

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 10 15 27 41
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$19 million

FANTASY 5

4 9 25 28 29

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 1 6
Evening: 1 2 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1.48.29

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Several cafes in Hong Kong now lend their dining guests dogs and cats to pet during their visits. This temporary affection, according to a January Der Spiegel dispatch, is popular because Hong Kong residents find it so inconvenient to own pets in such a densely populated city. Also in January, the owner of the Augsburg, Germany, restaurant La Boheme confirmed that while customers are welcome to bring their own dogs with them when they dine, "small children" are not allowed in the evenings. "After a hard day's work, (diners) want some peace," he told Agence France-Presse.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 75th day of 2006.
There are 290 days left in the year.

On March 16, 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was declared secured by the Allies.

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Va.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nearly all our disasters come from a few fools having the 'courage of their convictions.'"

COVENTRY PATMORE
ENGLISH POET

INDEX

Horoscopes

Visit with pals Leo 2

Snow & Surf Report

Water temperature: 53° 3

Opinion

On razor's edge 4

State

She's the chief 5

National

Mum's the word 6

Business

Nor a lender be 9

Comics

Laugh it up 16

Classifieds

Have some class 17-19

Stealing his Thumper



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Greg Thompson, 49, strips away a Bambi billboard advertisement on Pico Boulevard and replaces it with an LA Marathon promotion. The LA Marathon, which will be held on Sunday, is expected to draw 20,000 participants.

Making a bolt from the blue

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press staff writer

CITY HALL — Looking to address a perceived identity crisis, the Santa Monica Police Department is putting things in black and white.

Gone are the days when new patrol cars are systematically painted white with blue stripes, replaced by the more familiar black-and-white color scheme used by most law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department.

The new paint job, approved by the City Council Tuesday, was recommended by Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. as a way to make officers easily identifiable to not only residents, but also the millions of tourists who visit Santa Monica each year.

Some residents opposed the idea, saying the black and white reminds them too much of the LAPD, which has been plagued over the years by a poor reputation following several high-profile incidents of police abuse and misconduct. They feared the new colors may deter people from approaching police.

Those who voted in favor of the proposal were Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver and councilmembers Herb Katz, Pam O'Connor and Richard Bloom.

"What I like about the design is that it is clear — very clear — clean and crisp, and communicates what the vehicle is," O'Connor said. "There are those who say we should be different, but does that mean we have to paint something different just to stand out? Does that mean we should change the color of our fire trucks?"

Seeing no pressing public safety concern, Councilman Kevin McKeown opposed the change.

See COP COLORS, page 10

Pot sticklers: PD nets 200 pounds

By Daily Press staff

OCEAN PARK — Santa Monica police seized more than 200 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$150,000 from a second-story apartment here Tuesday night.

Rene Albeto Vega Mayorga, 23, of Santa Monica, was arrested for possession for sales, possession of a concealed weapon and probation violation, said Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Police responded to 724 Pacific St. around 7 p.m. after an anonymous caller reported seeing two men unloading packages from a van parked near the apartment building.

Patrol and undercover officers responded to the apartment building,



Photo courtesy of SMPD

More than 200 pounds of marijuana were seized from an Ocean Park apartment.

and saw marijuana in plain sight inside the van, Fabrega said. That's when officers detained Mayorga, the owner of the vehicle and a resident of the apartment.

Mayorga also was found carrying a concealed handgun.

The discovery of the marijuana

in the van prompted officers to obtain a search warrant for the apartment, in which they found a majority of the drugs in bricks, wrapped in paper and duct tape, Fabrega said.

Mayorga's bail was set at \$140,000.

Arrest gives the 'Glimmer Man' his due

By Daily Press staff

POLICE HDQRTS. — Santa Monica police arrested a Los Angeles man on Tuesday after he allegedly stole two watches belonging to actor Steven Seagal, valued at \$100,000 apiece, police said.

Ronald Taylor Jr., 23, a Federal Express employee, allegedly inter-

cepted the watches as they were being mailed overnight to the watchmaker in Las Vegas who originally created them. The watchmaker planned to display them for a trade show and then return them to Seagal.

But when the watches failed to arrive the following day, the watchmaker grew concerned and called Seagal's employee who had origi-

nally mailed them on March 8. The employee contacted Fed Ex representatives, who told her the watches would arrive the following day.

On March 10, when the watches didn't arrive, the woman again called Fed Ex representatives, who told her there had been a lot of

See SEAGAL WATCHES, page 10

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HOROSCOPES

Visit with pals, Leo

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Others might want to convince you that they are right. Getting you on their bandwagon might be a major focus of your day. You still call the shots. Remember, every person knows what he or she wants. Tonight: Very playful.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your easy style and manner get you far. Listen to what is being shared and what you need. You might spend a lot of money to make your point. Still, others might not hear you or listen. Your creativity spins out. Tonight: Relax.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your fiery energy defines what happens. Romance will knock on your door if you let yourself relax. Exciting news comes from a distance. You might not want to be practical right now. Listen to your sixth sense. Tonight: Spontaneity works.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Investigate and find answers. You will be a lot happier if you relax and flow with the moment. Live it up and get to the bottom of a problem. You might want to rethink a situation carefully. Tonight: Happy at home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Don't let anything go unspoken. Don't make assumptions, or you could be sadly disappointed. Don't think too much. Rather, get down to basics and understand where others are coming from. Another person might also be making assumptions. Tonight: Visit with pals.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Expenses highlight your day. You find new ways of making money and turning a situation over. Go with new ideas and focus on what you need to. Laughter surrounds a work situation. You are pressured to make a must appearance. Tonight: Treat yourself.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You break through barriers and get down to basics. You understand a lot more than you realize. Get past a problem. See a situation differently by seeking other opinions. Your laughter takes you in a new direction. Tonight: As you wish.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to think before you make a decision right now. Others enjoy themselves to the max. How you deal with people could change radically because of a revelation or insight. Tonight: Happy as a cat.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ What might be a far-out thought could be accepted with a smile and gratefulness. Don't make judgments in advance. Rather, think positively. Others might be full of themselves. Do you really care? Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Finally, you get the kind of respect you desire. Others push and pull you in different directions. Realize what might be happening. Think positively now that others finally contribute, or at least acknowledge a job well done. Tonight: A must show.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might want to think before you leap in a new direction. Understand more of what you need from others. You laugh, and many are delighted. Share your ideas, and you might improve them. Listen. Think. Tonight: Follow the music.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You might want to slow down and think before you make any decisions. Your mind floats from one topic to another. You could be causing yourself more of a problem than you need to. Chill out first. Tonight: Work with someone as part of the team.



Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Home is where a taste of Ireland will be

By Daily Press staff

A local chef and restaurant owner will be highlighted this weekend at the 30th Annual Home Remodeling and Decorating Show. Attendees will celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Irish Pavilion featuring food, entertainment and authentic goods direct from the Emerald Isle, including cooking demonstrations by Gerri Gilliland of Finn McCool's Irish Pub on Main Street. Gilliland will whip up Irish stew and soda bread. Caterer-to-the-stars Randy Fuhrman will showcase all green foods for St. Patrick's Day, featuring Luck of the Irish Pesto, St. Patty's Day salad, Every Leprechaun's Favorite Creme de Menthe Truffles, and more. There will be hundreds of home improvement exhibitors and thousands of new products, services and ideas. Kitchens, floors, windows, doors and everything from roofs to rose gardens. The event will be held at Los Angeles Convention Center, Kentia Hall, 201 S. Figueroa St., from Friday to Sunday. Times are Friday at noon until 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The cost of admission is \$6.75 for adults; senior citizens 55 years or older \$4 and children under 12 are free. Call 818-557-2950 for tickets. Tickets also are available during show hours or may be purchased in advance online at www.thehomeshow.com.

New Directions Choir grinds it out at UnUrban

By Daily Press staff

The New Directions Choir is heading in a different direction this weekend. The New Directions Choir will make a live recording of their award-winning harmonies at the UnUrban Coffee House in Santa Monica on Saturday, March 18, at 7 p.m. The nine-member choir consists of current and former residents of New Directions Inc., a long-term residential treatment center serving more than 800 homeless veterans a year. The performance is free and open to the public. The New Directions choir sings a cappella renditions of doo-wop, soul and traditional gospel music. The choir has been featured on E! Entertainment Television and the NBC Nightly News, and has performed at more than 100 events, including the Donny and Marie Show, the Democratic National Convention, and for members of the United States Congress. New Directions provides drug and alcohol detoxification, intensive substance abuse treatment, and job training for homeless veterans in the Los Angeles area. The non-profit agency is located on the grounds of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. An estimated 27,000 homeless veterans reside in Los Angeles, comprising 33 percent of the area's homeless population. New Directions' choir director and songwriter George Hill was homeless for 10 years, living in MacArthur Park. A graduate of New Directions, he is now majoring in computer science at Santa Monica College. "Through singing, we hope to let other vets who are still out there know there is another way," Hill said. The UnUrban Coffee House is located at 3301 Pico Blvd. Free parking is available in the bank parking lot across the street.

