. You don't need to agree with others; you simply want to further a pet project. Stop trying to convince everyone that you are right. You don't need to. Tonight: Follow the music.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ If you have a nagging thought, follow it through. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like. Someone close -- a roommate or family member -- has many more opinions than you realize. You also might not want to hear them. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others find you easy to get along with. You get past an immediate hassle because of your zip and get-up-and-go. You might want to rethink a situation rather than make an assumption. You aren't getting all the facts. Tonight: Enjoy those around you.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Finish up as much as you can. You will want to relax, socialize and network soon. Get the heavy or unpleasant errands and projects done. A sense of relief will make you smile as the day comes to a close. Tonight: Someone whispers money facts into your ear.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be very tired and exhausted with someone who keeps asking you questions. The other possible scenario is that you could chew off another's ideas. Your creativity peaks as your imagination runs wild. Tonight: Act like it is the weekend.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA PARENTING

Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz@aol.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Chris Star chrisr@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Michael Tittinger MoNeY.T.LaRoK@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER

Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

History 445: If these walls could talk

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's history lesson this month is the story behind the estate of Marion Davies, the mistress of newspaper mogul William Hearst.

The Santa Monica Conservancy continues its tradition of providing the community with special programs celebrating the history of Santa Monica by hosting the second of a four-part lecture series on March 19, 2 p.m. at Back at the Beach Restaurant, 445 Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica.

Marc Wanamaker, Hollywood film historian and author, will speak on the history of the Gold Coast and the rehabilitation of the Marion Davies Estate. The city of Santa Monica is in the process of developing plans to rehabilitate the estate, with major financial support from the Annenberg Foundation.

The historic Gold Coast portion of the beach stretches from Wilshire Boulevard to Santa Monica Canyon. During the 1920s, the area became hot realty and saw some of the greatest concentration of famous residences in the world. As the entertainment industry grew, its famous and wealthy celebrities were drawn to the area and built many lavish homes, including the heads of the biggest studios, Louis B. Mayer, Samuel Goldwyn, Darryl Zanuck; as well as other well-known people of the day including Cary Grant, Douglas Fairbanks, Mae West and J. Paul Getty.

It was during that time that William Randolph Hearst built his estate for Marion Davies, designed by the same architect, Julia Morgan, who had created his Hearst Castle at San Simeon. The estate quickly became the hub of much Hollywood entertainment. Over the years the property has played a vital role in the community, first as the Marion Davies Estate, then the Ocean House, the Sand & Sea Club, and now the 415 PCH project, planned to become a public recreational and cultural facility. Only the pool and North House — designed as a guest house — survive today from the original estate. The guest house was designated as a Santa Monica landmark in 1980 and is considered an excellent example of Georgian architecture.

Wanamaker brings his extensive and invaluable background as a film historian, archivist, writer and producer, and consultant for many film studios and productions worldwide to bear on his illustrated presentation. Since the formation of his Bison Archives in 1971, he has worked on more than 100 documentaries and feature films. Currently he is completing an encyclopedic history of the motion picture studios in the United States.

Due to limited space, tickets are best purchased in advance at the Conservancy's Web site (www.smconservancy.org). Tickets will be sold at the door based on availability. Members pay \$10; non-members \$15. Parking is available for \$5. It is best to approach the restaurant on Pacific Coast Highway from the north to facilitate turning into the parking lot. For more information, call (310) 485-0399.

Vets face new battles on homefront

By Daily Press staff

Veterans of war are in for a fight to save a facility that was intended to be for them.

A panel discussion on the pressures facing veterans — including the fight to save Veterans Administration property in Brentwood — will be held at 11:15 a.m., March 21 in art lecture hall 214, 1900 Pico Blvd. The discussion, "Coming Home: Issues Facing Veterans in Society Today," is free.

Panelists Frank Juarez, Keith Jeffreys, Jessica Landy and James Maddox of Citizens for Veterans Rights will discuss the various pressures on military veterans that include homelessness, alcohol and drug abuse, post-traumatic stress syndrome and unemployment. Panelists will discuss their experiences and offer possible solutions to what they see as critical issues.

SMC English professor Daniel Cano — a Vietnam War veteran and author of *Shifting Loyalties*, which is about the Vietnam experience from a Latino perspective — will moderate the panel discussion.

The event is sponsored by the SMC English department, Office of Public Programs and the Scholars Program for honors students.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 96"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 156" - 180"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 20/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 24"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 15	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Variable				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 16"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 11/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 24"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 10	LIFTS OPEN 6/11
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today is a smaller day for surf as the storm swell fades, yet another trough could bring in a chance of showers, making for less than favorable conditions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Powerful NNW hits NCal Fri-Sat., but only brushes by SoCal...

Unstable weather Thursday through weekend...

Smaller surf next week...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

THURSDAY	LOW TIDE	1:08PM	-0.41FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	5:44PM	4.8FT	7:59PM	3.8FT	
FRIDAY	LOW TIDE	12:42AM	2.3FT	1:40PM	-0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	6:32AM	5.1FT	8:17PM	3.9FT	
SATURDAY	LOW TIDE	1:17AM	1.9FT	2:07PM	-0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	7:10AM	5.2FT	8:33PM	4.6FT	
SUNDAY	LOW TIDE	1:47AM	1.6FT	2:30PM	-0.4FT
HIGH TIDE	7:43AM	5.3FT	8:48PM	3.3FT	
MONDAY	LOW TIDE	12:26	-0.2FT	11:55PM	2.7FT
HIGH TIDE	4:36AM	4.6FT	7:40PM	4.2FT	

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



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The Q Line

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The Santa Monica community suffered a tragic loss last week when a 15-year-old high school student died at the hands of a suspected gang member. Gang violence continues to plague the Pico neighborhood, and community leaders are grappling with how to address it and prevent future criminal acts.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **"What suggestions do you have for law enforcement, parents, school administrators and community leaders in preventing gang violence?"**

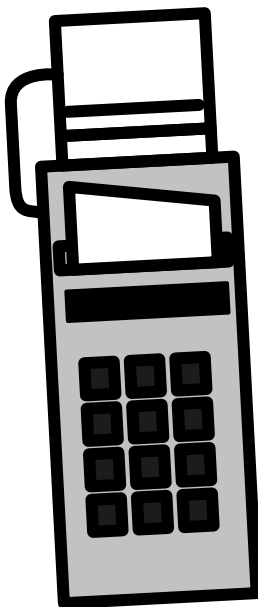
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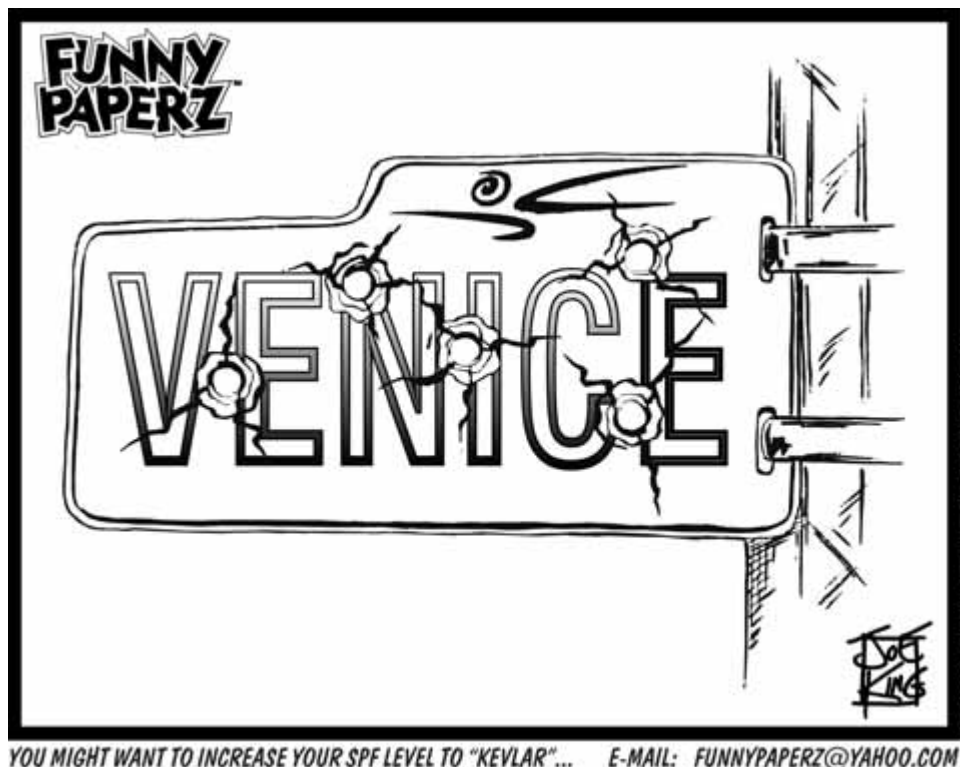
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gang members are people too

Editor:

I'm writing this as a response to an editorial that was found in the SMDP titled "Take back our streets one corner at a time" (SMDP, March 2, page 4). I found it to be very disrespectful by referring to gang members as "punks" and "bad guys." Too many times our society has criminalized the youth that live in low-income areas such as the Pico neighborhood. I myself grew up in the Mid City district of Los Angeles. I've seen violence. I know what it's like to have someone taken away by a bullet. To me, it seems that society is too quick and willing to label all gang members as "punks" and "bad guys" without knowing the truth.

