

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

29-4-20-23-41

Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

29, 30, 25, 38, 20

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 4, 3
Evening picks: 7, 2, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 2, Lucky Star
2nd Place: 5, California Classic
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags
Race Time: 1:42.51



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

At press time, U.S. Air Force Capt. Jacqueline Chester was scheduled for court martial in Dover, Del., for having tested positive for cocaine; in her defense, her now-ex-husband said that during their marriage, he had occasionally rubbed cocaine on his genitals for pleasure-enhancement and that the otherwise-drug-free Jacqueline might have absorbed it through her own genital walls.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The trouble with life in the fast lane is that you get to the other end in an awful hurry."

— John Jensen



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City Hall tackles school funding issue

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Local leaders gave a frank assessment Tuesday of City Hall's role in a controversial political battle to secure millions of dollars for local schools.

Faced with a proposed charter amendment that would force the city to hand over at least \$6 million each year, members of the City Council have asked city staffers to seek out secure funding for the school district. They hope to diffuse support for the charter amendment by finding an alternative.

That alternative has been elusive. City Manager Susan McCarthy said it would cost between \$80 million and \$100 million for City Hall to purchase or lease hand-picked proper-

"I think this can be moved ahead. I think there's great hope we can resolve it."

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

ties from the school district, which could be used for parks or to build more parking. The idea was put forward by council members who said the charter amendment is flawed because it doesn't define a new revenue source.

McCarthy said City Hall likely will find an extra \$3 million this year to add to the annual

\$3 million payment it makes to the school district. But she criticized the way school boosters have pitted schools against City Hall, adding times are difficult — and layoffs imminent.

"So, these challenges in regard to a long-term agreement are not insuperable, but I think we all realize that they're being tackled in a time of purposely inflated expectations, and both innocent misunderstanding and willful misrepresentation of the circumstances, in terms of finances," McCarthy said.

Members of the Community for Excellent Public Schools, the group behind the proposed charter amendment, declined to comment Wednesday on the city officials' discussion. They said they will consider it as a group at

See MEASURE, page 6

Welcome to SM, take a short 'breath'

The street has a name

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Motorists entering downtown Santa Monica from the Pacific Coast Highway soon will be forced to take a "breath of the ocean" as they drive from sea level up to Ocean Avenue on the ramp that goes beneath the pier.

Politicians at a Tuesday night meeting agreed to name the short stretch of roadway "Moomat Ahiko," a Chumash expression that means "Breath of the Ocean" or "Breath of the Sea."

The decision followed a six-month period during which local officials solicited suggestions for naming former State Route 187, once a part of the Venice Freeway.

A total of 97 names were submitted, ranging from "Karl Marx Way" to "Bum Boulevard," "Little Short Street Near the Pier," "Humpy Bumpy Street" and "Liberal Lane."

Suggested by Mayor Bloom and backed unanimously by the other members of the City Council, "Moomat Ahiko" must now go through a background check to verify it translates in Chumash to "Breath of the Ocean," as officials think it does.

The Chumash are the native people of the coastal areas of Central and Southern California. The vast majority of Chumash customs and culture are understood only through second- and third-hand accounts, as there was little interest to study the tribe

See STREET, page 8



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

City Councilman Kevin McKeown, left; Elaine Polacheck, the city's open space manager, center; Walter Warriner, the city's community forester, right; and other city staffers plant three new trees in Palisades Park on Wednesday in celebration of Arbor Day.

SM: On the wreath

By Daily Press staff

PALISADES PARK — Santa Monica made its contribution to the world and to the Olympics on Wednesday by planting trees.

For the past 24 years, the city of Santa Monica has recognized Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony at a school or with residents in the community.

But this year, the planting is part of a larger effort. In honor of the Olympic Summer Games of 2004 in Athens, Greece, the Athens Environmental Foundation has created the "Global Olive Wreath" tree planting program —

an international effort to plant trees along the Olympic torch route to form a Global Olive Wreath on earth.

The program advocates the importance of urban forestry and its link to an improved quality of life. Organizations and individuals in countries around the world will plant trees in honor of the Olympics. All trees will be registered on the foundation's Web site, www.athensenvironmental.org.

At the request of the Santa Monica City Council, the city's open space management division

See ARBOR DAY, page 6

Police looking for flasher

By Daily Press staff

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Police are looking for a man who was seen exposing himself Wednesday afternoon near Michigan Avenue and 12th Street.

A witness driving by said she saw the suspect either exposing or fondling with himself shortly before 4 p.m., said Lt. Frank Fabrega of the Santa Monica Police Department.

The suspect is described as a clean-shaven, Hispanic male, aged 30 to 40 years, standing 5'9" tall and weighing about 160 pounds. He has dark hair that was combed back and was wearing blue pants, and a white shirt with blue and white vertical stripes.

Anyone with information is urged to call the SMPD at (310) 458-8491.

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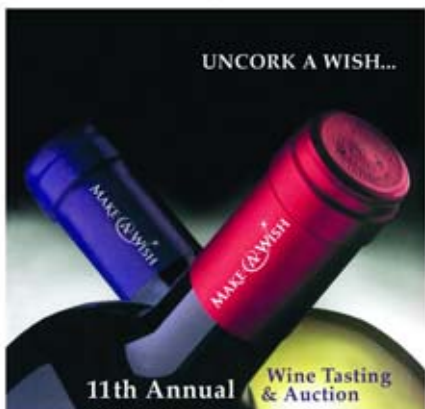
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Don't push yourself, Gemini



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 ability to work within certain parameters allows you to get through a project. You express frustration over funds, feeling that someone close could be overdoing it. You might fear the ramifications, and for good reason. Tonight: Talk rather than hold in being upset.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others seek you out. You might find this type of popularity very special, but you still need to establish your boundaries. You could become frustrated at best if someone encroaches on your space too often. Talk rather than seeing red. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ All your work and responsibilities could have you rebelling before you know it. Call on your self-discipline! Make more meaningful plans for later in the afternoon. Network or drop in on a meeting. Don't even try to suppress your gregarious nature. Tonight: Don't push yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your creativity surges with what others share. You'll make the right choice naturally if you listen to your inner voice. Knee-jerk reactions work, even if you might raise someone else's ire. Emphasize what you want. Tonight: Make a long-distance call to a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Deal with basics right now. Eventually, you take hold of a situation and run with it. Listen well to a loved one who might be a little off-kilter. Also, be sensitive to someone who is in charge. A partner shares some great ideas. Brainstorm together. Tonight: Kick back and relax with a special person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Experiment with different suggestions. Don't hesitate to make a call in order to gather more information or to get feedback. You might not be sure which way to go. Others seek you out as well. Don't even try to screen your calls. Tonight: Talk about news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Expenses still could be overwhelming. With you absorbing as much responsibility as you have, you could wonder why an associate is spending so much. Revamp a family budget if you need to. Screen calls, if need be. Tonight: Order in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your smile attracts many. Investigate a suggestion from a frustrated associate or loved one. Although you could be put off by the way this person presents him- or herself, you find value in his or her words. Talk through a problem. Tonight: You're top dog.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ As hard as you might try to clear out a project or break a pattern, you might need someone else to pitch in. Evaluate an option that could impact your home life. Like many, you could resist change. Ask for support, if need be. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Aim for what you want, even if you encounter controversy. Your drive and endurance steer you toward the winner's circle. Brainstorm and talk "options." You might be overwhelmed by calls and requests. Screen calls if you have to. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others want you to shoulder the responsibility, which you might not want to do. Money aspects are appealing, but you might want to think before leaping in. Your domestic life might mean much more than you realize. Tonight: Work late, but don't forget to hook up with a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Detaching from a charged situation helps you make the correct choice. Talk about what you think and your needs with someone who has the ability to point you in new directions. This person helps you step away from rigidity. Tonight: Do something that you love mentally.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Venice council serves it up for a good cause

By Daily Press staff

The recent Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council's reception and dinner opened with a four-course bang.

