

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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Megamillion: 18

Jackpot: \$17 million

FANTASY 5

17, 18, 20, 25, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 3, 5

Evening picks: 7, 5, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race Time: 1:42.74



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Author Irwin Schiff, at war with the IRS for years over his aggressive claims that paying federal income tax is voluntary, may finally have turned defensive. In a back-tax-collection case in Las Vegas in January, Schiff told the court in a filing that he suffers from delusions, including a fantasy that he is the only person qualified to interpret federal income tax law. Schiff's psychiatrist said Schiff has been paranoid for years, stemming from his having lost heavily in a tax shelter that turned out to be a Ponzi scheme.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Lennox Lewis, I'm coming for you man. My style is impetuous. My defense is impregnable, and I'm just ferocious. I want your heart. I want to eat his children. Praise be to Allah!"

— Mike Tyson

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INSIDE THE CHAMBER

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



KATHY DODSON



Texas transplant digs her heels into chamber

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A vocal opponent of City Hall bureaucracy, the local politics of homelessness and other issues that threaten Santa Monica's quality of life, Kathy Dodson has helped steer the local chamber of commerce through the recession that followed 9-11.

As president and CEO, Dodson, a 38-year-old native of Texas, oversaw the re-growth of the chamber to above 1,000 merchants. She also was at the helm when the chamber formed a political action committee, starting its active foray into local elections.

The oldest child of a physician and medical technician, Dodson said she was taught early in life that nothing was beyond her reach. After graduating with a degree in English and business from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Dodson went on to study at the American Graduate School of International Management — or

See PROFILES, page 7

Animal activists bark up wrong tree in City Hall

You can still 'own' a pet in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Is that your dog?

Not if some local animal rights activists have their way. Local politicians this week considered legally changing all "pet owners" in Santa Monica into "pet guardians."

"We live in a strange society where commercial corporations are granted the constitutional rights of individual personhood, but living companion animals are considered mere property, like a

pair of shoes," City Councilman Kevin McKeown said.

The effort to rewrite the wording of City Hall's law was unleashed by activists from the group, "In Defense of Animals." It ultimately died 2-3 at the hands of the City Council, with the majority saying the change could actually end up hurting animals.

Mayor Richard Bloom, who voted against changing the wording, said he worried the effort could be affiliated with the recent vandalizing of Jerry Greenwalt's car and Sunset Park home by Animal Defense League activists. Greenwalt recently retired from

See ANIMAL RIGHTS, page 6

Sleepless in Santa Monica: Cranky council in conflict

The councilmen are tired and want the late-night business to stop

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Two councilmen have filed a lawsuit against their own City Council in an effort to put a curfew on late-night meetings.

Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz officially served the suit in February, claiming the public doesn't have fair access because meetings run into the early morning hours. It's not reasonable to expect citizens to be part of the debate past midnight, they say.

The suit, which claims that late meetings are a violation of the state's open meetings law, seeks to

prohibit City Council meetings from going past 11 p.m.

Katz and Holbrook first threatened the lawsuit in January of 2002. They were told by their colleagues then that a concerted effort would be made to wrap up the meetings earlier. But since then, 24 out of 49 meetings have run past midnight, with many of them ending at 2 a.m. or later.

"It's not right for anybody," Katz said, adding citizens are deterred from speaking publicly because of the late hour. "City workers, some of them department heads, have to stay late and then they come in late the next day and the public suffers."

Mayor Richard Bloom said he's disappointed with his colleagues for the way they're handling the matter and the lawsuit is a poor attempt in bullying the council. He

See COUNCIL, page 6

A \$52,000 lunch



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Brad Garrett, who plays 'Robert' on the TV show, 'Everybody Loves Raymond,' encourages high bidding during a live auction at the Los Angeles Make-A-Wish-Foundation's fundraiser in the Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport on Saturday night. Garrett was successful in getting two people to bid \$26,000 each for two lunches with the entire cast of the show.

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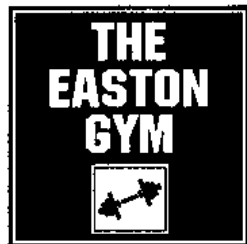
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your perspective could be warped by a difficult discussion. You feel that others are holding back or intentionally not getting it. Work on better communication and be willing to restate ideas differently. Tonight: Out and about.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be put out by a child or loved one. As a result, you could decide to turn off your mind, like a light switch. Concentrate on work and achieving your goals. Emphasize groups and new paths to the same goal. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might not mean to be difficult, but you could be withholding key information, or feel challenged in some way. Know that in a few days, you will see the situation differently. Follow your instincts with a key associate or boss. Tonight: Spend quality time with a loved one.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out. You might be quite put out, as you feel burdened by your present responsibilities. Detach and consider why you are feeling so heavy. Make a call to someone who really understands you. Talk. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You get involved with work, especially as you could misunderstand some information and gossip. Rather than dwell on it, put it aside. Work with a partner or associate, and you'll get through what's important. Tonight: Get the real facts and ask questions.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A friend disappoints you, and you might feel the results financially. You might want to think before you get into agreements again. Others more than make up for what is going on. Open up to those you can trust. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Tension surrounds your work and personal life. Someone has a different idea about what can and will work. You feel tugged between responsibilities. Perhaps you can bring extra work home and take care of both sides of your life. Tonight: Happy at home.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might not like what you have to do in order to get information. You might feel as if you are pulling teeth, and still not getting the whole story. Reach out for those who are less complicated. Tonight: Visit with someone special.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Expenses could toss your morning out of kilter. Someone might be unusually stern or touchy, especially with funds or feelings. This person just doesn't feel generous. Become more independent and don't rely too much on this person. Tonight: Express your playfulness.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You are unusually charismatic today, and others, for the most part, want to get together with you. Clearly, your ideas are valued, perhaps with the exception of a friend or roommate. Let this person mellow out. Tonight: Whatever makes the Goat happy.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Step back, especially if you notice that whatever you do backfires. You might have good intentions, but someone takes it the wrong way, or vice versa. A family member extends him- or herself in order to make you more at ease or comfortable. Tonight: Curl up with a good book and some music.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Evaluate what you want to do about a misunderstanding or a money issue. You must not take any risks right now, or you could experience a backfire. A meeting draws the results you hoped for. Work with others. Tonight: Get into a ballgame.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Artistry in the global south

By Daily Press staff

The 18th Street Arts Center announced that it has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Ford Foundation.

The center hopes to develop a program that will diversify the membership of the prestigious International Association of Residential Arts Centres, or Res Artis. This effort will be aimed in the global south: Asia, Africa and South America.

"This grant demonstrates the importance of international dialogue in the arts and culture at the crucial social and political crossroads we all have arrived at," said 18th Street co-director Clayton Campbell. "Nothing is more important than the inclusion of voices outside Europe and North America in our cultural dialogues and planning."