Most people that refer to them as such do not even live in a low-income neighborhood, and really have no knowledge whatsoever of what we go through on a daily basis. I've come to see gang members as what they truly are, and that is human beings, just like anyone else. They're my neighbors. I say "hi" to them just like I would any other neighbor. They cry, laugh, smile, frown, get upset, just like we all do. I know the side of them that the media is not willing to portray.

Their voice is constantly silenced, except to people like me who are willing to talk to them and hear what they have to say. Instead, they're portrayed as violent criminals that are out to get you at every turn. What happened to Eddie Lopez was very tragic. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

I'm a former student of Samohi, and my younger brother will be there in a year. Violence in our communities is an issue that needs to be addressed. However, upping the police presence, like it was suggested, is not the way to go. Stationing an officer on each street corner? What are we trying to do, treat our neighborhoods like an occupied country during war? Not to mention the fact that the police department have effectively alienated our community. To quote Mexican rapper Sick Jackn, "It ain't the gangs in the hood, but the cops who harassed me." Too often, every black or Latino youth is a violent criminal to them. There is a lot of mistrust of the police department from the entire community. So I ask of you all, please think next time, before you call a gang member a "punk" or a "bad guy," when you've never even had any contact with a real gang member except for what you see on your TV.

David Mendez-Yapkovitz
Santa Monica

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

It takes a community to look out for its own



**EYE ON
THE CITY**
BY ELIZABETH RIEL

By any account, Santa Monica resident Judy Church* is a success story. At times, though, she didn't know how she was going to make it.

When her daughter was 18 months old, Judy's husband left.

Her mother was diagnosed with leukemia just as she started to put herself through graduate school.

Judy could only afford to live in a tiny one-bedroom apartment on Ocean Park Boulevard. It had cockroaches and barely any room for furniture.

Still, she got her master's degree and became a teacher. She raised her daughter, who graduated at the top of her class from Santa Monica High School and attended an elite university, becoming a teacher herself.

Just when Judy thought she could take a deep breath and relax a little, she was diagnosed with cancer. Which she battled and won. What makes Judy's story especially poignant has much to do with Santa Monica and the support she received along the way.

That support came when Judy's daughter was attending John Adams Middle School. Judy found affordable housing through the Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM), a non-profit agency that provides housing for lower-wage working families and seniors.

Suddenly, their lives changed for the better.

"Almost overnight, I felt such a sense of relief. My daughter and I finally had some place to call home," Judy said. "I didn't have to worry about whether we'd be able to stay in Santa Monica. We were in an apartment that was clean and well-maintained. It was freshly painted with a patio outside. I could keep my daughter in a stable environment in the same school with the same kids, getting opportunities I knew she wouldn't have anywhere else."

It's no secret that Santa Monica is an expensive place to live. Or that there's a shortage of affordable housing, especially for families.

Condo conversions, the state's weakening of local rent control, and a stratospheric real estate market have made a deadly combination for middle- and lower-wage working families trying to find a place to live.

The city's main source of affordable housing, CCSM, does an outstanding job of thinking outside the box to develop new buildings and rehab older ones. However, there is still a waiting list for almost all

CCSM applicants that can last several years. Judy and her daughter were on that list for nearly six years because of the scarcity of two- and three-bedroom units. Overall, CCSM applicants only have about a 5-percent chance each year of securing affordable housing; families, even less.

One solution to the shortage is to require developers to include a certain number of affordable housing units in their buildings — like inclusionary housing. Inclusionary housing would save City Hall an enormous amount of time and money, and help avoid inequitable property taxes and NIMBY issues — concerns some people have raised about buildings that are exclusively for affordable housing.

Affordable housing is not a hand-out nor a free ride. Tenants have to pay rent, file annually with CCSM, provide income information, and abide by the terms of their contract.

On a practical level, providing affordable housing for our lower-income service workers, as well as middle-income professionals who serve our community — like teachers and firefighters — would cut down on congestion and traffic and add to our local economy.

But perhaps Judy sums up the benefits of affordable housing best: "As a teacher, I see kids every day who are so stressed out that they can't function in basic ways. They don't have the security of a permanent home and a regular routine; they can't learn. Then as a community, we end up paying in the long run."

The City Council next month will be discussing the issue of affordable housing and studying a proposed ordinance to require inclusionary housing. That's an idea that has long been championed by City Councilman Kevin McKeown.

For Santa Monica residents, it comes down to the question of what kind of community do we want to live in? A community that's diverse and accessible to our kids, to people who work here, to people who were raised here? Or do we want to live in a place that's for sale to the highest bidder? Residents answered that question when they passed Prop. R in 1990, which mandated that 30 percent of all new multi-family housing be permanently affordable to and occupied by low- and moderate-income families.

After all, don't we want more people like Judy Church in our community?

**Judy Church is not the real identity of the woman who benefited from CCSM, which referred the woman to Riel.*

(Elizabeth Riel is a Santa Monica resident. She can be reached at elizriel@yahoo.com.)

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COMMENTARY



Op-eds are like hitting gopherballs out of park

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



I want to like these guys, I really do. No hater you'll find here.

The leaders of the free world — the bad guys? Never. "So find something good to say," I say to myself, "and just say it."

So Dick Cheney had a few beers at lunch with the ambassador to Switzerland who he's rumored to be involved with before he went out and shot his buddy in the face, and that's good in a way. The man is revealed to be human, likes to have a little fun. So sue him. After all, he does always use the secret-service-designated-driver so he's no danger to anyone but himself and his hunting pals when he's throwing back the High Life, right? I know, but what about Lynn — the betrayed wife? Well, maybe you've heard of open marriage? For all we know she's got it going on with Rumsfeld. Who cares? It's their life, so lay off.

Then Bush played cricket with some kids in India who will grow up to answer outsourced phones for AOL and FEMA some day. Our fearless leader got hit by a pitch that was lobbed up to the plate for him to knock out of the park — if that's what you call it in cricket — and what could be more endearing or more down to earth than that?

There. Good things found and said. Do we all feel better now, Woody? I know I do.

Like the kids in India, these guys just keep lobbing softball after softball up in here and it's getting too easy, to where you almost don't have to write it down any more because everybody gets it. Even Ohio's starting to get it. Bush's approval ratings are at an all-time dismal low — somewhere in the 30 percent range and Cheney is about to go into the minus numbers, which would give Zogby and fellow pollsters something to think about, what with more people disapproving of the veep than actually exist.

Talk about hanging a curveball right down the middle of the plate? This wily bunch has been scaring us to death — and to reelection — for going on five years now, by force-feeding us this threat of terrorists sneaking in here to blow the place up. So what do they do but strike a deal with perhaps the most terrorist-friendly nation on the planet to manage the ports of entry into the United States of America. It's like the guy who cried "fire" in a crowded movie theater got so frustrated when nobody listened to him that he had to start one himself.

"I watch CNN but I'm not sure I can tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran.

But I know Jesus, and I talk to God ..."

If you think George W. Bush said that, you'd have good reason to, but you're wrong. It's from an Alan Jackson song and when the lyric of a good old southern red-neck boy like Alan Jackson can be used to poke fun at the Texas-born, country-music loving president, you know this op-ed thing is getting way too easy. Like Vin Scully might say, "She's going, going, gone."

The Alan Jackson/George Bush geographic dyslexia is already disastrous for the country with the "q" on the end, soon to be disastrous for the one with the "n". What must it say there in the Bush foreign policy manual? Something like:

■ Iraq — western-style secular government — not good. Start war under false pretense, then replace deposed secular regime with fundamentalist religious government.

■ Iran — fundamentalist religious government — not good. Start war under false pretense then replace deposed religious regime with western-style secular government.

They all but obliterate one proud, sovereign nation for, let's say, "almost" having weapons of mass destruction, then go a couple countries east and strike a deal with India that allows them to build them to their heart's content. It's like watching a tennis game, because next you turn your neck in the other direction, back towards Iran, which slowly but surely seems to be taking on the shape of a giant bullseye, because, kind of like their unfortunate neighbors that end in "q," they too "almost" have the killer weapons, and almost having them is far worse than actually having them. Just look a little farther east, at North Korea, which boasts of its arsenal and skates. If I was Iran, I'd build them in a hurry if I didn't already have them, wouldn't you? Then a quick turn back the other way toward Pakistan, already fully-loaded, who look upon the new Bush-approved nuclear-proliferation of arch-enemy India with little amusement. I don't know about you, but my neck is getting sore.

This just in: The levees that gave way and turned the "crescent city" into Lake New Orleans while the vacationing president strummed a guitar are finally being fortified and rebuilt by his crack Army Corps of Engineers. Good, right? Wrong. They're using "weak sand," as has been identified by a team of investigators assigned to the project, weak sand that "will erode in a storm." Did I hear that right? I tell you, this is getting too easy.

Like shooting quail in a barrel with a 12-gauge shotgun.

