

FREE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 107

Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Bail held for hijacker accused of murder

Albert White, who allegedly bludgeoned his elderly father to death, presents a 'significant risk,' prosecutors said

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A judge ruled Friday that a 1970's Lithuanian hijacker who allegedly murdered his father in Santa Monica last month will remain in jail on \$1.2 million bail.

Albert Victor White, who 32 years ago helped his father Pranas "Frank" Brazinskas hijack a Soviet commercial jetliner to escape cold war-era Lithuania, stands accused of beating to death his 77-year old father on Feb. 5 during a struggle at the pair's 21st Street apartment.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard J. Kamins denied a motion by White's attorney, Jack Alex, to reduce bail or release White on his own recognizance.

The judge also granted a request by the district

See BAIL, page 3

The sign says it all



Ellen Korak, of Venice Beach, paints a neon-colored sign on the front window of Stewart Photo on Wilshire Boulevard Friday afternoon.

Andrew H. Fixmer/ The Daily Press

Governor decides to delay ban on use of MTBE

Suspected carcinogen blamed for contaminating Santa Monica's drinking water

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

REDONDO BEACH — Saying he wanted to avoid another kind of energy crisis, Gov. Gray Davis on Friday gave gasoline makers another year to phase out the use of fuel additive MTBE.

Davis extended the deadline from Dec. 31, 2002 to Jan. 1, 2004.

Without the extension, he said, the strain of shifting from MTBE to ethanol in gasoline manufacturing would create shipping problems, gas shortages and sharp price increases.

"If I could snap my fingers and eliminate MTBE today I would do it in a heartbeat," Davis said at a news conference. "But I've seen this movie before, and I'm not going to watch out-of-state energy companies hold California hostage once again."

Davis said only about seven companies nationwide produce ethanol, and adhering to the original

See MTBE, page 3

St. Patrick's Day in SM, from shamrocks to green beer

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day has been a religious celebration for thousands of years, but some where along the way it became an excuse to drink excessive amounts of green beer.

Sunday marks the anniversary of St. Patrick's death, a day when millions of people — Irish and otherwise — will take to the local churches and pubs to recognize the patron saint of Ireland, who is one of Christianity's most recognized figures.

Early tradition meant families attended church in the morning and danced, drank, and feasted on meals of Irish bacon and cabbage in the afternoon. The feast was particularly special since it was the only day meat could be eaten because of Lent.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a religious occasion. Up until the 1970's, laws called for pubs to be closed on March 17. However in 1995, Irish government officials saw St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and to put Ireland back on the map.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations became popular in America for political reasons. In 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated Irish Catholics began to pour into America to escape the great potato famine.

They were hated because of their religious beliefs and

"funny accents." And when they took to the streets for St. Patrick's Day celebrations, they were portrayed by the press as "drunk, violent monkeys."

See ST. PATRICK, page 3

Miramax eliminates 75 jobs in NY, LA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Miramax eliminated 75 jobs Friday, or about 15 percent of the movie studio's work force.

The cuts were made across all departments, including publicity, production and marketing, company spokesman Matthew Hiltzik said.

Most of the cuts were midlevel executives and assistants at the company's headquarters in New York, although several people in Los Angeles and overseas were also let go. Some people were fired and some open jobs went unfilled, the company said.

Hiltzik said Miramax — a division of Walt Disney Co. — had increased its staff by 17 percent since October, topping the 500-employee mark. After hiring a new chief financial officer and director of publicity, the company decided to re-evaluate its staffing, he said.

"We grew really quickly over the last few months and needed to take a pause to be sure we were operating as efficiently as possible," he said.

The company did not say how much would be saved by the cuts.

Miramax has several movies in contention for Academy Awards this year, including "In the Bedroom," "Amelie" and "Iris."

WILSHIRE UNION
since 1988
828-2900
Please Call for an Appointment
\$10 OFF ANY SERVICE OF \$50 OR MORE
OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/02
2601 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica
Free Local Ride • New Car Warranty Dealer Approved • 15,30 & 60k Service
ASE Certified Technician The Latest in Automotive Technology

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
On the front page of the only Daily gig in town.
select front page spots available today
reserve yours before they re gone...
310-458-PRESS (7737) x 104

John Casese The DANCE DOCTOR
Santa Monica — Est. 1984
LEARN TO DANCE
Unlimited Classes
\$29 per month + membership fee
1440 Fourth St. • 310-459-2264
swing salsa/latin tango ballroom lindy-hop lyrical dance jazz/ballet hip hop/rave yoga belly dancing boxing kickboxing

Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



Get Out!

Travelsmith Warehouse Sale. Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17. 10:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 458-8551.

Santa Monica Playhouse presents Cinderella! Every Saturday & Sunday through June. A delightfully romantic original classic. 1211 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. 12 p.m. and 3 p.m., \$9.00 for ages 2-92 (under 2 and over 92 get in free). (310) 394-9779 ext. 2

Puppetolio! hosted by Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center will be held Saturday & Sunday at 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Episode 2 plays at the 3:00 time. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet Museum and workshop. The program is for all ages, 3 and up. All seats: \$6.50. The Center is located at 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica, adjacent to the Third Street Promenade. Reservations/Information: (310) 656-0483 or www.puppetmagic.com.

Get Your Learn On!

Jack Curtis, photographer and author, demonstrates proven techniques for successful photography Saturday, March 16, at the Ocean Park Library. 3:00 p.m. To 4:30 p.m. 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 392-3804

Shiatsu Massage School of California is offering Hatha Yoga FREE to the community! Increase your strength and flexibility, decrease stress and improve your posture. Sunday's from 6:45 p.m. To 8:15 p.m. 2309 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 396-4502.



Today at the Movies!

LANDMARK'S Nu WILSHIRE THEATRE

1314 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica

KISSING JESSICA STEIN [R]

Ultra Stereo
12:00 - 2:30 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 10:00
Sorry, No Passes Accepted
DTS Digital - Scope
12:15 - 3:15 - 6:30 - 9:30

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4 PLEX

1332 Second St, Santa Monica

Y TU MAMA TAM BIEN

12:00 - 2:25 - 5:00 - 7:35 - 10:15

AMELIE

1:10 - 4:052 - 7:00 - 10:00

MONSTERS BALL

12:10 - 2:40 - 5:10 - 7:45 - 10:20

IRIS

1:00 - 3:15 - 5:30 - 7:45 - 10:00

Just In...
Hawaiian Grouper
light & delicious!

FRESH!
REEL INN
FRESH FISH MARKET
&
RESTAURANT

1220 3rd St. Promenade
Santa Monica
310.395.5538

SIMPLY SOFAS

2316 LINCOLN BLVD., SANTA MONICA (AT KENSINGTON)

310-581-5566

Simply the Best Upholstery & Furniture in LA
Quality — 2 Week Delivery — Sleepers

Mon.— Sat. 10am-7pm

16,000 sq.ft Showroom
All credit cards — 10% discount on all new orders
with this ad only



HOROSCOPE

Cancer, tonight be where the fun is



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)

★★★★★ Liveliness marks your interactions with a friend. This person can go a bit over the line. You might pull back before you get too immersed in a difficult situation. Your imagination plays a strong role with key friends. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Know when to vanish — for instance, right now. A boss or parent might make requests that he or she feels are reasonable. You might even agree, but would prefer not to. You need some centering time away from others. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ An unexpected invitation or call could toss your plans into confusion. Carefully sort through what you want to do, perhaps checking in with a friend or a relative. Remember, this is your day off as well. Opt to travel in a different direction. Tonight: Count on a late night.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ What someone suggests might not be too far from the truth. Listen to this loved one or friend. You cannot avoid a must appearance. Surprise! You might actually enjoy yourself. Count on relaxing more and enjoying those close to you. Tonight: Where the fun is.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Carefully listen to someone who can be unpredictable. Are there warning signs? You might want to watch this person more often. Detach rather than plugging into a mini-rift or a problem. Ask friends and/or a loved one to go to the movies. Tonight: Escape into a cinema world.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your sense of what might please another could be off. Have a discussion, and you might revise your thinking. Everyone has different needs and desires. Learn to understand someone more and make fewer assumptions. Respond to a loved one's request. Tonight: Just say "yes."

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out. An amorous friend or loved one could have a strong reaction when you least expect it. Stay on an even keel, recognizing your priorities. Carefully review a decision involving a partnership. Be sensitive to that special person. Tonight: How 'bout an old-fashion date?

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might be happy hanging close to home. Reach out for another who needs to hear from you. A call leaves you with a great deal of happiness and warmth. Share a favorite hobby with a child or a partner. Go out and buy a new game. Tonight: Just make it easy.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Let your fiery imagination cheer you on. While you might act like a kid, others find you irresistible. Others join in. You could be surprised by the spontaneity of those around you. Someone might attempt to shock you. Enjoy the confession. Tonight: Follow the impulse.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Enjoy those in your immediate circle. Do something unconventional with the family budget. A discussion takes you in a new direction, adding to your sense of togetherness. Work as a team, giving up your sense of authority. Tonight: Don't wander too far from home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Don't stand on ceremony any longer. Do what you have wanted to do for a long time. If you want to take up flying, schedule lessons. If you want to travel to Africa, start creating a budget and working toward that goal. Tonight: Swap dreams with friends.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Recognize your limits financially, especially revolving around a desire of yours. You might suddenly change your mind about this item or goal. Be open with someone you can trust. Learn to reinvent yourself. Tonight: Treat a loved one.