Res Artis is a non-profit foundation that supports the work of international residential art centers and organizations, and encourages the development of contemporary art.

The 18th Street Center is the largest non-profit residential arts center in the region with programs in presenting, international exchange, arts education and local artist residences.

For upcoming events contact Michael Sakamoto at (310) 453-3711 or 18thstreet@18thstreet.org.

Award winning opera comes to SMC

By Daily Press staff

The Emmy Award-winning Santa Monica College Opera Theatre will present "Patti Gallagher & Donald Fredrickson in Concert," featuring the acclaimed soprano who has performed at the White House, and her accompanist.

The special concert will be held at 7 p.m. on March 21 in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are \$16. Call (310) 434-3000.

The program will feature favorite selections from opera, musicals and art songs. Gallagher — a retired voice, acting and speech professor at SMC and Los Angeles City College — has had a long and distinguished career in opera, musical theatre, acting and television. She started her career with a tour of Menotti's opera, "The Telephone," and continued to tour in operas, plays and musicals throughout the Midwest and in Los Angeles, where she also had a starring role in the television series, "Someone Is Out There."

Gallagher has been a soloist with several orchestras, most recently the Coachella Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Since retiring in 1998 and moving to Palm Springs, she has been active as a performer in the Palm Springs area. In October 2000, she won the Miss Senior America crown and in December 2000 she was a soloist in the East Room of the White House.

Gallagher has a bachelor's degree in opera performance from Indiana University, and a master's degree in voice, as well as a doctorate in speech and theater from the University of Missouri.

Fredrickson is a pianist who accompanies musical theatre, opera workshops, choral activities and applied music programs at SMC and El Camino College in Torrance. He has accompanied performances and master classes with Roberta Peters, Sherrill Milnes, Eddie Daniels, Richard Stolzman, John Raitt, Marni Nixon, John Aler, Carol Neblett, and International Pavarotti Competition winner Timothy Blevins.

Recently he was honored with an Emmy for his contribution to the video of the SMC Opera Theatre's production of Gounod's Faust.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, he holds two degrees in piano accompaniment from the USC School of Music, where he studied with the legendary Heifitz accompanist Brooks Smith.

surf report

The NW'er combo we experienced over the weekend is slowly winding down and will lead to smaller waves today. Most areas will have weaker waves, averaging under waist high. Breaks with the best NW view get chest-puls sets early.

Today, expect 2-3', knee- to waist-high, occasionally 4' and fair conditions.

Outlook: A new round of moderate scale NW wind swell is due Tuesday through mid-week but there's not much new ground swell in sight now.

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

Today the water is:

59°

	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

This week marks the anniversary of the U.S. invasion in Iraq. For a year, we've been at war and have still found no weapons of mass destruction — the main justification for the bombing. Meanwhile, thousands of civilians have been killed and hundreds of soldiers have sacrificed their lives. At least we got Saddam, most say. The main threat to the U.S., some argue, is still Osama bin Laden, who has disappeared.

Billions of dollars are being spent to turn Iraq into a democracy and yet one of our biggest enemies is still lurking in the

Middle East — probably planning the next attack on the U.S.

Many wonder when the war will end and how far we'll go. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "When should we pull out of Iraq and start a full-blown effort to find bin Laden and his Al Qaida operatives?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Saturday's paper. 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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THINKING
ABOUT EATING
RIGHT?

LETTERS

Nader needs to bow out

Editor:

(This letter was e-mailed to Ralph Nader on March 5).

Your stand on the environment is outstanding, but if you truly are an environmentalist, please pull out of the presidential race for all our sakes. I believe that everyone who votes for you would be giving a vote to Bush, and as liberal, environment-conscious people, we cannot afford another four years of Bushland.

There were 23 species put on the endangered list in the first two years of Bush's administration and that is only the tip of the iceberg of his profound disregard for the world we live in. Bush is a disaster waiting to happen and has put this country at risk in so many ways.

By all means be a loud voice and advocate for environmental issues — but I beg of you, not as a presidential candidate. Today, the AP Polls show Bush 46 percent, Kerry 46 percent and Nader 6 percent. You can see how decisive this election will be and how important the votes cast for you will be. I believe that the votes cast for you in 2000 could easily have elected Vice President Gore and we would not be in the mess we are now. Please let's not repeat history in 2004. Thank you for the opportunity to write my comments to you.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Smoking is a right

Editor:

The health nazis are at it again. In the name of everyone's health, (namely their perceived health), a group of people, (Re: City Council cronies), have decided that the parks being smoke free is not enough. Now they want to make the pier and beach smoke free. Sounds good at first. Until you realize that what they are really talking about is a smoker's civil rights. In an enclosed building, no smoking? OK. I can live with that. Out on the beach, in the open air? You want to tell me no smoking? Sorry, you're out of line. The parks were closed to smokers yet they pay taxes to run those parks. Yet, no areas in the parks were set aside for smokers. People with dogs get their own area to run and folic with their dogs and they are not charged anything extra for this "right?" Their pollution is far worse than a little smoke. The health nazis cite "incidents" of fires on piers as the reason for no smoking. One only has to look for the official reports on the Redondo Pier and Santa Barbara Pier fire and surprise — they started in restaurants in the kitchens. So, when the City Council gets its rubber stamped report from the Pier Restoration Corp. saying that smoking should be banned and the council says "amen!" I will be the first to invite anyone who would like to join me in telling the City Council not so fast. Give smokers a section of the beach and the pier, and there will be no problem. Fail to, and the lawsuits will follow. By the way, surprise, I am not a smoker. Just a believer in civil rights.

Brian Gray
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!

Please send letters to:

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Watching the garden grow: Planting the seeds of life

HIP TO
BE
SQUARE

By Caroline Bodkin

The house I now live in has grass and a patch of recently dug up earth, ready for a garden. It's one, big blank slate. This should be exciting. But with all the different plants out there, the various possibilities for landscaping, and the different ways in which plants under my naive care might die, my first thought when looking at this patch of dirt was "we need to have a professional come in and make this garden."

This blank slate patch of dirt is like my 24-year-old life. I need professional help. I need someone to design my garden.

There is this set of basic "I'm becoming an adult, therefore I suddenly have to consider X, Y and Z" questions that showed up one day totally uninvited, daunting as dirt. What will I do professionally? Who will I marry, if I do? Are we supposed to have life partners? Are we

supposed to have jobs we love? Where will I live? Will I be the kind of person who composts?

These questions are like seeds rattling around in my brain, begging to be planted.

As I sit with my seedy brain, I sometimes look at older people in awe: They've answered their questions. If all my questions are seeds, these people have plants in full bloom. Whether they're married people, working people, parents or teachers, they've got something going on.