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

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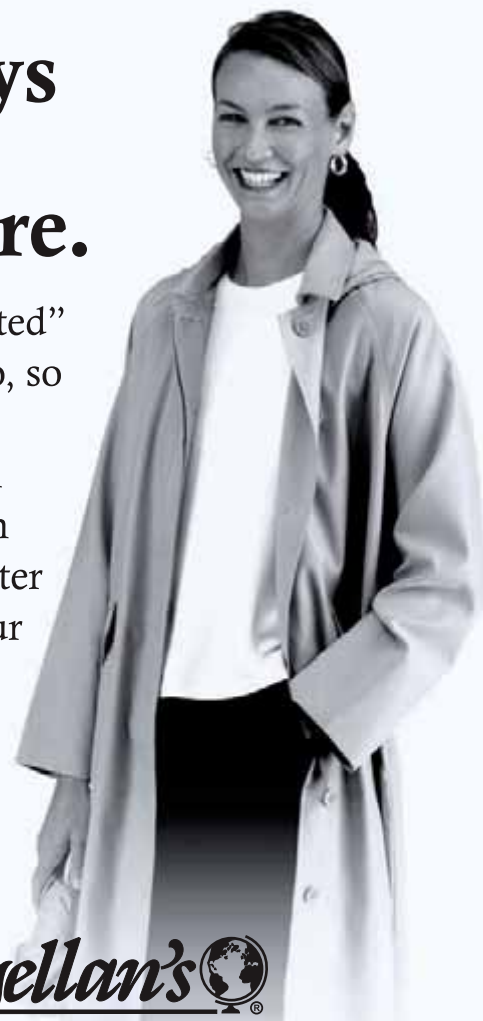
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STATE BRIEFS

Renter sparks interest from district attorney

By The Associated Press

BELLFLOWER, Calif. —A father of two whose rented Lakewood home blew up when a cache of illegal fireworks blew up pleaded not guilty to nine felony counts.

Brian Alan Miller, 36, entered the pleas Tuesday to possession of a destructive device, possession for sales of a controlled substance, two counts of child abuse, recklessly causing a fire and two counts of vandalism.

Miller, whose bail was raised to \$850,000, faces a minimum six years in prison if he’s convicted, said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office.

The fireworks exploded early Sunday, damaging several nearby homes and destroying the Dunrobin Avenue house shared by Miller, his wife and two sons — ages 3 and 8. Only Miller was hurt, suffering minor back, arm and neck burns.

The Sheriff’s Department was still investigating the cause of the explosion, Deputy Steve Suzuki said. Miller told investigators he “had gone out for his morning smoke” when his house exploded.

Board doesn’t block ‘McMansionization’

By The Associated Press

VENTURA, Calif. —The Board of Supervisors defeated a proposal to preserve agricultural land and block what one supervisor called “the McMansionization of Ventura County” open space.

The board voted 3-2 on Tuesday to permanently retire the idea.

“If it’s not broke, what are we trying to fix?” Supervisor Kathy Long said.

Supervisors Steve Bennett and Linda Parks supported the proposal, saying it would encourage farmers to keep land in agriculture instead of selling it off for the residential estates they see cropping up in the Tierra Rejada Valley.

Bennett, who initiated the proposal two years ago, said he wanted to stop the practice of allowing 10-acre lots in territory designated as open space, setting a new minimum of 20 acres.

Bennett condemned what he called the “McMansionization of Ventura County open space,” arguing that some step was needed to discourage farmers from selling off their land for estates.

But Supervisors John Flynn, Judy Mikels and Long said they saw no overriding reason to make the change.

Farmers told the board that Bennett’s proposal would cut the land’s value and that it was an unwarranted intrusion into the rights of private property owners.

“Leave it alone,” Piru rancher Tim Cohen said. “There’s nothing to fix.”

Rampant gunman surrenders after standoff

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. —A gunman who allegedly went on a two-month shooting spree to boost his reputation with a street gang was arrested after a three-hour police standoff.

Bryant Jesus Urias, 20, was arrested Tuesday and booked for investigation of murder in the Feb. 2 killing of Jerome Antoine Lee, 36 of Highland and the Jan. 24 shooting death of Eric Selvan, 31, of San Bernardino.

Police also suspect Urias in a killing last year and the wounding of another man who remains hospitalized on life support, Lt. Brian Boom said.

“This kid was basically trying to make a name for himself, so he was just going around shooting people,” Boom said. It wasn’t clear if Urias was a member of the Verdugo Flats gang or if he was committing the crimes to gain admittance.

Police were tipped that Urias was hiding out at a friend’s apartment, investigators said. Several residents told police Urias sneaked into an attic and was hiding there and he surrendered hours later, Boom said.

These boots weren’t made for deputy’s walking

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. —A judge refused to dismiss extortion and forgery charges against a former sheriff’s reserve deputy who allegedly placed immobilizing boots on cars and demanded money to remove the devices.

Brian Hanhart faces trial in May for placing the boots on the wheels of five vehicles in two private parking lots in El Camino Village and Lawndale from March until June 2004.

Hanhart, operator of Hawthorne-based Hanhart Municipal Parking Services, claimed he was innocent because he didn’t know it was illegal to place the boots on cars unauthorized to park in private lots.

But Superior Court Judge Eric C. Taylor ruled the extortion occurred when Hanhart, 43, refused to remove the boot device until the cars’ owners paid him up to \$100.

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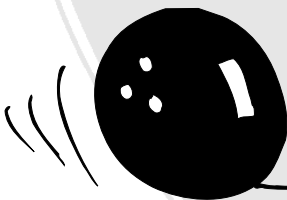
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NATIONAL



Howzit? Not bad when you buy a Maui condo

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Sales begin this month for a planned luxury condominium development on Maui where the units will start at \$4 million — the most expensive condos in Hawaii.

The posh 84 three-bedroom units at the Residences at Kapalua Bay range from 3,000 to 4,200 square feet and will be managed by The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., company officials said Tuesday.

The most expensive units will cost about \$7 million.

An additional 62 smaller two- and three-bedroom condos will be offered as "fractional ownership" units in the Ritz-Carlton Club, with buyers each owning a one-twelfth share. Sales of the club homes are expected to begin in July.

The property will feature personalized concierge service, housekeeping, a private

beach club, recreation area and access to Kapalua Resort's golf courses, restaurants and spa.

Kapalua will be the seventh property in the Ritz-Carlton Club, which began in 1999 and now features 2,500 members. There are clubs planned or currently operating in Aspen, Colo., Bachelor Gulch, Colo., Jupiter, Fla., St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, San Francisco and Miami.

It is being built on the 24-acre ocean-side site of the Kapalua Bay Hotel, which is scheduled to close April 7 with demolition to begin in June. The 196-room hotel opened in October 1978.

"It was remarkable at the time, but the world has changed," said David Cole, president and chief executive of Maui Land.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$300 million with construction to start in August.

Governor sends in troops to aid with guarding border

BY PAUL DAVENPORT

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano said Wednesday that she signed an executive order to expand the Arizona National Guard's presence at the state's porous border with Mexico to support federal efforts to combat illegal immigration and other border problems.

The Democratic governor also said she would veto a bill in the Republican-led Legislature requiring her to send troops to the border, but wants lawmakers to pass a proposal to pay for the expanded National Guard role.

She said the Legislature's pending bill requiring additional deployment as a result of her declaration last summer of an immigration emergency in four border counties

would be an unconstitutional infringement of her authority as commander of the Arizona National Guard. She said the bill appeared to be politically motivated.

She said her order authorizes \$500,000 for initial funding for the additional deployment but referred questions about the number of troops and longer-term funding to the National Guard and declined to elaborate on the mission the troops would perform.

She said that was spelled out in the order, which wasn't immediately available.

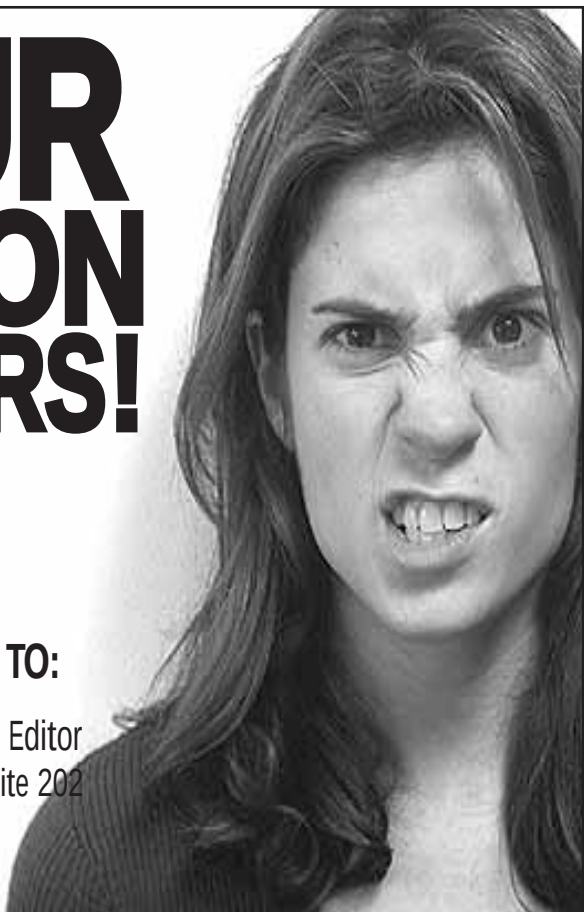
Napolitano stressed that the National Guard's role would be limited to supporting the federal efforts.

"They are not there to militarize the border," she said. "We are not at war with Mexico."

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Business

Invest in your community via bonds



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

Every year we, as Americans, face the annual ritual of filing tax returns. While the process is unavoidable, investors frequently look for effective ways to lessen the impact of taxes on the overall returns of their portfolios. More investors — particularly those in higher tax brackets — are finding that municipal bonds can help reduce their tax burden, and at the same time add stability and diversification to their portfolios.

Issued by state and local governments, municipal bonds are commonly used to raise money for community projects and improvements. These include a broad range of developments, such as new highways, improved sewer systems, or even new school buildings. As with other bonds, by purchasing a municipal bond, you're really making a loan to the issuing municipality. That state or local government, in turn, promises to pay you a given rate of interest while you hold the bond and return your principal at maturity.