QUOTE of the DAY

"If god had meant us to have group sex, he'd have given us more organs."

— Malcolm Bradbury

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason . . .sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Steve Kenedy steve@smdp.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

William Pattnosh william@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jennifer (JT) Tate jt@smdp.com

TEST SUBJECT

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

LOCAL



Hijacker charged with first degree murder of father

BAIL, from page 1

attorney to postpone the preliminary trial scheduled yesterday until Tuesday, March 26 when both sides will have had time to read the coroner's report, which was released the day of the trial.

Alex said his client, also known as Algirdas Brazinskas, was acting in self-defense because his father had threatened him with a pistol.

"(Brazinskas) was basically a terrorist," Alex said, listing people killed by the father during the hijacking. "Albert is not a bad person. He doesn't have a passport — he's not going anywhere."

No shots were fired during the argument. But Ann Rundle, the Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney handling the case, said White deliberately

murdered his father with eight blows to the head with a "heavy, blunt object," crushing his skull.

The first debilitating blow to the head may have been self-defense, but the other seven were not, prosecutors said.

They paint a picture of White as a violent man with a violent past, who resented his father and wanted him dead. White is charged with first degree murder.

"These claims of self-dense are baseless," she said. "After hitting his father, (White) sat by and watched his father bleed to death."

But White's attorney described his client as a caring, nurturing son who stayed home to take care of his father instead of joining his wife — a US State Department attaché — when she was posted to the US embassy in Malaysia.

Brazinskas had many guns in the apartment and was paranoid that the KGB would eventually come after him for killing two of their agents, Alex said.

In Lithuania, Brazinskas was wanted for smuggling guns and running criminal rackets, Alex said. He fled his country not because of political discontent but because he faced a death sentence or life in a Siberian prison.

"He was a violent man, with a violent past," Alex said. "His son knew first hand what he was capable of doing and he acted only to protect himself."

However, Judge Kamins said in first degree murder trials bail was not usually set, so he would not waive the bail that had already been set.

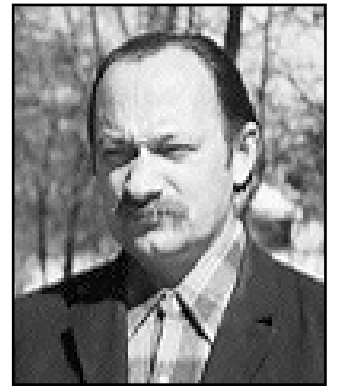
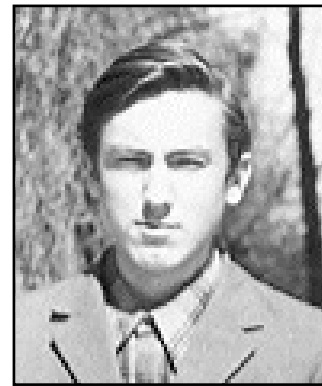
"The fact that bail has already been set reflects considerations already made by this court," he said.

In 1970, prosecutor's say Brazinskas and his then 13-year old son, hijacked an Aeroflot jetliner and re-directed the flight to Turkey.

During the flight, Soviet guards on board opened fire. Caught in the crossfire, a female steward was killed and the pilot and co-pilot were wounded. After the soldiers were subdued, the flight crew was still able to successfully fly the hijackers to Turkey.

There, the father and son were arrested, convicted of murder and sentenced to prison, but in 1974 they were released, only to be placed under house arrest.

The pair managed to escape custody and fled to the



File photo

Albert Victor White, left, allegedly killed his father, Pranas "Frank" Brazinskas, right, during a Feb 5 argument at the pair's Santa Monica home. The two hijacked a soviet jetliner to escape cold war-era Lithuania in the 1970's.

closest American embassy in Ankara to plea for political asylum. Brazinskas said if he and his son had not taken control of the airplane, he would have been put to death for participating in a Lithuanian resistance movement.

Their request was denied, and the father and son were released back into Turkish custody, but the Soviet Union angrily argued the pair should be extradited. The Turkish government denied the request, causing much international tension.

With pressure mounting, the Turkish government released the pair two weeks later. The father and son fled to Venezuela, where they quickly flew to Canada. But when the plane made a stop over in New York, the pair vanished.

They were arrested a few weeks later by the Immigration and Nationalization Service, but under the newly enacted 1980 Refugee Act, the father and son were allowed to stay even though entrance visas would never be issued.

After a few short years living in Queens, NY the father and son moved to Santa Monica to live among the city's large Lithuanian community. Ever since their dramatic escape from their home country, the pair had become heroes among Lithuanian expatriates living in America.

MTBE closed Santa Monica water wells

MTBE, from page 1

deadline could give them an unfair advantage in meeting what would be a huge jump in demand in California.

He said California would require 900 million gallons of ethanol per year to make the transition.

Three years ago, Davis ordered a ban on MTBE, or methyl tertiary butyl ether, no later than Dec. 31, 2002 after a University of California study declared the compound a threat to groundwater.

The fuel additive, a colorless chemical that at very low concentrations in water smells like turpentine and is a suspected carcinogen, has already leaked into 48 wells in California's public water systems, state records showed last year.

In 1996, seven of Santa Monica's wells tested positive for MTBE. The wells were closed while officials investigated the extent and source of contamination, which was eventually determined to have come from a nearby corner gas station.

The station's underground storage tanks leaked gasoline into the water table, which seeped into the wells.

"It was just a regular gas station," said Gil Balboa, a utilities manager for Santa Monica, "and it has taken all this time to design and implement a treatment plant to clean the water."

Brooke Coleman, director of the Renewable Energy Action Project in San Francisco, criticized the move.

"The governor might be underestimating the political ramifications of how Californians feel about their drinking water," he said. "Pump prices are not the only issue in this state, and voters have made that clear."

Frank Maisano, spokesman for the Oxygenated Fuels Association in Washington, D.C., said Davis was "reading the tea leaves of reality."

"This decision will benefit the consumers who would have been faced with pretty dramatic price increases because the supply would not have been there for them," said Maisano, whose group was formed to advance the use of additives such as MTBE.

St. Patrick's Day in Santa Monica

ST. PATRICK, from page 1

But soon the Irish population grew to a point where they had political power. They organized and became the "green machine" when voting in their political candidates. Suddenly, St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength.

To Americans, St. Patrick's Day means green beer, shamrocks and partying. Many die-hard Irishmen would tell you that Americans could care less about the history involving Ireland's most prized holiday. For instance, most Americans probably don't know that the shamrock is a symbol of trinity — each clover means the father, the son and holy spirit.

Leprechauns and the pot of gold are part of American folklore — local church services and celebrations are not.

Here's a glimpse of what's going on in Santa Monica:

• O'Briens at 2225 Wilshire Blvd. will be serving a

traditional Irish meal including corned beef and Irish stew. Open from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. (310) 829-5303.

• Brennan's at 4087 Lincoln Blvd. has 6 live bands starting at 1 p.m. until 2 a.m. Traditional Irish menu served all day along with Guinness and green beer! Open 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. (310) 821-6622.

• O'Brien's at 2941 Main Street will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. with live entertainment starting at 1 p.m. until close. Traditional Irish menu including, Irish stew, and steak 'n' mushroom pie! (310) 396-4725.

• St. Anne's Catholic Church will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner at 7:00 hosted by Father Michael Guiterrez. 2017 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica.

• St. Monica's Catholic Church is having a talk about Celtic Spirituality, hosted by the YMCA. Talk to be held at 725 California Street, Santa Monica. 7 p.m. in the Trepp Center.

Slip & Fall • Auto Accidents
Collections • Business Law • DUI
Criminal Law
Legal & Medical Malpractice
Product Liability

Se Habla Español

JOHN D. LAURIE
— Attorney at Law —

323-937-4321

Law Offices of Ellis and Kingston
6320 Commodore Stoot Drive, LA, Ca , 90048-5496

TAXES

All forms • All types • All states

AUDITS • BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922

429 SANTA MONICA BLVD. STE. 710, SANTA MONICA 90401



BAY DENTAL Gentle Dentistry for
the Whole Family
Ask about Brite Smile program Cosmetics • Crowns • Dentures

Introductory
Offer!