And I — we younger people with all these unanswered questions — take for granted that they just, somehow, ended up that way. We totally ignore the fact that their lives, like all situations, are the results of many, many different choices, made daily, over the course of time. There's no way to predict the outcome.

The seed looks for light. It grows up far from where you planted it. The best gardens are the result of many flowers planted over time. They are unpredictable.

I wrote a story a couple years ago about three women in their late 20s who vowed not to marry. I was 23 and had never had a serious boyfriend. Once I finished the story, I fell in love with my current boyfriend and we've now been dating for about a year and a half. So it goes.

You cannot predict how things will change. Seeds are small, round, boring. But they are amazing because they can become something beautiful.

Last weekend I found myself at Home Depot where I was to select flowers to plant in the garden. My mom was visiting and helped me pick them out, explaining which might work in the front, where it's shady, and which would be better suited for the sunny back yard.

At one point I looked at her and said, "Mom, when was I supposed to learn about flowers? When did I become someone who would need to know anything about flowers?"

I felt unprepared, tricked. Like I'd been signed up for the "life" class without my knowing and now I'm taking tests for which I haven't studied at all. I felt the same way when I threw my first adult party. I felt the same way when I tried to put on that "inappropriate" fur coat for the fancy function.

How am I supposed to know these things?

My mom smiled at me. "Oh, Caroline," she said "you're not supposed to know about flowers already. You just try things out and see what grows. After a while you'll see how much you've learned.

Seeds do grow. It takes time."

And that's the way I guess we learn these life lessons.

We try things out and after a while we see we've learned something. We make one decision after another, one choice after another, and without realizing we're getting anywhere, we end up where we may never have thought we'd be. We end up in love after writing about being alone forever. We end up not having children but living in Switzerland when we thought we'd have a big family in Iowa.

They're all choices that grow, side by side, in the same space.

Today I choose to do one thing that resembles where I'd like to see myself in the future.

I'll toss some seeds, I'll write this column, I'll send my mom a birthday card.

And maybe in the end, after trying enough things out, I'll pull my head out of the dirt and say, "Wow."

Because there will be a garden.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily if she'll miss her calling. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquarebybodkin@yahoo.com)

OPINION



Actions against homeless speak louder than words



We are sitting in a small group under the trees at Palisades Park, at Paul Grymkowski's picnic. We are feasting on the best food available for the Santa Monica homeless. A few yards away, one of Santa Monica's finest is talking with a woman who has been walking her dog. The subject is the anti-feeding ordinance, which makes it illegal to distribute food in public areas in Santa Monica without a highly restrictive permit. I hear the officer say, "It's a bad law. I didn't write it. I'm just enforcing it." He sounds apologetic.

What an interesting take on personal responsibility, I thought.

"Officer," I call out. "You have a choice of what job you take. You are

responsible for your job choice."

"Thank you for reminding me of that," he shot back.

The phenomenon of blind obedience to authority was studied by Stanley Milgram. He was attempting to better understand and explain "national characteristics" which could have contributed to the "blind eye" so many gave to the Holocaust. His infamous experiment consisted of an authority figure wearing a white lab coat, a "subject" strapped to a machine which purportedly delivered shocks and were to be administered by the actual subject. This subject was directed to deliver the "shocks" by the white-coated authority figure. These shocks were explained to be of increasing magnitude and danger.

The results of the experiment gave a black eye to humanity. In Milgram's words: "Ordinary people, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process."

I have had cause to reflect on Milgram's words quite a bit in the last year. Having been reared by two profoundly moral peo-

ple, I simply assumed the ethics I learned were shared by everyone.

Police abuse and homelessness have taught me otherwise. Compassion and empathy do not appear to be widely distributed characteristics in the general U.S. populace.

Having seen the "Passion of the Christ" last weekend, I must quibble with the portrayal of the guards who so dreadfully flogged Mel Gibson's Jesus. Considering what time and history has revealed of human nature, a more accurate portrayal would have been a perfunctory, even lackadaisical beating. I doubt that the guards had true hatred for Christ. Like the police officer in Palisades Park, I imagine they were simply "following orders."

A final, truly personal note to the Santa Monica Police Department. After chemicals were dumped at our campsite, I called both the Santa Monica police and fire departments, and entreated them to clean up the mess. The toxins had seeped into our backpacks and, unbeknownst to us,

had rendered inedible all of our food, beverages, and even our medicine. Both Joann Nelson and I became quite ill.

As a personal entreaty to Police Chief Jim Butts, please clean up the area surrounding the court building on Main Street. After all, it is city property. We have also twice observed an individual sneaking into camp under the cloak of darkness to further deposit unidentified chemicals on the very forms of sleeping homeless.

It is difficult enough to deal with abject poverty and the streets. Coping with chemical "warfare" on the homeless adds a nearly Herculean aspect to our daily struggle.

Would it be possible to better police the Civic Center in order to apprehend the miscreants? I assume I am directing the request to the "proper authority."

(Janet Phelan is a university graduate and a freelance writer who has appeared in several publications including the Los Angeles Times. She has been homeless in Santa Monica for more than a year).

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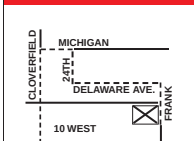
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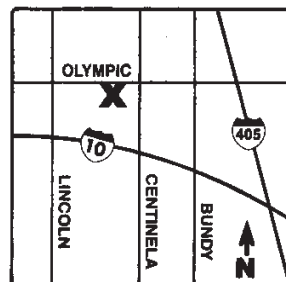
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LOCAL

City Council members accused of 'talking too much'

COUNCIL, from page 1

added that not only is the lawsuit a waste of time and energy, but also a waste of taxpayers' money.

"I think it's sad to take city resources to fight it," he said. "It's silly and has no merit."

Bloom said when the issue came up a year and a half ago, he's the one who put it on the agenda for discussion — not Katz or Holbrook.

"They know how to discuss these issues and they know how to agendize an item," he said. "They also know how to politicize an issue, it's an election year."

"They need to do this in a respectful way with their colleagues," Bloom added.

Katz said his goal is to make the City Council meetings end at a reasonable hour.

"Bob and I are not interested in hurting the city or costing it any money," he said. "We just want it under control."

The City Council met last week in a closed session regarding the suit, but Holbrook and Katz weren't allowed to be part of the discussion because of conflicts of interest. They find themselves in a precarious position — the entity they serve on is being sued but they can't discuss litigation because they're the plaintiffs.

"It's the weirdest thing," Katz said.

City Hall filed a motion to dismiss the suit a week ago — arguing Katz and Holbrook are attempting to stifle public participation. Called an anti-SLAPP motion, the argument is based on a law

that protects people who are being prevented from exercising their First Amendment rights.