One of the most attractive features of municipal bonds

is their freedom from certain taxes. The bonds typically pay interest every six months and, unlike other investments, the interest you earn is not subject to federal taxes. In addition, this tax exemption can extend to state and local taxes if you reside in the state or community where the bonds were issued. Keep in mind, certain types of municipal bonds may be subject to state or local taxes, or the alternative minimum tax, so it's important to know exactly how specific issues will be treated before making a purchase.

Whether or not a municipal bond is subject to state or local taxes, its freedom from federal taxes on the interest it earns can significantly increase the after-tax return of your portfolio. Investing in municipal bonds can allow you to possibly diminish your overall tax burden by decreasing the amount of your income subject to taxes. Less money spent on taxes means more money to spend on other pursuits. Or, if you so choose, there will be more money available for reinvesting or saving.

While the tax advantages of municipal bonds may be appealing, several other qualities can make them an important addition to an investor's portfolio. For one thing, you can enjoy interest payments every six months. In addition, though it does not eliminate the credit risk of bonds, many are backed by insurance, thereby increasing the security of your investment. The credit enhancement does not remove market risk of the bonds, and there is no assurance as to the insurer's ability to meet its commitments. Keep in mind

bonds may be worth more or less than their original cost upon redemption or upon sale prior to redemption.

Bonds can be bought and sold in the open market, so you do have the opportunity to liquidate your bond before it matures. Investors should keep in mind that as interest rates rise, existing bond prices of already outstanding fixed income securities tend to fall. Long-term bonds are generally more exposed to interest rate risk than short-term bonds. Depending on current interest rates, the price you receive may be more or less than your original investment, but you do have the option to sell should you need to.

Finally, almost every state and thousands of municipalities issue bonds each year, so you have a wide variety to choose from. With maturities ranging anywhere from one to 30 years, you can plan for current or future income. And the variety of available bonds lets you easily diversify your municipal bond holdings.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds, financial retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

Scamming the man won't pay off, IRS warns

By Daily Press staff

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2006 "Dirty Dozen" — the latest annual tally of some of the most notorious tax scams — along with an alert to taxpayers this filing season to watch out for schemes that promise to reduce or eliminate taxes.

Two new schemes have worked their way onto the list in 2006. In recent months, IRS personnel have noted the emergence of the two scams — "zero wages" and "Form 843 tax abatement" — in which filers use IRS forms to claim that their tax bills have been wrongly inflated.

Also high on the list in 2006 is "phishing," a favorite ploy of identity thieves. Over the past few years, the IRS has observed criminals working through the Internet, posing even as representatives of the IRS itself, with the goal of tricking unsuspecting taxpayers into revealing private information that can be used to steal from their financial accounts.

The IRS urges people to avoid these common schemes:

1. Zero Wages. In this scam a taxpayer attaches to his or her return either a Form 4852 (Substitute Form W-2) or a "corrected" Form 1099 that shows zero or little wages or other income. The taxpayer may include a statement indicating the taxpayer is rebutting information submitted to the IRS by the payer. An explanation on the Form 4852 may cite "statutory language behind IRC 3401 and 3121" or may include some reference to the paying company refusing to issue a corrected Form W-2 for fear of IRS retaliation. The Form 4852 or 1099 is usually attached to a "Zero Return." (See No. 4 below.)

2. Form 843 Tax Abatement. This scam rests on a faulty interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code. It involves the filer requesting abatement of previously assessed tax using Form 843. Many using this scam have not previously filed tax returns and the tax they are trying to have abated has been assessed by the IRS through the Substitute for Return Program. The filer uses the Form 843 to list reasons for the request. Often, one of the reasons is: "Failed to properly compute and/or calculate IRC Sec 83-Property Transferred in Connection with Performance of Service."

3. Phishing. Phishing is a technique used by identity thieves to acquire personal financial data in order to gain access to the financial accounts of unsuspecting consumers, run up charges on their credit cards or apply for new loans in their names. These Internet-based crim-

inals pose as representatives of a financial institution and send out fictitious e-mail correspondence in an attempt to trick consumers into disclosing private information. Sometimes scammers pose as the IRS itself. In recent months, some taxpayers have received e-mails that appear to come from the IRS. A typical e-mail notifies a taxpayer of an outstanding refund and urges the taxpayer to click on a hyperlink and visit an official-looking Web site. The Web site then solicits a social security and credit card number. In a variation of this scheme, criminals have used e-mail to announce to unsuspecting taxpayers they are "under audit" and could make things right by divulging selected private financial information. Taxpayers should take note: The IRS does not use e-mail to initiate contact with taxpayers about issues related to their accounts. If a taxpayer has any doubt whether a contact from the IRS is authentic, the taxpayer should call 1-800-829-1040 to confirm it.

4. Zero Return. Promoters instruct taxpayers to enter all zeros on their federal income tax filings. In a twist on this scheme, filers enter zero income, report their withholding and then write "nunc pro tunc" — Latin for "now for then" — on the return. They often also do this with amended returns in the hope the IRS will disregard the original return in which they reported wages and other income.

5. Trust Misuse. For years unscrupulous promoters have urged taxpayers to transfer assets into trusts. They promise reduction of income subject to tax, deductions for personal expenses and reduced estate or gift taxes. However, some trusts do not deliver the promised tax benefits, and the IRS is actively examining these arrangements. There are currently more than 200 active investigations underway and three dozen injunctions have been obtained against promoters since 2001. As with other arrangements, taxpayers should seek the advice of a trusted professional before entering into a trust.

6. Frivolous Arguments. Promoters have been known to make the following outlandish claims: that the Sixteenth Amendment concerning congressional power to lay and collect income taxes was never ratified; wages are not income; filing a return and paying taxes are merely voluntary; and being required to file Form 1040 violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination or the Fourth Amendment right to privacy. Don't believe these or other similar claims. These arguments are false and have been thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in

court, no one has the right to disobey the law.

7. Return Preparer Fraud. Dishonest return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their schemes. Such preparers derive financial gain by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds. Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. As the old saying goes, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." And remember, no matter who prepares the return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for its accuracy. Since 2002, the courts have issued injunctions ordering dozens of individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has filed complaints against dozens of others. During fiscal year 2005, more than 110 tax return preparers were convicted of tax crimes.

8. Credit Counseling Agencies. Taxpayers should be careful with credit counseling organizations that claim they can fix credit ratings, push debt payment plans or impose high set-up fees or monthly service charges that may add to existing debt. The IRS Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division is in the process of revoking the tax-exempt status of numerous credit counseling organizations that operated under the guise of educating financially distressed consumers with debt problems while charging debtors large fees and providing little or no counseling.

9. Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions. The IRS has observed increased use of tax-exempt organizations to improperly shield income or assets from taxation. This can occur, for example, when a taxpayer moves assets or income to a tax-exempt supporting organization or donor-advised fund but maintains control over the assets or income, thereby obtaining a tax deduction without transferring a commensurate benefit to charity. A "contribution" of a historic facade easement to a tax-exempt conservation organization is another example. In many cases, local historic preservation laws already prohibit alteration of the home's facade, making the contributed easement superfluous. Even if the facade could be altered, the deduction claimed for the easement contribution may far exceed the easement's impact on the value of the property.

10. Offshore Transactions. Despite a crackdown by the IRS and state tax agencies, individuals continue to try to avoid U.S. taxes by illegally hiding income in off-

Why save for a rainy day?

THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

The trouble with wealth is that it is not distributed as neatly and equally as the hacks tell us. Some people are flush with assets; others have none. Most people have too few assets. There are millions and millions of people who are already only a step from being paupers. They already count on credit cards, mortgage refinancing, Christmas bonuses and extra hours of work just to keep going. As the national savings rate dips, these people do not calmly lower their own savings rate from, say 10 percent to 8 percent. They had no money to start with and now they will be forced to borrow just to keep up with bills.

But why should they have to save for a rainy day, they asked themselves distant years ago, when there is so much ready credit just lying around begging to be given away? Hey, if they get themselves in a jam there will always be another shiny plastic card in the mail to bail them out. The fine print can wait. They'll just borrow and borrow.

And why shouldn't they? They are urged by economists to do so. Americans don't really need to save because Asians save enough for themselves and everyone else in the world. And these poor Asians desperately need someone to take all that money off their hands. What could be nicer than doing them a favor? It's as if we blasted a hole in the back wall of some Asian bank and can take their money whenever we want.

"Suffering from the greatest domestic saving shortfall in modern history," explains Stephen Roach, chief economist of Morgan Stanley, "the United States is increasingly dependent on surplus foreign saving to fill the void. The net national saving rate — the combined saving of individuals, businesses, and the government sector after adjusting for depreciation — fell into negative territory to the tune of 1.3 percent of national income in late 2005. That means America doesn't save enough even to cover the replacement of its worn-out capital stock. This is a first for the US in the modern post-World War II era — and I believe a first for any hegemonic power over a much longer sweep of world history."

Well, there's a first time for everything. This is also the first time any people have ever had such ready access to so much credit. But is a credit card really as good as money in the bank? Are Asian savers really prepared to lend us as much money as we want whenever we need it? On those two questions dangles the empire's financial future. But who bothers to ask?

We do, dear reader. We will even bother to answer them.