Exam & Cleaning
\$35 reg. \$80
Includes
necessary X-rays

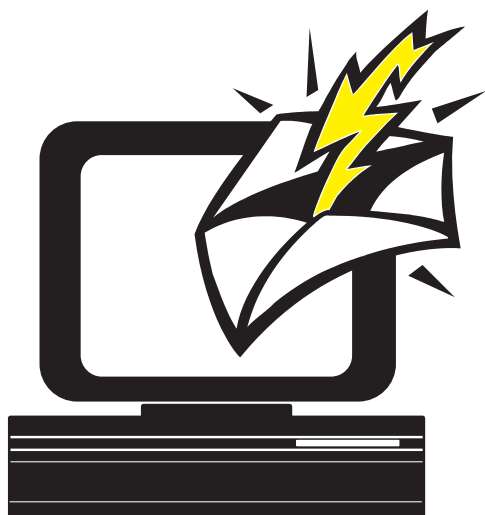
(310) 398-7166 Flexible Payment Options
24 Hour Emergency Service

Santa Monica Daily Press

Has a new 'E-dition!'

Home delivery by E-mail

Check the day's headlines, news stories,
classifieds, comics, horoscopes and ads
all before you leave the house!



**FREE
SUBSCRIPTIONS
AVAILABLE!**

For more information, please call: 310.458.Press (7737)
or e-mail to: todayspaper@smdp.com

\$1 Santa Monica Daily Press **\$1**

**\$1 a day
Classifieds**

**Advertise with the only
daily game in town!**

Call 310.458.PRESS (7737) x101



LOCAL

LETTERS

Business hurt by farmer's market

To The Editor:

The enormous parking problem caused by the proliferation of the Farmers' Market into a "carnival" on Sunday continues and is expected to get worse as the better weather approaches.

Patrons to our restaurant complain of spending 20-plus minutes trying to find a convenient parking spot and many patrons tell us that they won't come any more because of the nightmare of trying to park. The parking problem does not exist on any other day of the week.

The City of Santa Monica is in clear violation of the Conditional Use Permit that initiated this event, with the permit allowing only for a farmers' market with ancillary farm activity, live music and pony rides for children. The original intent of the market was to foster business IN THE SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS of Main Street, while providing an economical place for the community to purchase fresh produce. The current character of the market is more of one of a carnival or fair with at least half or more of the market composed of fast-food vendors and retail.

The original permit application filed by Laura Avery for this event defines the market as a walk-to activity and specifically asks for no provisions (ZERO!) for parking. This event in its current state greatly impedes the normal parking flow for the patrons of Main Street, and quite frankly, just robs the small businessman of his opportunity to do business in his own district on Sunday.

A written formal complaint was filed with the City of Santa Monica in October 2001, in regard to the current violations of the Conditional Use Permit for this event, including the content of the market, hours of the market, and the parking problem. Numerous phone calls were then made by our party to Florentino Gonzales, Code Compliance Officer, and Marsha Moutrie, Esq., City Attorney, to try to discuss this matter with them.

The only reply received were two phone messages from F. Gonzales, one to have our party return his call again and the other to state that he had misplaced the file and that is why he hadn't made contact and that he found no problem with the congestion at the market. We are dismayed that the City has failed to respond to the needs of a businessman in our long-standing commercial environment who is also a taxpayer and registered voter.

We are still in utter amazement that we have never received an official reply regarding this very substantive complaint. We would surmise from this experience that the City of Santa Monica has no real regard for the Conditional Use Permit process and that anyone with such a permit in this city need not adhere to its guidelines either, and without consequence. Or are these permits just selectively enforced?

There are also the non-Main Street food vendors that the City has allowed at this market, creating unfair competition for the restaurants that pay enormous rents to do business here. This is a business district of small shops and restaurants (that's who we are!) and the City of Santa Monica has curtailed our ability to pursue normal business activities on Sunday mornings.

And do you recall that big holiday campaign for "Shop Local" and all of the to-do that continues about saving the small restaurants on the Third Street Promenade? Well what about the small restaurants on Main Street? Why are they allowing non-local food vendors at this event? Why make it more difficult for the small restaurateur before the legitimate competition even begins? The Burger Queens and Taco Kings are just starting to roll in down the street, and the City of Santa Monica will not be able to do a thing to stop them or their fat-cat corporate lawyers from coming in. I don't think that the Ocean Park Community (that includes myself) wants their neighborhood to turn into a row of large-chain, fast-food restaurants. Support must be given to small business.

And, once again, we have no opposition to a true Farmers' Market down the street on Sunday; we support the produce-selling component of the market wholeheartedly. We oppose the outside food vendors that unfairly compete with our business and we want the City of Santa Monica and its Department of Economic Development to take responsibility for this huge parking problem that they have brought upon us through gross violation of the Conditional Use Permit for this event. The market should return to a traditional farmers' market or needs to be moved to a location that can handle it. C'mon, City folks, tell us what's really on your agenda!

Yours truly,
Teresa Hausenbauer
The Omllette Parlor

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press: Attn. Editor
530 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 200 • Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Dog is registered Republican, gets jury notice

By The Associated Press

LAFAYETTE — Barnabas R. Miller, registered Republican, has been called for jury duty in Contra Costa County this month.

There are two problems — Barnabas is only nine years old, and he's a poodle.

His owner, Donald Miller, wanted to point out holes in the voter registration system.

"If I can register my dog, then anybody can register," Miller told the Contra Costa Times. "You're supposed to be a citizen. He doesn't even have a driver's license."

But Barnabas received a jury summons, and now Miller, a 78-year-old retired iron worker, has some explaining to do.

"He should not make his point in this manner," said Candy Lopez, the county's assistant registrar.

Shad Balch of the Secretary of State's office said the voter registration form is signed to testify the information is correct — under penalty of perjury.

Balch said a perjury conviction could get Miller four years in jail.

Prosecutors aren't sure if they'll press charges.

"I have never heard of it happening before," said Brian Baker, a senior deputy district attorney.

California's voter registration laws changed in the 1970s to let people register by mail, rather than just in person.

"We try to make it a very simple process," Balch said, calling California's voter registration an honor system.

Miller still has a few days to return the affidavit answering Barnabas' jury summons.

California jobless rate declines

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's jobless rate declined modestly in February, thanks to gains in construction and trade jobs, officials said Friday.

But the state bucked the national trend of job growth, showing a net loss of 4,700 payroll jobs since January.

California's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent last month, down from a revised 6.4 percent in January, the Employment Development Department said. A year ago, the state's jobless rate was 4.7 percent.

Despite the positive uptick in February, key sectors of the economy continued to show weakness.

The services sector, which includes business services such as advertising and computer programming, posted the largest month-to-month decline, losing 17,600 jobs. Manufacturing also continued to shed positions.

Earlier this month, figures showed the national economy adding 66,000 new jobs in February, helping push the country's jobless rate down to 5.5 percent, from 5.6 percent in January, and giving the strongest signal yet that the national recession could be ending.

In California, however, even as the numbers improve slightly, major sectors of the economy such as technology and manufacturing remain under pressure.

In Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley, the jobless rate in February declined to 7.3 percent from 7.7 percent in January. In Los Angeles, it fell to 6.4 percent from 6.8 percent.

In a separate survey of households, the EDD reported that 84,000 more Californians were working in February than in January. A record total of 16,523,000 people held jobs in the state during the month.

Air quality officials unveil plan to reduce smog statewide

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — State air quality officials released a new plan that hopes to bring cleaner skies over California by 2020.

The comprehensive plan unveiled Thursday by the state's Air Resources Board will target smaller polluters and provides incentives for people to plant trees that produce low amounts of pollen. The plan must still be approved by state legislators next month and cannot be legally enforced. However, it is meant to give officials options to reduce smog.

"This is something we haven't done in the past. We wanted to take a look at air quality for the state as a whole and what we have to do to have healthy air for everyone," said Michael Kenny, executive officer for the Air Resources Board. "We're looking at a larger number of sources so we can achieve a greater number of reductions from more places."

Some of those sources are fumes from cow manure and exhaust from farm machinery and dirt bikes.

The plan also identifies strategies to reduce pollution in low-income and minority communities, reduce greenhouse gases linked to global warming and trim releases of toxic air emissions.

If the plan is approved, it could cost up to \$2.3 billion over the next few years. But the benefits outweigh the cost said air health officials, noting that areas such as the Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley have seen air quality worsen.

Air quality officials said the plan could eliminate about 500 tons of smog-forming pollutants and 50 tons of soot and smoke on a daily basis by 2010.

An estimated 25 million vehicles and thousands of businesses statewide release about 14 million pounds of pollutants into the air every day.

The state's smoggiest regions must pursue tough measures to meet a target in the federal Clean Air Act of healthy air year-round by 2005 in the San Joaquin Valley and by 2010 in all parts of the Los Angeles basin.

"Now's the time to give your home that spring-fresh feeling only Surfside Chem-Dry™ can provide"

Enjoy the peace of mind knowing you're using the top carpet cleaning process in the business.