Award-winning play hanging about town

By Daily Press staff

Free entertainment will be provided by the local community college at the local airport this weekend. The Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department will present "Equus" from March 17-26. Peter Shaffer's Tony Award-winning play ran for more than 1,000 performances on Broadway. The play will be presented Fridays through Sundays. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and Sunday performances at 1 p.m. An additional matinee at 1 p.m. will be on Saturday, March 18. The play will be in the Hangar Stage, located at SMC's Airport Campus, 2800 Airport Ave., Santa Monica. Parking is free. "Equus" centers on the explosive encounters between a 17-year-old boy who has blinded six horses with a spike and the middle-aged psychiatrist who agrees to treat him. Shaffer, who based the plot on an allegedly true story, wrote the play to "create a mental world in which the deed could be made comprehensible." "Equus" was made into a film directed by Sidney Lumet. Tickets are \$11 general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Call (310) 434-3000 or go to <http://www.smc.edu/theatre>.

CORRECTION — In the March 14 edition, on page 3, a community brief regarding the senior prom contained an error. Free parking will be available at the parking lot of the Civic Center Auditorium.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS					DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM
BEAR MOUNTAIN					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 9/12	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed					
JUNE MOUNTAIN					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 2/6	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Variable					
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 156" - 188"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 16/28	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed					
MOUNTAIN HIGH					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 41	LIFTS OPEN 10/16	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed					
MT. BALDY					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 35"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 4/4	
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed					
SNOW SUMMIT					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 12/14	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed					
SNOW VALLEY					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 30" - 54"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 22	LIFTS OPEN 4/11	
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed					

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 53°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today this NW'er jumps up a bit, pushing size up about 10% or so from Wednesday with shoulder to head high + sets.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW swell increases Today..

Smaller surf but better weather next week...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY

LOW TIDE 2:13AM 1.3FT 2:47PM 0.2FT

HIGH TIDE 8:12AM 5.2FT 9:03PM 4.4FT

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE 2:43AM 0.9FT 3:06PM 0.0FT

HIGH TIDE 8:52AM 5.1FT 9:20PM 4.6FT

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE 3:13AM 0.7FT 3:30PM 0.3FT

HIGH TIDE 9:13AM 5.0FT 9:38PM 4.8FT

THURSDAY

LOW TIDE 3:46AM 0.6FT 3:49PM 0.6FT

HIGH TIDE 9:47AM 4.5FT 9:57PM 4.9FT

FRIDAY

LOW TIDE N/A N/A N/A N/A

HIGH TIDE N/A N/A N/A N/A

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



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The Q Line

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The City Council has put the brakes on a plan to expand parking in Santa Monica by 1,712 spaces. Some councilmembers are calling for the plan to shift to providing only 712 additional spaces instead. They cite community sentiments that call for limited development downtown and say that if development is limited, the extra 1,000 parking spaces will not be necessary. Under the plan for less spaces, existing parking structures would be enhanced rather than building new ones.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **"Do you support the building of new parking garages in Santa Monica? Why or why not?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

EST. 1934

The Galley

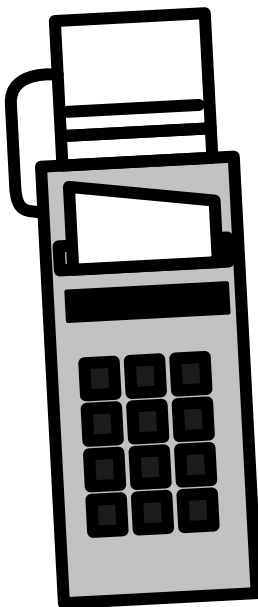
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School board needs lessons in transparency

Editor:

At the end of a closed session on Feb. 23, the board of education initiated “a recruiting process that will ensure transparency to attract the broadest possible pool of qualified candidates to fill the pending vacant position of Superintendent of Schools.”

They also appointed Dr. Mike Matthews, chief of staff, as interim superintendent effective Feb. 27. These decisions raise a number of procedural questions:

1. Why did the board of education decide on a national superintendent search without first having a public discussion?
2. Doesn’t the open meeting law require the board to discuss publicly the request for proposals (RFP) for superintendent search firms before they set the scope and criteria and go out to bid?
3. How does the board know if its constituents have any interest in another “rising young star” coming in, polishing his or her resume, and leaving in five years or less?
4. Before spending a considerable amount of time, money, and energy on a national search, isn’t there a process whereby the Board can examine strong local candidates first?
5. Wouldn’t it be in everyone’s best interest to promote within if you have a strong and willing candidate who would not have to be brought “up to speed” on the emotionally charged issues concerning Samohi, special education, student safety, and facilities?
6. When the management team is constantly changing, maintaining consistency of policy and program becomes problematic. With more than 80 administrative changes — including eight different assistant superintendents — in the past four years, isn’t the possibility of maintaining some continuity of leadership highly desirable at this time?
7. If others have the same or additional questions, what’s the best way to convey them to the board of education?

Jim Jaffe
Santa Monica

Living in a dream world

Editor:

In your editorial “Parallel Lines” (SMDP, March 10, page 4), you strike directly at the heart of the matter when you question the status of parking here in Santa Monica’s downtown district. It seems to me that when you describe what the people don’t want you perhaps forget that the new public safety building was voted down by the voters several years ago but then council overrode that vote and built the building at a cost disadvantage. The new, new, really, really, new library was another example of “we have revenues and we must build.” And it isn’t going to end there at all. Consider the dimension of the civic center village. Massive, over-arching, very pricey, to whose benefit? To what end? For what purpose?

Continue the accepted way of building of intersections and red lights from here to LAX during peak hours, gridlock the city, and one will have achieved nothing.

We have a great deal of parking at the beach already. Reduce those rates, create a new innovative exciting way to get there, and then another radical innovative conveyance from the beach to where it is people most likely want to go. Do this and you will have reinvented the city, and when you do, you will lead the world.

Ah, but these are the ramblings of a visionary, and stodgy government types don’t like dreamers, I suppose. So perhaps the solution lies in our dreams and not our accepted present disciplines.

Stewart Resmer
Santa Monica

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

On the razor’s edge



**ICONOCLAST
BLAST**
BY SETH BARNES

I am here to make a plea. As a concerned member of the human community, an advocate for peace, and a supporter of non-violent conflict resolution, I ask that the men’s grooming industry agree to an immediate ceasefire. I implore them to dismantle the sophisticated weaponry that stands, at this very moment, on hair-trigger alert. The arms race cannot continue. I beg: Do not develop a shaving device with six blades.

As anybody who watched the Super Bowl knows, after several years of détente, Gillette recently escalated the shaving crisis with the introduction of The Fusion razor. This five-bladed behemoth leapfrogged the most powerful artillery on the market: Gillette’s Mach III (three blades) and Schick’s Quattro (four blades).

The reason for my desperate appeal should be obvious. An average man, standing naked and half-asleep in his bathroom can barely operate an electric toothbrush, much less a bundle of laser sharpened razor blades. This has nothing to do with the safety of these next-generation razors, mind you. Used properly, they provide a wondrous shave that will entice random women to snuggle up to you on the street in order to stroke your smooth, baby-skinned cheeks.

It’s operator error I’m worried about. After all, we’re talking about men here. That’s right, the fat, crass, lazy half of the species whose subconscious mind is pretty much devoted to the acquisition and consumption of grilled meats and Internet pornography. Our popular culture has been more than happy to play up men as bird-brained inebriates in shows like “The Simpsons” and “Everyone Loves Raymond.” And think about the litany of commercials depicting men as totally out of touch with reality, a class of people who think selecting the right light beer or half-ton pickup truck will prove their masculinity to the hordes of attractive women on the prowl for Mr. Right.

So now we want to hand a bank of high-tech carving tools to bleary-eyed, out of breath dunces who, more likely than not, are battling the shaky affects of an early morning hangover?

My sentiments should resonate here in Santa Monica, bastion of activism, epicenter in greater Los Angeles for peace and

unconditional love for one’s fellow man.

My personal research suggests that a half dozen razor blades scraping across anyone’s face in the early morning hours will invariably lead to a substantial increase in razor nick: A familiar, and utterly humiliating condition that can only be treated by plastering the affected areas with unsightly wads of tissue.

The three- and four-blade models were dangerous enough in this regard. The five-blade model has brought us to the brink of catastrophe (not to mention that Fusion features a miniature “Precision Trimmer” blade on the back that could technically be considered a sixth blade).

Fusion is poised to become the best selling razor in history. By 2008, the men’s grooming market is expected to hit \$10 billion a year. Some analysts predict that Fusion could eventually rake in as much as \$1 billion in annual sales. In the very near future, it is a virtual certainty that a Fusion will lay, like an unstable nuclear missile, in bathrooms across the world.

Based on these projections, it’s likely that some competitor will be compelled to develop the dreaded razor with six blades, at which point we will have totally transgressed the limits of a safe shaving experience.

Before you assail me as a sissy, an impractical peace activist afraid to see a little blood spilled, let me point out that there are legitimate economic reasons behind my concerns. The increase in razor nick will undoubtedly result in tissue paper shortages — toilet and otherwise — that have the potential to destabilize economies across the globe. Also, as the razor nick epidemic intensifies, it is not unreasonable to envision billions of men sulking through their mornings with dried Kleenex dotted across their jowls. That can’t be good for productivity.

I’d ask our government to step in to regulate this growing tempest, but they have a regrettable record when it comes to identifying and containing razors of mass destruction. Thus, I leave it to the megalomaniacs in the shaving industry to exhibit some common sense. Five blades are enough. After all we’re shaving whiskers, not diamonds.

Gillette tells us that that their razor is “the best a man can get.” This time, let’s hope they mean it.