Los Angeles Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski joined the council as 14 students from St. Joseph Center's Culinary Training Program prepared a full-course meal.

"The students were happy to get the experience and to be of service," said CTP coordinator Mark Spilsbury. "We served baked ziti, a tubular pasta with hot sausage and roasted peppers; a salad with spring greens, pears, and candied walnuts; egg-washed sesame seed rolls; and coffee-chocolate-chip cookies."

St. Joseph Center's culinary program offers job training, life skills coaching, and logistical support, including resume preparation, mock interviews, and bus tokens for clients interested in the food service industry.

The Center also provides emergency services, child care, case management, and senior services for homeless and low-income individuals and families on eight sites in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

For more information, visit the web site at www.stjosephctr.org.



SJC culinary training students Ronald Martin and Derwin Thomas prepare baked ziti with coordinator Mark Spilsbury (center).

Strings in Spring at SMC

By Daily Press staff

It's music to your ears at Santa Monica College, where spring inevitably brings string concerts.

The concerts will be held in the college's Concert Hall at 1900 Pico Blvd., except for the March 20 "String Theory" concert, which will be held at Lincoln Middle School Auditorium, located at 1501 California Ave. in Santa Monica.

The lineup will include:

■ March 16 at 11:15 a.m.: Flute Recital, featuring Peter Sheridan of the UCLA Flute Ensemble, performing American composer Henry Brant's dark and jazzy Angels and Devils. (Free.)

■ March 19 at 7 and 9 p.m. Jazz: Theo Saunders Sextet. (Tickets are \$10.)

■ March 20 at 8 p.m.: "String Theory," a full-length postmodern dance performance accompanied by jazz music from three different eras and featuring three New York dancers, three Plexiglas boxes and red string employed to explore constraint, power struggles, compromise and trust. Lincoln Middle School Auditorium, 1501 California Ave., Santa Monica. (Tickets are \$10.)

■ March 21 at 7 p.m.: SMC Opera Theater Presents Patti Gallagher and Donald Fredrickson in Concert. The benefit concert for the SMC Opera Theater will feature selections from favorite operas and musicals. (Tickets are \$16.)

■ March 30 at 11:15 a.m.: Schubert Concerts, the first in a week-long celebration of the career of Franz Schubert. (Free.)

For tickets and more information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.



String theory at SMC.

surf report

Today and tomorrow expect a mix of local windswell and quick pulse of WNW swell. Most spots will have knee- to chest-high surf.

OUTLOOK: Expect the biggest surf on Thursday with a slow fade throughout the day on Friday.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

60°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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The Q Line

The criminal cases, including all of City Hall's prosecutions for misdemeanors, will soon be moving from Santa Monica to the Airport Courthouse near LAX in an effort to save the county \$500,000 a year.

But the move will increase costs for City Hall and the local police department. Though the costs are unknown, it could be upwards of \$300,000 to place lawyers full time at the Airport Courthouse and transport prisoners from Santa Monica

Jail to the new location.

So this week Q-line wants to know, "Do think it's fair that Santa Monica should absorb the costs in an effort to balance the county budget?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the March 13-14 weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

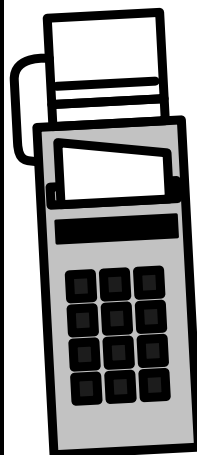
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OPINION

LETTERS

Where has the leadership gone?

Editor:

Here we go again. The chamber of commerce wants to launch a new Santa Monica Magazine in May to reach out to the wealthy of this city, (SMDP, March 9, page 1). I just cannot believe the stupidity of those who try to run this city and those whose job it is to enhance the image of this city. My understanding of a magazine representing a city is one that is geared to all people, not just a fraction of the residents. This idea reminds me of the living wage proposal that only wanted to cover only one part of Santa Monica, instead of the whole city. Again, I have lived here in Santa Monica for going on 53 years and as of right now, in my eyes, it has some of the most shortsighted individuals that call themselves leaders of the community that have graced the ground this city is built on. What is it going to take to bring Santa Monica back to the great city it once was and still can be? Somebody has to wake up and smell the roses and get their head out of where the sun don't shine.

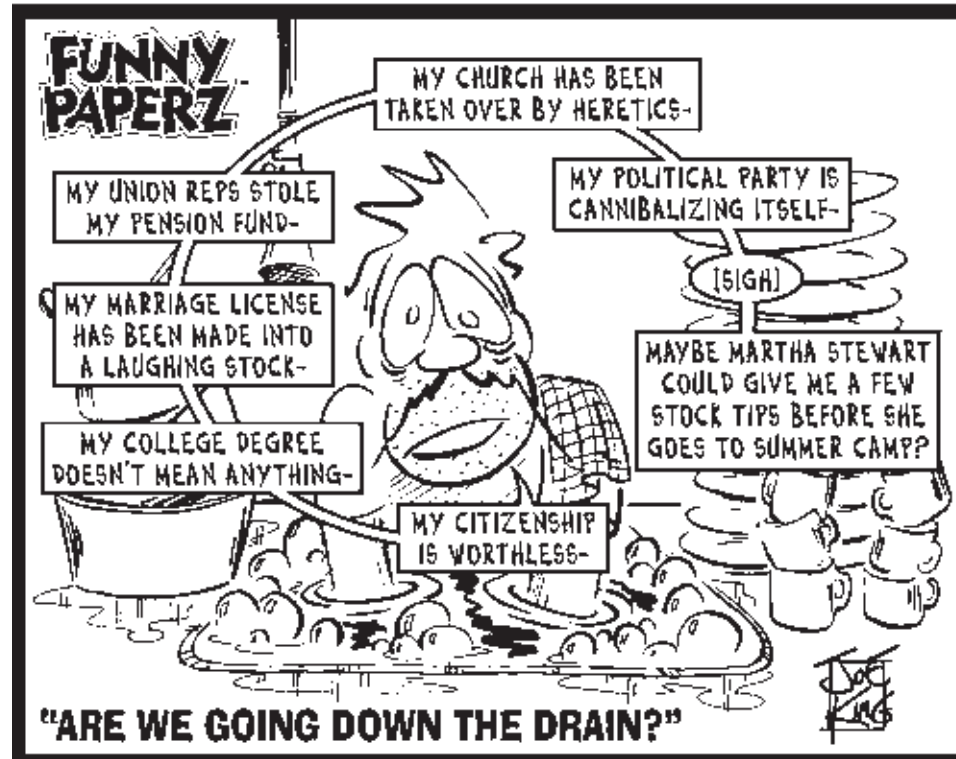
Jim Azine
Santa Monica

Bush can't be reelected

Editor:

I chuckled over the article, "Make a turn on ..." (SMDP, March 5, page 1) regarding naming the street with no name. However, I can't resist pointing out a misnomer. Someone wanted to call it, "Reelect Bush in 2004 Street." Bush cannot be reelected — let's not forget Bush was not elected in 2000, after losing the popular majority vote, he was appointed. Just another example of the will of the people being overridden by the conniving of politicians.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC, HCS, SCS, SCS.

