



FREE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

March 13-14, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 105

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

37, 21, 12, 24, 17

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 2, 5

Evening picks: 0, 2, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race Time: 1:46.30



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Lame Excuses: According to a police report in January on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Web site, a driver in the Newfoundland district of Bonavista-Clarendville denied that he had an illegal radar detector, claiming that the black box on his dashboard was a "moose detector" that indeed had so far kept him safe from moose. And Joseph Hubbert, 34, explained to Minneapolis police on Christmas morning that the reason he got stuck in the chimney of Uncle Hugo's Mystery Bookstore was not because he was up to no good, but because he had accidentally dropped his keys down the chimney and had to crawl down to get them.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hell is other people."

— John Paul Sartre



INDEX



Horoscopes

Head for the crowds, Gemini 2



Local

The surf is steep and deep 3



Opinion

Spelling matters 4



State

Gays in love out of luck 6



National

Fire starter might have to pay 8



People in the News

The 'Sex' isn't over yet 16

Homicide raises safety questions for residents

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — Officials from one of Santa Monica's largest landlords told dozens of upset tenants on Thursday they will act immediately on a handful of security concerns made more urgent by the homicide that rattled a low-income housing project here last weekend.

But officials from Community Corp. of Santa Monica, a nonprofit organization that oversees 78 buildings and 2,400 tenants, also told residents new cameras and better lighting wouldn't have prevented the shooting, which police said was the result of a festering

"My direction ...
was I was to solve
this within 24 hours.
And we did."

— RUDY CAMARENA
SMPD, Sgt.

domestic dispute.

"To be honest with you, no amount of gadgets that we put in the building will replace (the community being involved)," said

See CCSM, page 5



INSIDE THE CHAMBER

A month-long series that examines
the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members to network in fast lane

BY LAUREN BONIFACIO

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN — The local chamber of commerce plans to be a match maker for its members — but it's strictly business.

To help some of its shyer members get together, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce plans on setting them up on blind dates, business style.

It's called high-speed networking, said Chamber president and CEO Kathy Dodson. And she isn't talking computers.

Playing off the speed dating craze, where singles can meet a whole room of potential mates via timed mini-dates, speed net-

working might just be able to facilitate some business partnerships made in heaven.

"It takes a lot of courage to go up to people you don't know and introduce yourself," Dodson said. "We wanted to get a smaller, more intimate group and add some structure to the networking."

The inaugural event planned for later this month will be limited to 40 people, Dodson said, and is open to all chamber members. Participants will be randomly paired off on four six-minute "dates," when they will get a chance to exchange introductions, networking tips and

See NETWORK, page 5

Peace it together



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

This tree represents a chain of peace somewhere in the city. The first person to accurately identify where this photo was taken will win two free tickets to a screening of 'The Prince & Me' this week at Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade.

Officials: California needs more competition, supply to ease gas prices

BY ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — California must find ways to increase the amount of refined gasoline available in the state or it will remain susceptible to the kind of market conditions that have driven gas

prices up in recent months, state officials said this week.

Currently, the state's refineries churn out just enough gasoline to cover demand, but oil companies don't keep large enough inventories on hand to weather short-term supply problems that can arise.

See GAS PRICES, page 7

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Go out dancing tonight, Leo



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)

★★★★ Reversing plans seems like the natural course of action. Your flexibility is tested, as you need to adapt to others. A trip might suddenly appear plausible. Why not take off for a day trip if you can? A change of scenery helps you recharge your mind and body. Tonight: Opt for unusual.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Investigate with a friend or loved one all that might be interesting to this person. You find that your eyes will open up to a new person. Relate on an individual level. You might want to change plans and not join friends. Tonight: It's your call.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others transform right in front of you. What you see is a total change in plans and events. What you might realize is that you have not been as observant as possible. Consider learning this skill. Talk with friends and family. Tonight: Go for spontaneous. Opt for crowds.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Get into a project or hobby that helps you relax, even if it is physically strenuous. You might find that letting go of worrying and overanalyzing is just what the doctor ordered. Use your imagination and creativity with a domestic matter. Tonight: Order in; just don't make anything a big deal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Intensity marks a key relationship. If you are single, be careful who you draw into your life, as this person might be hard to relate to. You might like the hot energy, but ultimately would prefer not to deal with the power plays. Tonight: Dance the night away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might be up for rearranging the house, painting a room or perhaps even moving. What might happen could draw others into your undertaking, though tension still surrounds this project. Swing between a discussion and moving your plan along. Tonight: Entertain at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ How you say what you think might have a direct result in what happens. You also could discover that you need to rephrase a statement several different ways before someone gets the gist of your message. Tonight: If need be, make this an early night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might have different plans from a loved one. Finances could change the picture considerably. Discuss a risk with this person and help him or her understand what you consider a liability. Allow lightness in through flirtation and kidding around. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others find you to be stubborn but changeable. What an odd combination you manifest! Be willing to adjust to a family member who could balk at your strength and direction. Indulge those around you. Tonight: What is it that you really want?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Slow down and take some time to handle an important project, which very well could be your taxes. Investigate what someone means rather than taking offense at his or her words. You could be unusually sensitive. Tonight: Choose something quiet and relaxing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your intuition helps you nail down what could be a tough situation. Relax with what is happening and worry less about the ramifications and simply flowing. A major relationship or friendship could be changing in your life. Tonight: Where your pals are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others look to you but could be resentful if you make decisions. You might feel as if you are walking a tightrope right now, as you juggle different demands as well as your own needs. Be direct and ask a question. Tonight: Chill out as soon as you can.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Newspaper exhibition depicts JFK assassination

By Daily Press staff

Relive the day when one of America's favorite presidents was assassinated.

In Venice tonight, there will be an exhibition of historic JFK assassination newspapers at Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave., near Ocean Front Walk. The exhibition opens at 7 p.m.

Volunteers celebrate black history at St. Joseph Center

By Daily Press staff

Volunteers, neighbors, clients and staff recently turned out to help St. Joseph Center hold its Second Annual Black History Celebration, complete with soul food, entertainment, music, and arts and crafts for the children.

"I've done volunteering all my life," said Ariella Roberts, who brought her young son, Quentin, to get him started early. "I take part in events like this to give back to the community and to show others how rewarding it is."

Kathy Hernandez came with her young son, Andrew, and 14 other volunteers from St. Luke's Parish in Temple City.

"We try to do little things for other people every day, and we always enjoy seeing our friends from other parishes," she said.

Volunteers from St. Mark's Church in Venice also were on hand.

"We're already looking forward to next year," said Maria Dinallo, coordinator of the event. "It's such a wonderful way to celebrate black heritage and history in the community."

St. Joseph Center provides food, child care, case management, job training, and senior services to more than 8,000 homeless and low-income men, women and children each year in Venice, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles.