Independently Owned and Operated

Count On
Surfside Chem-Dry™
Superior Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Benefits of Chem-Dry

- No Dirt Attracting Residue
- Fast Drying 1 to 2 Hrs
- Stays Cleaner Longer
- Safe and Non-Toxic
- No Shrinkage or Mildew
- Deep Carbonated Cleaning

Other Chem-Dry Services

- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- Leather & Vinyl Cleaning
- Pet Odor & Urine Removal
- Red Dye Removal
- Carpet Repairs & Restretches
- Oriental Rug Specialists

Spring Cleaning Specials

- \$20.00 off Carpet Cleaning
- \$15.00 off Upholstery Cleaning
- \$10.00 off Pet Urine Removal Treatment
- \$10.00 off Dust Mite Anti-Allergen

Serving Santa Monica, Brentwood & Malibu areas in Los Angeles County
America's #1 Carpet Cleaning Franchise

310-456-3677
800-300-0670

20 YEARS

"Retail Therapy"
75 - 90% off

From Gap
to Gucci...
L.A.'s hottest
resale store!

Mention this ad
and receive 20%
off of your first
purchase

GREAT LABELS
Designer Resale

310.451.2277

Open 7 Days
1126 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica

Golin
CONSTRUCTION
& HANDYMAN SERVICES

SPECIALIZING IN QUALITY REMODELS

- Carpentry
- Drywall & Plaster
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Cabinetry & More

FREE ESTIMATES!

Contact: Kevin
(310) 472-1475

License#756819

ADVERTISE! Santa Monica Daily Press
310-458-7737

Looking for the Daily Press?

The Santa Monica Daily Press is a free newspaper that is circulated throughout all six commercial zones within the Santa Monica city limits.

Hundreds of copies can be found in news racks at these local businesses:

Main Street Locations:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Jamba Juice | • L&K Market |
| • Lula's | • Main Street Bagels |
| • Omelette Parlor | • Novel Café |
| • Holy Guacamole | • O'Briens Pub |
| • Coffee Bean | • SM City Hall |
| • Wildflour Pizza | • SM Courthouse |
| • Starbucks | • SM Police Department |
| • B&B Delicatessen | • Santa Monica Farms |
| • Santa Monica Library | • ZJ Boarding House |
| • Surf Liquor | • Star Liquor |
| • Mani's Bakery | • Rick's |
| • Peet's Coffee Patio | |

This is not a complete list.
You can find more copies in these areas:

- Montana Avenue Commercial Zone
- Santa Monica Boulevard
- the Downtown Commercial Core (including Third Street Promenade)
- Wilshire Boulevard
- Lincoln Commercial District.

Additional circulation points include:

- Major Hotels on Ocean Avenue
- Retail businesses on the Boardwalk and Santa Monica Pier districts
- Commercial zones on Pico and Ocean Park Boulevard.

If you are interested in becoming a distribution point (it's free and gives your customers just one more reason to come in), please call 310-458-PRESS (7737) x 104



STATE

Helicopters, faster boats give Coast Guard record number of drug seizures

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — The new deployment of armed helicopters and faster boats has yielded a record amount of drug seizures for the U.S. Coast Guard this year in the Pacific Ocean.

Coast Guard officers said Friday they captured 19.5 tons of cocaine and 5.5 tons of marijuana between Jan. 15 and March 12 in the eastern Pacific region.

"That was the largest amount ever taken off the water in such a short period of time," Vice Adm. Ray Riutta said.

The success, officers said, was largely due to the Coast Guard's new ability to capture the small "go-fast" boats commonly used by drug smugglers.

Under the Coast Guard's "Operation New Frontier," helicopters capable of firing on the go-fast boats and speed boats able to chase them were deployed for the first time in the eastern Pacific this year.

Previously, nine of 10 go-fast boats would escape the Coast Guard cutters, Riutta said. In the latest deployment, Coast Guard crews managed to catch every one that was sighted.

Capt. Beverly Kelley of the Alameda-based cutter Boutwell said previous efforts to catch drug-smuggling boats in the vast Pacific region had been frustrating.

"In the past, I felt they were better financed than we were," she said. "Now we can catch them."

The Boutwell and the San Diego-based

cutter Hamilton on Feb. 12 stopped a 40-foot go-fast off the coast of Central America that was carrying more than 3 tons of cocaine from Colombia.

A Coast Guard helicopter fired on the boat, knocking out its engine after the boat crew ignored warnings to stop. The six-man Colombian crew was detained and turned over to law enforcement authorities.

"It was awesome to be able to stop a go-fast," said Lt. John Pruitt, the Boutwell's operations officer. "We were able to stop what was once an unstoppable force."

The Coast Guard estimates that 80 percent of illegal drugs entering the United States are brought via ocean routes on go-fast vessels.

In the two-month period reported Friday, the largest seizure came on Feb. 10 when a Miami-based Coast Guard crew captured a Colombian fishing vessel with 12.65 tons of cocaine. It was the second largest Coast Guard cocaine seizure ever. The largest occurred in April 2001 when 13.6 tons were captured on a ship from Belize.

The totals reported Friday came from eight separate interdictions in the eastern Pacific. None of the smugglers opened fire on Coast Guard crews. But officers acknowledged that could be a possibility, especially now that armed helicopters are being deployed to stop them.

"The chance of escalation is always there," Pruitt said.

Lindh's lawyers threaten libel against biography publisher

BY PAUL GLADER
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Lawyers for John Walker Lindh have sought to block publication of an "instant book" about his life, calling it "grossly and outrageously false and defamatory."

"Publication would be at your peril," Attorney George Harris wrote in a letter faxed to the book's publisher, San Jose-based University Press. Copies of the legal threat were sent to Amazon.com, Borders Inc. and Barnes & Noble, all of which were still taking orders Friday.

Lindh, 21, of Marin County, is awaiting trial in Virginia on charges that he conspired to kill Americans abroad by aiding terrorists in Afghanistan.

A pre-publication copy sent to The Associated Press appears to be a compilation of unattributed quotes and information two authors took from news reports and government case documents, with significant editorializing and speculation, little sourcing and no footnotes.

"It's not hard cold facts," said the publisher, Rhawn Joseph. "It is more like circumstantial evidence."

Joseph declined to provide resumes or biographical information for the two authors, whom he claims did some investigative reporting. He would not make them available for an interview.

Joseph said he had offered Lindh's

lawyers an opportunity to add 50 unedited pages to the manuscript, but that he would publish with or without their input.

"They might not like it but I don't think there is anything they can sue us for," Joseph said.

**"It's not hard cold facts.
It is more like
circumstantial evidence."**

— RHAWN JOSEPH
Publisher

The booksellers also weren't backing down.

"We go by whatever the courts determine," said Amazon spokeswoman Patty Smith. "The threat of litigation is no reason to take off a book."

She noted pre-orders for the \$14.95 book rank it in the top 5,000 books sold on the site.

Joseph said the threat of a libel suit may be good for sales of the instabook, one of a series his company has produced with a team of free-lance writers.

"It is in the oven right now," Joseph said. "We have already gone over the proofs and are set to start shipping on Monday."

NATIONAL



Jury spares the mother who drowned her five children

BY PAM EASTON

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — A jury spared Andrea Yates' life Friday after prosecutors stopped short of demanding the death penalty for the tormented mother who drowned her five children one by one in the bathtub.

Yates, 37, was sentenced to life in prison and will have to serve at least 40 years before she is eligible for parole.

The jury took just 40 minutes to bring an end to the case that had angered family members, women's groups and others who said prosecutors had shown no mercy in bringing a capital murder case against a mentally ill woman overwhelmed by the demands of motherhood.

"It would have been worse if she'd been given the death penalty, but not that much worse," said Yates' husband, Russell Yates. Referring to family members, he added: "Most of us were offended that she was even prosecuted."

He also lashed out at the medical system that treated his wife: "They miserably failed us."

Yates learned her fate with her attorney's arm around her, and at one point turned to a member of her defense team and smiled. She later looked back toward her mother and siblings as she was led out of the courtroom.

"She was trying to figure out what the verdict was," defense attorney Wendell Odom said. "I think Andrea is relieved, of course. But Andrea is not a vocal person. She is medicated."

The jury of eight women and four men took less than four hours to reject Yates' claim of insanity and convict her of murder Tuesday. It decided on her sentence almost as quickly after prosecutors made a less-than-forceful push for the death

penalty, offering no new evidence or witnesses during the penalty phase.

Afterward, prosecutor Joe Owmbly said that he didn't think "the facts and the evidence warranted me recommending a death sentence in this case."

In her closing argument, prosecutor Kaylynn Williford told jurors that Yates' children "never had a chance and you need to think about those children." But she also said: "Whatever decision you make, the state will accept."

Defense attorneys pleaded for Yates' life, saying that she is no longer a danger and that she will be 77 before she becomes eligible for parole.

"She will live the rest of her life knowing what she's done," Odom told the jury. "When it comes to punishment, there can be no greater punishment."

The jury had only two choices: life in prison or a death by injection.

To impose the death penalty, the jury had to decide unanimously that Yates poses a continuing danger and that there were no mitigating circumstances against executing her. The jury answered no to the first question and therefore did not have to consider the second.

Afterward, at the hotel where they had been sequestered for four weeks, jurors refused to speak with reporters.