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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 sack@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.

The boys are back in town...Taliban down but not out

NEWS on the EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



■ "Reports of our death have been grossly exaggerated." Paraphrasing the famous line from Mark Twain, that never-say-die Taliban bunch are back, once again imposing a strict fundamentalist discipline on a subservient populace. Just when you think you have it beat, this virulent strain of religious fervor rears its head, stronger and more resistant to treatment than ever. Funny thing is — it may not be Afghanistan we have to worry about. Could be right here in the land of the free that we'd best beware. Repeat — right here in the land of the free. That's where a new strain of the deadly Acquired Taliban Syndrome appears to be reaching epidemic proportions.

■ It starts at the top. The Attorney General has clearly been under its throes from the get-go. The Vice President has been quarantined his entire first term, as much as we've seen of him. And now the President himself is showing symptoms. He's been feverishly sneaking right-wing ideologues onto the federal bench while Congress is away. He's suffering night

sweats over the dire future of the union between a man and a woman. And he has to be downright delirious to pick a fight with the "king of all media" in an election year, but that's exactly what he's doing.

■ Howard Stern just got booted off the omnipotent Clear Channel network for "indecent in broadcasting," like that's anything new with Howard. Like his whole decades-long run on radio and TV hasn't been built on that thing. But suddenly, that most powerful of media conglomerates — the one with "old Texas ties to the Bush family," according to LA Weekly — has decided that Howard has gone over the line. Bare breasts and thonged bottoms, lesbian kisses and butt-slapping aside, where he apparently went over the line is where he morphed from ardent Bush supporter into the anti-Bush. "I'm one of those 'anybody-but-Bush' guys," he tells his daily audience of bazillions. He dropped this one just the other day — "This regime has gotten absolutely bizarre. The fascist right wing A-holes are taking over the country." And although W. wouldn't appear to be one who fits into the Stern demographic, he heard that. And the indecency of it all is suddenly burning holes through the delicate ears of Bushamerica.

■ Clear Channel is giving the Secret Service a run for its money in the protection-of-the-President business. Don't forget, they're the guys who blackballed the Dixie Chicks from their country music

stations across the nation back in the mad run-up to war, when the Chicks told a London concert audience in between songs, "We're embarrassed to be from the same state as George W. Bush." I wonder if Clear Channel will banish the President from their airwaves after indecent statements like this, to a rodeo in Houston the other day: "As I tell people, war is what they got with George W. Bush as President." Speaking of oneself in the third person, by the way, is thought to be an early symptom of ATS.

■ Even National Public Radio, one of the solitary bastions of liberal-speak, has contracted the illness. One of their outlets, KCRW, right here in radio-free Santa Monica, fired long time commentator Sandra Loh for using that nastiest of words, the 'F' one, while talking playfully about her husband recently in a taped segment. Her husband! Here she was, espousing the glories of the man-woman union, the union our newly-afflicted rulers fear may be on its last legs if not for a hail-Mary constitutional amendment that would forever ban the evil notion of gender-neutral marriage. But that little four-letter word, as has been well-chronicled in this space, simply packs too much of a wallop, and just like that — in a Texas minute — Sandra Loh was gone.

■ Andy Rooney, everybody's favorite grumpy uncle, is now too feeling the heat from this nation-wide fever. He committed the cardinal sin of poking fun at Mel

Gibson's solemn new religious blockbuster, which the new fundamentalist order has been protecting like a mother hen. And they've been pecking the eyes out of dear old Uncle Andy for being the grouchy he's always been.

■ Tommy Chong sits in prison, still, for committing the heinous crime of attaching his brand name to glass bongos that were sold over the internet. Ashcroft's army of waste managers, fighting the good fight to save freedom as only they could define it, are taking out the trash wherever they identify it. "Put that in your pipe and inhale it," they taunt.

■ And there's so much trash to be taken out. How's this? They made poor, shameless Raquel Smashenburns put on her pants. Wasn't allowed to show her bare derriere on "Game Over," a comedy that premiered last night on UPN. For two seconds, her shapely bottom was supposed to be visible in the background, but since the Janet Jackson incident at the Super Bowl that turned all of America on its head, UPN executives cite a "climate of heightened sensitivity toward sex ... even in cartoons." That's right, folks. Ms. Smashenburns is a cartoon character — all pencil lines and crayon strokes — but still apparently too hot to handle for a nation with the chills. Beware.

(Ron Scott Smith is all hot and bothered about something. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com).

CREATE SOME DIALOGUE. YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Att. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • sack@smdp.com

OPINION



Gov. Schwarzenegger should keep leading real change



HERE'S THE THING

By Lara M. Brown

By all accounts, Gov. Schwarzenegger has accomplished the impossible. He is earning praise from all corners of the political spectrum and accumulating political capital at an extraordinary rate in Sacramento. A series of political wins have helped him acquire an "action-hero" status outside of the movies.

Aside from his personable qualities, of which I have heard there are many: He repealed the fee increase on car registrations. He pushed the Legislature to work in special sessions to ensure that the bond initiatives would make the March ballot. He then campaigned hard to tip the majority of voters in favor of passage of Propositions 57 and 58. Most impressively, he brought back a spirit of bipartisanship in Sacramento. The acrimony and obstinacy that reigned for years has taken a back seat to pragmatism and compromise — the glue that binds democratic politics.

Should the governor get all the credit? Didn't the Legislature "calling a truce" have something to do with it? Certainly. Of course, their actions mattered. But it took a leader who was willing to have a

vision and who was unwilling get caught up in petty fights to make it happen.

I once read an advertisement that sums up the principle nicely, it said: "Leaders follow leaders."

Gov. Schwarzenegger has been able to get members of the Legislature (who are leaders in their own communities) to follow him because he has led. Whether or not one agrees with his agenda or his policy prescriptions, most respect his actions because he has taken risks, shown courage and maintained his resolve. His heart is in his work.

But here's the fascinating part. What should the governor do now? Given Gov. Schwarzenegger's record of achievement, I would argue that he should not sit back and rest on his laurels. He is on the right track with reforming the workers' compensation insurance system, but he needs to continue to think big, really big. Vision is what has made him successful, so he should continue to be visionary.

EDUCATION OVERHAUL:

The California Master Plan Alliance writes: "The Master Plan for Education is a blueprint for improvement to every major part of the education system in California, from governance to faculty to finance and beyond."

And the governor should pay attention.

The Master Plan for Education is a proposal that was developed over two years ago through a bipartisan Joint Legislative Committee with recommendations pro-

vided by hundreds of Californians who participated on working groups in various education subject areas. Several pieces of the plan have been introduced as legislation over the past 18 months, but they have languished in committees as they have yet to receive significant support from education reformers.

One example is included in Sen. Dede Alpert's bill, SB6, which moves the directorship of the Department of Education from the state Superintendent's Office to the Governor's Office, essentially making the Education Secretary a Cabinet level official, and turning the superintendent into more of an accountability monitor. This governance change makes endless sense because we would finally have a governor who is responsible both for proposing the education budget and for implementing it.