If a rainy day were to come, the difference between savings and credit is the difference between owning a snug pair of galoshes of your very own and having to borrow a pair from that strange lady next door. Will she have a pair that will fit you? Will she be home when you ring the bell? What will she ask in return? Does she even have any galoshes?

You just don't know.

Which brings us to the second part of the question: Can America count on Asians for its savings needs? That question answers itself readily, too. The Chinese, of course, are such dear and trusted neighbors. Helping rich capitalists finance their extravagant lifestyles is what they live for. We all know that. It just warms the heart of the Chinese laborer — a selfless soul, working 12 hours a day in an unheated factory — to know that it is his savings that help Americans pay for their air-conditioned garages and for cable TV in every room. And the Japanese — have they not been reliable allies and helpmates ever since Admiral Perry discovered them?

Yes, dear reader, you can stop worrying on that score. Asians have too much money. They will always be only too happy to lend it to us at less than 5 percent interest.

But wait, you say. At 5 percent, the poor fellows are losing money. Domestic inflation in America is said to be 3 percent, but who believes it? And on the world market, prices for the things Asians need — oil, copper, wheat, gas, beef, tungsten, silver — are exploding. Gold rose 30 percent in the last 12 months. The U.S. balance of trade is \$700 billion in deficit. The U.S. federal budget is \$500 billion in deficit. Why would he continue to lend money to the world's biggest debtor at 5 percent when his own hard costs are rising at 10 percent to 20 percent per year and when he can get 30 percent just by holding safe, sure gold?

Well, say the economists, because the U.S. dollar is the world's reserve currency and because he needs it to buy oil and those other things. But does he? This month, Iran has promised to start selling its oil for euros. And even if oil were still sold for dollars, there's no guarantee that the price won't change. The foreigner may be better off holding his money in euros, yen, yuan or better yet, in gold. He can always exchange for dollars at the last moment and at, perhaps, a better rate.

How long can Americans sustain negative savings? We don't know, but when Asian savers figure out that that they are better off in gold than dollars, U.S. householders are bound to start wondering about it.

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

Employing the 'Dirty Dozen' might land taxpayer in hot water with IRS

DIRTY DOZEN, from page 8

shore bank and brokerage accounts or using offshore credit cards, wire transfers, foreign trusts, employee leasing schemes, private annuities or life insurance to do so. The IRS and the tax agencies of U.S. states and possessions continue to aggressively pursue taxpayers and promoters involved in such abusive transactions. During fiscal 2005, 68 individuals were convicted on charges of promotion and use of abusive tax schemes designed to evade taxes.

11. Employment Tax Evasion. The IRS has seen a number of illegal schemes that instruct employers not to withhold federal income tax or other employment taxes from wages paid to their employees. Such advice is based on an incorrect interpretation of Section 861 and other parts of the tax law and has been refuted in court. Lately, the IRS has seen an increase in activity in the

area of "double-dip" parking and medical reimbursement issues. In recent years, the courts have issued injunctions against more than a dozen persons ordering them to stop promoting the scheme. During fiscal 2005, more than 50 individuals were sentenced to an average of 30 months in prison for employment tax evasion. Employer participants can also be held responsible for back payments of employment taxes, plus penalties and interest. It is worth noting that employees who have nothing withheld from their wages are still responsible for payment of their personal taxes.

12. "No Gain" Deduction. Filers attempt to eliminate their entire adjusted gross income (AGI) by deducting it on Schedule A. The filer lists his or her AGI under the Schedule A section labeled "Other Miscellaneous Deductions" and attaches a statement to the return that refers to court documents and includes the words "No Gain Realized."

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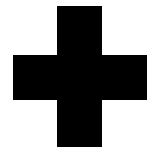
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Waves of support



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Kite boarder Vetea Miklus, 28, takes advantage of the strong wind gusts by surfing along Santa Monica Beach.

Security on campus prompts new position

STUDENT LIFE, from page 1

and her staff supports, however, they are not sure the position need be an administrative one rather than an additional assistant principal.

"It's about extra intervention for kids," Straus said. "The board's initiative has created quite a debate of what it could be, what it should be and should it be at all. We think that to have this person focusing on all campus-wide intervention makes a lot of sense and is appropriate to consider."

Samohi has had problems recently with

security on campus, as well as with rising racial tensions between African-American and Latino students in the aftermath of racist graffiti being found and reported as a hate crime.

Those issues coupled with budget cuts and a relatively new governing structure have created the need for greater coordination of services.

"We do have several people who perform a lot of these functions (the new position would handle)," Straus said. "Some people believe it would be better if they were the responsibility of one person."

Pointing fingers over rents

RENTS, from page 1

once a unit is rented at market rate, there is a high level of tenant turnover, resulting in a transient population with scant ties to the community.

However, Toy and rent control officials said there are some positives to be gleaned from the report as well, one of which is the decreasing number of units per year that have had their rents increased to market rate, which may signal the striking of a balance.

In the seven years of vacancy decontrol, 13,183 units experienced at least one market-rate increase. The first year it was allowed, 3,896 units were decontrolled, meaning their rents were raised to market rate. Last year, only 686 were decontrolled.

"This report seems to support rent control's mission, which is to promote stability and long-term investment and commitment to living in the community," Toy said. "It allows for families who have children to see them go through the school system, and so forth."

Members of the Action Apartment Association, a trade organization representing property owners on the Westside, said rather than demonstrating why rent control works, the report shows why rent control is broken and in need of repair.

"Our system is causing the housing crisis and it is failing our poor people who need housing most," said Rosario Perry, an attorney who represents property owners. "When a unit does become available, even before decontrol, landlords would look to rent to tenants with higher incomes because they were willing to invest thousands of dollars into fixing up their own apartments. With tenants under rent control, it is very hard for landlords to make enough money to stay afloat and make repairs. If a tenant is willing to come in and paint, fix the toilet seat, add new carpet ... that can save a lot of money."

Perry said the report also shows that fears of increased tenant harassment are unsubstantiated given that the number of units decontrolled has decreased over the years.

According to Perry, members of the Action Apartment Association think capping rents for the poor would be more effective.

"Everyone's rent is increased to market rate except the poor, whose rent is reduced," he said of a plan that's been devised, but hasn't been approved by officials. "Landowners who want to participate in the program would have to dedicate 30 percent of those units to poor people, with incentives included."

"We've had rent control for 27 years and what has it done to stop the housing crisis?"

Under that scenario, Toy said basing rents on income would be a logistical nightmare because landlords and tenants would flood City Hall with complaints about rents every time a renter lost his or her job or received a raise.

With the loss of affordability, there comes added pressure for elected officials to respond. City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who supports rent control, said the council has historically done more than other cities to preserve and create affordable housing, however rising land prices have exacerbated the challenge.

"High-end housing competes for the same limited land, and there are ... few suitable locations left for all-affordable housing ventures," McKeown said. "We continue to creatively leverage local funding, including redevelopment money, with state and federal housing monies. That state and federal funding just doesn't go far enough."

To help, McKeown and others on the council are calling for the institution of an inclusionary zoning ordinance, which would force developers to set aside a certain percentage of units to low-income families.

"Instead of committing taxpayer dollars, we could harness the strong economic engine driving high-end condo construction to provide housing also for teachers, public safety employees and working families," McKeown said.

The idea is strongly opposed by developers who complain that City Hall is talking out of both sides of its mouth. On one hand, elected officials want more affordable housing built, but on the other hand they have restricted the number of units that can be built in certain areas of the city, making it harder for developers to make a profit on their investment, Perry said.

While the two sides battle it out, the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, or CCSM, is about to open 130 new affordable units this year, 85 in 2007 and 90 more by 2009. Of those units, half will be for moderate-income ownership, said Joan Ling, director of CCSM, which uses government funds to rehabilitate and build new affordable housing units.

Rents for those units start low and are raised in accordance with rent control. If a tenant leaves, the rent remains the same instead of being increased to market rate.

"Of course we would like to do more ... it's just very expensive and we are not exactly as competitive as the private sector," Ling said. "Where it takes us 150 days to close escrow because we are waiting for the city to act, private developers can close a deal within 30 days. There's just a lot of money chasing after a few good quality projects."

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Strong wind gusts have made kite flying at the beach this week more exciting than usual.

Candidates, supporters finding ways to keep the cash flowing

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

committees can give a candidate for governor a maximum of \$22,300 for the June primary election and an equal amount for the November election — or \$44,600 for the year.

But that's only a starting point.

State political parties are allowed to make unlimited donations to gubernatorial campaigns, meaning they will play a more prominent role in fundraising.

Each of the major candidates for governor — Schwarzenegger, Westly and state Treasurer Phil Angelides, another Democrat — is a millionaire and can use unlimited amounts of personal money in their respective campaigns. The actor-turned-governor has spent more than \$25 million of his fortune on his political ventures over the years, as has Westly, a former executive for online auction house eBay.

"The spirit of Proposition 34 was to get more people involved in elections, but obviously multiple millionaires have their own rules," said Bob Mulholland, a senior adviser to Angelides.

In addition, outside groups, such as labor unions, can spend millions of dollars on so-called independent expenditures that can benefit a candidate.

Schwarzenegger, for example, is asking donors to a March 20 fundraiser to pay as much as \$100,000 for a ticket package, an amount that at first glance appears more than four times the \$22,300 individual limit for one election.

How is that possible?

Of that amount, the governor's campaign committee will take a cut — \$44,600 — or the maximum individual donation for the June primary and November general elections. The remaining money goes to the state Republican Party.