For more information, visit www.stjosephctr.org, or call (310) 396-6468 ext. 325.

Hip seminar at the Y

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Family YMCA Senior Center will hold a free seminar March 16 on hip fractures.

Dr. Lynn Kerew, a Santa Monica-based chiropractor with a master's degree in public health and education as well, will conduct the seminar.

Kerew will address the physiology of the aging process and the difference between osteoporosis and osteopenia.

Up to 70 percent of senior deaths can be attributed to the secondary ramifications of hip fractures.

To register for the seminar, check in at the Senior Center's front desk. The Y will also have a hands-on screening on March 23.

Bookworms can discuss through the city program

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library invites book lovers to join book discussions and other events related to Christopher Isherwood's "The Berlin Stories" next month.

Set in a Berlin filled with pleasures, intrigue and danger during the late 1930s when the Nazis were coming to power, the stories were adapted for the stage and the film "Cabaret."

The program will lead off with experts on Isherwood and Weimar Germany in a panel discussion, "Isherwood in Context," on Saturday, April 17, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Montana Avenue Branch Library.

Moderator-led discussion groups during day and evening hours will be held at various venues around the city on April 19-22, April 26-29, and May 1.

Other events include a hosted screening of the film "Cabaret" on April 30, followed by a question-and-answer period. On May 1, the jazz ensemble Moondance will perform "Jazz in the World between the Wars" at the Santa Monica Festival held

surf report

The first of consecutive, steep NW swells will fill in through the early afternoon today. Because the swell is from a steep angle, expect average spots to miss it and stay generally waist-high and below.

By Sunday, a slightly stronger NW swell will build through the afternoon with waist- to chest-high surf at the better exposed breaks (mainly just parts of the South Bay).

OUTLOOK: It all fades by Monday.

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

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61°

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SUNDAY	11:01 AM	10:03 PM	2:45 AM	6:23 PM
MONDAY	12:02 PM	11:26 PM	4:18 AM	7:00 PM
TUESDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:27 AM	7:28 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:24 AM	1:21 PM	6:27 AM	7:55 PM
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at Clover Park.

Citywide Reads book discussions and events are free and open to the public.

For locations, times and other information, contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600, or visit the Citywide Reads Web site www.smpl.org/cwr.

Jerry 'Peace Activist' Rubin wants your opinion

By Daily Press staff

A two-time candidate for the Santa Monica City Council, Jerry "Peace Activist" Rubin is holding a forum Monday to gather input on whether to run again this November.

Rubin said he wants open and honest feedback from friends, acquaintances and others at the forum, which will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gaslite at 2030 Wilshire Blvd.

Rubin, who sells bumper stickers on the Third Street Promenade and is a regular at a variety of community meetings, received more than 5,000 votes in his bid for the City Council in 2000. In 2002, Rubin dropped out of the race a week before the election for personal and political reasons.

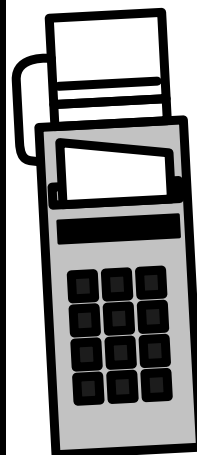
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OPINION

Spelling kounts when you try to make it in the world



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

When my kids started school, we were told that it was much more important for them to feel free to express themselves than to worry about spelling everything correctly. At some point in the future, when they were used to writing in a flowing manner, they would get spelling instruction. It wasn't how I was taught, but I accepted it. They're both in college now, and I'm still waiting for that spelling instruction.

As early as first or second grade, I saw that my kids wrote longer and more creative stories than they would have if they had been fussing over the spelling of each word. There also was less anxiety about writing. Maybe they had never heard that there is "a rat" in "separate" or that Y becomes IE when you add an S, but they put concepts onto paper much easier than I could at their age. They were taught to "seize the day," and I wasn't supposed to care if they spelled it "siezze."

It wasn't easy for me to accept the philosophy of "creative spelling," even though I could see the logic in it. Wasn't judging people based on spelling and grammar a very superficial way to evaluate them? I would hate to be judged by my arithmetic skills. What's the big deal if a kid thinks the head of a school is the "principle," or that you write a thank you note on "stationary?" Wasn't it just a left-over kind of snobbishness akin to evaluating somebody's character based on his accent or the way he dressed? Joe DiMaggio dressed and spoke impeccably, but did that make him a better person than the often-unintelligible Yogi Berra? Evidently not. But years of being a spelling bigot made it difficult for me to let go of my prejudices.

I was particularly intolerant of bad spellers when they happened to be my kids' teachers. I often felt like I should be reading the teacher's report with a red pen in my hand. I understood that some of these teachers grew up in the '80s and went to schools where good spelling was considered as archaic as wearing a tie or a

dress to class. I knew that these teachers were wonderful people and great with kids. So, why did it bother me so much if they couldn't spell "recommend" or "judgment?" Because they were teachers!

Apparently I'm not alone in feeling that spelling still matters. The New York Times recently ran a story about a federal judge denying a lawyer's request for a fee increase largely because of spelling errors the lawyer made. He felt that the lawyer's "complete lack of care in his written product shows disrespect for the court." Among other things, the poor spelling lawyer made a mistake that even members of Generation X, Y, or Z should never make: He spelled the judge's name wrong. So, kids, when you're writing a resume to help you get that summer job, remember — there's only one "m" in Jamba Juice.

Another way that bad spelling can cost people money is through eBay. A recent report revealed that many people who advertise on eBay don't get bidders for their products because of spelling errors. So if no one offers a fair price for a "dimond ring" or a "1985 Buck Riviera," the owner will keep reducing the price until some buyer makes a bid. This group of bad spelling sellers has created another group — people who take advantage of bad spelling sellers. This predatory group will purposely look for spelling errors, reason that the bids will be low, and then take advantage of those who used "creative spelling."

It's obviously foolish to make broad assumptions about a person just because he doesn't know if it's "supersede" or "supercede."

Throughout history, there have been many brilliant, creative, and innovative people who haven't been particularly good spellers. So it's probably about time that society abandon its prejudices against someone who makes a few mistakes with a letter here or there. And yet, I definitely don't feel guilty that bad spelling still rubs me the wrong way.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

LETTERS

Church goers cause problems in area

Editor:

Just a comment on Bill Bauer's column (SMDP, March 12, page 6) discussing the unanimous approval of the Unitarian Universalist Church's expansion last week. I live a block away from the church.

There isn't too little parking at the church — there's NO parking. Every Sunday, our streets are parked up for blocks and blocks around — churchgoers even park adjacent to red curbs because they know that parking enforcement will not ticket them.