This is critical because as it sits now there is only fragmentation at the highest levels. The governor proposes the education budget. The State Board of Education (folks appointed by the governor) makes education policy. The Legislature approves an education budget. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction who is elected separately (and often is of a different political party than the governor) implements the budget and directs the California State Department of Education. The Governor's Education Secretary who is appointed by the governor works on specific education initiatives

important to the governor. This is not checks and balances. This is insanity and shows why change is so necessary.

But this proposed change is just one piece. Other areas of the plan seek to increase preschool access; align curriculum and assessment; simplify and make effective student transferring between and among campuses in California without losing credits, time, or money; incorporate more career experiences into school; expand technology access; and develop preschool through higher education partnerships, to name just a few. It truly is an education overhaul.

HERE'S THE THING:

If there were any place for Gov. Schwarzenegger to spend his political capital, it should be to help ensure the passage of the Master Plan for Education. By embracing this as his legacy, though most of the results would not even take effect until after he had left office (the plan is expected to take nearly two decades to achieve), he would go down in history as the "Education Governor." This is vision. This is thinking big.

Gov. Schwarzenegger should make the Master Plan for Education his own plan.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com.)



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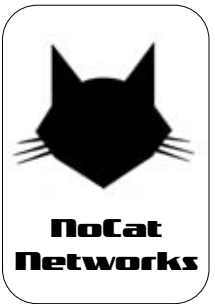
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LOCAL

School boosters withholding judgment on council talk

MEASURE, from page 1

their weekly meeting on Friday and then issue a response.

CEPS leaders in the past have said the bottom line is City Hall spends tens of millions of dollars on new buildings like the library and the public safety facility, and should be able to commit to \$6 million or more each year for schools, a fraction of its budget, which exceeds \$380 million.

"We have a goal and that is resources for our schools," said Shari Davis, CEPS co-chair. "It's really simple and it really shouldn't be posed ... as divisive. It's about having the city share a very small percentage of its budget to greatly benefit our schools."

City officials said the school boosters are purposefully simplifying the argument to gather support. They added it's irresponsible to write a check without identifying a revenue source.

Mayor Richard Bloom said last week the proposal is politically driven and threatens to draw deep divisions in the community. What's more, Bloom said it could ruin the city's strong bond rating and ultimately lead to cuts that affect local school kids. That's because City Hall pumps more than \$12 million into after-school and other youth programs that could be reduced as a result of the proposed charter amendment.

"There are a lot of political agendas involved in this that have nothing to do with kids or the financial health of the city," Bloom said. "For some people who are backing this, they see it as a tool to unseat the current council majority. And I think for others it's a matter of personal political advancement ..."

"It's well intentioned and I understand that people will be inclined to sign a petition," added Bloom, a parent who has children in the local school district. "It's fatally misguided."

Bloom said the leaders of CEPS seem not to care that there is no new revenue source.

"Money isn't growing on any trees I see in the city," he said. "We don't have extra money. All of our dollars are allocated. And, in fact, for the last two budget cycles we've been cutting, not adding."

"So the simple, mathematical truth and practical truth is that we have to have a balanced budget, which means if we take \$3 million and allocate it for the schools, we have to cut \$3 million from other city programs and services," he added. "The folks over at CEPS appear to not care about that. They want to leave that problem to someone else."

Davis dismissed the idea that any members of CEPS have a political bent. "That's just patently false," Davis said.

"The agenda of CEPS is to improve funding to our local schools. We are an independent, broad-based coalition, committed to the betterment and preservation of our public schools. We are not involved in trying to think about candidates. We are focused on the excellent public schools measure — period."

"CEPS has been around for several years and we've had community forums," she added. "We have engaged in the Measure S campaign, before that the Measure EE campaign. We have a very bright, informed, politically savvy group on the steering committee, and with all the experience we've had over the past 25 years, to sit down with all the people and draft a charter amendment

is a process that brings many different perspectives to the table ...

"Six million dollars is only a very small amount above what they give now," Davis continued. "Beyond that, let's look at what the city finds money for — \$60 million for their police facility and \$70 million for the library. C'mon, let's be realistic."

"It's about having the city share a very small percentage of its budget to greatly benefit our schools."

— SHARI DAVIS
CEPS co-chair

The problem with those examples, city officials said, is that the money is already earmarked — in many cases from capital improvement budgets from other years. Davis declined to respond to that argument, except to reiterate that City Hall should prioritize and find a way to fund schools.

City Hall last year gave the school district its standard \$3 million, plus an additional \$2.25 million in one-time funds, and has given millions of dollars in years prior.

Louise Jaffe, the other CEPS co-chair, said last week the community has spoken in the past about the importance of education.

"It's a horrible situation," she said, referring to the state's budget deficit. "But this is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill town. This is a prosperous community and this is a priority of the community, they have proven that time and time again."

The two groups have until the first week of May to reach an agreement. That's when CEPS must hand over its signatures to qualify the charter amendment for the November ballot.

In the meantime, McCarthy's comments at the Tuesday night meeting earned praise from the City Council, who said it's rare for leaders to speak openly about a divisive subject. They also expressed optimism in reaching common ground on the matter.

"I think this can be moved ahead," City Councilman Herb Katz said. "I think there's great hope we can resolve it."

Tree is part of 2004 Olympics

ARBOR DAY, from page 1

participated in the Global Olive Wreath Program by planting an Australian Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) at the north end of Palisades Park. A favorite tree of Grace Heintz, the author of the last edition of "Trees of Santa Monica," the Australian Tea Tree was selected for its long life span. Heintz is recognized with a plaque in Palisades Park as a long-time advocate of preserving trees in Santa Monica.

The tree got its common name from the early days of Capt. Cook and his crew sailing — they had run out of vegetables and fruit and were worried about scurvy. They used the tree's leaves to make tea as a supplement to their diets.

BUSINESS

Leaving your company takes planning



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

As the owner of a privately held business, you are undoubtedly involved in every facet of it. You are the expert. You know everything there is to know about the intricacies of running and managing your business. Most importantly, it is your creativity and perseverance that have made you so successful.

But, at some point, whether by choice or by need, every business owner must ultimately exit the business. While there are a host of reasons for leaving including retirement, disability and death, the one common need for yourself, your loved ones and your business partners, is to plan for the transition of your business.

Planning for the eventuality of leaving your business is critical, as there are a host of issues that must be examined: Income and transfer tax consequences, financial considerations and determining the best way to transfer the management and ownership of your business to others. If you fail to address these issues, all your time and hard work, as well as your financial security, may be in jeopardy.

Have you thought about who should manage or run your business and who should own it upon your departure? Do you have children who are qualified and desire to run the business? Will your surviving spouse have adequate income available should you die? Have you considered transfer taxes? Have you created or updated an estate plan to reflect the latest tax laws? Have you discussed your ideas with family members and business partners to try to ensure accord?

The number and complexity of questions surrounding business succession can be overwhelming. And while it takes a good deal of work from financial, tax and legal advisors, proper succession planning can yield enormous benefits. You need to apply an integrated strategy that could help you reduce estate and gift taxes, generate retirement income, transfer the management and ownership of your business to others and help you protect against financial losses.

Some of the tools used in planning the successful transition of a business may include:

- Life Insurance can provide liquidity needed to pay estate taxes, buy-out a co-owner's interest, attract or retain talented employees or replace the economic value of a key person.

- Buy-sell agreements can help establish the busi-

ness' value and ensure the orderly and efficient transfer of business interests when an owner leaves the company due to retirement, disability or death.