The party can use up to \$27,900 of that amount for "direct candidate support," such as financing political mailings or running phone banks to help elect Schwarzenegger. The remaining \$27,500 can be used for other party expenses — anything from paying rent to registering voters.

But it doesn't stop there.

The Schwarzenegger invitation also notes that spouses and adult children are welcome to kick in. They "may each give \$44,600 by separate check" signed by the spouse or adult child, or credit card, the invitation points out.

A report this month in Capitol Weekly, a political newsletter published in Sacramento, noted that families have been kicking in large sums to all three candidates. In one instance, a high school-age daughter of a major Schwarzenegger donor kicked in the maximum donation, \$44,600. The campaign noted the check came from an adult, and that the governor welcomes supporters from all backgrounds.

The donations are legal.

Proposition 34 "is almost worthless as a reform in terms of contribution limits," said Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, a Los Angeles research group that studies campaign finance. "There's no doubt in my mind it's going to be a record" for spending in 2006.

Stern noted that the new contribution limit for governor — \$44,600 for the year — is more than 10 times the amount permitted for individual donations to a congressional candidate.

In addition, Stern said, "We have wealthy people running this time, and there is no limit what they can put into the race."

The governor's campaign did not immediately respond to an inquiry regarding fundraising and spending in the 2006 campaign.

New limits in legislative races in recent years showcased how state parties moved into a new role, raising money and funneling it into tight races. It is a pattern that is likely to be repeated in the governor's race.

One of the first items on Westly's official Web site is a solicitation to contribute to his campaign. On his site, Angelides assures donors that "every contribution you make will help Phil Angelides bring fairness, responsibility and opportunity back to California."

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NATIONAL

Law enforcement gets new curbs under Patriot renewal

BY LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Law enforcement officials get to keep their antiterror tools, but with some new curbs, under the USA Patriot Act renewal passed by the House in a cliffhanger vote.

The 280-138 vote Tuesday evening passed by just two votes more than needed under House rules requiring a two-thirds majority for legislation handled on an expedited basis.

The vote ended a monthslong battle over how to balance privacy rights against the need to defeat potential terrorists — a political struggle in which President Bush was forced to accept new restraints on law enforcement investigations.

Bush was expected to sign the legislation before 16 major provisions of the law, which was passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, expire Friday.

“The president looks forward to signing the bill,” White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

In a sign of uncertainty over the vote’s outcome, the sponsor of the measure containing the new civil liberties, Sen. John Sununu, R-N.H., crossed the Capitol to lobby representatives on the House floor during Tuesday’s 15-minute vote.

Despite the wafer-thin margin of victory, Republicans declared victory as they sought to polish their national security credentials this midterm election year, trying to balance a troubled war in Iraq and revelations that Bush had authorized secret wiretapping without warrants.

“I’m glad it made it. Now it’s behind us,” Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said after he voted for the renewal.

For some, congressional passage comes none too soon after a season of political combat that stalled the legislation and forced Congress to postpone the expiration date twice. Forced by a filibuster, Bush accepted new provisions that give people targeted in terrorism investigations stronger civil liberties protections. The Senate passed the reworked version overwhelmingly.

Republicans on Tuesday declared the legislative war won, saying the renewal of the act’s 16 provisions will help law enforcement prevent terrorists from striking.

“This legislation is a win for law enforcement, the war on drugs, and for communities and families across America,” Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said in remarks prepared for Wednesday.

“Intense congressional and public scrutiny has not produced a single substantiated claim that the Patriot Act has been misused to violate Americans’ civil liberties,” said House Judiciary Committee Chairman James

Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. “Opponents of the legislation have relied upon exaggeration and hyperbole.”

But the debate over the balance between a strong war against terrorists and civil liberties protections is far from over. The Senate Judiciary Committee is holding hearings on the domestic wiretapping program. Additionally, Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the chief author of the Patriot Act renewal, has introduced a new measure “to provide extra protections that better comport with my sensitivity of civil rights.”

Despite its passage, the Patriot Act still has staunch congressional opponents who protested it by voting “no” even on the part of the legislation that would add new civil rights protections. During the Senate’s final debate last week, Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., said he was voting “no” because the new protections for Americans were so modest they were almost meaningless.

Such objections echoed during the House debate Tuesday, where the measure was supported by 214 Republicans and 66 Democrats and opposed by 13 Republicans, 124 Democrats and one independent.

“I rise in strong opposition to this legislation because it offers only a superficial reform that will have little if any impact on safeguarding our civil liberties,” said Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio. For now, Bush will be signing a package on which members of both chambers of Congress and the president can agree.

The legislation renews 16 expiring provisions of the original Patriot Act, including one that allows federal officials to obtain “tangible items” like business records, including those from libraries and bookstores, for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations.

Other provisions would clarify that foreign intelligence or counterintelligence officers should share information obtained as part of a criminal investigation with counterparts in domestic law enforcement agencies.

Forced by Feingold’s filibuster, Congress and the White House have agreed to new curbs on the Patriot Act’s powers. These restrictions would:

■ Give recipients of court-approved subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations the right to challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone.

■ Eliminate a requirement that an individual provide the FBI with the name of a lawyer consulted about a National Security Letter, which is a demand for records issued by investigators.

■ Clarify that most libraries are not subject to demands in letters for information about suspected terrorists.

Provisions of the USA Patriot Act

By The Associated Press

WHAT’S NEW:

■ The package makes clear that recipients of National Security Letters have the right to challenge them in court.

■ It gives recipients of court-approved subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations the right to challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone.

■ It clarifies that most libraries are not subject to demands in those letters for information about suspected terrorists.

■ It takes aim at the methamphetamine trade by imposing new restrictions on the sale of over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines, which contain a key ingredient for the drug. Beginning 30 days after President Bush signs the law, expected sometime this week, purchase limits go into effect: One person would be limited to buying 300, 30-mg pills in a month or 120 such pills in a day. The measure would make an exception for “single-use” sales of individually packaged pseudoephedrine products.

By Sept. 30, retailers would be required to sell such medicines from behind the counter and purchasers would have to show ID and sign log books.

■ The package also cracks down on port security by imposing tough punishments on crew members who try to stop or mislead law enforcement officials investigating their ships.

RENEWED PROVISIONS:

■ Section 201 n Gives federal officials the authority to intercept wire, spoken and electronic communications relating to terrorism.

■ Section 202 n Gives federal officials the authority to intercept wire, spoken and electronic communications relating to computer fraud and abuse offenses.

■ Subsection 203(b) n Permits the sharing of grand jury information that involves foreign intelligence or counterintelligence with federal law enforcement, intelligence, protective, immigration, national defense or national security officials

■ Subsection 203(d) n Gives foreign intelligence or counterintelligence officers the ability to share foreign intelligence information obtained as part of a criminal investigation with law enforcement.

■ Section 204 n Makes clear that nothing in the law regarding pen registers or an electronic device that records all numbers dialed from a particular phone line stops the government’s ability to obtain foreign intelligence information.

■ Section 206 n Allows federal officials to issue roving “John Doe” wiretaps, which let investigators listen in on any telephone and tap any computer they think a suspected spy or terrorist might use.

■ Section 207 n Increases the amount of time federal officials may watch people they suspect are spies or terrorists.

■ Section 209 n Permits the seizure of voicemail messages under a warrant.

■ Section 212 n Permits Internet service providers and other electronic communication and remote computing service providers to hand over records and e-mails to federal officials in emergency situations.

■ Section 214 n Allows use of a pen register or trap and trace devices that record originating phone numbers of all incoming calls in international terrorism or spy investigations.

■ Section 215 n Authorizes federal officials to obtain “tangible items” like business records, including those from libraries and bookstores, for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations.

■ Section 217 n Makes it lawful to intercept the wire or electronic communication of a computer hacker or intruder in certain circumstances.

■ Section 218 n Allows federal officials to wiretap or watch suspects if foreign intelligence gathering is a “significant purpose” for seeking a Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act order. The pre-Patriot Act standard said officials could ask for the surveillance only if it was the sole or main purpose.

■ Section 220 n Provides for nationwide service of search warrants for electronic evidence.

■ Section 223 n Amends the federal criminal code to provide for administrative discipline of federal officers or employees who violate prohibitions against unauthorized disclosures of information gathered under this act.

Ashes & Snow Package



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NATIONAL



Fast-food industry called on to protect farmworkers

BY LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Farmworker advocates and religious groups are calling on the U.S. fast-food industry to do more to ensure fair treatment for agricultural workers who pick tomatoes.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers planned to announce Wednesday the creation of the Alliance for Fair Food. The national alliance will work to get major retail food corporations to buy from sellers who ensure laborers' wages and employment rights.

The move comes one year after the Coalition won a commitment from Taco Bell's parent company Yum! Brands Inc. to pay more for its tomatoes — a savings that has been passed on to the workers.

"The abuse of farmworkers' fundamental human rights is a shameful part of this country's history," said coalition co-founder Lucas Benitez. "The whole industry is responsible, not just Taco Bell, and now it's time for the entire industry to step up and make a change as Taco Bell has done to improve the quality of life for workers."

A message left for the National Restaurant Association was not returned Tuesday.

Farmworkers picking tomatoes from most of Florida suppliers earn about 40 cents to 45 cents for every 32-pound bucket, nearly the same amount they earned 30 years ago. Those picking tomatoes sold to Taco Bell now earn at least \$10 more per week, according to the coalition.