Here's the funny part — the house immediately next door to the church was put on the market about a week and a half ago. The Planning Commission could have, and should have, known this and forced the church to buy that property for parking purposes. But alas, the property is already in escrow, and I'm sure the Planning Commission will soon see a permit request from the new owner.

Our particular neighborhood is impacted daily by the Santa Monica/UCLA Hospital and by the car dealerships that line Santa Monica Boulevard (and one on Wilshire Boulevard). Parking is a tremendous problem — it's nearly impossible to find parking spaces for those of us who live there and heaven forbid we invite a guest.

That the Planning Commission completely ignored the huge parking impact our neighborhood absorbs before granting approval for the church to expand is shameful.

Evelyn Jerome
Santa Monica

The QLine

Keep criminals in Santa Monica where they belong

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Do you think it's fair that Santa Monica should absorb the costs in an effort to balance the county budget" by moving criminal cases out of the city and to the Airport Courthouse?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I don't think it's fair that Santa Monica has to absorb the entire cost in an effort to balance the county budget. I do not think Santa Monica should be alone in this."

■ "I think everybody that lives in Santa Monica should use the courthouse in Santa Monica. People who live near the airport should use the courthouse by the airport. Why do we have to keep moving things around?"

■ "Santa Monica should pay its share. It is also interesting to note that Santa Monica city attorney lawyers will now have to practice real law in front of real judges, whose decisions will not be slanted toward Santa Monica's city hall."

■ "I support what their needs are, if they want to move to the airport, give it

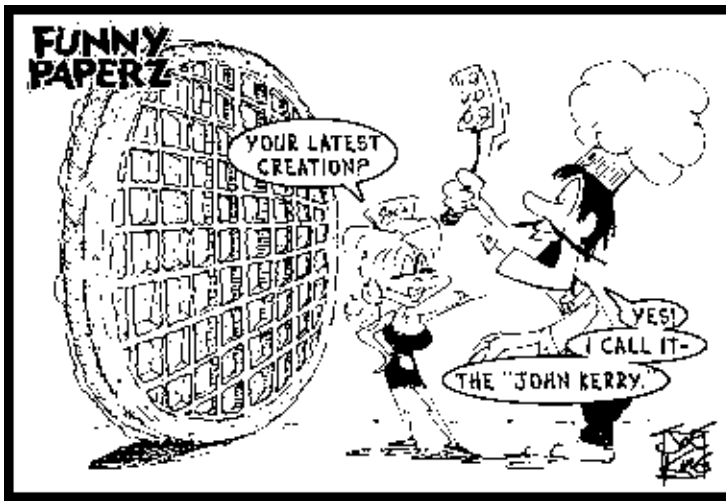
to them. I don't think that the police department here has always been fair to women, but I will always support the local police."

■ "It's frustrating to learn that they are going to move the cases to LAX because county and all government spending for that matter is out of control. They don't have enough money to try cases in criminal court but they have millions of dollars for new jury rooms and new courtrooms? Give me a break. The public is getting tired of this."

■ "Los Angeles couldn't manage its money when it had a surplus, let alone when they are in the red. This shouldn't be Santa Monica's problem. We have enough. And another \$500,000 in costs to move prisoners to LAX will definitely impact Santa Monica."

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Please send letters to:
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LOCAL

Landlord promises to fix property

CCSM, from page 1

Joan Ling, executive director of Community Corp., at a meeting in the courtyard of the 45-unit apartment complex at 815 Ashland Ave.

Officials called the meeting in the wake of the murder of Gabriel Becerrada, 38, a recent parolee who was found dead early Sunday on the doorstep of his girlfriend Sandra Alfaro's apartment. Alfaro, 34, who lived in the building with two children, her 17-year-old son and his friend Luke Yeron, 19, were arrested on murder charges.

"I don't want to call it domestic violence, but it was a domestic dispute," said Santa Monica Police Department Sgt. Rudy Camarena, head of the robbery and homicide division. "It was something that came from within, that was kind of festering, from what we understand."

Sgt. Camarena reassured residents that the shooting was an isolated incident and urged them to report all suspicious behavior to the SMPD. On the morning of the shooting, Sgt. Camarena said the SMPD got reports of shots fired from as far away as Second Street, because the sound carried from the third-floor balcony where it happened.

"My direction, from (SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.), was I was to solve this within 24 hours. And we did," Sgt. Camarena told the residents, adding a total of 12 detec-

tives worked straight for 26 hours on the case. SMPD Lt. Calisse Lindsey, who also attended the meeting, said the building has a relatively low level of crime for its size — 24 calls for service in the last six months.

But it wasn't with the police that residents appeared to have an issue. About 40 tenants came to the meeting, voicing their concerns on a variety of issues — non-tenants drinking and smoking marijuana on the grounds, prostitution in the alley behind the building, thefts in the parking area, and a broken garage gate and intercom system.

"We're here, telling you there's a problem," said Peter Ryan, 53, who's lived in the building since it opened seven years ago. Ryan added that residents have been pushing for a camera system for several years.

A contract for a new camera system was signed Wednesday and workmen will begin installing it next week, said Ling, who added the timing had nothing to do with the fatal shooting. She said the camera project has been in the works for over a year and was waiting on funding, as well as a signature from the building's neighbor. Ling also said Community Corp. officials would talk to City Hall about installing lights in the alley and raising the height of fencing that residents complained is too low.

Anyone who sees suspicious activity is urged to make an anonymous tip to authorities by calling (800) 78-CRIME.

Speed networking not a new concept

NETWORK, from page 1

possibly come away with a potential business partner.

"We want the speed networking to be results-oriented — how businesses can work together, bring other businesses in the mix," Dodson said.

Dodson said the new format is designed to counteract the pitfalls of other networking events. More than 100 people attend chamber luncheons, but members said they often only interact with the people sitting next to them.

Dodson said that if speed networking is successful, the chamber might put on an event every other week.

The format has been useful in other cities.

During the Dot Com slump in the Silicon Valley, speed networking events set up partnerships between entrepreneurs and angel investors.

The La Vista, Neb. Chamber of Commerce was the first city in the Midwest to use the technique. After starting in July with 60 participants, the city's bi-monthly speed networking event now draws more than 200, including business people from other cities, said the chamber's event coordinator, Blair Sinnett.

"You're guaranteed 75 contacts by the end of the night," said Sinnett, who is in charge of blowing a whistle every three minutes to indicate it is time to go on another "date."

Dodson said she is excited about what speed networking can bring to the Santa Monica Chamber.

"We want it to be serious in terms of trying to get business, but casual and relaxed and experimental and fun," Dodson said.