- Lifetime gifts of business interests may be attractive if you expect your business to appreciate in value. If the gift is made during your lifetime, all post-gift appreciation should not be subject to gift taxes or included in your estate.

- Family limited partnerships and limited liability companies might be used to transfer a portion of your business to family members at a discounted gift tax value. These entities may help protect your family's wealth and reduce the size of your potential estate, while allowing you to retain managerial control over the business.

- Private foundation gifts made during your lifetime qualify for charitable gift tax deductions, and possible income tax deductions, while gifts made at death qualify for charitable estate tax deductions.

Because no two businesses are alike, it's important to work with experienced professionals who can help you implement appropriate planning techniques tailored to your specific needs. For your protection, it is important to start planning today for the future you want to create.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. Smith Barney does not give tax or legal advice. Consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidelines. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., member SIPC. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the business client services department of Smith Barney.)

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Study: Chronic state housing shortage is overstated

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A chronic statewide housing shortage blamed for driving up California home prices and forcing families to share dwellings may be overstated and is largely confined to major cities, says a study released Wednesday.

In an analysis countering widespread popular opinion, the Public Policy Institute of California suggests there is little evidence of a statewide housing shortage outside metropolitan Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and San Diego.

The study is being criticized as an outdated snapshot of 2000 census data and a mere academic exercise.

It found thousands of new homes in fast-growing suburbs in the Central Valley and Riverside and San Bernardino counties have rendered the state's much-proclaimed housing deficit largely a phenomenon of 13 urban counties.

Even there, the report states, the housing shortage has been overstated by projections

that overlooked California's unique demographics that include above-average numbers of immigrants, extended families and children. Widespread citizen opposition to more housing also has slowed construction in the nine-county Bay Area, and Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura and San Diego counties, the study says.

Regions with the worst housing shortages also are "the least receptive to new construction," the study found, noting that "restrictive land-use policies in those regions exacerbated the shortages."

Several critics objected to the study's claim that California was short only 138,000 homes in 2000 compared to typical estimates of 500,000 or higher. Others said a housing surplus in inland areas is meaningless when most of the state's jobs remain in expensive, highly populated and house-short urban areas.

Such questions are sparking fresh debate on one of the state's most critical issues: how much housing is necessary — and where — in a state of 35 million people growing by 600,000 newcomers yearly.

"The good news might be that what they're saying is the problem isn't as bad as we feared and if it's not as bad, it might be solvable," said Dowell Myers, a University of Southern California housing expert. "I think what they're saying is there's hope."

John Landis, a University of California at Berkeley housing expert, said California may now begin to overcome its housing deficit with 180,000 new residences a year instead of 220,000. Landis projected the higher number during the late 1990s for a state housing study still cited by builders and politicians.

Homebuilders last year built nearly 190,000 homes and apartments in California and aim this year to build still more.

Hans Johnson, author of the PPIC study, attributed his dramatic downsizing of California's housing shortage to California's rapid 1990s growth in the number of children who aren't old enough to need new homes, and immigrants who often live in large extended families instead

of moving into new homes or apartments.

He said 84 percent "of the apparent shortage in California's occupied housing units can be attributed to demographic differences between California and the rest of the nation."

Stephanie Pincetl, author of the 1998 book on the state's growth, "Transforming California," said the PPIC theory rests too strongly on how the poor contend with rising rents.

"They're assuming that overcrowding has eliminated the problem," she said.

But Johnson pointed to other 1990s demographic events that reduced demand for California's housing, including a major recession that drove many young people to other states and an end to Baby Boomers entering their prime years for forming households.

"That's two strong demographic forces coinciding to produce a change in housing demand that was not like anything else we had seen in California," he said.

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Officials name that little short street near the pier

STREET, from page 1

before it was in contact with white and Spaniard settlers.

Before the council members settled on "Moomat Ahiko," each of the five present listed their favorite choices for naming the little road. "Ocean Incline" and "Ocean Hill" were put forward by City Councilman Herb Katz. City Councilman Mike Feinstein, on the other hand, suggested "Arcadia Road" and "Entrada Santa Monica," joking he would also support "Moonlight Drive," because he's a Jim Morrison fan.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown

first suggested "Low Road" — in jest — later saying he thought renaming the short roadway could confuse motorists, because of the signage involved. But City Councilman Ken Genser countered all roadways need to have names.

"You can't just say, 'I'm on a street without a name, auto club come pick me up,' or something like that," said Genser, who thought "Coast Highway Access" would be a fitting name. "There needs to be some way when incidents occur to describe where you are."

— John Wood

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STATE



Border Patrol defends checkpoints as criticism mounts

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — About all that separates the urban sprawls of Los Angeles and San Diego is this Marine base — 125,000 acres of largely undeveloped military training ground. Cutting through it is Interstate 5, which hugs the Pacific Ocean for 17 miles, giving motorists unobstructed coastal views.

Despite the barren hillsides, the four northbound lanes are often a traffic jam. Some motorists blame the U.S. Border Patrol, which operates a checkpoint to inspect for illegal immigrants and drug runners. Only a tiny fraction of the 70,000 vehicles that travel under the steel canopy each day are ordered to stop for questioning — much less pull aside for vehicle searches — but traffic still slows to a crawl.

To the Border Patrol, the outpost 68 miles north of the Mexican border is one of about four dozen checkpoints inside the United States that serve as a crucial, last line of defense. To critics, they are a waste of taxpayer money and a nuisance to motorists.

It is an old debate that is gaining new attention in this era of color-coded terror alerts. The Border Patrol, which opened the Pendleton checkpoint in 1968, has been adding sites in northern border states, including one in December on Interstate 91 in Hartford, Vt., about 100 miles from the Canadian border.

Two Southern California congressmen have asked the General Accounting Office to study whether the inland checkpoints are giving taxpayers much bang for their buck. During an orange-color alert, traffic backed up more than 20 miles on New Year's Eve at checkpoints at Pendleton and Temecula, a growing bedroom community on Interstate 15 about 70 miles north of the Mexican border.

"It's not terribly effective and they know it," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Vista, a longtime critic of the inland checkpoints whose district includes Pendleton. "They keep defending this unverifiable concept of it being a deterrent. They can't prove it and we can't disprove it."

Issa cites Border Patrol statistics showing only 4,370 people were apprehended at the San Clemente Station, which includes the Pendleton checkpoint, in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2001. That's down 91 percent from 47,397 in fiscal 1993.

The Temecula Station registered a 87 percent drop over the same period — to 2,959 apprehensions from 22,721.

The Border Patrol says the drop reflects a crackdown in the San Diego region that has forced smugglers and migrants east to sparsely populated highlands and deserts. Apprehensions in the San Diego area have fallen 80 percent since the crackdown began in 1994. The agency did not provide apprehension counts for other inland checkpoints to demonstrate whether they've changed elsewhere.

Wesley Knippler, the patrol agent in charge of the San Clemente Station, says dismantling the Pendleton checkpoint would be a mistake. He likens the inspection site to outfielders on a baseball team.

"If the ball gets through the infield and there's no one in the outfield, what do you have?" he said. "A home run."

The Border Patrol operated 52 inland vehicle checkpoints from October to February; the exact number fluctuates because many are temporary. Arizona, for example, has only temporary checkpoints, thanks to a campaign by Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Tucson, who argues permanent inspection stations remove the element of surprise.

Some migrant advocates concede the checkpoints are effective, forcing many people without legal status to stay as far south as they can. Migrant smugglers charge up to \$500 to get to Los Angeles from San Diego, in addition to the \$1,200 to \$1,500 fee for getting across the border from Mexico, said Christian Ramirez, head of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S.-Mexico Border Program, which assists migrants.