(Seth Barnes can be reached at barnes-seth@hotmail.com.)



ALL OPINIONS ARE EQUAL
AT THE DAILY PRESS...

...PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:
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Or email: editor@smdp.com



STATE BRIEFS

Female police chief is first in LA County

By The Associated Press

SIERRA MADRE, Calif. — Police Chief Marilyn Diaz was sworn in to become the first-ever female city chief of police in Los Angeles County.

About 100 people — including police chiefs from Pasadena, Arcadia, West Covina, Whittier, Arcadia, Glendale, Burbank, South Pasadena, San Gabriel and Claremont — gathered for Tuesday night’s ceremony.

“Becoming Sierra Madre’s chief of police is an extraordinary honor,” Diaz, 54, said after she was sworn in by District Attorney Steve Cooley. She will earn about \$95,000 a year.

Diaz is one of only 12 female police chiefs in the state, which has 335 police departments. After 32 years with the 250-officer Pasadena Police Department, Diaz takes over a department with 17 sworn officers.

“The significant thing is not that she is the first woman ever in this position. I think the significant thing is that she is Marilyn Diaz,” Pasadena police Chief Bernard Melekian said. “She’s a marvelous leader, so accomplished.”

Beers says DEA got a lot of pot

By The Associated Press

DESERT HOT SPRINGS, Calif. — Marijuana and weapons were confiscated by federal agents during a raid at the Sky Valley home of a medicinal pot grower who supplies the CannaHelp dispensary in Palm Desert.

No arrests were made during the Tuesday morning raid of Garry Silva’s home but agents confiscated “guns and a quantity of marijuana,” said Sarah Fenno Beers, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Silva said they took about 70 plants, about 30 of them only 3 inches high, as well as two shotguns, a deer rifle and a handgun.

Silva, who is a medical marijuana patient, supplied the CannaHelp collective with pot for medical marijuana patients. Since 1996, California law has allowed use of medical marijuana by approved patients.

But the California law conflicts with federal law. The U.S. Supreme Court last year made such a practice illegal under federal law.

“This is an extremely complicated and murky issue. There are a lot of gray areas,” said Teresa Schilling, a spokeswoman for the state attorney general’s office.

State law only permits growing by a caregiver of a person who uses the marijuana. According to state law, a qualified patient or caregiver may possess no more than 8 ounces of dried marijuana.

In addition, a qualified patient or primary caregiver also may maintain no more than six mature or 12 immature marijuana plants per qualified patient.

California’s Proposition 215, which legalized marijuana for medical use, was approved in 1996.

CannaHelp owner Stacy Hochanadel said Silva was one of five clients who he helped set up home “grow rooms.” Silva said he wasn’t making any money from the marijuana he grew.

“It’s a compassionate thing to do and it guarantees me my own medicine,” he said.

Gang members being watched from above

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Global positioning satellite technology will be used for the first time in California to track 20 paroled gang members in the city of San Bernardino.

Under an agreement announced Tuesday by city and state officials, the 20 paroled gang members will be fitted with anklets that include a GPS transmitter.

The state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will pay all monitoring costs, about \$64,000 annually.

Mayor Pat Morris said seven gang members have been fitted with monitors, and the remaining 13 will get anklets this week. Asked why San Bernardino was picked, the mayor smiled and said, “We raised our hand.”

State officials already provide GPS tracking for 263 paroled sex offenders who are judged likely to re-offend. Riverside and San Bernardino counties also have used the devices.

Additionally, the San Bernardino County probation department contracts with a private company to track about 25 sex offenders, gang members and other violent criminals who are considered likely to re-offend, deputy chief probation officer Michelle Scray said.

School district pays up to ‘stop the bleeding’

By The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — The Rio School District board agreed to a \$1.4 million settlement of a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former superintendent Yolanda Benitez.

The board voted 3-2 during a special Monday night meeting to pay Benitez nearly \$381,000 to buy out her employment contract, which expires in June. She was fired nearly three years ago over mismanagement allegations and her pro-bilingual agenda.

Benitez will also receive \$325,000 to settle her wrongful-termination lawsuit, \$35,000 in unused vacation pay and \$690,000 for attorney fees and related courts costs.

The 4,000-student district will also pay her medical insurance until she turns 65. She’s now 54.

“It’s awful that we had to pay this amount of money, but it was necessary to stop the bleeding,” board president Simon Ayala said. “Now we have to get back on track and move in a positive direction.”

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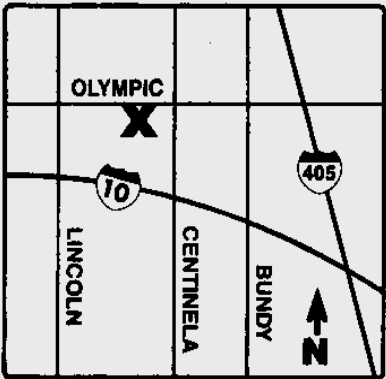
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STATE NATIONAL

Researcher's growth may benefit farmers

BY OLIVIA MUNOZ
 Associated Press Writer

PARLIER, Calif. — Manuel Jimenez walks through the steamy greenhouse, pushing past leaves of papaya, guava and lychee.

“Do you smell that?” he says of the trees’ fragrant blossoms. “That’s a new smell to the Central Valley.”

Jimenez is nowhere near the tropics, yet the hot-weather plants he’s cultivating at the University of California’s Kearney Agricultural Center may soon mean that crops currently being imported can be bought fresh from California farmers.

Scientists — whose work is often funded by the agriculture industry — are continuously looking for ways to grow new, profitable crops in California’s rich soil.

Fields of kiwi, almonds and olives are no longer a novelty, but they were introduced to California growers as specialty crops, Jimenez said. When demand for these crops grew, so did the acreage devoted to them.

Today, more than 250 different crops are grown commercially in the San Joaquin Valley and California leads the nation in more than 80 of them.

“The problem with California is that as soon as people find out you can grow something, everyone wants to grow it,” Jimenez says. “Everybody grows it and the niche is gone.”

Take blueberries, for example. When Jimenez began planting the shrubs at the agricultural center eight years ago, growers thought he was crazy. Blueberries traditionally grow in cold climates and acidic soils — the exact opposite of the San Joaquin Valley’s conditions.

Farmers acidified the soil and grew berry varieties that did well in warmer weather. By 2005, California farmers had produced more than 9 million pounds of blueberries, an increase of 3 million pounds over the year before, according to the North American Blueberry Council.

Jimenez is betting on the nonnative crops that are popular with Hispanics and Asians. He is particularly interested in the papaya. There is a variety from China that is growing well at the experimental plot. The tree grows without the help of fertilizer or heating, under a makeshift greenhouse of clear plastic stretched over metal framework.

“We can force just about anything to grow,” Jimenez says. “What we want to do is grow them in the most rudimentary way possible. If we can grow papaya straight from the dirt, we can grow anything.”

Jimenez also works with the school’s Small Farm Center, which helps small farm owners through educational workshops and cost-saving techniques.

Large growers are often hesitant to give up acreage for fruits and vegetables that stray from the mainstream, Jimenez says.

But developing new crops is vital for farmers that have been edged out of the state’s more popular produce because they can’t compete on a large scale, says Joe Santellano, who has a 10-acre farm near Fresno where he grows cherry tomatoes, chili peppers and eggplants — popular sellers that aren’t usually grown on huge farms.

Most small farm owners sell what they grow through direct marketing. They take their wares to farmers’ markets, restaurants and independent grocery stores.

“We’re always looking for the next crop to grow,” Santellano said. “If there’s something better, we jump on that.”

Norton remaining mum on her post-Cabinet plans

By The Associated Press

DENVER — In her first visit home since announcing her resignation, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said Wednesday she’s not sure of her plans but will take a few months off.

Norton, a former Colorado attorney general, said last week she would step down at the end of the month.

She said she and President Bush have discussed potential successors but she declined to comment on individuals — including former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the choice of Sen. Wayne Allard. Both men are Colorado Republicans.

Norton said it is important for the next interior secretary to come from the West because it is the part of the country that most concerns the department.

She said she was proud of the department’s record on building relationships with various interest groups on such issues as the Endangered Species Act.

Norton was in Denver to speak at a bio-energy and wood products conference sponsored in part by federal agencies and the forest industry.

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NATIONAL



Committee far apart on guest worker plans

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate committee delegated to come up with immigration reform legislation proceeded at a glacial pace Wednesday, with senators still far apart on such issues as a guest worker program and a policy toward the estimated 11 million people in the country illegally.

"We are quite a ways from having a bill," said Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., as the panel waded through a host of amendments on how to improve border enforcement.

Even with farmers and businesses depending on illegal immigrants to fill low-wage jobs and President Bush in support of a temporary worker program, advocates of such a program have been unable to overcome the opposition of those who are deadset against any proposal that in an election year could be labeled "amnesty."

The Senate Judiciary Committee had given itself a Thursday deadline to produce a bill that would tighten U.S. borders, impose new sanctions on illegal immigrants and their employers, and give legal status to some workers now here illegally.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has promised a vote on some kind of temporary "guest worker" program after Congress returns March 27 from a weeklong recess, but not necessarily one that includes illegal immigrants, as advocated by Bush.

Democrats on the Judiciary Committee wrote Frist to ask him to reconsider, saying "arbitrary deadlines and half-finished proposals serve neither the Senate nor the country well."