The concept of speed networking was born a few years ago when a California company was formed to

match up unemployed people with employers. Terri Tiemann, who was a director for the "Lay-off Lounge," said the company coined the "speed networking" term after massive lay-offs ensued in 2001. The events consisted of three- to five-minute meetings with employers and those seeking work. They then had break out sessions where participants could pitch themselves to employers and then interact with one another.

"Everyone had an opportunity to talk," said Tiemann, who now runs Marina del Ray-based Annandale & Associates, a recruiting firm. "It was a concentrated effort for each person's agenda."

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STATE

California Supreme Court blocks SF gay marriages

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court is ordering an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco and says it would hear arguments in May or June on whether Mayor Gavin Newsom had the authority to allow such marriages.

Teary-eyed gay couples were turned away Thursday at City Hall here, where 4,161 same-sex couples have been wed since Feb. 12.

One of the first couples to be denied a license were Art Adams and Devin Baker from suburban Mountain View.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Adams, who has been with Baker for more than three years. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

California's seven justices said they would only decide whether Mayor Gavin Newsom had the authority to issue the same-sex marriage licenses, a decision that is expected to keep the issue alive in California's courts for a year or more.

Court watchers predicted the justices will rule that Newsom overstepped his authority.

"I think it's a pretty clear-cut principle that you can't let every elected official decide on his own whether a statute is constitutional," said Gerald Uelman, a Santa Clara University School of Law scholar who closely follows the California Supreme Court.

As for the possibility of legalizing gay marriages in California, the court said whether California's Constitution permits same-sex marriage is a question that should work its way through the lower courts. That

process could take a year or more before it again reaches the state high court.

San Francisco, in response, immediately filed a lawsuit in state court here demanding that a judge declare California's Constitution permits same-sex marriages.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop. It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

— ART ADAMS
Mountain View resident

"While we are disappointed with the interim stay of same-sex marriages here in San Francisco, we must remain cognizant that our overriding purpose is to ensure marriage equality for all Californians, not merely those performed within our city limits," City Attorney Dennis Herrera said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who said the dispute was "of fundamental statewide importance," declared following the court's order that the judiciary, not San Francisco City Hall, "is the appropriate venue for resolving questions pertaining to the constitutionality of our state laws."

The action by California's highest court came two

weeks after state Attorney General Bill Lockyer and two conservative groups asked the seven justices to immediately block the gay marriages.

The dispute began when Newsom ordered his administration to issue same-sex marriage licenses. A steady stream of gay and lesbians from two dozen states have traveled to be married at City Hall, just a block from where the Supreme Court sits.

Newsom's defiance of California law prompted a host of other municipalities across the nation to follow suit. President Bush last month cited the San Francisco weddings when he announced that he supports changing the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

"They restored order to chaos in San Francisco," said Joshua Carden, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, one of two conservative groups that went to court to block the marriages.

The justices ruled unanimously that Newsom must "refrain from issuing marriage licenses or certificates not authorized" by California's marriage codes.

The justices moved to block any more marriages, at least for now, until they decide whether Newsom had the power to authorize such unions. The court did not void the marriages already performed, leaving thousands of newly married couples in legal limbo.

There are also 2,688 more couples that had appointments that are now on hold. The mayor expressed sympathy and his apologies to couples disappointed by the ruling, and said his staff would contact them all individually to inform them about the status of the legal battles ahead.

Walter Bowen had an appointment to be married on

See GAY MARRIAGE, page 7



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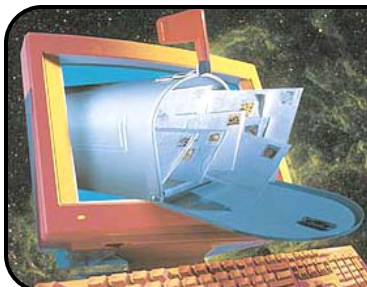
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STATE



Increasing gas prices are about supply and demand

GAS PRICES, from page 1

triggering shortages that drive prices higher, state Attorney General Bill Lockyer said during a hearing on gas pricing.

"We have to figure out how to get more gasoline and diesel products into the state. More supply would mean lower prices," Lockyer said during the two-hour panel discussion with state economists, consumer advocates and oil company executives.

In the last two weeks of February, the price for a gallon of gas rose an average of 6.9 cents for a national average per-gallon price of \$1.75, according to analyst Trilby Lundberg. But many California cities saw 20 cent increases in the same period, driving the average price of a gallon of gasoline well above the \$2 mark. Prices are projected to peak in April, Lundberg said.

The hikes have some Californians, like Michael Pauley of Los Angeles, fearing prices will soon hit \$3 a gallon.

"That's when I'm going to go over there to Iraq and start bringing my own oil back," said Pauley, 52.

Pauley's business partner, Lewis Evans, bemoaned having to pay \$2.36 a gallon to fill his Ford Explorer with premium unleaded gas.

"This is what happens every time it comes down to election time, something goes up and something goes down," said Evans, 55. "It's going to hurt the economy because people are not going to travel over the summer and it's going to create a problem."

Several factors cause California gasoline to be more expensive than other parts of the country, including costs associated with marketing and producing up to 18 different blends of gasoline to meet the state's environmental standards. Higher taxes and too few refineries to handle the state's demand also drive up prices.

"California's refineries are operating at near-capacity most of the year," said Pat Perez, a manager at the California Energy

Commission's Transportation Fuels Office.

Perez put a large part of the blame for the recent run-up in gas prices on the oil companies, saying a round of scheduled maintenance at several refineries earlier this year took longer than expected, forcing the companies to buy oil at higher prices to meet the demands of their customers in California.

The oil companies have to shut down the refineries for maintenance twice a year — once at the beginning of the year, and again after the summer — in order to adapt the refineries to process the different blends of gasoline, said John Felmy, chief economist for the Washington-based American Petroleum Institute, an oil company trade group.

"These are high-temperature, high-pressure facilities that need constant maintenance," Felmy said.

Lockyer also accused oil companies of not competing enough, though a multi-year probe into the state's oil market has not turned up anything. "We found, so far, no solid, direct evidence of unlawful conduct," he said.

Seven oil companies control 98 percent of the state's refining capacity and market 90 percent of the gasoline they refine through their own retail networks, according to a gasoline pricing report conducted by Lockyer's office.

"The bottom line: Oil companies don't have to break the law or engage in conspiracies to charge prices that to many are outrageous," Lockyer said.

He called on the state to simplify the permitting process so oil companies can build storage facilities, pipelines and other means of keeping refined gasoline in California or to bring it into the state faster.

Lockyer said Californians also need to cut back on driving. "We're going to have to address both the supply and demand side of the equation," he said. "This issue will not go away."

Bill Lockyer praises high court for gay marriage ban

GAY MARRIAGE, from page 6

St. Patrick's Day, next Wednesday. Now the hair salon owner and his partner of two years will have to wait.