"People don't go because they know they're going to get caught," said Jose Gonzalez, 36, a pharmacy worker and migrant advocate in north San Diego County. Before Gonzalez gained legal status under the 1986 immigration

reforms, he had avoided visiting family in Pomona, near Los Angeles, because of the checkpoints.

The point is lost on many motorists. Issa says his congressional office fields complaints every week.

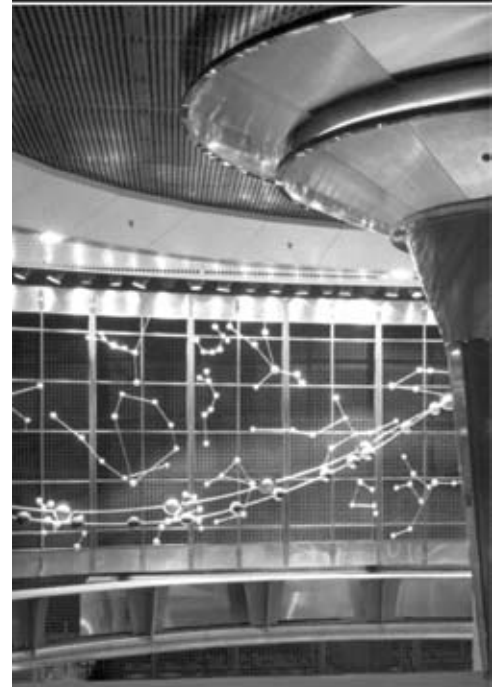
To avoid long backups, the Pendleton checkpoint added a lane in 1997 for prescreened motorists to avoid inspection by installing a transponder inside their cars.

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NATIONAL

Drought, growth has Vegas turning thirsty eyes north

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — After nearly two decades of busily converting desert into sprawling metropolis in the fastest growing region in the nation, southern Nevada finds itself beset by a four-year drought and straining against limits in the water it can pump from nearby Lake Mead.

Las Vegas is turning to neighboring counties to the north to quench a thirst the nation's largest man-made reservoir can't sustain. Plans include drilling wells and building a \$1 billion pipeline to tap rivers and groundwater from neighboring rural counties.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority says there is enough water out there to let the Las Vegas area population nearly double in the next decade — to more than 3 million — without drawing more from the Colorado River that supplies Lake Mead.

Some at the head of the proposed pipeline worry their high desert valleys and ranches will dry up if precious underground water is pumped to Las Vegas. They say the obvious solution is being ignored.

"You have growth in an area that doesn't have water and the decisions aren't how to control growth, it's how to get water," said Paul Johnson, chairman of the White Pine County Commission in Ely, 250 miles north of the Las Vegas Strip.

Farrel Lytle, who lives in Eagle Valley — an enclave of about 30 homes, a trailer park and a bar near Pioche, is worried his community will go the way of California's Owens River Valley.

"That country dried up. It lost its water to a big city," Lytle said.

Johnson also sees parallels in the early 1900s Los Angeles water project that drained a valley north of Los Angeles and turned Owens Lake, east of the Sierra, into a dust bowl. The 1974 film "Chinatown" was loosely based on the episode.

"All of these preceding disasters are examples that people use when they talk about transferring water," Johnson said.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority last year settled a 1989 water rights claim it staked across vast stretches of Lincoln County, and is negotiating with White Pine County, the next county to the north.

White Pine's five-member commission suspended talks last month to address community opposition to water sharing.

"The community is very divided on how to deal with this," Johnson said. He acknowledged that 8,800 people living in a rural county the size of Massachusetts may be no match for business and political interests in Clark County — which includes Las Vegas and 1.6 million of the state's 2.3 million residents.

"We're trying to save our water," said Gary Lane, a truck stop owner, cattle rancher and alfalfa farmer outside the White Pine community of Lund, 210 miles from Las Vegas. "We're looking at our pumps and our springs running dry if the water is pumped out."

No one really knows how much water exists beneath the desert. State Engineer Hugh Ricci estimates there are millions of acre-feet.

"The question is, where can you get it and how much can you get?" Ricci said.

Water officials say they'll need to drill test wells to determine whether the supply is finite ancient water trapped underground or is replenished by springs and

scarce surface precipitation.

Nevada in 2003 led the nation in population increase for a 17th year, according to the state demographer. About 80 percent of new residents moved to Las Vegas or nearby.

The Lake Mead reservoir behind Hoover Dam is at its lowest level in 35 years, at 1,140 feet above sea level or 65 feet below its high water mark. It is still more than half full, with about 5 trillion gallons of water.

A growth study delivered to the Southern Nevada Water Authority on Feb. 26 did not refer directly to water. But it came the same day the authority received a report on plans to reach far to the north to meet future demands.

One project calls for tapping groundwater in northern Clark County by 2007. Another would draw water from the Virgin and Muddy rivers before they empty into one end of Lake Mead. The third would extend the pipeline north to Lincoln and White Pine counties.

The growth study, by Las Vegas-based Hobbs Ong & Associates, was commissioned to determine whether growth control would work as a means of drought management, and to provide an answer to other states relying on the Colorado River who wonder why southern Nevada won't stop growing.

It said the economies of southern Nevada and the rest of the state depend on continued growth, as well as on gambling, tourism and mining. Turn it off and the entire state would suffer, it concluded.

The report made a case for growth that the construction industry in southern Nevada wanted to make, said Daniel Patterson, a desert ecologist with the Center

for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Ariz.

"It was, 'Maximum water for maximum development,' and, 'We need Congress to do it,'" he said.

Patterson noted that Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., plans to introduce legislation in Congress to free acreage for development around Lincoln County's four largest towns — Caliente, Pioche, Alamo and Panaca — and set aside other land as protected wilderness.

The proposal would include a spiderweb of hundreds of miles of mile-wide utility easements that could serve as a route for the water pipeline.

"There doesn't seem to be an acknowledgment of the reality that Las Vegas is in the driest desert in the United States," Patterson said. "If you're going to have a sustainable city there into the future, Las Vegas has got to get very serious about reducing waste."

Water authority general manager Patricia Mulroy insisted that conservation is a top priority for her agency, which delivers water to most of Clark County and the 35 million tourists who visit each year.

Although the water board last month relaxed drought restrictions on car washing, outdoor misting systems and decorative fountains, Mulroy said aggressive conservation measures remain in place.

"We're paying for people to take turf out," she said. "Everything that reaches the sewer system is treated and returned to the Colorado River, or it goes to a regional system for parks and golf courses and turf applications."

The state is allowed 300,000 acre-feet of river water a year under a deal in which water is shared by seven Colorado River states and Mexico.