Republicans with reservations about a guest worker program also urged the Senate to go slow on what could be the most important bill that Congress deals with this year. "Nobody in the country trusts us on this issue right now because we have not demonstrated the integrity to control our borders," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

Bush has proposed a temporary worker program, allowing participants to register for legal status for a specific period of time and then be required to return home. It would not provide amnesty, which the administration says it would reject in any proposal, and also would not be an automatic path to citizenship.

"So far there's a desire to do guest worker, but the real desire is to make sure the borders are secure first," Specter said Tuesday.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., whose state shares a 180-mile border with Mexico, said the chances of getting a comprehensive bill through the Senate are

slim. Lawmakers, he said, "have gone absolutely wild" confusing border violence with 9 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country.

"Without sufficient thinking, we're applying to them the anger and opposition that comes to the border activities," Domenici said. "These people, some of them have lived here 30 years, 20 years, 10 years. They are not gangsters and robbers."

Judiciary Committee member Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said a temporary worker program may be an issue for another time.

"We should do a good enforcement bill and leave the administration to execute it, then in the meantime, talk seriously about what we want to do about the future," Sessions said.

However, there still is a lot of sentiment among other committee members to allow some illegal immigrants to remain in the United States, if only temporarily.

A bill drafted by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., gives illegal immigrants up to five years to leave the country. But they would have to leave and apply from their home country to return, either as temporary workers or for permanent residency.

Specter would allow illegal immigrants with jobs to get worker permits and get in line for legal residency without having to leave the country. Critics say actually acquiring legal residency under that approach could take decades.

Two other committee members — Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. — are pushing a business-backed proposal that would allow illegal immigrants to work for six years and then apply for permanent residency without having to leave the U.S.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who supports the McCain-Kennedy approach, argued that lawmakers can't ignore the 11 million undocumented workers in the country.

"Amnesty to me is not what we are talking about," Graham said. "If I had to pay a \$2,000 fine and wait 11 years before I could apply for citizenship I wouldn't think I'd been given amnesty."

Americans are just as divided on immigration.

A Time poll in January found that 73 percent of Americans favor a guest worker program for illegal immigrants, but 46 percent said they should have to return first to their native country and apply for it. About 50 percent favored deporting all illegal immigrants.

The House has already passed a tough immigration enforcement bill without any kind of guest worker program, defying threats from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its allies.

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NATIONAL

SayWA? New state motto has residents confused

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — The state's new tourism slogan, "SayWA," may be more clever than its critics suggest.

After all, "saywa" does mean "landmark" in Aymara, a language spoken by 2.2 million people in South America. And those Andean villagers around Lake Titicaca are suckers for backpacking.

True, they aren't the state's target demographic — 35- to 55-year-old Westerners with disposable income — but the Washington State Tourism Office might hope the slogan resonates there, because a lot of English speakers are panning it.

"It's just not that catchy," said Sarah Owens of Seattle as she led a couple of Irish tourists through Pike Place Market, one of the state's premier attractions. "Who makes these decisions? Washington's spectacular. It doesn't need a slogan."

The slogan, 18 months in development, is designed to promote Washington's numerous tourist attractions, from hiking in the Olympic Mountains to visiting wine country to wind-surfing in the Columbia River Gorge.

A replacement for "Experience Washington," it was chosen with input from a 32-member "brand development task force," that included Chamber of Commerce directors, tourism officials and business representatives from around the state.

Project head dumps some bad news on lawmakers

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A long-delayed nuclear waste dump in Nevada that has cost \$9 billion so far is years away from opening, the project's director told frustrated lawmakers Wednesday, and will be at capacity from radioactive waste now accumulating.

The Energy Department also plans to determine the need for a second site for an underground dump, said Paul Golan, acting director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

Department officials had most recently set 2012 as the projected opening for the first nuclear waste dump, at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, but have backed off that goal. Golan would only say Wednesday, "We should be able to open it next decade." The original target was 1998.

"It's obvious the 2012 date is now out the window," said Rep. David Hobson, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Appropriations' energy subcommittee.

Some 55,000 tons of waste are collecting at commercial reactor sites in 39 states and high-level waste is being stored at defense sites, too. Yucca Mountain is supposed to hold 77,000 tons of radioactive waste.

"Frankly I don't want to build eight Yucca Mountains," said Hobson, who has pressed the department to establish interim, above-ground storage sites for

"SayWA is a distillation of the sense of wonder that comes with discovery," the tourism office's Web site suggests. "It describes the moment when an experience becomes emotional. Where the traveler is no longer an observer, but a participant. The SayWA moment."

One mock advertisement shows tourists taking pictures of the Columbia Gorge. "SayWA: This is the sound of jaws dropping." More than one observer noted that dropping jaws are generally silent.

Others said "WA" reminds them most of a baby crying, or a toddler asking for water. Even the slang basis for it — "Say what?" — is a response to something nonsensical or stupid.

"Thirty-five years ago I smoked dope and probably could have come up with something like that," said Darrell Bryan, general manager of Victoria Clipper, the largest tour operator in the Northwest. "To me, it's better to have no slogan than to come up with something like that. There's too much scratching the head about 'What does that mean?'"

The state's tourism office that the slogan is designed to help Washington escape traditional tourism advertising.

"Any good campaign is going to cause people to stop and wonder about it," said spokeswoman Michelle Zahrly. "We know, as with any marketing campaign, that not all the people are going to like it, but ... it will reach those people we're hoping to attract here."

nuclear waste.

Golan said his understanding is the department does not have the power to do that without congressional approval. The House agreed to the idea last year, but the Senate rejected it.

Lawmakers are awaiting a proposal from the administration to facilitate the construction of Yucca Mountain. Deputy Energy Secretary Clay Sell said at a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on Wednesday that the proposal would include changing the way Yucca is funded and withdrawing public land around the property to create a permanent site for the dump.

In combination with the administration's new plan to recycle nuclear waste, these steps could postpone indefinitely the need to find a second dump site, Sell said in written testimony.

The department still must apply for a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to open Yucca Mountain. Golan said the department will not be ready for that step until after the budget year that ends Sept. 30, 2007, but he said a better schedule should be developed this summer.

Among Yucca Mountain's problems are a federal court's rejection of the government's original radiation safety standards for the dump; a controversy over fabricated quality assurance data; and political opposition from home-state lawmakers, including Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate's top Democrat.

Business

Ball and chain of debt weighs heavy



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

The head of Canada's central bank, David Dodge, says the world risks an "outright recession." And, Claude Trichet, who is the president of the European Central bank, believes the world economy will have to "pay a price."

Both men point their fingers at the same problem — the U.S. trade deficit. And, both men are scheduled to exercise their fingers again soon, this time at Ben Bernanke — when he shows up at the G-10 meeting this week.

The U.S. trade deficit is running at an annual rate of about \$800 billion. In rough terms, it means that Americans spend that much more each year, on the world market, than they earn. You could talk to a plumber or a haberdasher and get a sensible opinion on the subject: "I guess the U.S. should stop spending so much," he would likely say. The matter is really pretty simple. When you spend money you haven't got on things you don't need, you're bound to run into trouble. Even the aforementioned central bankers can see that.

But if you asked a top U.S. economist — say, Ben

Bernanke himself — what you're likely to get is a confused and preposterous answer.

The deficit is really pretty simple. It takes years of expensive formal education to not understand it. Ben Bernanke, along with most of the economists who work for Wall Street or the federal government, believes the trade deficit poses no problem. To the contrary, it represents a very felicitous and even flattering situation: They make; we take. They sweat; we think. They save; we spend. The "they" includes many millions of people overseas, but the most prominent among them are the Chinese. While we Americans operate an economy that is 71 percent consumer spending, the Chinese only spend 50 percent of their GDP. The rest is saved — an amount equal to \$1.1 trillion.

Taken as a whole — including business, government and private households — Americans also save, but only 13 percent of GDP, or about \$1.6 trillion. And at the household level, the difference becomes even more pronounced between "they" and "we." They save 30 percent of what they earn. We save less than nothing ... with a household savings rate of minus 0.4 percent last year.

The last time we saw such a low rate was during the darkest years of the Great Depression, when families had no choice but to draw down their savings in order to pay their bills.

Ben Bernanke sees nothing to not to like in these num-

bers. The Chinese are lucky we spend so much, he is likely to remark. What else would they do with their savings, if they could not lend them to us? He might add: What else would they do with all that junk they're producing if we weren't prepared to go into debt to buy it?

"They're both mad," said a colleague. One spends money it hasn't got. The other sells to people who cannot pay. Maybe China and the U.S. represent equal and opposite delusions: One over-spends. The other over-saves. But while the delusions are opposite, they are not equal. There is a great Exodus of power and money from West to East.

There is a big difference between being on the prospering end of that passage as opposed to the losing end. China's working class is getting richer; America's is not. China's treasury piles up credits; America's piles up debits. China's consumers have savings that they could spend, if they wanted to. America's consumers have only credit ... made available to them at present rates only so long as it accords with the whim of the market and the will of lenders.

The Chinese are owners ... Americans are becoming renters. The Chinese are free from debt; Americans are chained to it.

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

Variety is spice of life, investing



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

Diversification is an investment strategy that helps you avoid putting all your eggs in one basket. When you allocate your investment dollars among many investments, you potentially reduce the risk of a single investment and help to optimize your overall return given your risk tolerance. There are a number of ways you can diversify when deciding which stocks are best suited for you.