Texas is by far the nation's most active death penalty state, with 262 executions since 1982. Harris County, where the case was brought, has 157 convicted killers on death row, more than any other Texas county.

"We took no pleasure in prosecuting Mrs. Yates and we take no joy in this result," Owmbly said. "What they came back with was supported by the evidence. I can't argue with their verdict."

The sentence ended a case that began last June 20, when a wet and bedraggled



The Associated Press

Andrea Yates listens to closing arguments in the punishment phase of her capital murder trial in an image taken from video Friday, March 15, 2002, in Houston. Jurors will decide whether Yates, who was convicted of drowning three of her five children, will get life in prison or the death penalty. Charges have not been filed in the deaths her other two children.

Yates called police to her home and showed them the bodies of her children: Noah, 7, John, 5, Paul, 3, Luke, 2, and 6-month-old Mary.

She had called the youngsters into the bathroom and drowned them in the bathtub, even chasing down Noah when he tried to run away.

Prosecutors put her on trial only for killing Noah, John and Mary; charges were not filed in the other deaths. Prosecutors split up the charges so that they would have a second chance if the trial ended in acquittal.

At the trial, Yates' lawyers, her husband and psychiatric experts argued that she suffered from severe postpartum depression and that she believed she had no choice but to kill her children to save them from the clutches of Satan.

Outside the courthouse, Russell Yates said his children "loved their mommy. I know they don't hold this against her."

"I'll always support Andrea. I believe in Andrea," he said. "She's the victim here not only of the medical community but also the justice system."

Father shoots family, then commits suicide in Oregon town

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

Associated Press Writer

McMINNVILLE, Ore. — A father apparently shot his four children and wife to death in their beds, then used the shotgun to kill himself, authorities said Friday.

The shootings are believed to have occurred nearly three weeks before sheriff's deputies found the bodies Thursday night, said Yamhill County prosecutor Bradley C. Berry.

The motive was unknown, but evidence indicated Robert Bryant, 37, killed his family, Berry said.

The children — ages 9 to 15 — were last at school on

Feb. 22, and investigators believe the shootings occurred the following day.

School authorities made several attempts to contact the family after teachers noticed the children's absence, said Karen Richey, assistant superintendent for the McMinnville School District.

"We had people knocking on the door several times," but no one answered, she said. School officials weren't alarmed because it is common for students to be absent during the flu season, she said.

Two sheriff's deputies were in the vicinity Thursday night on an unrelated call when neighbors approached them

to express concern about the family. The deputies used a ladder to look into a window and spotted the bodies.

The Bryants recently moved to Oregon from the Sacramento, Calif., area. Court records show that before they moved, Bryant had filed for bankruptcy.

Bryant was a self-employed landscaping contractor. The other victims were his wife, Janet Ellen, 37, and Clayton, 15; Ethan, 12; Ashley, 10; and Alyssa, 9.

The hillside home sits on about two acres in a rural subdivision outside McMinnville, a prosperous town in the heart of Oregon's vineyard country. The town is about 20 miles south of Portland.

Group seeks to create manure-derived methane, 'Cow power'

BY LINDA ASHTON

Associated Press Writer

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. — It's a little bit like the old saying, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Dairies have given the Yakima Valley an abundance of cow manure, and one day it might be used to make methane to power electric plants.

To that end, Energy Northwest, a public power group that owns the region's only nuclear power plant, is considering teaming up with dairy farms in Washington, Oregon and Idaho to develop "cow power."

The goal is to build a 3- to 4-megawatt electrical power plant fueled with "biogas," or manure-derived methane.

"We've been working with the dairy industry for 10 to 15 years, trying to solve the manure waste problem," said Ivan

White, president of Sunnyside Inc., the economic development group for this central Washington city of 14,000.

Sunnyside, in Yakima County, is one of the locations Energy Northwest is considering, along with northwestern Washington's Whatcom County, Boise and Twin Falls, Idaho, and Tillamook, Ore.

Yakima County alone has 85,000 head of dairy cows and tons of manure — a highly renewable resource.

The Northwest accounts for 8 percent of the nation's dairy farm business.

Current technology makes it possible to get about 0.3 kilowatts of electricity from manure per cow, and in some European studies up to 0.9 kilowatts, said Stan Davison, business development specialist for the Richland-based utility.

One kilowatt is enough to power 10 100-watt lightbulbs.

The manure-to-methane process begins

in a big digester tank, which acts as a mechanical stomach. It's filled with a slurry of manure and water, and the bacteria present in the waste turn the manure into methane while thriving in the 130-degree temperatures of the tank.

The methane rises to the top — it's lighter than air — and it's piped off to power a modified pair of diesel generators outfitted with spark plugs.

The remaining fiber in the tanks settles to the bottom. Liquid squeezed out of the fiber makes fertilizer and the dry fiber makes compost.

A biomass power plant would need access to a dairy, room to build the plant and access to transmission lines.

"The real issue is high capital costs," Davison said. "If you ignore the capital costs, the fuel is free — it's a byproduct of milk. It's something you're going to be producing anyway. You might as well

handle it as fuel as handle it as waste."

The estimated cost of building such a plant is about \$2,800 a kilowatt. Wind power, by contrast, costs about \$1,000 per kilowatt.

But on average, a wind farm only produces at 30 percent of capacity over the course of a year, while a cow-powered plant can produce at 90 percent. That virtually evens the costs, Davison said.

"Over the years, there have been a number of people promoting methane digesters. The one thing they're always lacking is capital," said Jay Gordon, a Lewis County dairy farmer and director of the Washington State Dairy Federation, which represents about 650 family dairy farms in the state.

The profit margin is thin, Davison said. So Energy Northwest's next step is to approach utilities to see if there's enough interest in such a project to pay for it.



NATIONAL

Editorial says church must face question of celibacy

BY JUSTIN POPE

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — In an extraordinary editorial on the city's child-molestation scandal, the official newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese says the Roman Catholic Church must face the question of whether to drop its requirement that priests be celibate.

The editorial, published Thursday in a special issue of *The Pilot*, asks whether there would be fewer scandals if celibacy were optional for priests and whether the priesthood attracts an unusually high number of homosexual men.

It offers no answers, but says: "These scandals have raised serious questions in the minds of the laity that simply will not disappear."

The editorial was written by Monsignor Peter V. Conley, the paper's executive editor, who is said to be a close confidant of Cardinal Bernard Law, Boston's archbishop. Law is listed as the paper's publisher.

The Rev. Christopher Coyne, a spokesman for the archdiocese, said Friday that Law was unaware the editorial would be published. He said that he did not know if Law agreed with its contents but that the cardinal had not expressed any dissatisfaction.

"The editorial simply restates the questions that have been raised by the laity in the listening sessions and says in light of all this we should respond with appropriate answers," Coyne said.

Philip Lawler, who was editor of *The Pilot* from 1986 to 1988 and is now editor of *Catholic World Report*, called the editorial "very unusual" for raising questions about church doctrine instead of administrative issues.

In Rome, a Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Ciro

Benedettini, said: "The pope has spoken to this. He has said celibacy remains, it is a great gift to the church. He has spoken clearly in favor of celibacy."

The archdiocese is the nation's fourth-largest, with more than 2 million Catholics, and is the center of the biggest child-molestation scandal to rock the U.S. church.

"The pope has spoken to this. He has said celibacy remains, it is a great gift to the church. He has spoken clearly in favor of celibacy."

— REV. CIRO BENEDETTINI
Vatican spokesman

It has been under fire recently after it was disclosed that officials knew about child sex-abuse allegations against the Rev. John Geoghan and did little more than move him from parish to parish. The now-defrocked priest has been accused of molesting more than 130 children over 30 years. He is serving a nine-to-10 year prison sentence for groping a boy, and the archdiocese has agreed to pay up to \$45 million to scores of his alleged victims.

As part of a new "zero tolerance" policy of sex abuse, the archdiocese has turned over to prosecutors the names of more than 80 current and former priests suspected of child molestation over the past 50 years.

The archdiocese said it printed the special issue of *The*

Pilot to try to improve communication with parishioners about the latest developments. More than 100,000 copies of the 28-page supplement to the weekly paper were printed and will be distributed after Mass in parishes Sunday.

"I think it's extraordinary that this call for a conversation among the laity is being promoted by the hierarchy," said Stephen Pope, chairman of the theology department at Boston College.

But Pope and others said the editorial may anger authorities in Rome, where Law has enjoyed strong support.

Some Catholics who support celibacy among priests said that they welcome the discussion.

Edward Holtam went to midday Mass to get a copy of the editorial. "I think people need to talk about it to understand why," he said. "I don't think nowadays most people have much rationale for it."

The Rev. Stephen Rossetti, a psychologist and consultant on sex abuse to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, cautioned against linking celibacy and homosexuality among priests to child molestation.

"Any clinician can tell you the diagnosis of pedophilia has nothing to do with homosexuality," said Rossetti, who has written extensively on the issue. "I think people are jumping on simplistic solutions."