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LISA GRACE-KELLOGG SBN 191988 - Attorneys at Law — 210 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 — Telephone: (213) 628-4384 — Attorney for Petitioner. SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES — IN RE THE PETITION ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS OUTLOOK AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION and NO. BS087128. NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION. MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES (Government Code §6000) NOTICE IS GIVEN that on March 17, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6000 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 45 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petition sets forth the following: 1) Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is editor of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. 2) The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, California. It is not devoted to the interests, or published for the entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or for any number thereof. 3) The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers numbering 26 in the County of Los Angeles for a total of 26 bona fide paying subscribers. 4) For more than one year preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established and has been printed and published at regular intervals in the County of Los Angeles. 5) During the whole of such one-year period, the mechanical work of producing the petitioning newspaper, that is, the work of typesetting and impressing type on paper, has been performed in the County of Los Angeles; the newspaper has been issued from the same county where it is printed and sold; it has been both printed and published in the County; and it has been published as a daily newspaper on each weekday and Saturday and has a daily paid circulation of 26. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: January 13, 2004 — LISA GRACE-KELLOGG, Attorney for Petitioner



Kerry wants the wealthiest Americans to pay up

BY MIKE GLOVER

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Wednesday he will ask Americans earning more than \$200,000 a year to pay the taxes they paid under President Clinton while pledging to retain the Bush tax cuts for the middle class and even add to them.

"Under George Bush's policies, middle-class families are paying more. America's middle class can't afford a tax increase," Kerry told labor leaders. He accused the president of draining thousands of dollars from working families and practicing "the politics of blame."

"George Bush is running on the same old Republican tactics of fear — and they're already getting tired," he said. "It's clear that this president will fight like hell to keep his own job, but he won't lift a finger to help Americans keep theirs."

Just hours after a four-state sweep that moved him tantalizingly close to claiming the Democratic nomination, Kerry toured a mechanical contracting business and spoke

via satellite to leaders of the AFL-CIO gathered in Bal Harbour, Fla., for their winter convention. He spoke from the shop floor, surrounded by about 50 workers.

The Massachusetts senator won the labor federation's endorsement last month and hopes to use labor's organizational muscle and money to boost his campaign. While labor's share of the work force has declined over the years, union members are reliable voters, with 26 percent of those casting ballots in the 2000 election coming from union households.

Kerry said he will propose new middle-class tax credits to pay for health care and college tuition. The latest element to Kerry's plan is the creation of a \$50 billion fund to help states provide tax relief for state, local and property taxes for working families.

"If you add up the true costs of this president's economic policies, you get a 'Bush Tax' of higher property taxes, higher fees, higher health care costs — at the same time middle-class incomes are going down," he said. "The Bush Tax can take \$3,500 or more from the pockets of

America's middle class. And they can't afford that price."

Bush-Cheney campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said Kerry "has voted for higher taxes 350 times and his numbers for new spending don't add up. His campaign trail promises mean that he is going to raise taxes by at least \$900 billion. It is a tax increase for every American."

Schmidt added, "John Kerry's rhetoric that he is only going to raise taxes on the rich is not credible, is not believable, and it doesn't add up."

Kerry swept the four Southern states that elected delegates Tuesday and was returning to Washington to meet with Howard Dean, the former Vermont governor who had been one of Kerry's top rivals for the Democratic nomination. He was scheduled to meet Thursday with John Edwards, who left the campaign after the Super Tuesday elections of March 2.

Dean is prepared to campaign for Kerry and ask his own contributors to donate to Kerry's campaign, said officials familiar with the meeting. Aides are expected to spend a week or so planning

an endorsement, the officials said.

Kerry won Florida, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana, largely without major opposition. He won about 75 percent of the vote in Florida and Mississippi, and about two-thirds in the other states. An Associated Press analysis showed the senator with 1,954 delegates, but Kerry wasn't expected to reach the magic number of 2,162 until later this month because of the way the party allocates delegates.

Exit polls conducted for The Associated Press showed the economy was the top issue, with about four in 10 voters saying their own financial situation was worse than four years ago. As in earlier primaries, many were angry at Bush, especially in Florida, where his brother, Jeb, is governor, and in Texas, his home state, according to the surveys conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

President Bush had a memorable night of his own when he crossed the necessary threshold of 1,255 delegates to wrap up the Republican nomination, according to an Associated Press count.



WORLD BRIEFLY

U.S. civilians latest casualties in Iraq

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen posing as police killed two American civilians and their Iraqi translator — all employees of the U.S.-led coalition — at a makeshift checkpoint south of Baghdad, the coalition said Wednesday. In another southern area, four Iraqi policemen died in a shootout with a local militia.

The deaths at the checkpoint came when the gunmen stopped the car Tuesday night outside Hillah, 35 miles south of Baghdad, Polish Col. Robert Strzelecki said. The attackers shot dead the passengers and took the vehicle, he said.

Polish troops later intercepted the car, arrested five Iraqis in it and found the bodies inside, said Strzelecki, speaking from the Camp Babylon headquarters of the Polish-led multinational force in Iraq. In Baghdad, a spokesman for the coalition that governs Iraq confirmed the deaths. Authorities did not immediately release the identities of those killed.

Further south, Iraqi police tried Tuesday night to enter a building where a Shiite militia was holding two civilians in the city of Nasiriyah, a coalition spokesman said. In a gunbattle, four Iraqi policemen were killed and two wounded.

The standoff finally ended when Italian security forces stormed the building, rescued the civilians and arrested eight militia members, the spokesman said.

Union effort to be re-energized

By The Associated Press

BAL HARBOUR, Fla. — Organized labor is in the fight of its life to remain relevant to workers as it struggles to rebound from setbacks in organizing and politics.

Labor leaders meeting this week at a luxury seaside resort are revving up for the largest multimillion dollar effort to mobilize their members to defeat President Bush. John Kerry, the Democrats' presumptive nominee, planned to address the meeting by satellite Wednesday.

Union chiefs also are promising to do more to organize new workers to overcome steep losses in manufacturing and the current flood of white-collar jobs going overseas.

"The fact is that union membership hasn't kept up with job loss," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said. "The jobs drain and the steady assault by the Bush administration has made a hard challenge harder. Manufacturing job losses in particular have socked not only our members but our industrial unions."

About 400,000 new members were organized last

year, he said. But membership is at an all-time low, with just 12.9 percent of the work force belonging to a union last year.

Muhammad sentenced to death

By The Associated Press

MANASSAS, Va. — The only question surrounding teenage sniper Lee Boyd Malvo's sentence was whether he would speak about his role in the Washington, D.C.-area killing spree that left 10 people dead.

Otherwise, the outcome of Wednesday's hearing was predetermined: The judge must follow a jury's recommendation of life in prison as Bush's punishment for the October 2002 killings that terrorized the region.

Malvo's accomplice, John Allen Muhammad, was sentenced to death Tuesday and took the opportunity to again deny any role in the killings, echoing a claim of innocence he made in his opening statement to the jury when he briefly served as his own attorney.

But Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. said the evidence of Muhammad's guilt was "overwhelming" and sentenced him to death.

"These offenses are so vile that they were almost beyond comprehension," Millette said.

It is unclear what will happen next with Malvo. Prosecutors in other states, including Alabama and Louisiana, are seeking his extradition to face potential death-penalty charges there for killings that occurred in the weeks before the D.C. sniper spree.

Being fat will kill you

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More Americans soon will be dying of obesity than from smoking if current trends persist, which would make being fat the nation's No. 1 cause of preventable death, the government says.

A poor diet and physical inactivity caused 400,000 deaths in 2000, a 33 percent jump over 1990, said a study released Tuesday by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tobacco-related deaths in the same period climbed by less than 9 percent to 435,000 as the gap between the two narrowed substantially. At this rate, obesity will claim the top spot, the report said.

"Our worst fears were confirmed," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, the CDC's director and an author of the study.

An ad campaign that begins Wednesday tells viewers they can lose midsection love handles and double chins one step at a time if they eat less and exercise more.

"We're just too darn fat, ladies and gentlemen, and we're going to do something about it," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said at a news conference.