"The lawsuit chills and otherwise tramples on cherished democratic values to allow governmental officials and the public to speak openly and freely to one another at public meetings," the city's motion states. "The lawsuit arbitrarily wants to cut off public debate in order to fit into its notion of someone's bedtime ...

"When the City Council conducts public meetings, when it listens to and discusses public matters with the public and when it holds open debate on matters of public interest, no matter what time of day or night, the City Council is both participating in and embracing their First Amendment rights."

The City Council, which meets every other Tuesday — and sometimes more frequently — is a victim of its own success because it's so adamant that people express their opinions that it allows public comment on not only agenda items, but other issues as well. Other governing bodies, like the Los Angeles City Council, don't take public comment at all, officials have pointed out in the past.

But what's at issue for Katz and Holbrook is that because the meetings run so late, fewer people stay in Council Chambers to speak.

"As a direct and proximate result of holding City Council meetings at unreasonable late night hours and under such unreasonable circumstances, the later part

"They know how to discuss these issues and they know how to agendize an item. They also know how to politicize an issue, it's an election year."

— RICHARD BLOOM
Mayor

of the City Council meetings are not open and public," the suit says. "Plaintiffs and petitioners, and the general public, are being denied their right to attend meetings, address their elected representatives and take an active part in open government ... members of the public cannot be expected to stay up until such hours to address their legislature."

But City Hall's attorneys argue that the City Council actually goes above the call of duty in honoring the Brown Act, the state's open meeting law, which is designed to encourage open and public debate.

"Often the public appears in such numbers that their comments alone take several hours for the City Council to hear," the motion states, adding the suit is an "abuse of the judicial process." "What the lawsuit fails to appreciate is that there are democratic values that this state considers more important than a public meeting that ends before 11 p.m."

Santa Monica attorney Rosario Perry, who is representing Katz and Holbrook

pro bono, said the suit is seeking an injunction that would prevent the meetings to go past 11 p.m. The case will be heard by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffee in downtown LA on March 30. It's unclear what would happen if Judge Yaffee grants the injunction.

"Anything beyond 11 p.m. could be void or they could be penalized," Perry surmised.

Santa Monica is a complex city and therefore has countless issues that come before the council, which contributes to the lengthy meetings, officials say.

It's up to the city manager, the mayor and the mayor pro tem to set the agenda. But putting less on each agenda would require more meetings — possibly weekly — which takes more staff time and more commitment from elected officials.

Some argue if council members used their time more wisely — like spending less time pontificating — they would finish earlier.

"These guys just go on and on," Perry said.

Pet 'guardian' effort dies at city council in 2-3 vote

ANIMAL RIGHTS, from page 1

his post as general manager of Animal Services for Los Angeles County.

"The bottom line is that the movement toward using the term 'guardian' is part of a larger movement amongst some people in the animal rights community and it concerns me where this all fits in, in the context of the movement," he said. "I believe there are a number of directions that animal rights activists are taking and I'm concerned that the overall movement not take a negative turn that is ultimately destructive on the issue of animal rights."

Some had suggested adding the word "guardian" alongside the word "owner," so that the codes would read "owner/guardian." But officials said doing that — as some other cities have — could make City Hall vulnerable to the same legal disputes and gray areas.

So the city's top politicians made no action on the matter. McKeown and City Councilman Mike Feinstein voted in favor of the change. Bloom, along with City Councilmen Ken Genser and Herb Katz, voted against it.

"I believe there are good people and there are bad people. I learned this in practicing law," Bloom said, adding resources should instead be focused on expanding the programs for spaying and neutering pets. "Good people are generally going to try to do the right thing, regardless of how something is identified."

"Bad people could care less whether they're 'guardians' or 'owners,'" Bloom added. "If a person is going to be cruel to an animal, for example, I don't think that person gives a damn what their identification is."

— John Wood

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LOCAL



Community Profiles

PROFILES, from page 1

"Thunderbird" — in Phoenix.

But her education didn't end with a business degree. Dodson worked for two years in Mexico for a diesel engine company before returning to the United States to earn her Ph.D. in parks, recreation and tourism management from Clemson University, in South Carolina.

"The whole theme kept going in my mind," she said in an interview at the chamber offices at Colorado Avenue and Fifth Street last week. "It's kind of strange to everyone else, but to me it made sense."

After seven months working on her dissertation in Belize, Dodson moved back to Texas and took a job with the local chamber there. She later spent five years in commercial and industrial real estate investment before taking the job in

Santa Monica in August of 2001.

Here, the Daily Press caught up with Dodson and asked her, "Why Santa Monica?"

Why did you move here?

"I came here for the job, but I did have several opportunities in Los Angeles and to me Santa Monica is one of the most dynamic cities in the world, not just in this country. It's dealing with a lot of the issues that most American cities will be dealing with in 19 or 20 years. A lot of that is because there's no urban sprawl in Santa Monica. It's totally built out and it has to find a way for its residents, visitors and tourists — and the large number of people who come to work here every day — to all get along as one community."

What was it like to move from El Paso, a more conservative community, to Santa Monica? How are things different than you expected?

"It's more than more conservative, it's got completely different problems. (El Paso) is a poor community and the No. 1

concern for businesses, residents and everyone there is job creation, and that means that all of your policies, your programs within the chamber, within the city, are focused on creating jobs. In Santa Monica that's not necessarily the case, although we certainly want to continue to increase the quality of jobs in Santa Monica. But Santa Monica is also much more focused on quality-of-life issues."

How have you adapted from dealing with a City Hall that is eager to create new jobs to a more adversarial relationship with a City Hall here that tempers job growth with protection of the community?

"Although we certainly have (adversarial) areas in Santa Monica, we also have areas where we work very closely with them. Some of the issues that we deal with here I also dealt with in El Paso, and that is improving the process that companies go through — or residents for that matter — when they're trying to open a new business or remodel a

business or home. There, everyone was focused on job creation. Here, people are focused on quality-of-life issues, but I think the perfect example of what I'm having trouble putting in words is when you take the homeless issue.

"The city spends a lot of money on homeless issues ... but the one point we want to make is, 'That's great ... but you're still not addressing the issues that residents and businesses have about the vagrancy.' It's really not so much the homelessness ... it's the vagrancy, the bad behavior that everyone would like to see stopped..."

What about doing business in Santa Monica is different than you expected?

"I will say I was really surprised by the trouble that small, mom-and-pop type businesses have opening here. And this is an area, again, where I think the city's views — they say they want these type of businesses, they don't want the big businesses — but the process is so difficult, it takes so much time and money ... that

See PROFILES, page 8

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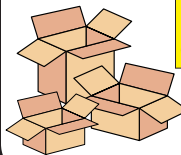
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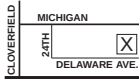


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LOCAL



PROFILES, from page 7

some of these businesses can't open here. I've had people come in and tell me about personal bankruptcy trying to open a business in Santa Monica ... That is very different."

