



Santa Monica Daily Press

March 18-19, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 108

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 10 15 27 41
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$23 million

FANTASY 5

8 19 26 35 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 0 6
Evening: 9 6 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 07 Eureka!

RACE TIME: 1.45.30

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

The latest product for routine U.S. outsourcing is sperm, according to a November report by Wired.com. In a program established by the highly regarded Dr. Sanford Rosenberg of Richmond, Va., a potential father's sperm is shipped to a lab in Bucharest, Romania, to fertilize eggs of local women, with the resultant embryos frozen and returned to the United States for implanting in the mother, at about half the domestic price for the procedure.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 77th day of 2006.
There are 288 days left in the year.

On March 18, 1965, the first space-walk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.
In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act.
In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, N.J.
In 1931, Schick Inc. marketed the first electric razor.

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Citizens have it in for gangs

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press staff writer

CITYWIDE — With residents united in their condemnation of gang violence following the murder of 15-year-old Santa Monica High School student Eduardo "Eddie" Lopez, elected officials are looking to harness the momentum and move forward with initiatives geared towards eliminating gangs once and for all.

Efforts begin in earnest this morning at 10 a.m., with a gang violence workshop at John Adams Middle School — the third in a year-long series hosted by State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, City Hall and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

See GANG VIOLENCE, page 12

For once, it's easy being green



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Bar patrons the city over saw the world through green-colored glasses on Friday. (Above) Finn McCool's on Main Street was awash in green all day, as revelers toasted the Emerald Isle.

PAL helps at-risk youths go distance



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Kids from the Police Activities League pile it high during their carbo load dinner at the Sheraton Delfina Hotel on Thursday in preparation for the LA Marathon.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press staff writer

MEMORIAL PARK — When he signed up to run the Los Angeles Marathon three years ago, 17-year-old James Cuellar thought training for the grueling 26.2-mile trek would be a great way to stay out of trouble. Turns out, he was right.

But keeping a clean record wasn't the only benefit. Cuellar, who will run his third marathon tomorrow, has noticed his health improve, along with his attitude and self-confidence.

"I just love the feeling I get after running," he said. "It's that feeling you get when you know that you've accomplished something that maybe you never thought you could do before. It makes you feel great to know that I can change my

See MARATHON, page 12

Lifestyles of the rich and lunar

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — If floating weightless and peering down on a shimmering-blue Earth sounds appealing, you might consider being a space tourist.

As long as you've got a fat wallet. Two years after the first privately financed space flight jump-started a sleepy industry, more than a dozen companies are developing rocket planes to ferry ordinary rich people out of the atmosphere.

See SPACE TOURIST, page 13

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HOROSCOPES

Your treat, Libra

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)

★★★★★ If you are willing to take in the big picture, you will be at the first step to achieving your desires. The path will suddenly seem clear. You will notice that the only person who challenges you is you. Tonight: Build your self-confidence.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ If a friend is awry, you know how to handle it. It is clear that a partner or close associate could disagree with your logic. Don't make this a battle. Together you might come up with a better idea or plan. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Deferring to others could be difficult under the circumstances. Use your imagination to get past an immediate issue. You might be a bit pushed by someone you respect. Diplomatically say no. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You seem to wake up on the right side of the bed. The trick is to take that attitude through your day. News might irritate you, forcing you to rethink a situation. You also could cruise right over the issue if you so choose. Tonight: Live it up!



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take charge and handle a matter that keeps landing in your lap. You have trouble coming up with solutions. It might be difficult to get to the basis of a problem. You have what it takes. Don't feel pressured. Tonight: Entertain from home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to defer to someone else, especially as uproar surrounds nearly any decision or action you take. Sometimes you might be more worn out and tired by a drama than you choose to let others know. Tonight: Out and about.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might want to make a splash on the town, and you also might not want to deal with what is going on with others. They will let you know that you are out of kilter and off-base. Listen, but don't necessarily take anyone's word as gospel. Tonight: Your treat.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others might not be 100 percent with you, and that simply might not be a problem for you. Review a difficult situation with an eye to change and growth. Sometimes you will feel frustrated by others. Tonight: The world according to you!