Farmworkers, many of whom are illegal immigrants, receive no overtime, health insurance, sick leave or other benefits. They must be constantly on call for growers, even on days when there is no work, making it difficult to seek out other work to make ends meet.

Florida pickers provide about 90 percent of the nation's domestic fresh winter tomatoes, according to growers.

In the case of Taco Bell, the Coalition

led a four-year boycott until Louisville-based YUM! Brands agreed to pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes.

Alliance members said they are not asking consumers to boycott fast-food restaurants, but they want consumers to have a better understanding of where their food comes from.

"The role of the consumer is to work together with farmworkers through this alliance to call upon retail food corporations, such as McDonald's, to address the poverty wages and exploitative working conditions in their tomato supply change," said Noelle Damico, who serves as the liaison for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the coalition.

The coalition launched a campaign in November to get McDonald's Corp. to pay more for the tomatoes it uses on salads and gourmet sandwiches. The group has not called for a McDonald's boycott.

In response, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association joined with McDonald's and several religious and nonprofit groups to create a code of conduct ensure that growers meet state and federal standards when it comes to farm laborers.

McDonald's also has begun to require that pickers be hired as employees rather than contract workers, giving them access to some benefits, McDonald's spokeswoman Lisa Howard said Tuesday.

Howard said the company began implementing the new standards in January and has requested that an outside group study worker wages and conditions.

"McDonald's believes its will meet or exceed the value of the penny per pound proposal," Howard said.

The coalition has said the new standards do not go far enough because they don't support key labor demands such as a wage increase and overtime pay.

Alliance members include the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights, the AFL-CIO, the Presbyterian Church (USA), Interfaith Action and the Student Farmworker Alliance.

WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?

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Feds are bird-watching in search of flu

BY MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — The federal government is boosting its effort to look for bird flu in migratory birds, planning to test five to six times as many birds this year alone as it has screened since 1998.

Much of the effort will focus on Alaska, where scientists worry that birds arriving from Asia — beginning next month — will bring in the H5N1 virus and pass it along to other birds, which will fly south this fall.

Scientists had already been watching for the deadly flu strain in wild birds in Alaska and North American migratory flyways. But the effort is being dramatically stepped up this year, said John Clifford, chief veterinarian for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is working with other agencies on the program.

Scientists will study live birds, others that are found dead or killed by hunters, and environmental samples that might carry the worrisome form of bird flu. While most concern about birds flying south through the United States focuses on their Pacific route in the western states, other migratory paths will be included,

Clifford said.

The goal is to test 75,000 to 100,000 live or dead birds this year, said Angela Harless of the USDA. The testing, which will also include some Pacific Ocean islands, will focus on waterfowl and shorebirds.

At the same time, Clifford said, officials will continue to monitor other activities that may introduce the virus to the United States: importing and smuggling of birds.

The chief concern about the H5N1 flu in wild birds is that the virus might make its way to some of the 10 billion or so chickens produced every year in the United States. That could damage the poultry industry and pose a hazard for people who work with chickens. Virtually all bird flu cases in people reported so far are blamed on close contact with infected poultry.

Human cases are uncommon, but scientists worry that the virus may mutate into a form that can pass easily between people. That could lead to a worldwide flu epidemic.

It makes sense to focus the wild bird monitoring on Alaska, but migratory routes are so complex there's no guarantee that Alaska is where the virus will first

arrive in North America, or that it will follow recognized flyways from there, says Ken Rosenberg, director of conservation science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y.

Migrating birds can show up "virtually anywhere and come from virtually anywhere. That's just the nature of birds and bird migration," he said.

Rosenberg said he expects the deadly flu now wreaking havoc in Asia and parts of Europe and Africa will show up in wild birds in the United States, and "I wouldn't be surprised if it will be within the next year." It might not appear in an outbreak that kills many birds, but rather in isolated cases, he said.

Rosenberg also said he's heard reports of people wanting to slaughter wild birds to protect against bird flu. "From a conservation perspective that would be a horrible thing to do, and it would be totally unwarranted given the situation we have today," he said.

Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center at the National Zoo in Washington said it's clear migratory birds have played a role in the spread of bird flu elsewhere, and that Alaska is an important place to look for it. But that's

not the only way the virus could reach the United States.

"I would say movement of birds through the illegal pet trade is probably the most likely way it's going to get here," Marra said.

That's just a guess, he quickly added, but there is precedent. Taiwan, where bird smuggling is common, confirmed last October that its first case of H5N1 bird flu appeared in birds smuggled from China. A Nigerian official has also blamed illegal poultry imports for delivering the virus to that country.

Clifford agreed that smuggling birds or bird products is a possible route into the country, and said the government will boost its anti-smuggling efforts as well. Those efforts include not only inspections at the border, but also teams within the United States that survey exotic food markets, live bird markets and restaurants for signs of illegal animals.

As for legal imports, virtually all live birds that enter the United States have to go through a 30-day quarantine and be tested for bird flu and other viruses, Clifford noted. The government doesn't allow imports of birds from countries that have H5N1 in poultry flocks.

Iran threatens U.S. with 'harm and pain'

BY GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Iran threatened the United States with "harm and pain" Wednesday for its role in hauling Tehran before the U.N. Security Council over its disputed nuclear program.

"The United States has the power to cause harm and pain," Iran said in a statement meant for delivery at the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board meeting in Vienna on Iran's refusal to freeze uranium enrichment.

"But the United States is also susceptible to harm and pain. So if that is the path that the U.S. wishes to choose, let the ball roll."

In statements for the same meeting, the United States and its European allies said Iran's intransigence over its nuclear program has left the world no choice but to ask for the U.N. Security Council to take action against the Islamic regime.

"The time has now come for the Security Council to act," Gregory Schulte, the U.S. delegate to the IAEA, told board members. "Iran has still not come clean."

Schulte listed Iran's decision to curtail IAEA inspections, its expanding uranium enrichment program and worrying

conclusions by IAEA inspectors that suggest at least past interest in nuclear arms as contributing to "mounting international concerns" about Tehran's nuclear intentions.

The IAEA meeting is in effect the last step before the Security Council begins to consider Iran's nuclear plans, which could lead to possible sanctions. Iran's president said earlier Wednesday that his country will not back down from plans to enrich uranium domestically.

Iran's statement against the United States was unusually harsh, reflecting Tehran's frustration at failing to deflect the threat of Security Council action against it in the coming weeks.

It attacked the "warmongers in Washington" for what it said was an unjust accusation that Tehran's nuclear intentions were mainly for military use. And it suggested the United States was vulnerable, despite its strength.

"Surely we are not naive about the United States' ... intention to flex muscles," said the statement. "But we also see the bone fractures underneath."

It also threatened broader retaliation, without being specific, saying Iran "will adapt our policy and adjust our approach to conform with the new exigencies."

France, Germany and Britain, which spearheaded the Feb. 4 IAEA resolution clearing the path for Security Council action, warned that what is known about Iran's enrichment program could represent only "the tip of the iceberg."

"We believe that the time has ... come for the U.N. Security Council to reinforce the authority" of the IAEA and its board, said a draft statement by the three European countries.

Austria, which holds the EU presidency, expressed regret at Iran's decisions to withhold "voluntary cooperation" from IAEA inspectors and resume uranium enrichment, which can be part of a process to make nuclear weapons.

The Austrian comments were made in a statement prepared for delivery on behalf of the European Union and nearly a dozen nonmember European nations.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad remained defiant: "Our nation has made its decision to fully use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and all have to give in to this decision made by the Iranian nation," he said in Iran. "We have made our choice."

His comments — and U.S. and Russian statements the day before rejecting any compromise that would allow Tehran to

enrich uranium domestically — set the stage for Security Council action once the IAEA board meeting hears a report on the latest investigations into Iran's nuclear program and debates the issue.

A senior Western diplomat familiar with the Security Council negotiations said Tuesday that permanent council members Britain and France already were preparing a statement "urging" Iran to reimpose a freeze on all enrichment.

The diplomat, who requested anonymity in exchange for discussing strategy on Iran, said the statement also would call on Iran to fully cooperate with IAEA inspectors trying to establish whether the country had ever tried to make such weapons — all requests made earlier by the board.

Still, stronger action may elude the council. Russia and China, which have Security Council vetoes, may use them to foil any resolution in that chamber that would meaningfully increase pressure on Iran, their political and economic ally.

Russia has been at the forefront of the Iranian nuclear talks over the past few months with a proposal to host Iran's uranium enrichment program. The United States and the European Union back the idea, but Iran has demanded the right to conduct small-scale uranium enrichment at home.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • editor@smdp.com

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bye, George: Singer heads off to rehab

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boy George, in a plea bargain deal that spared him possible jail time, agreed to enter a drug rehabilitation program and perform community service to resolve his arrest last year on a cocaine charge.

The former pop star, whose real name is George O'Dowd, entered his guilty plea Wednesday in Manhattan Criminal Court to third-degree false reporting of an incident. He only spoke to answer questions from Judge Anthony Ferrara with a simple "yes."

Under the deal, O'Dowd will enter a drug program in England and perform five days of community service in Manhattan. He will pay a \$1,000 fine and must avoid arrest on any charges over the next six months.

"I am relieved and happy that this case has been disposed of, and would like to thank the judge, the district attorney and my attorney, Lou Freeman, for the fair and speedy way it was dealt with," O'Dowd, 44, said in a statement distributed to reporters by his manager. "I love New York, and am looking forward to coming back and working in the states later this year."

It was signed, "George."