What about for you personally? How has your modus operandi changed?

"The one thing that has changed, it's a very positive change, is Santa Monica is such a strong community that you need to, want to, have to work with all the various community organizations and leadership here if you want to get anything accomplished. In Texas, we were also focused on the same goal, but it wasn't the same priority. Here, outreach is of supreme importance.

"And I think another thing ... is my chamber in Texas wasn't focused on candidate endorsement and that's something that we have developed here because these major issues — again it's homelessness, parking and traffic, and efficient, productive government — they're just not being addressed the way we want them to be addressed ...

"Unfortunately, it just doesn't look

like we can work with the council to get them to address these problems the way we want them to be addressed."

Which members of the chamber can we expect to see throw their hat into the November election?

"Oh gosh, it's way too early to tell. They don't even submit until July or August. We want to encourage candidates to run. There are four seats open and one of the things we've discussed is having a candidate academy ... so anyone thinking about running can learn more about what's involved."

What about former chamber chairs? Who do you think might run?

"To be honest with you, I can't say for sure right now. There seem to be a lot of people kicking it around and we certainly hope to see some good candidates come forward."

If you weren't the president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, what would you be doing?

"I'd probably be president and CEO of an environmental organization."

What about a dream job?

"This is my dream job."

Kathy Dodson

Dodson said she moved to Redondo Beach to "split the difference" with her husband Tom, an international businessman who works out of an office in Tustin.

Salary: Declined to state.

Born: Aug. 2, 1965 in Dallas, Tex.

Raised: Irving, Tex.

Residence: Redondo Beach condominium.

Education: Bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University. Business degree from the American Graduate School of International Management. Ph.D from Clemson University.

Background: Worked for a diesel engine company in Mexico for two years; the El Paso Chamber of Commerce for two years, and in commercial and industrial real estate investment for five years before taking her current job in Santa Monica.

Family: Younger brother, Joe, 35. Husband, Tom, 38.

Hobbies: Riding her bike on the beach in the South Bay, hiking and traveling.

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Mexican field worker found dead under a tree

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

ENFIELD, N.C. — Urbano Ramirez Miranda died in the earth-scented shade temple of a majestic magnolia tree his second day picking tobacco.

That late-June afternoon was a typically humid 87 degrees in this corner of North Carolina's verdant coastal plain.

Ramirez was built sturdy, but the wet heat here was nothing like his native Mexico.

When Ramirez complained of a nose-bleed, the field supervisor instructed his new hire to quit early.

That was the last anyone saw of Ramirez for 10 days, when another worker found his body propped against the tree.

One clue to its identity: the 22 orange

tags that recorded how many buckets of pickling cucumbers Ramirez picked starting at 6 a.m. the day he died. Between cucumber and tobacco work, he would have been paid about \$50 that day.

**SEE RELATED STORY
ON PAGE 11**

The disappearance wasn't reported, the tobacco farmer told state investigators, because he figured it wasn't work related.

One medical examiner concluded Ramirez died of natural causes, but state officials ruled the cause "undetermined." His body was too decomposed to establish whether heat played a role.

Ramirez was one of 11 Mexican-born workers who died in 2001 in North Carolina, which helped make the South the nation's most dangerous region for these immigrant laborers, according to an Associated Press investigation. Deaths rose along with the Mexican-born population; in cities such as Charlotte and Raleigh, Hispanic populations grew approximately sevenfold during the 1990s.

"We're working really hard to communicate to folks in their language that ... people deserve a safe workplace," says Regina Luginbuhl, the state official in charge of agricultural safety and health.

Urbano Ramirez's brother Luis stands under the solitary magnolia where his hermano died. Its branches arc out 20 feet until they touch the sodden ground.

"At least he died in a place where there was shade," Luis Ramirez says, rubbing his eyes with construction-callused hands. "A good place."

The brothers arrived in North Carolina four months before Urbano Ramirez died, riding faith and a 1995 Ford Escort. After crossing the Rio Grande River, they had

walked about 150 miles over five days to the Texas town of Mathis, where they pooled \$3,500 for the car.

They took turns driving, the talk often turning to what work here would be like, how much money they might wire home. Urbano Ramirez had a pregnant wife, three boys and a girl.

It was a slow start. With no construction jobs open, Urbano Ramirez turned to the fields. The work bored him, but it was familiar. Growing up, he had tended subsistence plots of corn, beans and squash.

Someone mentioned that Jake Taylor Farms was hiring. Ramirez showed up June 24, 2001 at the farm's migrant worker housing outside Durham. He gave a fake name and was hired, state accident investigators found.

Two days later, Ramirez was one in a 45-man crew handpicking tobacco. When Ramirez started bleeding, the field supervisor prescribed shade rest.

The supervisor did not offer to take him to a doctor, investigators found. "He ignored him," Luis Ramirez says.

The state later cited Jake Taylor Farms for failing to supply water cups. The field supervisor said he sold beers on the side. Both were "substantial violations that may have contributed to the fatal event," investigators said.

Taylor declined comment for this story through the lawyer who represented him before a state worker's compensation panel that determined he owed \$86,000 to Ramirez's family.

Luis Ramirez helped raise \$3,800 to fly his brother's body from Raleigh to Guadalajara. Because he too was undocumented, he didn't return for the funeral. "If we don't do it soon, there'll be a double hurt," Mica said.

Colorado resort hopes development will pay off

BY JASON BLEVINS

Associated Press Press

COPPER MOUNTAIN, Colo. — Intrawest's \$500 million push to convert this 33-year-old resort from day-trip ski destination into a year-round resort that draws vacationers eager to explore a lively, cobbled-stone-paved village is not working.

Yet. Five years into the development of The Village at Copper, Intrawest is still tweaking its strategy.

Intrawest officials hoped they could win approval for their Copper Mountain plan on Monday but Summit County commissioners chose to study the proposal more closely. The board is expected to issue a decision on Intrawest's plans on May 10. The plan would increase the number of homes and shops in the Village by at least 50 percent.

Intrawest's "build it and they will come" concept has worked at Intrawest-developed villages at California's Squaw Valley, Canada's Tremblant and Whistler-Blackcomb outside Vancouver, but The Village at Copper is struggling.

The headline anchor tenant, the \$3 million Indian Motorcycle Cafe, failed, and Intrawest is launching what it calls a "re-envisioning process" to help inject new life into the flagging village.

"Rome was not built in a day," said David Barry, the Intrawest Colorado senior vice president who heads the resort's operations. "I look at Copper beginning its new life in 1999, and now it's only 2004. It does take some time."

The "re-envisioning," reportedly involving daily parties at village bars, nighttime activities and operational shifts, was presented to Intrawest's top executives recently. Barry declined to give any details, however.

Intrawest, North America's largest resort developer, argues that the key to Copper's success lies in more homes and more shops.