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You might want to rethink your plans. If you feel like you want to go on retreat or go for a picnic with a special friend, do. You need to make yourself happy. Listen to your sixth sense about yourself, too! Tonight: Do something for yourself.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Friends make it clear that they want you around them. My goodness, you might have to put up with a tantrum or two on the way. Don't get plugged into another's woes. Just do as you say. Live your word, Cap. Tonight: Find the action.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Stay on top of situations right now, and your day will flow. A child or loved might not realize that he or she is testing his or her limits. Though you might not want to, saying no could be absolutely necessary. Tonight: In the limelight.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Sometimes you don't get the big picture, possibly because you don't want to. Your domestic life could be tense, and you alternate between frustration and wanting to change the sequence of events. Go for a walk or to a movie, knowing that time is your ally. Tonight: Avoid getting caught up in trivial issues.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross raises the roof on revenues

By Daily Press staff

The local chapter of the Red Cross is a diamond in the rough when it comes to raising revenue.

The Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross was honored earlier this month with a coveted “Diamond Award for Excellence in Health and Safety Revenue Generation” from the national American Red Cross. The award was presented at the Red Cross Pacific Service Area Awards Luncheon in Long Beach.

The award recognized Arthur Rojas, the Santa Monica chapter’s director of health and safety services, and his team, for the highest per-capita health and safety sales in the service region which includes California, Guam, the Pacific Islands and Hawaii.

Rojas is in charge of classes which include basic courses in first aid and CPR for adults, children and infants, pet CPR, lifeguard training, CPR and first aid instructor training, lifeguard instructor training and CPR for the professional rescuer. The Santa Monica chapter conducted more than 1,495 classes and trained 8,951 individuals last year.

Depending on the course, tuition can range from \$39 to \$95 per person. Those fees defray chapter expense and supplement donations from the public. Art and his team raised more than \$208,000 for the organization last year.

Rojas contributes much of his team’s success to personal attention.

“People have heard about our special attention to quality and the excellent service our chapter provides,” he said. “ They are willing to drive from as far as 200 miles to take our courses, year after year.

“Many businesses and occupations require a knowledge of and/or certification in CPR and First Aid to meet Cal-OSHA requirements,” he added. “Having employees with training is just good business practice and part of “being prepared” in emergencies. Our group training can be held either at the chapter or in the workplace.”

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica will offer free adult and child CPR classes on “Super CPR Saturday” March 25. Persons can sign up by registering in advance. Classes are three hours long and will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St.

For additional information or to inquire about other programs or assistance call (310) 394-3773, or go online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

Car wash, bake sale to benefit Lopez family

By Daily Press staff

Come one, come all.

La Sociedad and the Christian Club are staging a car wash and bake sale this Sunday, March 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., in the north lot of Santa Monica High School.

All proceeds will benefit the family of Eddie Lopez, a Samohi student who was murdered on Feb. 28 by an unknown assailant.

Revelers draw a bead on Topanga

By Daily Press staff

It’s Carnivale in Topanga next weekend.

It’s time once again for the Topanga Elementary Silent Auction, Dinner and Dance. Get ready for “Carnivale, Topanga Style!” Grab your beads and masks and come enjoy culinary delights, exotic libations and music on March 25, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Everyone is invited to come and be a part of “Carnivale, Topanga Style,” while supporting Topanga Enrichment Programs (TEP), the non-profit 501(3)(c) fundraising organization for the children of Topanga Elementary Charter School.

Great deals on auction items, such as vacation packages, original works of art and gift baskets from every classroom, as well as some surprise auction items, will be offered.

The money raised goes to Topanga Enrichment Programs. Last year, the silent auction raised \$40,000 for the kids attending the school, and the goal is to meet or beat that this year. Funds raised will pick up where budget cutbacks have left off: teacher aides in every classroom, science teacher, art programs, and physical education are among the important education necessities of an elementary education that TEP funds.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. A band will be announced later.