"I sent several announcements and spent already several hundred dollars and was going to make it our wedding day," Bowen said. "I may go stand on the steps of City Hall with my friends and have a moment of silence."

Jon Davidson, an attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay rights legal aid group, said Thursday's ruling simply puts the issue on hold for now.

"The court has put everything on pause rather than stop," he said. "They are saying that until we hear this, you are on pause."

In statehouses nationwide, lawmakers are scrutinizing their constitutions to see if they could be construed to permit same-sex marriages, even in states where laws now bar them.

The California court's action came the same day Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages but allow civil unions. That state's highest

court ruled in November that it was unconstitutional to prevent gays from marrying — a ruling that sparked a legislative scramble to amend the state constitution.

The weddings have gone on in San Francisco since the justices were asked on Feb. 25 and Feb. 27 to intervene. Lockyer and the Alliance Defense Fund said the court's action was urgently needed because the newly married gays might otherwise think they enjoy the same rights granted other married couples — such as the right to receive the other spouse's property in the absence of a will.

The Social Security Administration has said it would not accept any marriage licenses from San Francisco as proof of marriage until the legal dispute is resolved.

Lockyer has been under fire from every side since San Francisco began marrying gays. He praised the court Thursday for stopping the weddings.

"I think they've also focused on the right issue, and that is whether or not any city or county has the authority to have its own family law independent of state law," Lockyer said in Los Angeles. "So the right legal issue is before the court."

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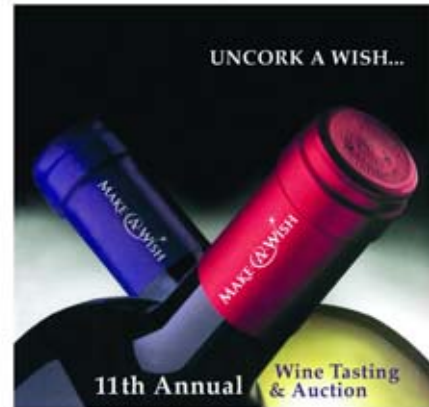
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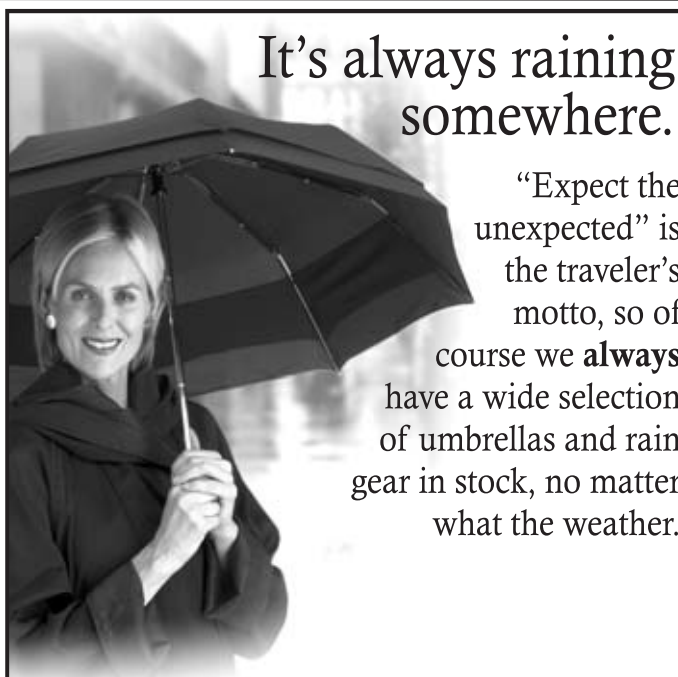


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NATIONAL

Security decision makes it easier for Mexicans with visas

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration backed off plans to require that millions of visa-carrying Mexicans who make short visits to America and stay close to the border be fingerprinted and photographed to get into the country.

Asa Hutchinson, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for border and transportation, announced the policy change at a Capitol Hill hearing Thursday, a congressional official who was briefed on the plan told The Associated Press.

The move, a concession to Mexican President Vicente Fox, comes on the eve of his visit to President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

The Homeland Security Department's announcement "represents a friendly and positive gesture toward Mexico," said Agustin Gutierrez Canet, a spokesman for Fox.

Mexicans who have so-called laser visas currently are allowed to stay in the country three days provided they stay close to the border. Such visas are issued to people who have undergone background checks and consulate interviews where they are fingerprinted and photographed. The visas generally are held by workers and people who need to make frequent quick trips across the border.

But as part of the new US-VISIT pro-

gram, before the end of the year those people were to be fingerprinted and photographed before crossing the border. The plan being announced by Hutchinson rescinds that requirement.

US-VISIT was developed in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to ensure that people on terrorist watch lists and other criminals don't get into the country. The first part of it took effect in January and requires that visitors from certain countries traveling on visas and entering at 115 major airports and 14 seaports be fingerprinted and photographed.

The program will be added to the 50 busiest land ports later this year. Fox was upset that under the expanded plan, Mexicans would have been photographed and fingerprinted before entering the United States, while Canadians would not.

Mexican border officials and officials in U.S. border communities feared the program could lead to long delays or prompt fewer people to enter the country. Either scenario would hurt local economies that rely on a steady flow of visitors.

As part of the revised plan, the government will install machines that can read the electronic information in the laser visas at the 50 busiest land ports. The machines are at only a handful of border points as of now.

Nearly 360 million travelers entered the United States at all the nation's land ports of entry in 2002.

Government seeks millions in devastating Colorado wildfire

BY JON SARCHÉ

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Government attorneys argued this week the former Forest Service employee who set the largest wildfire in Colorado history should be forced to pay \$14.7 million in restitution.

U.S. Attorney John Suthers, arguing his case in person, told a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that Terry Lynn Barton should be ordered to pay the amount agreed to by prosecutors and defense attorneys.

Suthers said the federal judge handling the Barton case abused his discretion in refusing to order the money paid, citing concern over condemning the defendant to a "lifetime of poverty."

Suthers asked the panel to send the case back to U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch with instructions to issue that order. The judges took the case under advisement.

The 138,000-acre Hayman fire southwest of Denver destroyed 132 homes and one business in 2002.

Barton was sentenced to six years in federal prison after pleading guilty to arson. She also was sentenced to 12 years on state arson charges.

The state sentence includes \$27.5 million in restitution to residents who lost their homes or suffered other damages. The state and federal sentences are running simultaneously.

In his 2003 sentencing ruling, Matsch said calculating the correct restitution figure in the federal case would unduly prolong sentencing because it would be too complicated. Complexity is the only exception allowed under a federal statute

requiring restitution for crime victims.

"There is in this case a great concern of mine in exercising moral judgment as to whether this woman should be sentenced to a lifetime of poverty, because that's what this restitution order would mean," Matsch said.