Diversify among industry sectors. A sector is an area of the economy comprised of industries that have certain characteristics in common. All industries in a given sector typically tend to react similarly to trends in the overall economy. In general, you should include stocks from a number of sectors, but dedicate a greater dollar amount to the sectors that are currently in favor.

Diversify by risk level. There are many categories of stocks with different degrees of volatility. A well-diversified portfolio may include stocks from a number of risk levels, since lower-risk stocks are likely to offer greater portfolio stability and higher-risk stocks tend to provide higher potential rewards. As you near retirement age, you may wish to adjust your portfolio to reduce risk. Of course, your risk tolerance will vary with your individual situation.

Diversify globally. Foreign stock markets provide an extra degree of diversification, which has been shown to reduce portfolio volatility and enhance returns over time. Keep in mind that past performance does not guarantee future results, and overseas investments are subject to certain risks beyond those applying to domestic investments, such as political, market, economic and currency exchange risks.

In the end, the specific way you choose to diversify your portfolio will depend upon your individual investment objectives and risk tolerance. Your Financial Advisor can help you determine which methods are best for your own individual financial situation.

(Kirk Aguer is a financial advisor at MorganStanley's Santa Monica branch. He can be reached at (310) 319-5220.)

The Latino immigrant is fast becoming an attractive market segment to lenders

BY GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — One of Maria Carrillo's clients said thieves jumped him on payday because they knew he'd leave the check-cashing business with his pockets full of bills. How was he to know he could open a bank account in this country, Carrillo said, if he was still struggling to read in Spanish?

Carrillo, a financial consultant whose office windows look onto a ward of this city where taquerias have replaced steel plants, knew he was just the kind of client banks want.

As the housing market slows, lenders have come to see the country's new Latino immigrants as a market with a great upside. By 2010, the disposable income of Hispanics will exceed \$1.08 trillion, or 9.2 percent of total purchasing power nationwide, according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.

Even as Congress debates their legal status, banks are tailoring their products to meet the country's newest residents where they work and live, installing ATMs in meat-packing plants and creating special mortgage packages that don't require the traditional documentation.

"If I buy a home here, I want to be 100 percent sure of what I'm buying," said Victor Cruz, a native of Toluca, Mexico, as he met with Carrillo at the Kansas City-based nonprofit El Centro Inc., an outreach group that helps immigrants with everything from English classes to money matters. "Otherwise, you end up feeling like a rabbit, surrounded by foxes lying in wait."

After experiencing decades of financial crises and currency devaluations in Latin America, first-generation immigrants often prefer to carry cash than to deposit their money in the bank. Reports of predatory lending and payday muggings in the Hispanic community have prompted officials at Federal Reserve Banks across the country to encourage lenders to develop alternative means to bring Latino families into the banking system.

One-third of U.S.-born Hispanic residents and over half of all Mexican immigrants lack bank accounts, according to 2000 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau. But there's no single formula that meets the diverse needs of the Latino market.

"The No. 1 mistake that banks make is to translate their brochures. They think having their information on a pamphlet in Spanish will produce magical numbers for them," said Laura Castro de Cortes, a consultant at Latino Banking

Solutions, based in Omaha, Neb. "For second generation Latinos, we're gonna react like the rest of the market and say 'OK, who has the best price?' That's totally different from marketing for the new arrivals, whose biggest problem is that they walk around with rolls of cash."

Many undocumented Latino immigrants shy away from mainstream lenders for fear that giving over personal identification could result in deportation. The USA Patriot Act requires banks to ask customers opening an account for their name, date of birth, address and a taxpayer identification number.

Before Cruz can get a home loan, for instance, he'll need to provide Carrillo with two years of tax records and employment records, his taxpayer ID number and three credit reference letters. Carrillo isn't brokering a loan for him, she's just helping him find the deal that fits best with his income level.

El Centro is one of few groups to offer that kind of detailed financial education in Spanish in the Midwest. But in recent years, the number of products available to the undocumented has mushroomed.

In Illinois, noncitizens can now qualify for state-administered mortgage loans by providing a government-issued alternative to the Social Security number. In Kansas City, Mo., a family-owned bank with just eight branches started selling stored-value cards, a starter product that's not a bank account, but gets clients ready to open one.

"In the 1960s the more visible issue was urban banks not reaching the urban poor. Now, with immigrants you've got a different demographic and you've got to understand that's part of your customer base," said Linda Schroeder, a vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. "We're better off as a whole if everyone's participating in the economy."

As baby boomers age and their savings leave the financial system, banks see the Latino population's relative youth as a plus. By 2010, a study by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University shows Latinos will account for nearly one-third of the homebuying pool.

But to make that happen, more families will need to learn how to handle real estate agents, mortgage brokers and building inspectors in classes like those held at El Centro. Carrillo said of the 850 families she met with last year, only 100 had gotten the financial training necessary to buy a home.



COUNCIL COUNTDOWN

(The following is a summation of what went on in the Santa Monica City Council chambers during the council’s meeting March 14, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerppts taken.)

TIMELINE:

5:50 p.m.: With Mayor Bob Holbrook in Washington, D.C., Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver assumed control over the City Council session and called the meeting to order by proclaiming March as “Mayors for Meals Month,” honoring the national “Meals on Wheels” program and its March 22 celebration. Councilman Ken Genser was not present as he is recovering from a kidney transplant. The hands on the clock in the council chambers were missing. The clock has been broken for at least two weeks.

5:55 p.m.: The council approved consent items, including spending \$558,000 for the design and construction of the Exposition Corridor Bike and Pedestrian Path, \$42,000 for the management of the city-owned Mountain View Mobile Home Park, and \$88,500 for the operation of the Pier Carousel. The council also voted to accept \$298,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a public beach club at the Marion Davies estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. The council directed State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, (D-Santa Monica), to carry legislation to allow posting of a memorial sign along the Santa Monica Freeway or PCH in memory of Santa Monica Police officer Ricardo Crocker, who was killed in Iraq last year. With two council members absent and one recusing himself, the council voted to postpone action on the purchase of mobile computers for police cars.

6:10 p.m.: The council went into closed session to discuss existing litigation against the city. The City Attorney reported no action taken by the council.

7:05 p.m.: The council reconvened following closed session and participated in a study session regarding City Hall’s collection and recycling of solid waste. Consultants gave the city high marks for its recycling program, which is one of the best in the region, but noted shortcomings in infrastructure, as well as the absence of a reserve fund to be used in case of an emergency. Consultants suggested the council may want to contract out or franchise commercial waste hauling, which is being subsidized by revenues generated from the collection of waste from multi-family dwellings. At the request of the City Manager, the council instructed staff to return in 30 days with an analysis of short-term objectives outlined by the consultants, with the goal of keeping rates charged for service close to current levels.

8:40 p.m.: The council received a staff report on adding the city’s logo to police cars, as well as changing the colors from the white and blue color scheme to the more universal black and white scheme.

8:53 p.m.: Three people spoke on the issue, one against the proposed change and two in support of it.

8:57 p.m.: Public comment ends and the council debated the issue.

9:15 p.m.: The council approved a change to the color scheme of patrol cars, adopting a black and white design with the city’s logo and the words “Santa Monica Police” in blue.

9:16 p.m.: Council approved a pilot parking program for employees near 10th Street and Pico Boulevard, where many side streets are reserved for residential parking only. The council authorized staff to issue 20 permits to businesses in the area for one year. A representative from Meals on Wheels also thanked the council for its support.

9:17 p.m.: City staff gave a report on the Community Energy Independence Initiative, which intends to get homeowners and businesses to install solar panels and other green technologies to generate power and make the city more energy independent.

9:40 p.m.: Staff report ended and public comment began.

10:03 p.m.: The council approved in concept the energy independence initiative and authorized staff to begin a two-year demonstration program with the allocation of \$637,000 from previously budgeted funds. The council also directed staff to look into placing a solar wind turbine on the pier as part of the demonstration project.

10:04 p.m.: The council decided to postpone an appointment to the Pier Restoration Corp. until Genser, the PRC council liaison, could be present. The council also received and update from the City Manager and the Chief of Police regarding the city’s response to the murder of Santa Monica High School student Eduardo “Eddie” Lopez, who was shot and killed by a suspected gang member Feb. 28. City Manager Lamont Ewell said Lopez’ death has reinvigorated efforts in the community to address gang violence. Ewell said his staff is “fast-tracking” several efforts approved by the council to eradicate gang violence, including an aggressive approach to graffiti removal, alley lighting and streetscape improvements in the Pico neighborhood. Ewell mentioned upcoming opportunities for involvement, including a Human Relations Council dialogue at Calvary Baptist Church on March 26, and the second annual job fair co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on April 26. He urged the community to attend a gang summit this Saturday at John Adams Middle School, beginning at 10 a.m. Police Chief James Butts Jr. spoke of how Lopez’ death has affected the community. He also spoke of the need to give youth love, hope and opportunity so they do not turn to gangs for support and protection. He said a regional approach to gang violence is needed and explained the collaboration between the SMPD and other agencies, which has helped prevent gang crimes from occurring. The council called on every segment of the community to get involved.

10:42 p.m.: Public comment begins on the Lopez death and its effects.