The newspaper also includes a defense of Law by Raymond Flynn, a former Boston mayor and one-time U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

"I think it's a very enlightened editorial in terms of the door being opened, and the church is inviting people to come back," Flynn said Friday. "In a sad way, this is a very exciting and wonderful new era, a dawn for the Catholic Church. I really believe that."

GET NOTICED! ADVERTISE! 310.458.7737

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

Santa Monica Daily Press now at newsstands around the city!

Readers and customers can now find the Daily Press in permanent newsstands at these locations:

- 17th Street and Montana Avenue
- 14th Street and Montana Avenue
- Montana Avenue, between 14th-15th Streets
- 7th Street and Montana Avenue
- 3rd Street and Wilshire Boulevard
- Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard, between 22nd-23rd Streets
- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Arizona Avenue and Second Street
- Arizona Avenue and Fifth Street
- Three newsstands at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street
- Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard
- Broadway and 10th Street
- Colorado Avenue and Second Street
- Santa Monica Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway Avenue
- Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Strand
- Two newsstands at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Raymond
- Main Street and Kinney
- Main Street and Strand
- Main Street and Ocean Park
- Main Street and Ashland
- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!

INTERNATIONAL



Allied soldiers discover al-Qaida weapons cache

BY PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — U.S. and Canadian troops found a cache of mortars, grenades and rockets Friday as they scoured the mountains of eastern Afghanistan for escaping al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who fled the U.S.-led offensive in the Shah-e-Kot valley.

Loud explosions could be heard echoing off the snow-covered peaks as the captured weapons were blown up, according to the Canadian Press news agency, which has a reporter with the Canadian force.

The bodies of two al-Qaida fighters also were found Friday within the cave complex that al-Qaida and Taliban fighters held before they were routed during the 12-day attack, the news agency said.

Earlier in the day, U.S. and Canadian soldiers pursued four al-Qaida fighters who eluded capture after a gunbattle. They got away.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Friday the fighting is “winding down,” but skirmishes continue in the Shah-e-Kot mountains as U.S. and its allies pursue al-Qaida and Taliban forces.

He said a key objective of the U.S.-led campaign is to keep al-Qaida and Taliban fighters from regrouping, either in Afghanistan or in neighboring countries.

“We need to make sure that the well-trained terrorists who left Afghanistan do not set up sanctuaries in other nations,” Rumsfeld said. “There are still pockets of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters at a number of locations in Afghanistan, and certainly there are others just across the various borders of that country that would like to come back.”



Jim Hollander/The Associated Press

U.S. Army soldiers from the “Misfits”, 2nd Platoon in the 10th Mountain Division watch from a ridge as an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter lifts off Thursday after dropping off additional troops into the rocky battle area. Hundreds of American and Canadian troops were lifted into the mountainous region at high altitude to search for and destroy any enemy Taliban and al-Qaida fighters they encounter.

Rumsfeld also said he sees little chance of expanding the international security force now keeping order in Afghanistan’s capital.

“The line of countries volunteering to step up and do that is a very short one, which suggests to me that that is not going to happen,” he told a Pentagon news conference. He said it was likely that the current force of 4,500 foreign troops, led by Britain, will remain in Kabul until

year’s end.

Interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai repeatedly has called for a larger peacekeeping force that would deploy outside Kabul, and humanitarian groups have said there is an urgent need to improve security.

In other developments:

— Karzai urged Afghan exiles to return and help rebuild the country. Karzai made the appeal in Berlin, Germany, after the government there announced a \$19.4 million loan to Afghanistan for health, education and energy projects and to repair drinking water treatment plants.

— The World Health Organization said scurvy resulting from poor nutrition was the primary cause of the outbreak of a deadly disease that has killed 40 people in western Afghanistan. A medical team that reached the area by helicopter this week found scurvy — caused by a lack of vitamin C — was widespread in 15 villages.

About 1,000 U.S., Afghan and other allied forces are involved in the sweep of the Shah-e-Kot area after Operation Anaconda. The 12-day battle involved more than 2,000 U.S., Afghan and other coalition forces.

Fighting subsided after Taliban and al-Qaida forces abandoned the area this week, some of them fleeing toward Pakistan. As the mission was in progress, U.S. and Afghan authorities said the valley was surrounded to keep that from happening.

An FBI forensics team has been gathering remains of slain enemy soldiers to perform DNA tests to determine whether any al-Qaida or Taliban leaders were among the dead.

The coalition death toll stood at eight U.S. special forces troops and three Afghan allied fighters.

Divers search for remains of small plane crash in Cuba

BY VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press Writer

BAEZ, Cuba — Divers retrieved the bodies of 16 people, including a dozen foreigners, from a small reservoir in central Cuba Friday as officials tried to determine what caused the Soviet-made biplane to crash.

Everyone aboard the single-engine Antonov AN-2 were killed when it went down Thursday afternoon near this small community just south of Santa Clara, the capital of Villa Clara province about 165 miles east of Havana.

Farmer Ramon Sampiero said he was feeding his pigs when he saw the plane start to lower in the sky.

“I saw it fly very low, but did not hear it crash,” he said.

Another local resident, Ramona Montero, 36, said the craft was spinning as it went down. She also said she heard no explosion.

Officials identified the dead as a German couple, four Cubans, four Britons and six Canadians, including two children ages 5 and 6.

The crash occurred as the chartered aircraft traveled from the central city of

Cienfuegos to Cayo Coco, a resort in the keys stretching along the main island’s northern coast, where all the victims were staying.

Metal parts and other debris from the plane were scattered across the yards of the modest farm homes near the reservoir, which is used to irrigate crops in the region.

Divers in two boats retrieved the bodies and plane wreckage as dozens of police, firefighters and military officials surrounded the area, many trying to find answers to the crash.

Fire trucks, cranes and other emer-

gency vehicles moved around the reservoir across rolling hills dotted with farm homes, crops and the local cemetery. A military helicopter buzzed overhead.

Seven cars carrying caskets left the area around daybreak.

The AN-2 model, the world’s largest biplane, was operated by the small local charter company Aerotaxi. The telephone at the company’s Havana office rang unanswered Friday.

In the past, some AN-2 planes were used by Soviet paratroopers, but most were used as small passenger planes that traveled within the former Soviet Union.

The legend of St. Patrick hasn’t scared Ireland of its snakes

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN, Ireland — Legend has it that St. Patrick scared the snakes out of Ireland. Maybe, but these days they’re catching on as pets — and turning up in unexpected places.

“We’re finding them in attics, in people’s cupboards, under the sink in the bathroom,” said Gillian Bird, education officer of the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. “One family was watching TV when a snake crawled out from underneath. TVs are such warm places.”

Increasingly, Bird’s office is being contacted about snake sightings. One lady was spotted last week dropping her out-of-favor serpent from a car parked outside Dublin Zoo. But sometimes people’s imaginations are getting the better of them.

“When we go out on a call we’re wondering, ‘Is this going to be a garden hose again?’” Bird said.

The half-dozen reptiles in her center’s 2-year-old “snake house” are real enough: corn snakes, bull snakes and a red-tailed boa, none native to this damp and cool land, all abandoned or on the run from their owners.

Bird admits they’re no experts in caring for them but they’ve had to learn, because snakes are becoming popular pets.

“We tell people a snake’s for life, not just for Paddy’s Day, but not everybody listens,” she said.

The Irish snake trade has its own murky history. Monica Roden, whose Dublin Pet Stores is the oldest such

shop in Ireland, doesn’t sell anything slithery these days. But her father did back in the 1930s.

“We’re finding them in attics, in people’s cupboards, under the sink in the bathroom. One family was watching TV when a snake crawled out from underneath. TVs are such warm places.”

— GILLIAN BIRD

Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

“We had grass snakes here, shipped over from England. I was just a wee girl but I remember my father going down to the docks to collect the wriggly boxes,” said Roden, 69, whose family business dates from 1845.

“There were no rules in my father’s time and pet shops sold everything from geese to monkeys.”

Today, the best place to go for a good snake in Dublin is Thomas McElheron’s shop on Wellington Quay, where St. Patrick’s celebrations were starting Friday night with floating bonfires on the River Liffey.

McElheron each year breeds a few hundred snakes — corn snakes from the Carolinas in the United States,

dwarf pythons from Africa and Australia, milk snakes and rosy boas from South America and Mexico — but he won’t sell one to just anybody.

“This is a 15-year commitment. I vet everyone who says they want a snake, to see if they’re on an ego trip or have really researched it,” said McElheron, who turned to reptiles as a boy when the family dog made his allergic brother wheezy.

He thinks the growing popularity of snakes has to do with the Ireland’s booming economy, which has transformed Dublin from a go-slow backwater to a busy metropolis.

“Today’s people don’t have the time to keep dogs. Handling a snake is low maintenance,” he said. A young snake, he said, might eat a thawed, dead mouse every two to four days, and should be picked up and cuddled every day or so “to keep the snake mellow.”

Reptile experts doubt that any snakes were native on the island back in the fifth century when Patrick was spreading Christianity and, supposedly, scaring off any serpents that got in his way.