A Forest Service study last fall said the total costs of the fire, including firefighting costs, air pollution, long-term rehabilitation, damage repairs and lost timber, was approaching \$238 million.

Suthers said Barton's attorneys earlier agreed with the government that the fire caused about \$38 million in damage. But he said prosecutors deliberately asked for only \$14.7 million — the government's actual costs of repairing damage — to simplify sentencing.

"We never asked the court for obvious reasons to value the forest," he said. "The trial court's reaction is very understandable. Unfortunately, it happens to be contrary to the statute."

Assistant federal public defender Warren Williamson acknowledged he agreed to the \$14.7 million figure, but said Matsch was within his rights to deny it.

"Whether the person is (real estate mogul Donald) Trump or Terry Barton, there are some cases where restitution becomes overly complex," Williamson said. "I would suggest civil litigation is the way to go."

Barton is appealing her state conviction, saying the judge in that case might have had a conflict of interest because he had to leave his home due to smoke from the fire.

She is serving her sentences at Texas center for prisoners with medical or mental health problems.

NATIONAL



Western states mobilize to defend bases from closure

BY PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press Writer

WITTMANN, Ariz. — Construction worker Bruce Liepe likes hearing the early morning howls of coyotes in the desert near his year-old home on the outskirts of Phoenix.

He also likes to hear the howling engines of F-16 fighter jets as they fly over his neighborhood while practicing approaches at a nearby auxiliary airfield used by pilots from Luke Air Force Base. "It's the sound of freedom," said Liepe, an Army veteran.

It's also a sound that could go away.

Arizona legislators and other state officials are working to protect Luke from urban encroachment and keep the base and other major military installations open. The fear is that the military will close the base west of Phoenix — and take away its thousands of jobs — if its mission of training F-16 pilots is compromised.

The federal government is planning a fifth round of base closings that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said is intended to reduce up to 25 percent of the capacity at the 425 major installations nationwide. Last month, the Pentagon announced its criteria, which include bases' mission capabilities, availability of land, facilities and airspace, and economic impact on nearby communities.

Pending legislation in Arizona is intended to ensure Luke doesn't fit the criteria for a base to be closed. It would tighten land-use restrictions around military air bases, apply those restrictions to the auxiliary field, prevent a natural gas company from storing fuel in underground caverns near Luke and require new real-estate

disclosures of low-level military flight routes that crisscross the state.

Gov. Janet Napolitano is also seeking a \$1 million appropriation for base-preservation efforts and asking lawmakers to earmark a percentage of future taxes paid by military service members and retirees for that purpose.

Other states in the West also are acting to protect their bases. State officials cite the installations' economic value to the state as well as their national security merits.

The New Mexico Legislature last month approved tax incentives intended to help guard the state's four major military installations and to help attract defense projects for them.

Utah has paid \$2 million to extend a new airstrip at Dugway Proving Ground to provide an emergency runway for Hill Air Force Base pilots in cases of emergencies.

Washington Gov. Gary Locke is seeking \$500,000 for communities to use in their base-promotion efforts. Meanwhile, lawmakers are considering a proposal to require that local government land use policies be more compatible with military operations.

In Arizona, federal, state and county officials are discussing possible land exchanges to compensate farmers and other owners of property near bases, especially Luke.

That possibility draws support but also skepticism from farmers and other property owners near Luke. They said they support the base but don't think they should have to give up development rights without compensation.

So far, despite the talk of buyouts or land exchanges, the only things farmers have received is lip service, said Michael Francis, a farmer who grows alfalfa, cotton and roses.

"Some even call us unpatriotic," Francis said. "At best we are public policy inconvenience."

Emergencies are part of what concerns Luke officials about the new homes going up around the "Aux One" auxiliary field, about 30 miles northwest of Luke, officials said.

The field was built in 1941 as a satellite to Luke dur-

ing the pre-Pearl Harbor buildup before World War II.

These days, F-16 pilots learning instrument approach-fly over the new subdivision at about 600 feet en route to the auxiliary field about a mile away. Just before getting to the runway, and while they're still about 300 feet in the air, the pilots apply more power and their jets bolt back into the sky.

But before then, the single-engine jets descend at low power settings and the pilot would have little choice but to eject if the engine ingested a bird or there was some other sudden, catastrophic failure, said Michael Hanson, a retired Air Force officer now working as a civilian aide to Luke's base commander.

Before the spurt of homebuilding, "we can just go out and clean up this mess and plant a few cactuses and we're good to go," Hanson said.

Now, he said, "if we dropped a jet in there, it could impact one or more of those houses."

In the new subdivision, Madelene Evans said she's not worried about the possibility of a crash in her neighborhood. The wife of a retired Air Force sergeant, she said she got used to the jet noise quickly.

However, Evans is troubled by the possibility that Luke might close.

The government should have bought the land around Luke so new homes wouldn't sprout up around it and the auxiliary field, said Evans, a bank teller and substitute teacher.

A decade ago, "there was nothing out there," Evans said.

Across the street, chemical salesman Michael Szymanski, said the efforts to protect Luke and the auxiliary field come too late.

Closing Luke and sending the planes elsewhere is just a matter of time, Szymanski said. "This land is all going to be developed."

"I'd love to see it happen," he added. "They wouldn't be flying over my house."

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INTERNATIONAL

Spain halts for silent tribute to victims of bombings

BY DANIEL WOOLLS

Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain — Millions of Spaniards streamed into cold and rainy streets Friday in silent tribute to the 199 people killed in the country's worst terrorist attack, while police removed evidence from the shattered commuter trains in the hunt for the bombers.

Spanish officials initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA for the stunningly well-coordinated series of 10 explosions Thursday during Madrid's rush hour. Later, they said they were studying a claim of responsibility by a shadowy group in the name of al-Qaida.

A caller claiming to represent ETA telephoned the pro-Basque daily newspaper Gara and said the separatist group "has no responsibility whatsoever" for the attacks, the paper told The Associated Press. ETA often issues statements through the Basque-language paper.

Arnaldo Otegi, a top Basque politician, also denied ETA was involved and accused outgoing Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's government of "lying deliberately" about the bombing to seek political advantage in the elections.

If ETA is deemed responsible, that could boost support for Mariano Rajoy,

Aznar's hand-picked successor in Sunday elections. If the bombing is seen by voters as the work of al-Qaida, that could draw attention to Aznar's widely unpopular decision to support the U.S. war in Iraq.

Police hastily evacuated Atocha station, where one of the trains was bombed, in what later turned out to be a false alarm.

At noon, the nation observed 10 minutes of silence, to begin a three-day period of mourning. Offices, shops and cafes across Spain emptied as people went to stand in the street and remember those killed.