He must return to court June 9 with written proof of his stay in a rehabilitation program. O'Dowd had a previous drug history, including a 1986 heroin possession arrest after two of his friends overdosed. O'Dowd entered a rehab program at that point.

His drug woes reportedly led to the collapse of the Culture Club, which had the hit singles "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"

O'Dowd will return to England and enter the Clouds House rehabilitation facility, his manager, Jeremy Pearce, said. If convicted at trial on the drug possession charge, O'Dowd faced a possible sentence of one to 5 1/2 years, said Barbara Thompson, spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney.

He was arrested Oct. 7, 2005, after he called 911 to report an alleged burglary in his Manhattan apartment. Officers found a small pile of cocaine next to a computer. A charge of criminal possession of a controlled substance

was dropped as part of the plea bargain.

If O'Dowd had gone to trial on the false reporting charge and had been convicted, he could have spent up to a year in prison.

TEL AVIV, Israel — Sharon Stone is ready to do her part for Mideast peace: The "Basic Instinct" actress said she "would kiss just about anybody" to end the Israel-Arab conflict.

She arrived in Israel on Tuesday for a five-day trip sponsored by the Peres Center for Peace, founded by Nobel Peace laureate Shimon Peres in 1996 to improve relations with Arabs. It's her first visit to the Holy Land.

Stone, joined by Peres at a news conference, said she couldn't solve the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, but could use her fame to help encourage peace efforts.

"I would kiss just about anybody for peace in the Middle East," she said Wednesday, drawing laughter from a throng of Israeli reporters. Stone playfully turned down calls to give Peres a peck on the cheek.

Noting it was International Women's Day, Stone suggested that more women become involved in the male-dominated world of Mideast peace talks. Women consider thoughts and feelings more than men, she said.

"I think (men and women) need to be a team. We were meant to be a team," she said.

During her visit, Stone planned to play soccer with a mixed group of Israeli and Palestinian children, visit Israeli hospitals that care for Palestinian children and celebrate her 48th birthday Friday with a gala to raise funds for children's educational and health projects.

LONDON — Pete Doherty, the lead singer of Babyshambles, breezed through a review of his sentence for possessing hard drugs, despite twice failing drug tests last month.

"You're doing quite well but you need to keep it up," Magistrate Jane McIvor told the 26-year-old rocker Wednesday. "I will see you in five weeks."

On Feb. 8, Doherty, who rose to fame with The Libertines, was sentenced to 12 months of community service and ordered to undergo a drug rehabilitation program. He was warned

that he could be sent to jail if he didn't comply with the rehab order.

During his brief appearance in Thames Magistrates Court, there was no mention of his Feb. 27 arrest in Birmingham on suspicion of car theft and possessing hard drugs, nor of the additional drug charges lodged against him Tuesday by police in London.

Doherty, clad in a suit, navy sweater, button-down white shirt and white shoes and clutching a black fedora, briefly hugged fans assembled outside the east London court and joked with reporters about his recent troubles. Upon leaving court, he quickly lit a cigarette and hurried to a waiting car.

The Babyshambles singer, who is the ex-boyfriend of supermodel Kate Moss, appeared restless during his brief court appearance Wednesday morning and, while listening to McIvor's instructions, frequently placed his hands behind his head and moved around in apparent frustration.

McIvor did offer Doherty good news, however — calling his improvement "remarkable" and adding that his "determination is increasing."

Outside court, Doherty's lawyer, Sean Curran, said the rocker had tested positive for drugs on Feb. 23 and Feb. 28. Curran gave no details of the tests.

It was mentioned in court that Doherty had undergone tests, but there was no reference to testing positive.

Outside court, a reporter asked Doherty whether he would quit using drugs.

"What? Them? Sure, I'll do that," Doherty said.

He was released on bail in the Birmingham incident, and so far has not been charged, West Midlands Police said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Doherty was hit with seven further charges of possessing crack cocaine and heroin, related to incidents in December and January. He was due back in court Thursday to answer those charges.

Metropolitan Police charged Doherty with possessing heroin, crack cocaine, marijuana and hashish when he was arrested on Dec. 18 and with possessing heroin, cocaine and marijuana when he was arrested on Jan. 14.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Doogal
1pm 3pm 5:15pm
Neil Young: Heart of Gold
2:45pm 8pm
Running Scared
7:15pm 10pm
Walk the Line
5pm 10:20pm
Night Watch (Nochnoi Dozor)
2pm 4:45pm 7:45pm 10:30pm
Transamerica
1:30pm 4:15pm 7pm 9:45pm

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Aquamarine
11:30am 2pm 4:30pm 7pm 9:30pm
Ultraviolet
12pm 2:20pm 4:50pm 7:20pm 9:50pm
Firewall
12:10pm 2:40pm 5:10pm 7:40pm 10:30pm
Munich
11:20am 2:50pm 6:30pm 10pm
The Pink Panther
11:40am 2:10pm 4:40pm 7:10pm 9:40pm
Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion
11:50am 2:30pm 5pm 7:30pm 10:20pm

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Eight Below
1:30pm 4:20pm 7:35pm 10:20pm
16 Blocks
1:50pm 4:30pm 7:10pm 9:40pm
Capote
2pm 7pm
Curious George
2:20pm 4:35pm 7:05pm
Final Destination 3
4:40pm 10pm
The Matador
2:25pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:05pm
Date Movie
2:30pm 5:10pm 7:15pm 9:35pm
Freedomland
9:20pm
Dave Chappelle's Block Party
2:10pm 4:50pm 7:20pm 9:50pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Brokeback Mountain
12:15pm 3:45pm 7pm 10pm
Tsotsi
12pm 2:30pm 5pm 7:30pm 9:55pm

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Mrs. Henderson Presents
1:50pm 4:25pm 7pm 9:35pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
1:40pm 4:25pm 7:20pm 10:05pm
Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story
1pm 5:35pm 10:10pm
Good Night, and Good Luck
3:15pm 7:50pm
Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
1:10pm 4:05pm 7pm 9:55pm

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

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In 1862, during the Civil War, the iron-clads Monitor and Virginia (formerly Merrimac) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.
In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing more than a dozen people.

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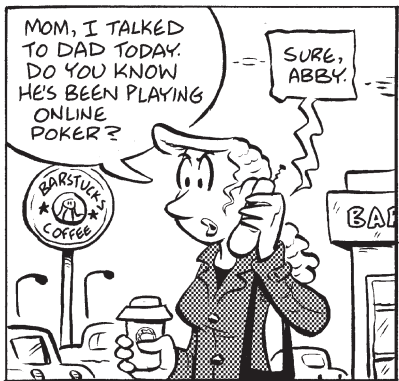


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edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



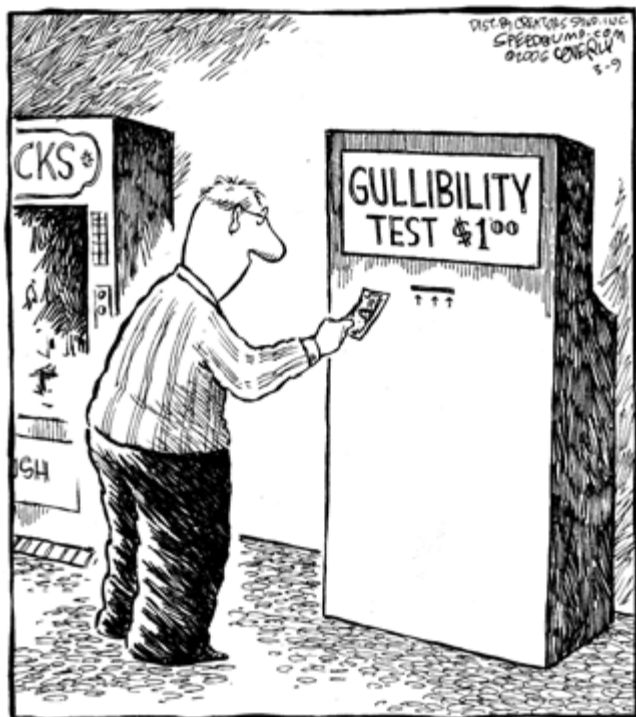
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- 21 Island instruments
- 23 Author Deighton
- 24 Spider's wee kin
- 26 One of the Mamas and the Papas
- 28 Church seat
- 29 Croquet setting
- 31 In the past
- 32 Station worker
- 36 Largest of the Balearics
- 39 Is for many?
- 40 Sleuth Vance
- 41 Block-head
- 43 Prepared to fire

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- 46 Major, for one
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- 2 Fable end
- 3 Met music
- 4 Colt creation
- 5 Hitchcock film
- 6 Each
- 7 Some shooters
- 8 Covers
- 9 Intensify
- 11 Master opener
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- 19 Place
- 22 Horror movie sounds
- 24 Producer's dream
- 25 Battle site of 1945
- 27 Say further

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 06 0167964 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as Cell Phone Club,
1632 Barry Ave, #11, LA, CA 90025. The full name
of registrant(s) is/are : Shahram Babakhani, 1632
Barry Ave, #11, LA, CA 90025 This Business is be-
ing conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant
has not yet begun to transact business under the
fictitious name or names listed herein. /s/: Shah-
ram Babakhani
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 1/24/2006. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE
FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this
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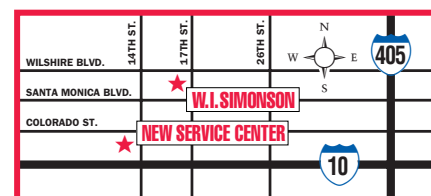

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