10:45 p.m.: The council adjourns in honor of Lopez, and called his mother a “beacon of love” to the community. The council also adjourned in memory of John Zender, an ordained Presbyterian minister and licensed family and marriage counselor who died March 5. Zender was best known as the head of the music school at McCabe’s Guitar Shop. The council also recognized and congratulated writer, director Paul Haggis, a Santa Monica resident who won two Academy Awards for his film “Crash.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Time spent on the top three issues facing Santa Monicans, based on city surveys:

Homelessness: 0 minutes
 Traffic: 0 minutes
 Parking: 5 minutes
 Public Comments: 23 minutes
 City Council/staff discussions: 3 hours and 28 minutes.



LET’S TALK CHIT

“Chits” (Public addressing City Council)

■ “I couldn’t agree more with the chief and how he talked about youth losing hope, and is there anything more sad for them not to find it anywhere, and for us not being able to provide it for them.”

Resident Ana Maria Jara, speaking about the need for youth to become the top priority for every adult here.

■ “I really doubt highly that any law enforcement challenges or crime challenges we’re facing are due to the color of police vehicles nor will lives be saved by or crimes diverted with the introduction of black and white into our law enforcement vernacular.”

Resident Todd Flora, speaking against changing the colors of SMPD vehicles.

■ Joy Fulmer Incite (Joy Fulmer is a regular gadfly at the council meeting who publicly comments every chance she gets.)

“For solid waste, you are going the most expensive way right off ... You know the poor used to get a lot of the things that were in the alleys before. We could gather it together for recycling. Have a go at it. Whatever they want to take, let them take ... I think it makes more sense. Shoes. There are a lot of people who need good shoes.”

QUOTE OF NOTE

“We are still very much committed to coming to the grand solution where a 15-year-old boy can be out on the street at 9:30 at night anywhere and not be stalked by gang members.”

Santa Monica Police Chief James Butts Jr., speaking to the council about the need for great community involvement in the lives of youth as well as for the council to reach out to other cities and gang experts to come up with a regional solution to gang violence.

Horsepower of another color



Photos courtesy of City Hall

The familiar white patrol cars (top) will be phased out by 2010 in favor of the expected law enforcement black-and-white scheme (bottom). The word ‘police’, however, will be blue, not black.

COP COLORS, from page 1

Mayor Bob Holbrook and Councilman Ken Genser were not present for the vote.

“I understand the tradition of black and white. I grew up watching “Dragnet” too, but I think we have a good thing going,” McKeown said. “When I see a Big Blue Bus on the road, I feel pride for Santa Monica and I react the same way when I see our police cars ... Our distinctive color scheme sets us apart from the other agencies that may be coming here for business.

“I prefer the friendly look of our current blue and white.”

The new color scheme was designed after councilmembers requested the city logo be incorporated on all police vehicles. This opened the door for a redesign of the entire vehicle, including the color scheme as well as the size and font of lettering alongside the doors and the rear. New patrol cars will be black on the hood and front wheel panels as well as the rear. The roof and side doors will be white. The council ordered the words “Santa Monica POLICE” be painted in blue to match the color of the city logo, which will be placed on the front doors near the side mirrors. On the back, “POLICE” will be written in white. There are no increased costs associated with the redesign of the vehicles, as the new colors will be incorporated as patrol cars are replaced, according to a report prepared by the chief and Kate Vernez, assistant to the City Manger for Governmental Relations. No more than 40 vehicles will be changed by the end of this fiscal year, the report said, with all vehicles featuring the new colors by June 30, 2009. Resident Todd Flora said cultural psychologists have proven that black is a menacing color that intimidates people from approaching those who wear it. “I think our friendly, distinctive blue and white vehicles work for Santa Monica residents who feel more comfortable knowing law enforcement is more approachable and are not turned off by the LAPD-like image that is being proposed,” said Flora, shortly before councilmembers voted to approve the change. Eight-year-old Carrie Manpearl opposed the change as well. “We are our own city, not Los Angeles,” she said. “I prefer the prettier colors that stand out from other cities.” City Manager Lamont Ewell, a former fire chief, weighed in on the issue as well, saying he spoke to many residents as well as police officers and came to the conclusion that black and white was the best option, as they are associated with law enforcement more than the current colors. He said it was important to change because of the high number of tourists here who may not be familiar with the blue and white. Regarding the perception that the change in color would mean SMPD would be lumped together with the LAPD and somehow suffer from that, Ewell replied, “It’s not the color of the vehicles, but the reputation of the organization.” “We have some of the best men and women in uniform that you can have anywhere in this country working for you, and I think they understand clearly the importance of supporting the community,” Ewell continued. “We will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior with our residents, regardless of the color of the car.”

Arrest made after actor Seagal’s timepieces absolutely, positively didn’t get there overnight

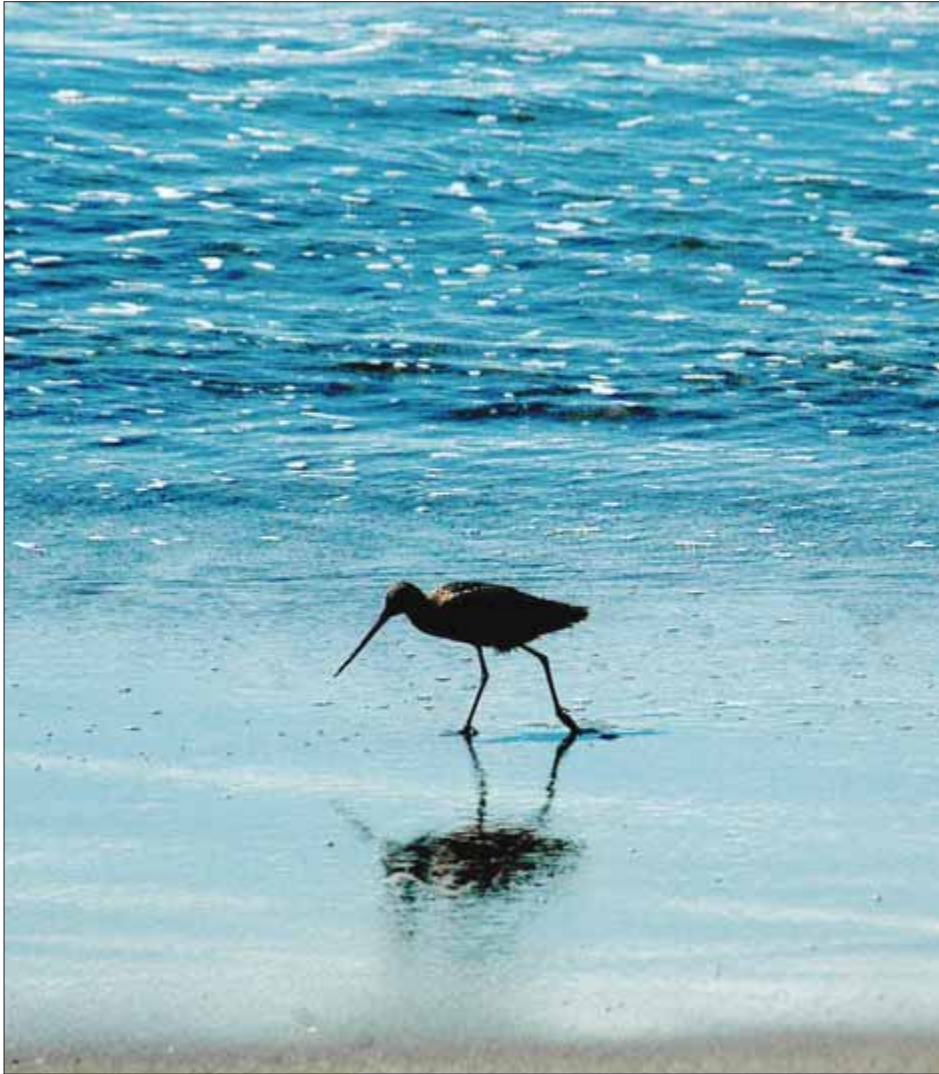
SEAGALL WATCHES, from page 1

activity on the tracking number and assured her the watches would arrive on March 13, police said. That’s when the watchmaker searched on eBay and recognized one of the watches was being sold for \$2,500. He made an offer of \$3,000, contacted the seller and asked if he had any more models like it. Taylor allegedly told the watchmaker he had one other watch.

The watchmaker contacted Seagal’s employee, who then reported the incident to police. SMPD detectives determined the suspect was a Fed Ex employee. At 4:35 p.m. on Tuesday, police arrested Taylor at his Los Angeles residence for grand theft. He was taken to Santa Monica Jail. His bail is set at \$200,000. The watches are described as being in an 18K Russian gold case and had a handmade dial painted with super luminova — black, orange and green colors.



A digable planet



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

LUNCH BREAK: Using his long beak, a Sandpiper digs for sand crabs along the Santa Monica shoreline.

Banks make efforts to woo immigrants

LATINOS, from page 9

For some clients of Carrillo's, opening a stored-value card like Central Bank of Kansas City's "tarjeta segura" is a good first step.

Dual-account cards are another popular option for clients who want to send remittances home; many banks now offer savings accounts that feature a sub-account in Mexico, accessible via a Visa or MasterCard-branded debit card.

In Garden City, Kan., where the Hispanic population more than doubled in the last 20 years thanks to the booming meatpacking industry, several companies are offering their employees payroll cards. It's another alternative to a bank account, and lets employers like Pizza Hut and McDonald's deposit workers' earnings directly to an account in the company's bank, which employees can then draw on from an ATM.