Aznar stood outside the presidential palace with senior officials. The silence there was broken when someone angrily shouted: "Send the terrorists to the firing squad!"

In Barcelona, subways and buses stood still and construction work stopped. In northern Spain's Basque region, hundred of students and professors at the University of the Basque Country in Leioa stood in silence and clapped afterward.

As evening fell, hundreds of thousands in Madrid and Barcelona rallied to protest the attacks. They jammed Madrid's Colon Square.

Passengers sobbed, lit candles and left flowers at the Atocha station in the heart of the capital, where trains had to roll past the bombed-out wreckage still on the tracks.

"I saw the trains and I burst into tears,"

said Isabel Galan, 32. "I felt so helpless, felt such anger."

All of Spain's TV networks placed a small red-and-yellow Spanish flag with a black sash in the corner of the screen. Commuter trains also traveled with black cloth on the engine cars.

"We will bring the guilty to justice," Aznar said at a news conference.

Hospital officials said a 7-month-old girl died Friday, raising the death toll to 199. Her mother is apparently hospitalized and her father is missing.

More than 1,400 people were wounded, and Aznar said more than 50 were in serious or critical condition.

Deputy Justice Minister Rafael Alcala said 84 bodies remain unidentified.

Aznar said 14 foreigners were among the dead.

Investigators working through the night took away samples from the twisted wreckage of the four bombed trains to study the explosives and other data, a senior Spanish police official said.

"They are analyzing absolutely everything," another official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "All sectors of the police force are involved."

Foreign Minister Ana Palacio told French radio station RTL authorities have no information to support news reports that a suicide bomber's body was found among the dead.

The New York City police department sent two people from the intelligence division to Madrid.

Asian stock markets closed mostly lower and European shares were down in early trading Friday on renewed fears of terrorism.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Aznar said Thursday.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m.

on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and detonated three other bombs.

The Arabic newspaper Al-Quds al-Arabi said it had received a claim of responsibility issued in the name of al-Qaida. The e-mail claim, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafis al-Masri, was received at the newspaper's London offices and said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

"This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader, and America's ally in its war against Islam," said the claim, which could not immediately be verified.

Spain's government is studying the claim but still believes ETA is more likely responsible, a senior official in Aznar's office said.

After police found a stolen van with seven detonators and the Arabic-language tape parked in a suburb near where the stricken trains originated, Interior Minister Angel Acebes said nothing was being ruled out.

The United States believes Al-Masri sometimes falsely claims to be acting on behalf of al-Qaida.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, during a visit Friday to Thailand, said there was "no specific information" available pointing to the identities of the attackers.

U.N. anti-terrorism chief Inocencio Arias said ETA was likely behind the bombings because they bore "all the fingerprints" of the militant organization.

"I would say it's ETA, but I cannot be sure. It has all the fingerprints of ETA," Arias, a Spaniard who chairs the U.N. Security Council's Counterterrorism Committee, told The Associated Press.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Roadside bomb kills U.S. soldiers

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two American soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb damaged their Humvee, the military said Friday. U.S. officials worried that Iraqi police — not impostors in their uniforms — may have been behind the shooting deaths of two coalition staffers and their translator.

The two soldiers died when the Humvee they were riding in struck a homemade bomb on Thursday north-east of Habbiniyah in the Sunni Triangle. A third soldier was wounded in the blast.

The American civilians slain Tuesday along with their translator were the first from the U.S. occupation authority to be killed in Iraq. The attack raised two possibilities: that guerrillas had adopted a new tactic of posing as police to carry out attacks, or that some members of the security forces being trained by U.S. troops are turning to violence.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the U.S. commander in Iraq, said it was not yet known if the attackers were disguised as police or the real thing. "We are very concerned about it," Sanchez said. "We know that this has gone on ... that there are some policemen that have done criminal acts in the past."

South Korea president stripped of power

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — President Roh Moo-hyun was stripped of his constitutional powers Friday in an unprecedented impeachment vote that rattled a government already struggling with the North Korean nuclear crisis and a struggling economic recovery.

The parliament voted to impeach Roh. Prime Minister Goh Kun was to assume Roh's presidential duties, while the Constitutional Court decides whether to unseat the president.

The vote marked a spectacular setback for the 57-year-old, self-made human rights lawyer who came to office last February on a populist ticket that promised South Koreans better relations with communist North Korea and a more equal footing with the country's biggest ally, the United States.

It was the first time South Korea's parliament has impeached a president. The matter now goes to the Constitutional Court, which has 180 days to approve or reject Roh's ouster.

The opposition Grand National and Millennium Democratic parties cited three main reasons for the impeachment: Roh's violation of election laws, corruption scandals surrounding former aides and his alleged mismanagement of the world's 12th largest economy.

Muddy Waters' daughter arrested

By The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — An arrest warrant was issued for the daughter of blues artist Muddy Waters in the 1996 murder of a 19-year-old man, authorities said.

Timothy Harrington was shot and his death was linked to a drug deal, according to court records. His remains weren't found until 2000.

After determining the identity of the remains, detectives focused on Waters' daughter, Rosalind Morganfield, 34, and David Myhand, 38, of Gainesville.

Myhand was arrested Wednesday for first-degree murder and is being held without bond.

Authorities believe Morganfield lives in the Hillsborough or Pinellas County area, although she has been seen in Gainesville in recent weeks. Alachua County Sheriff's Lt. Jim Troiano said investigators have talked with family members, friends and artists such as musician Bo Diddley.

Muddy Waters, who was born McKinley Morganfield, died in 1983.

Kerry not apologizing for GOP comments

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry says he does not intend to apologize for describing his critics in the Republican Party as "the most crooked ... lying group I've ever seen."

At the Capitol for meetings Thursday with congressional Democrats, Republican lawmakers called on the Massachusetts senator to stop what they said was name-calling and negative campaigning.

Kerry refused to apologize and said he wouldn't sit

still while the "Republican attack squad" routinely distorts his record. He noted the criticism came on the same day President Bush unveiled the first negative ads of his re-election campaign, in which the Republican incumbent says Kerry is "wrong on taxes" and "wrong on defense."

"I have no intention whatsoever of apologizing for my remarks," Kerry said at a Capitol news conference. "I think the Republicans need to start talking about the real issues before the country."

Lawmakers upset over media content

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Angered by what they called an increasing coarseness on over-the-air television and radio, House lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to raise the maximum fine for broadcasters and personalities who air indecent material.

The House on Thursday voted to set the maximum fine for both broadcasters and entertainers at \$500,000 per indecent incident, up from \$27,500 for license holders and \$11,000 for personalities.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where the Commerce Committee has also passed legislation raising the maximum indecency fine to \$500,000.