Intrawest bought Copper and Whistler ski area in British Columbia in 1997 for \$192 million, promising to inject \$340 million in capital improvements into Copper by 2007. In the first year,

Intrawest suggested it would build 1,000 housing units and 80,000 square feet of commercial space.

The new proposal calls for a total of 3,306 units and 377,584 square feet of commercial space, according to a requested amendment to Copper's already-approved Planned Unit Development plan.

Copper already has 1,713 units and 177,267 square feet of commercial space in its new village.

The proposed new commercial plans include space for a performing arts facility and a medical clinic.

"We keep hearing about the critical mass needed to support the commercial businesses at Copper," Summit County planner Chris Hawkins said. "They are explaining that they need a certain bed base to support the commercial space and the public benefits like a new gondola, recreation trails and an ambulance facility."

Intrawest has a tried-and-true formula for figuring out how many residential units are needed to support its commercial development.

That formula has irked residents of Snowmass Village, near Aspen, where Intrawest has planned a village with 635 residential units, 94,000 square feet of commercial space and 100,000 square feet of space for administration, recreation and public gathering.

Snowmass locals who were worried about the size of the village pushed Intrawest's plans onto a special-election ballot that will be held later this month.

Intrawest's call for more units and more shops is irking some Copper residents, too.

"The challenge I see is that we don't have enough activity for retailers to survive now, and Intrawest wants to double Copper's size," said Tom Malmgren, a 30-year resident of Copper Mountain and owner of a real estate brokerage. "I think we've diluted the pot enough, and they want to keep growing the commercial space."

Retailers in Copper's village say Intrawest's midstream tweaking shows a company fighting to succeed.

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NATIONAL

Wyoming's \$1.22B surplus sparks building binge

BY ROBERT W. BLACK

Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — As other states struggle to avoid drastic budget cuts, Wyoming will expand prisons, open nearly 30 new schools and build better college athletic facilities with its \$1.2 billion surplus.

Lawmakers approved an unprecedented \$500 million checklist of public works projects and socked away \$250 million during the legislative budget session that ended Friday.

The amount is double what the state spent for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

The surplus — the result of an unexpected windfall from revenues from higher oil and natural gas prices — was the largest of all states this year, according to the Council of State Governments.

"Wyoming has been the exception to the rule," said Sujit Canagaretna, senior fiscal analyst with the council. "The oil and gas industry has done phenomenally well and prices continue to rise, and that's been the big difference."

Besides construction, lawmakers are spending money on health care and education, a 3 percent raise for state workers, new state trooper positions and ranchers to test for brucellosis, a much-feared cattle disease.

Local governments will get \$60 million and the University of Wyoming and the state's seven community colleges will receive nearly \$60 million in endowments.

The University of Wyoming will use some of the money to improve its football stadium and build a new indoor practice facility.

State lawmakers hope the construction boom will entice young people back to the state: A new census report shows Wyoming ranks behind only West Virginia and North Dakota in the percentage decline of 15- to 44-year-olds (2.2 percent) since 2000.

"That's a lot of bucks and that should bring people back," said state Rep. Pete Illoway.

Gov. Dave Freudenthal had asked lawmakers for the badly needed bricks-and-mortar money, saying that by taking care of such needs now, future money can be spent on more innovative projects.

State Sen. Mike Massie agreed with the strategy.

"This wasn't necessarily a vision session and that's OK," Massie said. "We had a lot of practical needs that we had to take

care of this session and we did it."

Concerned about abrupt swings in oil and gas prices, lawmakers also socked away \$250 million in permanent or short-term savings.

Rick Miller, a vice president at the University of Wyoming, found the debate over savings both unusual and refreshing. "There have been years when the Legislature came to town with very little in terms of projected revenue beyond

what was absolutely necessary to fund the status quo," he said. "Now you have a different dynamic."

Former state Rep. Marlene Simons warned that the state's fortunes could change if mineral prices collapse.

"Hard times will come again and they'll all wish they were more conservative," she said. "Things can change, and they can change in one heck of a hurry."

Bush veto threat on highway bill poses dilemma

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush has chosen a giant, jobs-rich highway bill to show his election-year toughness against congressional spending, to the chagrin of many Republican lawmakers, governors and business allies.

Weeks of talks have yet to reach a middle ground between the Bush administration, which has threatened to veto any bill that goes much beyond Bush's \$256 billion limit, and GOP lawmakers who say the nation's crumbling infrastructure demands far more. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., set the target at \$275 billion.

Rep. John Mica of Florida, a senior Republican on the House Transportation Committee, said a stalemate over the six-year blueprint for government spending on highways and mass transit could wreak both economic and political havoc.

"If we don't do it soon, there'll be a double hurt," Mica said.

Hastert is so frustrated that he refuses to discuss the bill with anyone at the White House other than Bush.

The Senate last month brushed off the veto threat and passed a \$318 billion bill — \$100 billion more than the previous plan — that backers said would make roads safer and less congested while creating at least 1 million jobs.

The stage then moved to the House, where the Transportation Committee, led

"If we don't do it soon, there'll be a double hurt."

— REP. JOHN MICA

(R-Fla.), House Transportation Committee

by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, pushed for \$375 billion, an amount the Transportation Department has said is necessary to ensure real improvements in the nation's highway and transit systems.

Young proposed gradually raising the federal gas tax, now 18.4 cents per gallon, by a nickel over the next six years. The gas tax goes into the highway trust fund, which is supposed to provide all federal highway money going to the states.

Rep. James Oberstar of Minnesota, the senior Democrat on the Transportation Committee, estimated that 100 Republicans would join all 205 Democrats in the House in voting for a 5-cent increase in gasoline taxes to pay for better highways. With quick passage, states could have \$30 billion worth of construction projects under way by Labor Day, creating 400,000 new jobs, he said.

But with the White House flatly rejecting any notion of a gasoline tax increase, GOP leaders in the House have no plans to allow even a vote on one.

Hastert said Thursday he was now

looking at a spending target of about \$275 billion, searching for a figure that "won't get vetoed and we can negotiate with the Senate." Lawmakers, he said, "will have their needs met, maybe not quite as fully as they had hoped."

Lawmakers like to boast about the federal money they steer to their districts, especially in an election year.

The Republican leader from Illinois also took a shot at White House negotiators, saying he will now discuss the issue only with Bush. "I don't deal with his people any more. We weren't getting straight numbers from his people and they changed their mind in the middle of the process."

So far, the White House has withstood a barrage of lobbying from some of its closest political and business allies.

Some 20 business, construction and union groups led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote lawmakers that there was "no more important legislation" for the economy and "we cannot support any House legislation below the Senate number."