Bank of the West took a different route to attracting new Latino clients. It has

installed a waterproof ATM inside the Holcomb, Kan., IBP/Tyson meatpacking plant. The ATM can cash checks quickly to accommodate workers' short breaks, and can be hosed down when the factory gets a wash.

"You've got to meet people where they are," said Lydia Contreras, marketing officer for Central Bank of Kansas City. "It's a long road to have people say 'I'm just going to hand over the \$500 I've made in the last two weeks and trust that it will be there.' In Latin America, the government just decides to take it."

Agustina Chavez said Central Bank's bilingual tellers reassured her that her \$100 wouldn't disappear from her bank account unless she withdrew funds. But she wasn't entirely convinced.

"I put my son's checks in there and I use it to get money orders to pay bills," said Chavez, as she checked in at her neighborhood branch on Kansas City's Southwest Boulevard. "I feel like they have hidden fees. It's hard to save anything."

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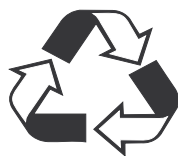
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Santa Monica Daily Press





Election attracting shady candidates

BY NATASHA LISOVA

Associated Press Writer

KIEV, Ukraine — Thirty-seven are under criminal investigation. Forty-one await trial. All are candidates in Ukraine's March 26 parliamentary elections.

The collection of shady characters on the ballot suggests little has changed in this ex-Soviet republic despite the high hopes and lofty promises of the 2004 Orange Revolution, when hundreds of thousands rallied under the slogan "Criminals in Jail."

"If you steal a hen or sack of grain from your neighbor, you go to jail, but if you steal a million you end up in parliament," said Volodymyr Stretovych, who heads the parliamentary committee against organized crime.

But the very fact voters are hearing about a candidate's unsavory past is a breakthrough compared to the lengths the government went in 2004 to hide and later deny the criminal past of then-presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich, whose record was later wiped clean.

The practice of seeking immunity from prosecution by taking up a parliamentary seat had become so standard in post-Soviet Ukraine that most people didn't pay attention. But that changed after the Orange Revolution protests that swept President Viktor Yushchenko to power on promises to clean up dirty politics.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, whose office is responsible for checking candidate lists to find those with criminal records, went public with the findings last month.

Eight candidates found to have criminal records have been struck off the ballots, and another two are in the process of being removed, said Yaroslav Davydovych, head of the Central Election Commission. According to Ukrainian law, convicted criminals can't run for the 450-seat parliament, while people with pending cases are not affected.

Lutsenko said his office has questions about the candidates of 34 of the 45 parties taking part in the elections. Among the parties with questionable candidates are Yushchenko's party and one led by Orange Revolution heroine Yulia Tymoshenko.

The rules are less stringent for local elections, which will be held on the same day as the national race. Former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who facing sentencing in a San Francisco court for money laundering and extortion, is vying for a seat in a regional council in eastern Ukraine.

Lutsenko's singling out of opposition parties for stronger criticism has drawn charges of politicking, particularly after he declared that 25 percent of the Yanukovich party list are "my clients" — a tongue-in-cheek reference to people of interest to the police. He did not back up his allegations.

"Lutsenko is just making many groundless accusations as he himself campaigns," said Taras Chornovil, a Yanukovich ally.

Natalia Vytrenko, leader of the People's Opposition party, sued the interior minister for saying two candidates on her party list were wanted by Interpol.

They did not dispute the actual allegation. Lutsenko has appealed the decision, insisting that he has a right to inform society about who is running.

Some politicians say they have been unfairly targeted in the movement to expose criminal candidates. Andriy Shkil, an ally of Tymoshenko, said his name was on the list for a public disorder case he calls politically charged since it was opened in 2001 during a mass protest against then-President Leonid Kuchma.

Most of the investigations against the 37 candidates concern corruption and economic crimes, though exact details haven't been made public. Many of the 41 facing trial are charged with corruption.

Many Ukrainians believe that the revelations in 2004 about Yanukovich's earlier convictions helped swing support to Yushchenko — and gave political parties the impetus to pursue their rivals' buried pasts.

Yanukovich was sentenced to three years in prison for robbery and assault in 1967, at age 17, but was released because he was a juvenile. The conviction was annulled when the alleged victim withdrew his statement. In 1970, Yanukovich was sentenced to two years in prison for an assault and battery, but again the alleged victim withdrew testimony and the conviction was annulled.

Yevhen Poberezhniy, a member of the Ukraine's Voters advocacy group, defended the drive to release as much information as possible, saying voters have a right to know all they can about candidates.

"Parties bear responsibility before voters for the criminal past of people in their lists," he said.

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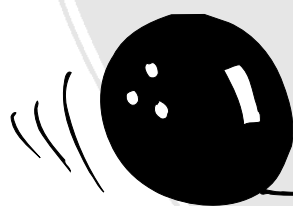
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INTERNATIONAL



Palestinians vent anger over West Bank jail raid

BY KARIN LAUB

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — After Israel's grab of top Palestinian prisoners from a West Bank jail, angry Palestinians staged protest strikes Wednesday and their embarrassed president rushed back from Europe. Israel said it was determined to put the detainees on trial for the 2001 assassination of a Cabinet minister.

"Got 'em!" gloated one banner newspaper headline above a large photo of blindfolded, handcuffed Palestinian militant leader Ahmed Saadat being led away by Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Jericho.

Tuesday's daylong siege came just two weeks before Israel's general election and boosted acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's image as a tough-minded leader. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, a member of Olmert's centrist Kadima Party, dismissed allegations by Palestinian officials and critics at home that the operation, which involved some 1,000 troops, was timed to win over hardline voters.

The raid triggered unprecedented Palestinian reprisals against foreigners, because British wardens left their posts just before Israeli troops arrived.

Gunmen vandalized Western offices and kidnapped 11 foreigners, including an American university professor. By Wednesday afternoon, all had been released.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cut short a European trip and called the raid an "unforgivable crime" and "an insult to the Palestinian people" as he toured the demolished complex.

Abbas suggested there was close coordination between British and American inspectors at the prison and Israeli forces. Abbas said the foreign monitors left Jericho at 9:20 a.m. Tuesday, and that Israeli forces entered town 10 minutes later.

Pressed to elaborate, he said: "I'm giving the facts. They (the monitors) left at 9:20 a.m., and the Israelis came in at 9:30 a.m. How can we explain that?"

The Israeli raid made Abbas appear increasingly weak to his people.

"This was a severe blow to the Palestinian Authority and to Abu Mazen (Abbas) personally," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, who was accompanying him.

The raid came at a time when Abbas is wrangling over the division of powers with the Islamic militant group Hamas, which is poised to form a new government this month. In the West Bank city of Nablus, hundreds chanted anti-Abbas slogans during a protest.

Israeli forces took the Palestinian Authority by surprise when they ringed the Jericho prison Tuesday and demanded the surrender of all prisoners, including Saadat and four accomplices in the 2001 assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi.

Throughout the day, groups of prisoners emerged from the lockup, their hands raised and forced to strip to their underwear. Helicopters and tanks shelled the building, and jackhammers tore down walls to force the others to give up as well. Saadat, leader of a radical PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), held out until after nightfall, then walked out in a single file of prisoners and Palestinian police.

More than 300 Palestinians were detained, and about 100 have since been released, including many policemen who had been stationed at jail. Saadat and other top prisoners were questioned overnight at a small army base near Jericho. In addition to the PFLP prisoners, Israel seized Fuad Shobaki, the alleged financier of an illegal weapons shipment to the Palestinian Authority several years ago.

Olmert said Wednesday the six "will be indicted according to Israeli law and they will be punished as they deserve."

The four believed to be directly involved in the assassination were convicted in the past by a Palestinian court, and Israeli legal experts said earlier Wednesday it was unclear whether they could be tried again.

Despite the legal questions, Israel intends to keep Saadat and the others, Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni

told Army Radio. "I have no doubt that they will stay with us for a long time," he said.

Outgoing Palestinian Foreign Minister Nasser al-Kidwa said Israel would violate international law by trying the six, but did not explain.

Zeevi, an ultranationalist who advocated the expulsion of Palestinians from Israeli-controlled territory, was shot to death in the hallway of a Jerusalem hotel in October 2001, and the PFLP claimed responsibility.

Saadat and four PFLP activists directly involved in the killing were eventually arrested by Palestinian police. In April 2002, a makeshift court hastily convened in then-Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's West Bank compound sentenced the four to prison terms ranging from one to 18 years. Saadat was not charged, with Palestinian officials saying at the time they did not believe he was involved in the Zeevi killing.

At the time of the trial, Israeli forces were besieging Arafat's compound, in part to seize the PFLP suspects. Under an internationally brokered deal to end the siege, Saadat and the others were transferred to Jericho, where U.S. and British inspectors were to supervise

**"This was a severe blow to the
Palestinian Authority
and to Abu Mazen (Abbas)
personally,"**

SAEB EREKAT
Palestinian negotiator

their imprisonment.

British and American officials said they had complained repeatedly about security conditions at the prison and threatened in a letter last week to remove the monitors if things did not improve immediately.

Prime Minister Tony Blair defended the withdrawal of British monitors, saying it came after careful consideration and months of warnings about problems at the jail.

"The idea that this was ... uncalled-for or not thought through is simply wrong," he said in his weekly House of Commons question session.

Al-Kidwa said the letter was confusing and never made clear the foreigners were planning to leave their post.