Most abandoned snakes turn up dead, unable to keep their cold blood going through the night. Bird’s veterinarians respond to every snake sighting — but on Thursday they were too late.

“An old lady called saying there was a snake sitting in her garden. She’d seen it there basking in the sun on Wednesday, but she was scared to death of it and wouldn’t go out. She called us when it was still sitting there the next day,” Bird said. “It died of the cold; a fine corn snake it was.”

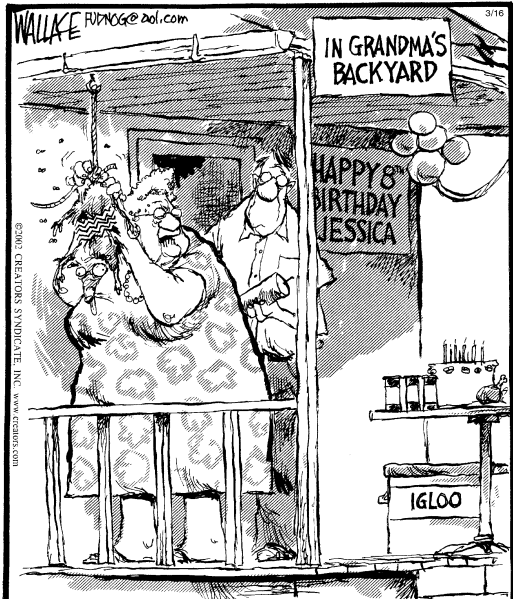


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

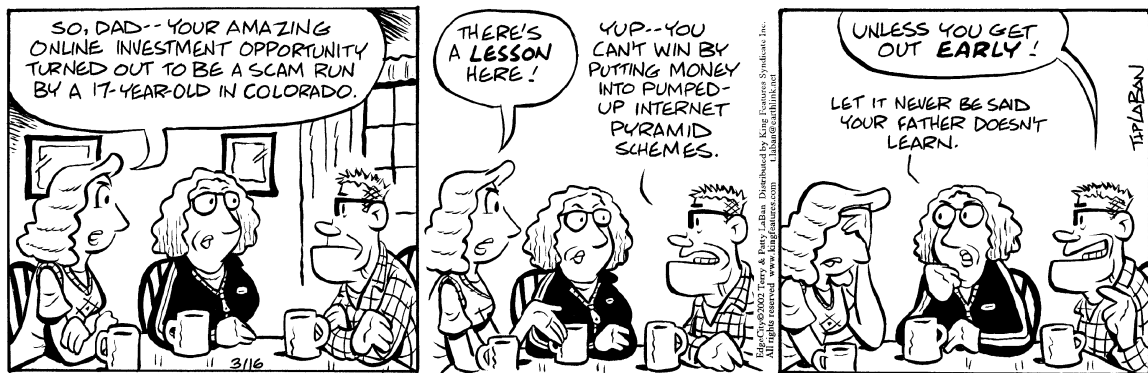


Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Those citronella candles are a waste of good money, Mr. Fancy Pants. This will keep the bugs away from the party food just as well."

edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dubliner, e.g.
 - 5 Art mecca of the Southwest
 - 9 Sprite
 - 10 Hawke of film
 - 12 Battery end
 - 13 Breathing
 - 14 Low-temperature sun
 - 16 Boat need
 - 17 Earth-bound bird
 - 18 Union member?
 - 20 Like some lines
 - 22 Hill residents
 - 23 Cousin of "Ciao!"
 - 25 Argument
 - 28 "The Devil's Dictionary" writer
 - 32 Panacea
 - 34 Metal source
 - 35 Chair part
 - 36 Music hall offering
 - 38 Onetime NYC mayor
 - 40 Winged
 - 41 Car rental choice
- DOWN**
- 42 Saltpeter
 - 43 Raw numbers
 - 44 Visionary
 - 1 The movies
 - 2 Uris book
 - 3 Eye covers
 - 4 Got canines
 - 5 Sign of sorrow
 - 6 Pac.'s counterpart
 - 7 Taft, for one
 - 8 Learned one
 - 9 Freed of skins
 - 11 Bookish group
 - 15 Football play
 - 19 Ignoble
 - 21 Can't stomach
 - 24 Mechanics' aids
 - 25 Strike-breakers
 - 26 Finely blended
 - 27 Spanish fleet
 - 29 Turn
 - 30 Martian feature
 - 31 Conger catcher
 - 33 Fight site
 - 37 Tennis star
 - 39 Porch sight

P	A	P	A			F	A	M	E		
U	V	U	L	A		A	L	I	M	B	
M	A	B	E	L		R	A	D	I	O	
A	I	L			D	O	M	I	N	G	O
S	L	I	V	E	R	S		I	R	K	
	S	C	A	R	E			A	G	E	S
		S	I	S			D	U	H		
M	I	E	N			T	I	L	T	S	
A	B	C		S	A	N	D	B	A	R	
T	E	R	R	I	N	E		A	X	E	
C	R	E	A	K			R	A	Y	O	N
H	I	T	M	E			S	T	O	N	E
	A	S	P	S				M	U	S	E

Yesterday's answer

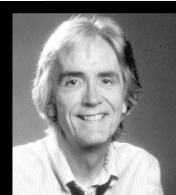
- 11 Bookish group
- 15 Football play
- 19 Ignoble
- 21 Can't stomach
- 24 Mechanics' aids
- 25 Strike-breakers
- 26 Finely blended
- 27 Spanish fleet
- 29 Turn
- 30 Martian feature
- 31 Conger catcher
- 33 Fight site
- 37 Tennis star
- 39 Porch sight

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14						15			16	
17				18			19			
20			21				22			
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36			37			
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

3-16

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



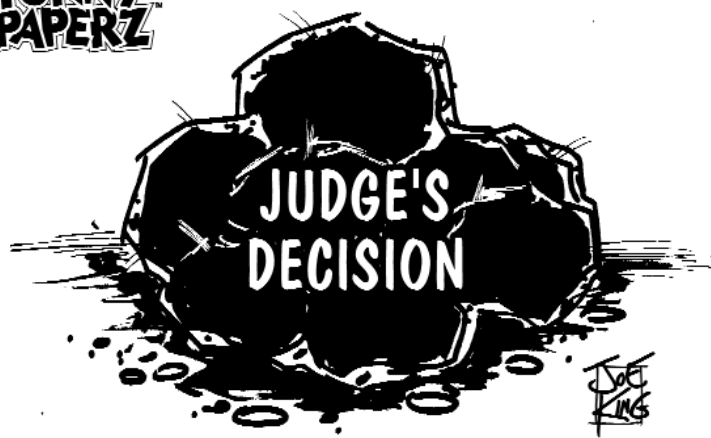
NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Murder is my middle name

• Arrested for murder: Christopher Wayne Davis (Pearl River, La., November), Jerry Wayne Dean (Jackson County, Ky., November), Billy Wayne Cope (Rock Hill, S.C., November), Joshua Wayne Andrews (Woodbridge, Va., January), Jeffrey Wayne Gorton (Flint, Mich., February), Timothy Wayne Adams (Houston, February). • Murder Warrant Issued: Jason Wayne Johnson (Comal County, Texas, December). • Sentenced for Murder: Mark Wayne Campfire (Litchfield, Conn., January). • Executed for Murder: Randall Wayne Hafdahl (Huntsville, Texas, January), Stephen Wayne Anderson (San Quentin, Calif., January). • Avoided a Murder Charge Only Because He Was Killed in a Shootout With Police: Danny Wayne Sand (Brandon, Manitoba, December).

FUNNY PAPERZ



Horses must leave Will Rogers Ranch.
-News Item

CLASSIFIEDS



Employment

FOOD SERVER to man Promenade cart selling Krispy Kreme donuts. \$7-\$8/hour, PT/FT, Call Brett (310)399-0277.

Jewelry

INSTANT CASH FOR OLD JEWELRY AND OTHER UNUSUAL OLD INTERESTING THINGS.
(310)393-1111

Wanted

PARKING WANTED for a motorhome. Private, residential! No hook-ups necessary Santa Monica/Malibu close ONLY! Writer/Mediator/Philosopher. Code 4567 Pager (323)433-4848.