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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 — 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

NATIONAL



For Mexicans, the American dream is killing them

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

The jobs that lure Mexican workers to the United States are killing them in a worsening epidemic that is now claiming a victim a day, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Though Mexicans often take the most hazardous jobs, they are more likely than others to be killed even when doing similarly risky work.

The death rates are greatest in several Southern and Western states, where a Mexican worker is four times more likely to die than the average U.S.-born worker.

These accidental deaths are almost always preventable and often gruesome: Workers are impaled, shredded in machinery, buried alive. Some are 15 years old.

For the first such study of Mexican worker deaths in the United States, The AP talked with scores of workers, employers and government officials and analyzed years of federal safety and population statistics.

Among the findings:

■ Mexican death rates are rising even as the U.S. workplace grows safer overall. In the mid-1990s, Mexicans were about 30 percent more likely to die than native-born workers; now they are about 80 percent more likely.

■ Deaths among Mexicans in the United States increased faster than their population. As the number of Mexican workers grew by about half, from 4 million to 6 million, the number of deaths rose by about two-thirds, from 241 to 387. Deaths peaked at 420 in 2001.

■ Though their odds of dying in the Southeast and parts of the West are far greater than the U.S. average, fatalities occur everywhere: Mexicans died cutting North Carolina tobacco and Nebraska beef, felling trees in Colorado and welding a balcony in Florida, trimming grass at a Las Vegas golf course and falling from scaffolding in Georgia.

■ Even compared to other immigrants, what's happening to Mexicans is exceptional in scope and scale. Mexicans are nearly twice as likely as the rest of the immigrant population to die at work.

WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING?

Public safety officials and workers themselves say the answer comes down to this: Mexicans are hired to work cheap, the fewer questions the better.

They may be thrown into jobs without training or safety equipment. Their objections may be silent if they speak no English or are here illegally. And their work culture and Third World safety expectations don't discourage risk-taking.

Federal and state safety agencies have started to recognize the problem. But they have limited resources — only a few Spanish-speaking investigators work in regions with hundreds of thousands of recent arrivals — and often can't reach the most vulnerable Mexican workers.

President Bush's recent proposal to grant illegal immigrants temporary legal protections energized the national immigration debate. Yet in these discussions, job safety

has been an afterthought. Meanwhile, Mexicans continue to die on the job.

DISPOSABLE WORKERS?

Eighteen-year-old Carlos Huerta fell to his death as he built federal low-income housing in North Carolina.

His bosses ignored basic work safety rules, according to state inspectors, when they put him in a trash container that wasn't secured to the raised prongs of a forklift. It soon toppled.

In 2002, the year Huerta was killed, more Mexicans died in construction than any other industry — and more died from fatal falls than any other accident.

A year ago in South Carolina, brothers Rigouerto and Moses Xaca Sandoval died building a suburban high school that, at 15 and 16, they might have attended. They were buried in a trench when the walls of sandy soil collapsed.

The United States offered these three teens wages 10 times higher than in Mexico. They offered their employers cheap, pliant labor. For safety violations that led to these deaths, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined employers \$50,475.

Accidents like these suggest that employers assign Mexicans to the most glaringly perilous tasks, says Susan Feldmann, who fields calls from Spanish-speaking workers for an institute within the federal Centers for Disease Control.

"They're considered disposable," she says.

But employers are not always at fault, some safety officials say.

Though he was trained and wearing required safety gear, Jesus Soto Carbajal severed his jugular vein with a carving knife in a Nebraska meatpacking plant. The blade punctured his chest just above the protective metal mesh.

Federal safety officials didn't fine the employer, though they did recommend fundamental changes in the work routine. A plant spokesman says that since the accident in 2000, workers wear larger protective tunics.

Mexican worker deaths were also concentrated in agriculture.

When Urbano Ramirez suffered a nose bleed picking North Carolina tobacco, his supervisor prescribed shade rest. Ramirez's body was found 10 days later. A medical examiner said he died of unknown natural causes, the body too decomposed for a definitive finding. His brother suspects heat stroke.

Like Ramirez, many deceased workers came with little more than a grade-school education — and often left behind large families.

Criminal charges are rare, fines more typical. One exception is a California dairyman who faces involuntary manslaughter charges after two of his workers drowned in liquid cow manure.

Jose Alatorre was overcome by fumes from the fetid stew as he tried to fix a pump at the bottom of a 30-foot concrete shaft. His partner died trying to save him.

Both men were full-time workers but,

Even compared to other immigrants, what's happening to Mexicans is exceptional in scope and scale. Mexicans are nearly twice as likely as the rest of the immigrant population to die at work.

according to prosecutors, were given no safety training and no safety equipment to deal with the predictably hazardous air.

The deaths received a burst of attention in early 2001, but 18 months later in the same small town, a third Mexican-born worker died in the same way at another dairy.

MORE WORKERS DYING

The AP's investigation focused on 1996 through 2002, the most recent set of worker death data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those were years when the economic boom coaxed about 1 million Mexicans beyond the border states, according to government estimates.

During those years, the analysis showed, Mexicans were increasingly more likely to die on the job than U.S. workers of any race.

The annual death rate for Mexicans increased to the point that about 1 in 16,000 workers died. Meanwhile, for the average U.S.-born worker, the rate steadily decreased to about 1 in 28,000.

Mexicans now represent about 1 in 24 workers in the United States, but about 1 in 14 workplace deaths.

Workplace fatalities had distinct regional patterns:

CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS: These states, where generations of Mexicans have developed strong support networks, still rank atop the annual number of Mexican worker deaths — but their numbers have steadied or fallen recently. Though low relative to other states, the death rate for Mexican workers in California is still greater than the average for U.S.-born workers.

WEST: Outside California, deaths in Western states increased from 41 to 58, and death rates hovered above the national average. Colorado and Washington stood out with consistently high rates.

SOUTH: In the bloc of states from Louisiana to Maryland, the Mexican death rate averaged about 1 in 6,200 workers — four times that of native-born workers. Total deaths more than tripled from 27 in 1996 to 94 in 2002 in the South (excluding Texas), where some states saw Mexican populations triple to more than 100,000 workers.

MIDWEST: The number of Mexicans killed annually doubled between 1996 and 2002, from 19 to 38; death rates were slightly above the national average for Mexicans.

NORTHEAST: The region has the fewest Mexicans, but death rates still far exceeded American worker averages. Total annual deaths rose from eight to 17. Construction was the deadliest indus-

try. Across the nation, about 1 in 3,100 Mexican construction laborers died at work, a rate notably greater than native-born white and black construction laborers, though in line with the rate for native-born Hispanics.

OFFICIALS STEP IN

Federal and state safety officials are starting to grapple with the problem.

OSHA Director John Henshaw points to Spanish-language materials the agency has put on its Web site, as well as the agency's Hispanic Taskforce, which coordinates outreach.