"It's a shame we have to address this issue, but when members of the broadcast industry violate the boundaries of reasonable tolerance, that's exactly what we're forced to do," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. "The House has sent a clear signal to our broadcasters: Enough is enough."

Bush goes after Kerry in TV ads

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On the air for just a week, President Bush launches the first negative television ads of his re-election campaign on Friday, accusing Democratic rival John Kerry of being "wrong on taxes" and "wrong on defense."

The toughest of the two new ads names Kerry and claims he would raise taxes by \$900 billion and "delay defending America." The other makes a veiled reference to Kerry when Bush says: "We can go forward with confidence, resolve and hope. Or we can turn back to the dangerous illusions that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat."

In response, Kerry accused Bush of "running away" from his own record, and the Massachusetts senator's campaign called the \$900 billion figure "completely made up."

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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 OF 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 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. DATED: January 13, 2004 — LISA GRACE-KELLOGG, Attorney for Petitioner

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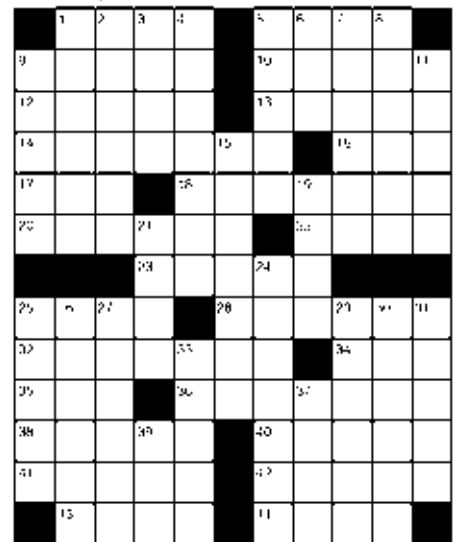
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- 1 Carpet type
 - 5 Weeps
 - 9 Emergency signal
 - 10 Louvre setting
 - 12 Snake for one
 - 13 Kitchen come-on
 - 14 Company thinker
 - 16 Jazz composer Evans
 - 17 Animal abode
 - 18 Battery's cousin
 - 20 Agree
 - 22 Course requirements
 - 23 "Swell!"
 - 25 Member of the opposition
 - 28 New Testament book
 - 32 Entertains before bedtime
 - 34 Ray gun sound
 - 35 Total
 - 36 Greet with open arms
 - 38 Speak
 - 40 Black of films
- DOWN**
- 41 "Really?"
 - 42 Sluggish
 - 43 Waiting room call
 - 44 Hardy heroine



Yesterday's answer

- 11 Bath additives
- 15 Fertility goddess
- 19 Cyclotron bit
- 21 Writer Bagnold
- 24 Handyman's tote
- 25 Hot crime
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Sex' fans hanging onto memories with costumes

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Several hundred people lined up on Prince Street Thursday morning for a piece of "Sex and the City."

Ina, a consignment store in NoLIta, acquired designer items from the HBO show's costume department, giving customers a chance to don the styles of Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) and her pals.

The items didn't come cheaply. A brown Givenchy top went for \$140 and a pair of red Badgley Mischka shoes sold for \$275.

"We didn't anticipate that the clothing from the show would fit the average New York City-size woman," shopper Melissa Weinberg told The New York Times in Friday's editions. "But some do, and others were obviously Sarah Jessica Parker's."

The series finale of "Sex and the City" aired last month.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Director Simon Wincer worked behind the scenes while making the documentary "NASCAR 3D: The IMAX Experience."

He wanted to capture images of stock cars blazing by at speeds of 185 mph, so the camera often was left unattended in the middle of the speedway while the crew ran for cover.

"We got through unscathed," Wincer told The Associated Press. But not all the equipment did.

"There was a crash and one of the last shots was of a tire coming off and bouncing right into the camera, which left the camera pointed up in the sky. What you don't see is the 17 cars that wrecked behind it."

No one was hurt in the accident, he added.

Some of the footage is from practices staged for filming, but most of the scenes are authentic. For instance, that tumbling tire may look like a trick to take advantage of the gigantic screen 3-D imagery, but Wincer insists it was unplanned.

"That's just dumb luck," he said. "That's what you call it."

■ **LONDON** — Eric Clapton unveiled his design for a benefit T-shirt, though he wasn't sure what the imagery symbolized.

Sales of the shirt will benefit the Crossroads Centre, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility he founded on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

"It's been in my head all my life and goes deep with me but I don't know what it means or what it's supposed to express," Clapton said Friday.

The 58-year-old musician has himself fought drug and alcohol addiction.

■ **NEW YORK** — To the ranks of Martha Stewart wannabes add Rhona Silver, a Long Island caterer who has offered to contribute \$1 million toward Stewart's legal bills in exchange for the opportunity to run her company for \$1 a year.

"I don't have to be Martha," said Silver, proprietor of Rhona Silver's Huntington Townhouse. "I could be Rhona and help run that company."

Stewart, the longtime guru of gracious living, was convicted last week of lying to investigators about why she sold 3,928 shares of ImClone Systems stock.

A spokeswoman for Stewart, who faces sentencing on June 17, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Silver, whose clients have included Hillary Rodham Clinton and Billy Joel, said she has the expertise to preside over each component of Stewart's empire including TV shows, magazines and KMart housewares.

"I have been in the industry since I'm 10 years old. I run thousands of events a year," said Silver, flashing a \$1 million check at a news conference Thursday. "I also hold a law degree from Hofstra Law School, so on the

business side I have the wherewithal, the intelligence and the smarts to run a company."

Silver called Stewart her mentor but has so far admired her idol mainly from afar.

"I've met her on several occasions at parties," she said. "I don't know her personally but I would love to have the opportunity to know her better."

■ **FREDERICK, Md.** — Three weeks before he was arrested on marijuana and gun possession charges, singer David Crosby told a newspaper he was through with drugs.

Crosby, who was to perform Friday in Frederick, told The Frederick News-Post in a mid-February interview that drugs were no longer a part of his life.

"I haven't been tempted by that stuff for 15 years. You get past it," he said.

The newspaper published the story Thursday.

Police say they found an ounce of marijuana, a .45-caliber handgun and a knife in a suitcase Crosby left in a New York hotel room. He was arrested Saturday when he returned to pick up the luggage.

"When I really got toasted toward the end of the hard drugs, it made me not want to write," he told the newspaper. "I wasted a lot of time when I could have been making music."

Crosby, 62, was a founding member of both The Byrds and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

Meanwhile, refunds were being offered to fans who bought tickets to this Saturday's show at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J.

Crosby, who is free on \$3,500 bail, is to play Monmouth University's 700-seat Pollak Theatre.

The refund offer was posted on the university's Web site, although the reason wasn't stated.

Two telephone calls to his agent at the William Morris Agency were not returned.

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