Rental Wanted

HONEST ENGINEER, 40, perfect references & credit, no pets or smoke. Need SM guest house to \$1500. Can provide advanced technical services. www.theo.info (831) 335-8300.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1000.00 Adj. 2 bdrms, 2 bath, large closets, laundry, quiet neighborhood, bright. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1025.00 Contemporary condo, 1 bdrm, 1 bath. Keys are available at Westside Rentals. 1110 Wilshire Blvd. 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1055.00 Guest house with view in Sunset Park area. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, plus large storage room, cat ok, quiet residential neighborhood. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1100.00 Newly remodeled cottage. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pet ok, can be furnished, brand new kitchen and appliances, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1100.00 Triplex 1 bdrm, newly refurbished, great view, 6 blocks from beach, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 House 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pet ok, W/D, north of Wilshire, gas & electric needed. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Venice guest house on a walk street. Pet's ok. 5 houses from the beach! Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1250.00 2 bedrooms, refrigerator, stove, laundry, great location for Santa Monica College student, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1275.00 Beach front apartment with lovely ocean view, single, refrigerator, stove, hardwood floors, large closets. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1375.00 Contemporary 2 bdrms, 2 bath, pet ok, refrigerator, stove, hardwood floors, quiet neighborhood, gated parking, flexible lease. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1395.00 Duplex, 2 bdrms, pet ok, hardwood floors, private yard. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1400.00 House, 2 bedrooms, refrigerator, stove, carpets. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1795.00 Spacious 3 bdrms, 2 bath, pet ok, refrigerator, stove. Keys available at Westside Rentals. 1110 Wilshire Blvd. 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$2446.00 - Lovely Triplex. 4 bdrms, 2 bath, pet ok, hardwood floors, W/D hookups, close to beach. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$450.00 Private room, quiet neighborhood, 3 blocks to beach, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$550.00 Private room, high ceilings, large closets, quiet neighborhood. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$600.00 Furn. Private room, walking distance to beach and Main Street, month to month, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$675.00 Studio, refrigerator, stove, newly remodeled, walk to beach, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Canyon Apartment 1/2 block to beach, hardwood floors, full kitchen, parking included, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$765.00 Studio, new carpet and floors Breakfast nook. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$875.00 Studio, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, A/C, fireplace, walk-in closets, laundry, quiet neighborhood, bright, sun deck. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 (upper) 1 bedroom, refrigerator, stove, bright, South, North, and Western exposure. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$975.00 Large 1 bdrm, 1 bath, close to shops and restaurants, newly painted, parking included.

SANTA MONICA \$985.00 Cozy guest house. 1 bdrm, pet ok, refrigerator, stove, W/D. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 Extra large 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pool, very quiet and safe neighborhood. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA - W. LA Rentals \$695.00 and up. Free list. Sullivan-Dituri Co. (310)453-3341.

Real Estate

FOR LESS than your 1st month + deposit, you can own your home and have a lower monthly payment. United International Mortgage Company. (310)207-5060 ext. 201.

SANTA MONICA Renovator's delight! \$430,000.00 3 bedroom/1 bath Sunset Park 1944 house for sale. Needs more than TLC. North of Ocean Park Blvd., South of Pearl Street, near SMC. William Dawson Sullivan-Dituri Co. (310)453-3341.

Announcements

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project need's volunteer's for events that honor our heros. (310)899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

Services

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

HYPNOTHERAPY FOR all belief, behavioral and attitudinal modification. 10 years international experience. Phone Andrew (310)587-0037.

LEARN COMPUTER programming/web-sites. Application development, internet, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Visualbasic, SQL, Java, C, C++. (310)558-4340

Services

MAC / PC HELP Repair, training, advice. Over 20 years experience. Call Paul (310)393-7014.

MASSAGE CARING, soothing, relaxing full body therapeutic, Swedish / back walking. You will melt in my magic hands! Home/hotel/office/outdoors ok. 1-4 hours. Non sexual out call. Anytime or day. Page Doris (310)551-2121.

MATH TUTORING! Step-by-step explanation. Guaranteed letter grade improvement. Work at your pace. Reasonable rates. Muneer/Nadia (310)558-4340.

PC REPAIR, upgrades. Home and small business networks. Firewall, anti-virus setup. Call Terranet (310)842-8130 www.myterranet.com

SANTA MONICA DAILY EVENTS

CALENDAR

Coming

Soon!

Send your calendar listings to Angela:

Fax: 310.576.9913
angela@smdp.com

P.O. Box 1380
SM, CA 90406

Regent Villas at Playa

Luxury for Less

- Gourmet Kitchen
- Granite and Tile Countertops
- Tile Floors
- Custom Crown Molding
- Walk-In Closets
- New Kitchen Cabinetry
- New State-of-the-Art
- Kitchen Appliances
- Fireplace
- Sparkling Pools
- Lush Tropical Landscaping
- Covered and Gated Parking
- Controlled Access Entry
- Conveniences
- Washers and Dryers in Unit
- Cable Ready
- High Speed Internet Access
- WALK TO THE BEACH!!!

Large Single Starting from \$995
Large 1-Bedroom Starting from \$1,295
Large 2-Bedroom Starting from \$1,495
*amenities available in select units
(310) 577-2300

Call for appointment and unbelievable manager special
We welcome your small pets. Restrictions apply.
FREE RENT SPECIAL ON 12-MONTH LEASE
8238 W. Manchester, Playa del Rey



WE ARE THE CLASSIEST GIG IN TOWN!

Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press

310.458.7737
ext.101

P.O. Box 1380
Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380
Phone: 310-458-7737
FAX: 310-576-9913

RATES

\$14.80 per column inch for display ads.
\$5.00 per day for the first 10 words.
50¢ per word for each additional word.

EXTRAS

Bold: 50¢ per word
Italic: 50¢ per word
Boxed: 50¢ per ad
Reverse: 50¢ per line
CAPITALIZED: 50¢ per word
Underlined: 50¢ per word
Blank Lines: 50¢ each

Santa Monica Daily Press

CLASSIFIED AD INSERTION ORDER FORM

First: _____ Last: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PRINT CLEARLY:

001 Announcements	200 For Sale	500 Vehicles for Sale
010 Meetings	250 Wanted	600 Services
020 Legal Notices	300 For Rent	650 Health/Beauty
100 Employment	400 Real Estate	



BACK PAGE

Supreme Court says transsexual's marriage is invalid

BY JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. — A marriage between a man and a transsexual woman is not valid in Kansas, the state Supreme Court declared Friday in a case that has been closely watched by advocates for transsexuals.

The ruling came in the case of J'Noel Gardiner, whose right to inherit half of her late husband's \$2.5 million estate had been challenged because she was born a man.

The sex change operations took place years before her 1998 marriage to Marshall Gardiner. He died a year later, and his son challenged the validity of their marriage after discovering J'Noel Gardiner's sex change.

Kansas law declares same-sex marriages invalid, but it does not address marriages involving transsexuals.

Transsexual advocacy groups had praised the Kansas Court of Appeals decision in May that said the woman's sex at the time of marriage was the crucial issue.

But the Supreme Court overturned that ruling, declaring in a unanimous opinion that under Kansas law,

J'Noel Gardiner is not a woman and therefore cannot marry a man.

"You're creating a situation where you would essentially be approving what would appear to be a homosexual marriage."

— **SANFORD KRIGEL**
Attorney

"The Legislature has declared that the public policy of this state is to recognize only the traditional marriage between two parties who are of the opposite sex, and all other marriages are against public policy and void," Justice Donald Allegrucci wrote for the court. "We cannot ignore what the Legislature has declared to be the

policy of this state."

The ruling was in line with an earlier ruling in Texas that the U.S. Supreme Court let stand in 2000 by declining to hear the case.

In the Texas case, that state's Court of Appeals reviewed the case of a transsexual who wanted to sue for the wrongful death of her husband. The Texas court declared her female anatomy "man-made," and said it was up to the Legislature to legalize marriages involving transsexuals.

J'Noel Gardiner, who teaches finance at Park University, just north of Kansas City, Mo., was 40 when she married Marshall Gardiner, an 85-year-old university donor. Gardiner died the following year of a heart attack.

Attorney Sanford Krigel had warned the court that concluding J'Noel Gardiner's marriage invalid would leave her the right to marry only women.

"You're creating a situation where you would essentially be approving what would appear to be a homosexual marriage," Krigel said.

The court didn't address that possibility in its ruling.

Wrongful death suit filed by son of homeless victim

By The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A woman accused of striking a homeless man with her car, driving home with him struck in her windshield and leaving him to die in her garage now faces a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the man's son.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday by Brandon Biggs, 19, claims that 25-year-old nursing aide Chante Mallard's

"grossly negligent actions" led to his father's death.

Mallard, charged with murder, is jailed on a \$250,000 bond. She has told police she hit Gregory Biggs, 37, near her house in October, then drove home, parked and left him, according to an affidavit. Mallard's friends allegedly moved the body to a park.

The body was found Oct. 27. A tipster told the police Mallard talked about the accident at a party.

Police originally said the elder Biggs could have lived

as long as two days in Mallard's garage. Earlier this week, though, the county medical examiner said he likely died within a few hours or possibly as long as a day.

A high school senior, Brandon Biggs said last week he was not angry at Mallard and wanted to meet her to better understand what she did. He declined to comment on the lawsuit Thursday.

His attorney, Roland Johnson, said the suit does not specify the amount of damages sought.

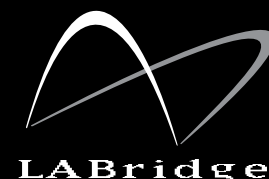
**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.
(310) 458-PRESS (7737)**



**always on,
always fast**

**"Since LA Bridge
installed DSL at my home,
I have found the flexibility
to use the Internet in a
whole new way."**

— **Bill Foster,**
Apple Computer



pre-qualify online at www.LABridge.com
or call 310.823.6416