Israeli officials said that once the monitors left, they were forced to act in light of recent statements by Palestinian officials and Hamas leaders — including incoming Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh — of plans to release the prisoners.

"As soon as Haniyeh said that he is going to free them, why should we give them any time?" Mofaz told Army Radio on Wednesday.

Israeli politicians, from Benjamin Netanyahu of the hard-line Likud Party to Yossi Beilin of the dovish Meretz Party, accused Kadima of trying to lure voters.

"I wouldn't say that this was the main reason but if elections weren't happening, maybe the decision would have been different," Beilin told Army Radio.

Mofaz denied political concerns motivated the raid, saying the timing was determined by the departure of the monitors. "We knew a week before that it could happen any day, but did someone plan this timing?" Mofaz said.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said conditions at the prison were so bad that the observers had to work from the roof rather than the inside of the prison. Guards were allowing prisoners to use mobile phones in violation of the agreement and failing to enforce rules limiting visitors and phone calls, he said.

On Wednesday, Palestinians closed shops across the West Bank and Gaza to protest the raid, amid an outburst of anti-Western sentiment. In Gaza, schools opened, but most students left early in a show of protest. Nablus residents observed a general strike.

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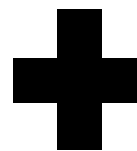
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Santa Monica City Manager

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Costner playing it chill in N.C.

By The Associated Press

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — Fake snow and about 70 local extras are helping to transform the local U.S. Coast Guard station into an Alaskan counterpart for a movie starring Kevin Costner.

Filming in the area began Monday for “The Guardian,” which is set in Kodiak, Alaska, and co-stars Ashton Kutcher.

Costner’s character teaches Coast Guard rescue swimmers, including Kutcher, who plays a cocky swim champion who is training to become a rescue swimmer.

“They haven’t taken too many Hollywood liberties,” said Jeff Loftus, the movie’s technical coordinator and a former Coast Guard motion picture liaison. “Overall, it’s going to be very realistic.”

Off-duty Coast Guard members used as extras at the station, helicopters and C-130 airplanes were being used to add realism.

Most of the filming was done in Shreveport, La., after Hurricane Katrina made New Orleans unusable, but more equipment was available at Elizabeth City, film officials said.

NEW YORK — Jennie Garth is expecting her third child with actor-husband Peter Facinelli, Us magazine reports.

“Peter and I feel very blessed with our children,” the 33-year-old actress is quoted as telling the magazine in its latest issue, on newsstands Wednesday.

The couple have two daughters, Lola Ray, 3, and Luca Bella, 8.

“We didn’t plan any one of them, but higher forces and recognizing priorities helped us along the way. We can’t wait to meet this newest addition to our family!” Garth says.

The Associated Press left a phone message for her press representative Wednesday.

Garth, star of the WB sitcom “What I Like About You,” and Facinelli, 32, were married in 2001.

“Marriages aren’t easy, and we’re just like any other couple,” says Garth, who starred as Kelly Taylor on the ‘90s TV series “Beverly Hills, 90210.”

“We have our roadblocks, but we get around them, and our family prevails. We are so happy we have a normal, grounded life to keep us centered.”

LOS ANGELES — Scott Stapp is suing in an effort to stop a California company from selling or promoting a sex video featuring himself, Kid Rock and four women.

The federal lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles on Tuesday against World Wide Red Light District, is similar to one Kid Rock’s lawyers brought last month in Detroit.

A U.S. District Court judge there has signed a temporary order barring the company from distributing or promoting any portion of the tape, including a 40-second preview clip that was displayed on Red Light District’s Web sites.

Stapp’s lawsuit alleges that two tapes, described as a “video diary” of his 1999 concert tour, were stolen from a safe at his house. The lawsuit states that Red Light District vio-

lated the former Creed singer’s trademark and privacy rights, causing him embarrassment, pain, suffering and emotional distress.

The action seeks a restraining order barring the company from distributing the video.

A call to Red Light District lawyer Ray Tamaddon after business hours Tuesday went unanswered.

Red Light District has said the tape came from a third party, but Tamaddon denied it had been stolen. He has declined to say how the company’s source acquired the video.

HONG KONG — Jackie Chan says his dream role would be portraying a firefighter, but he thinks he’s too old to play one.

“My wish is to bring my heroes to the big screen, and many of them have already appeared in my films. The firefighter is the only one I have yet to put in a film,” the 51-year-old Chan said in a posting on his Web site.

“I have dragged this idea on for so many years, even if I want to make it, now I feel that my age makes me unsuitable. If I do make this film, I would no longer play a firefighter, and would more likely be a firefighting captain. But if I were to be honest with you, the role I want to play most is the firefighter,” the action star said.

Chan, who recently served as ambassador for the World Firefighters Games in Hong Kong, has suffered numerous injuries while performing his own movie stunts.

His screen credits include roles in the “Rush Hour” movies, “The Medallion” and “The Tuxedo.”

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MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

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

Capote
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:15pm 10pm
The Hills Have Eyes
2:15pm 5:15pm 8pm 10:30pm
Curious George
1pm 3:30pm 5:45pm
Night Watch (Nochnoi Dozor)
7:45pm 10:15pm
Transamerica
1:30pm 4:15pm 7pm 9:45pm

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

Aquamarine
11:40am 2:10pm 4:40pm 7:10pm
9:40pm
Ultraviolet
12:30pm 2:50pm 5:10pm 7:30pm
9:50pm
Firewall
4:50pm 10:10pm
Munich
11:30am 3pm 6:30pm 10pm
The Pink Panther
11:50am 2pm 4:30pm 7pm 9:20pm
The Libertine
2:20pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:20pm
Syriana
1:50pm 7:20pm

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

Eight Below
1:30pm 4:20pm 7:10pm 9:50pm
16 Blocks
2:15pm 4:45pm 7:25pm 10:05pm
Date Movie
2:40pm 5:05pm 7:15pm 9:40pm
Dave Chappelle's Block Party
1:50pm 4:40pm 7:35pm 10:15pm
Failure to Launch
2:25pm 4:55pm 7:30pm 10pm
The Shaggy Dog
2pm 2:40pm 4:30pm 5:10pm 7pm
7:40pm 9:30pm 10:10pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

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

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

Mrs. Henderson Presents
1:50pm 4:25pm 7pm 9:35pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
4pm 9:35pm
Ask the Dust
1:20pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 9:55pm
Good Night, and Good Luck
1:35pm 7:20pm
Duck Season
12:45pm 3:05pm 5:25pm 7:45pm 10pm

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Avenue
(323) 466-FILM

See No Evil
Wednesday, March 15
7:30 PM
Narrow Margin & Violent
Thursday, March 16
7:30 PM
Brick
Friday, March 17
7:30 PM
Boston Strangler & 10 Rillington Place
Saturday, March 18
7:30 PM
20,000 Leagues Under/Sea
Sunday, March 19
3:00 PM
Fantastic Voyage & Soylent Green
Sunday, March 19
6:30 PM

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Obituaries

Obituaries

MITCHELL, AGNES DOROTHY



Dorothy Mitchell was a lifelong resident of Santa Monica. Dorothy was born July 28, 1943 and passed away March 9, 2006. She is survived by her beloved husband of 64 years, Harry Mitchell, her beloved family; three children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Dorothy attended St. Clements Catholic School in Santa Monica where she sang in the choir. She then went to Santa Monica High where she graduated. Dorothy loved life and always had a kind word about everyone. Her smile and kind words will always be remembered.

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GROCERY CLERK-SM Coop Nat Foods Grocer. F/T Eves & weekends. Apply at 1525 Broadway.

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Santa Monica.

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Notices

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Pursuant To California Self-Storage Facility Act (B & P Code 21700 ET SEQ) the Undersigned Will Sell At Public Auction. On The Below Listed Day, Time, And Location. Notice Of Public Sale of Personal Property: The Personal Property including, but not limited To Listed Items Stored by the Following Persons or Businesses: On the 23rd Day of March 2006 at 12:30 PM at AA Olympic/Centinella SS 3250 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica, CA. 90404 (310) 829-2525

Unit #
2445 - Christy Tomlinson - golf clubs, gas scooter, refrigerator, bags, car seat, plastic containers, speakers
2625 - Eugene Miller - monitor, stove, microwave, TV, lamp, cabinet, bedding, ironing board, bags
2750 - Gwen Owens - boxes, chairs, headboard, plastic containers
3036 - Ken Hedges - table, trunk, clothing, luggage, boxes, bags
2251 - Manny Garcia - table, bags, boxes, TV, bed, couch, TV cabinet, boom box, microwave

AUCTIONEER: K.E. AUCTION SERVICE
14363 Del Amo Dr. Victorville, CA. 92392 (760) 243-9969 CA. BOND #K050-67-19-4

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN749937 3-23-06 Mar 9,16, 2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FLORICE WILSON TALLEY
Case No. BP097233

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of FLORICE WILSON TALLEY

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Frumeh Labow in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Frumeh Labow be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

Notices

A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 10, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:

PAUL F COHEN ESQ
SBN 046612

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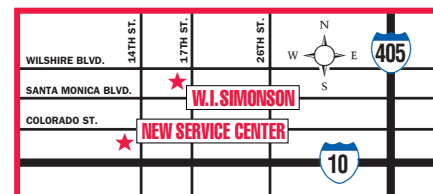
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