Bush to Cleveland: 'I feel your pain'

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush wants Cleveland to know he feels its pain.

For the 15th time as president, Bush on Wednesday visits Ohio, where unemployment is stuck at 6.2 percent and where nearly 200,000 jobs were lost during the recession from 2001 through last March — nearly two-thirds in manufacturing. The national unemployment rate for February was 5.6 percent.

Bush was giving a speech on Americans' anxiety about jobs going overseas, a senior administration official said. And he was making a fresh push for his economic policies, criticized for months by the Democratic presidential contenders.

Bush's latest visit to Ohio suggested he was not entirely confident about keeping the state in his column this November. He has returned there again and again to reassure workers he is trying to stem job losses.

Bush planned to point to a Steubenville, Ohio, plant that makes Hondas as an example of a foreign company that has benefited from Bush's trade and tax policies. It employs 16,000 people in Ohio.

The cost of indecent programming

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Still upset over last month's Super Bowl halftime show, lawmakers are moving closer to making it more expensive for radio or television stations to put indecent programming on the air.

The Senate Commerce Committee voted Tuesday to raise the maximum fine for indecent programming from \$27,500 to \$500,000. The House Commerce Committee approved a similar increase last week, and the full House is expected to take up the measure Thursday.

Senators diverged from their House counterparts by also voting to delay the Federal Communications Commission's new broadcast ownership rules from taking effect until investigators at Congress' General Accounting Office can study any relationship between media consolidation and indecency.

The rules, temporarily blocked by a federal appeals court, would make it easier for companies to own newspapers and broadcast stations in the same community.

"The evidence suggests that more of the complaints are filed against the larger organizations," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., a sponsor of the measure. "We don't need fewer voices in this country controlling the media. The growth of concentration in radio and television has been alarming in recent years."

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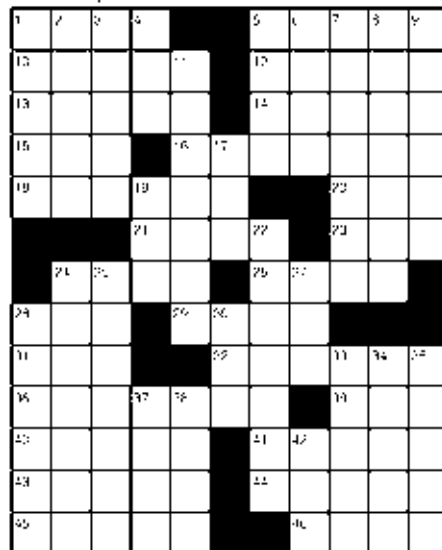
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5 Ocean motions
10 Fencing ploy
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13 Tear producer
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15 Do something
16 Strip
18 Richard Pryor movie
20 Writer Amy
21 Some flock members
23 Stopped fasting
24 Not coarse
26 Vacation spot
28 Use the track
29 Secluded spot
31 Road curve
32 "Seward's Folly"
36 Escape
39 Rival of Peter and Dan
40 In the sky
41 New Zealand native
43 "Two Women" star

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- 44 Pole workers
45 Ply
46 Remini of "The King of Queens"
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2 Midday break
3 Join
4 Self-esteem
5 Field cover
6 Composer
7 Like some watches
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9 Peaceful
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17 Pupil's place
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Diana Ross' drunk driving hangover spans to jail cell

By The Associated Press

■ **TUCSON, Ariz.** — Diana Ross was ordered to return to Tucson to serve a two-day jail sentence in her drunken-driving case.

The singer, who pleaded no contest to DUI last month, had arranged to serve her sentence in Greenwich, Conn., where she lives. But during her stay, she left and returned multiple times, said City Court Magistrate T. Jay Cranshaw.

Greenwich Police Chief James Walters originally wrote Cranshaw to say that Ross, 59, had completed her sentence, spending 48 hours in custody over three days, including two overnight stays.

Cranshaw asked for a full accounting of the time spent there, and it turns out Ross spent only 47 hours in police custody.

Arizona law requires DUI defendants to spend at least 24 consecutive hours in custody. Cranshaw said in a written order that the jail arrangement in Greenwich "clearly does not comply with Arizona law."

"To avoid questions of impropriety, the defendant is ordered to return to Tucson to serve 48 consecutive hours in the Pima County Jail," Cranshaw wrote in a March 4 order.

The original jail order sent to Greenwich didn't state that Ross had to serve 24 consecutive hours behind bars.

Ross, the former lead singer of The Supremes, has been on tour in Europe.

She was arrested Dec. 30, 2002, after someone reported seeing someone driving the wrong way on Tucson's northeast side.

A hearing is scheduled April 1 to schedule her new jail stay.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Mira Sorvino is helping Amnesty International launch a two-year campaign to end violence against women.

The actress said Tuesday the campaign is intended to put pressure on governments around the world to create policies that would discourage violence against women.

"Even in the United States, violence against women is the number one threat to women's safety in terms of their health," she said. "Women are more likely to be injured or killed by violence than by any other threat."

In many countries, Sorvino said, violence against women also can take the form of female infanticide or abortions of fetuses expected to be girls.

The campaign also aims to have rape classified as a war crime. Sorvino said for decades rape has been used as a tactic of war, particularly in ethnic conflicts such as the civil war in Rwanda.

The 36-year-old, who won a supporting-actress Oscar for Woody Allen's 1995 film "Mighty Aphrodite," also has appeared in "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" and "The Replacement Killers."

■ **VANCOUVER, British Columbia** — Newlywed singers Diana Krall and Elvis Costello still plan to go their separate ways on tour, but with some limits.

In a talk-show interview that aired Tuesday on CTV, Costello said he and Krall hope to avoid separations longer than three weeks.

"We have actually a date in Madeira in a couple of weeks' time and it is going to be like that, on and off," he said.

"The good thing about it is that we know what the job is and we're lucky that we have the resources to make

the journey, and beyond that you just need the will — and love gives you a lot of will."

Krall and Costello were married three months ago in England. Krall, who gave a concert Friday to raise money for the Vancouver Hospital bone marrow transplant program, begins a concert tour in Calgary in May.

"I've been on the press tour — started about two weeks ago, three weeks ago, which I find the most stressful part," she said. "I'll be glad when I'm playing."

■ **COPENHAGEN, Denmark** — Canadian writer-actor-director Robert Lepage is the winner of the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Prize, named for the Danish fairy tale writer, the award committee said Wednesday.

Lepage will receive the \$60,000 prize during a ceremony April 2 in Odense, where Andersen was born in 1805.

The Quebecois artist was chosen for creating a solo performance based on an Andersen fairy tale about technical inventions interacting with the writer's poetic universe. The prize is sponsored by the city of Odense.

In 2005, Danes will celebrate Andersen's bicentennial with film, television, literature, theater, dance, multimedia, music, exhibitions and educational activities in Denmark and abroad.

Andersen is renowned for his fairy tales, including the classics "The Little Match Girl," "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Red Shoes." He also wrote novels, poetry, plays and three autobiographies.

The separate Hans Christian Andersen Honorary Awards were announced Monday. The 2004 recipients were Denmark's Queen Margrethe, Brazilian scholar Ana Maria da Costa Santos Menin and Italian translator Bruno Berni.

DID YOU KNOW?: Starting in the summer of 2004, only civil disputes will be heard at the Santa Monica Courthouse. All criminal matters will move to the Airport Courthouse near LAX.

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