The greatest frustration is that so many deaths are avoidable.

"Ninety-five to 99 percent of the time, there's going to be noncompliance with a standard that could have prevented the fatality," says Joe Reina, the No. 2 OSHA official for Texas and neighboring states and a leader of the Hispanic Taskforce.

Still, Reina holds workers partly responsible.

"They just don't know that they have rights and responsibilities," Reina says, including the ability to complain against employers.

Explaining those rights is one thing, enforcing them another. Some of OSHA's own officials say their resources are insufficient and note the agency's own policies generally provide for punitive action only after an accident. It's unclear what Bush's guest worker program, if approved, would do for worker safety.

As OSHA works to improve safety, language remains a barrier. By the agency's own count, there are no Spanish-speaking inspectors or accident investigators in the half of Georgia that includes immigrant-rich Atlanta. Some other Southern cities do have Spanish-fluent enforcement officials.

In its eight-state Southeastern region, OSHA has a single Spanish-speaking outreach worker. Marilyn Velez encourages workers and employers to avoid unsafe practices.

It's not easy. Some wary workers see Velez as a police officer; others, having survived abject poverty in rural Mexico and dangerous border crossing, feel they don't need her.

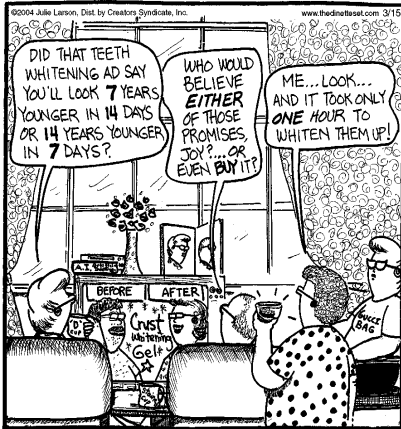
"They are looking at you like, 'Are you crazy? I have done worse things,'" Velez says. "It's just the way they see risk."

Sometimes the lessons do register. But America's Mexican labor force is constantly in flux. Workers graduate to safer jobs, or perhaps they move back home. Their replacements may be the next victims.

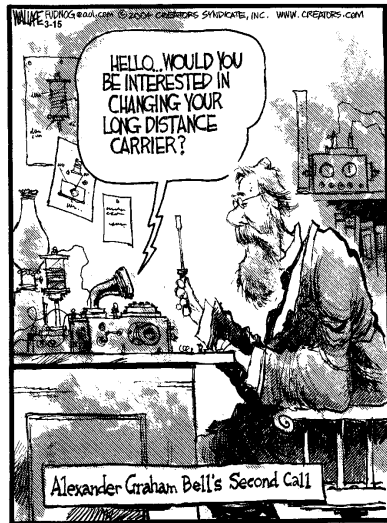
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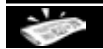
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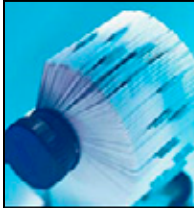
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lisa Marie Presley powerless in Michael's machine

By The Associated Press

■ **SYDNEY, Australia** — Lisa Marie Presley said she "saw things she could do nothing about" during her brief marriage to Michael Jackson, but refused to elaborate.

In an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s respected "Enough Rope" talk show to be aired Monday night, Presley said she felt powerless during her marriage to the self-styled King of Pop. Excerpts of the interview were released Sunday.

Presley said she felt "powerless in a lot of ways, in terms of ... realizing that I was part of a machine, and seeing things going on that I couldn't do anything about."

"And don't ask me what sort of things, because I'm not going to answer. But just stuff."

Jackson and Presley, who is in Australia promoting her own singing career, were married from 1994 to 1996. Asked how she felt about Jackson now, Presley replied: "It's really bizarre, I feel nothing."

Jackson has pleaded innocent in California to seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts on a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. He is free on \$3 million bail pending trial.

■ **BURBANK** — The line to audition for the second season of the hit reality show "The Apprentice" stretched the length of four football fields outside NBC's Burbank studios as more than 1,000 people sought a spot on the program featuring billionaire Donald Trump.

Trump was not present Saturday because "Apprentice" producers didn't want to overshadow his appearance at Thursday's auditions in New York. More than a dozen casting calls will take place in cities including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Miami and San Francisco.

Kevan Moezzi of Seal Beach showed up 19 hours

early to earn wristband No. 3, meaning he was third in line to be interviewed. He and two others slept outside the studios to be first in line.

"If I get this show, it will open up so many opportunities," Moezzi said. "I gotta get in there and show them what it takes."

Rob LaPlant, the show's casting producer, said he is looking for "real people" to join the show.

"The worst thing someone can do here is not talk," he said. "We throw out a topic and see how they react."

■ **TULSA, Okla.** — Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work against apartheid in South Africa, will speak next week in Oklahoma City.

His March 23 speech at Oklahoma City University is free and open to the public, but seating will be limited to the first 3,000 people.

Tutu, who was the first black African to serve as general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, used the position to conduct a campaign against apartheid. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

He was appointed to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission by President Nelson Mandela after the white government fell.

Tutu plans to speak at the University of Tulsa on March 27.

■ **INDIANAPOLIS** — Former Olympic figure skater Tonya Harding drew cheers and boos and threw a few punches — some verbal — at a boxing exhibition between periods of a minor-league hockey game.

Harding is best known for being stripped of her 1994 national figure skating title after the infamous attack on opponent Nancy Kerrigan.

On Friday night she appeared at a "Fight Night" promo-

tion by the Indianapolis Ice of the Central Hockey League.

Harding traded punches with her manager and trainer, Paul Brown, who wore huge gloves, which he used to absorb punches.

Many spectators booed Harding, who was introduced as "America's Bad Girl."

When asked whether she considered herself a skater or a boxer, Harding replied, "I'm a boxer."

"They boo me, but they're all paying my salary," she said, smiling. "I say 'Thank you' to them."

Still, Harding said she only agreed to the exhibition because it raised \$1,000 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Indiana.

The promotion drew a near-capacity crowd of 7,714 fans.

■ **DETROIT** — Kid Rock will present friend and fellow Michigander Bob Seger at Seger's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday.

Kid Rock says he counts Seger among those who influenced him. And Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm is planning to issue a proclamation naming Monday Bob Seger Day.

"I'm going to shoot from the heart, and make this fun for his fans, his friends, his family, his band," Kid Rock told the Detroit Free Press for a Friday story.

"I want to reiterate what he did with his music — not only making Michigan and Detroit proud, but his friends and family, because this is really special for him," he said.

Seger became eligible for the hall of fame in 1989 — 25 years after releasing his first single, the regional hit "East Side Story."

The presentation will take place before a black-tie crowd at Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Other 2004 inductees include Prince, Jackson Browne, ZZ Top, Traffic, the Dells and the late George Harrison.



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