SMC jazzed up for April

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present an eclectic lineup of concerts in April, covering a wide range of musical styles. All concerts will be held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The lineup is as follows:

- Sunday, April 2 at 4 p.m.: SMC Jazz Band, under Keith Fiddmont. (Tickets are \$10)
- Tuesday, April 4 at 11:15 a.m.: Nora Chiang Piano Recital. (Free)
- Thursday, April 20 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Jazz Band Vocalists with Jon Mayer, under the baton of Keith Fiddmont. (Free)
- Sunday, April 23 at 4 p.m.: SMC Concert Band, under the baton of Kevin McKeown. (Tickets are \$10)
- Friday, April 28 at 8 p.m.: SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble Concert, under the direction of Cindy Bourquin. (Tickets are \$10)
- Saturday, April 29 at 8 p.m.: Benefit Concert for the SMC Applied Music Program, under the direction of Frank Turner. (Tickets are \$10)

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

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 12/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				
JUNE MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
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 23/28
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: Machine Groomed, Wet				
MT. BALDY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 35"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 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 - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				
SNOW VALLEY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 48" - 54"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 53°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today we'll get hit with another of those Gulf of Alaska swells, which like recent swells with this origin will bring some foul weather. Rain is inevitable at this point, and what surf there is out there will be crappy with 6-8 second periods running chest high but peaky, windy, and rainy.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Storm driven NW bearing down on coast...

Next NW'er due Wednesday the 22nd...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

SUNDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

MONDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

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N/A

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





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The Q-Line

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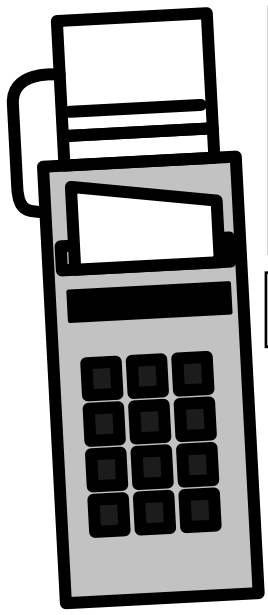
THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

We have the questions.
You have the answers.
Check out this week's Q-Line responses on page 4.

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The Q Line

A BRAKE WITH TRADITION IS AT ISSUE

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Do you support the building of new parking garages in Santa Monica? Why or why not?”

Here are your responses:

☉ “Of course I support more parking garages in Santa Monica. We need them constantly for shoppers and visitors. If Kevin McKeown wants to ride his bicycle around town that’s fine, but there are people who come in from out of town with rental cars and all types of business people who need parking, and the Promenade will never get less busy. So it’s about time we make the move and have some vision about the parking situation in Santa Monica.”

☉ “I am against increasing parking garages further into the city of Santa Monica because more cars in downtown Santa Monica, more environmental impact in Santa Monica, and more greenhouse effect, in a larger effect. I also think Santa Monica should really start thinking about developing for a world with less oil available. I mean, close your eyes and think about what’s going to happen if there is not enough oil anymore to drive all those cars, and do we want to deal with that at the time it’s happening, because it may start happening soon.”

☉ “The city shouldn’t have to pay to build all these parking buildings when it’s not the city who is bringing in all the traffic. Every time these developers, they get in, come in, and they tear down something little to build something big and that brings in more people. So, if anyone should be paying to build more parking spaces the developers should. Make them put in parking in their own projects or make them pay for the parking buildings, the city shouldn’t have to pay for it.”

☉ “I think leave it the way it is. However, as a disabled member of this community, I think it’s high time for you to fix the streets and sidewalks because they’re not pedestrian friendly or wheelchair friendly.”

☉ “Reno, Nevada, has the reputation of being the biggest little city in the world. Apparently, the entity that stamped that label on Reno, had never visited the city of Santa Monica. If Reno, Nevada, had the same amount of vehicular traffic that Santa Monica has on a daily basis it would truly be the biggest little city in the world. There is not an intersection anywhere in Santa Monica, on a daily basis that does not have vehicles jockeying for crossing rights. And how can there be any other way? Nearly every westbound and major roadway from all points east empties onto Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. It does not matter if the city adds 700 new parking spaces, or seven million. If the city built seven million, then motorists would come to Santa Monica to see seven million parking spaces. It does not take much to excite some people. Santa Monica has two major drawing cards, and by the most part are free. Those two things are the Pacific Ocean and the most beautiful sunsets known to mankind. Trust me folks that’s it.”

☉ “The need for added downtown parking spaces and parking structures has been reaffirmed in the face of proposals voted by the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus company to reduce evening and weekend service on some lines, and to double the bus fares by eliminating free transfers for those who need to connect from bus to bus to get downtown. Since public transportation will become impractical and useless for many who now use public transportation to get downtown those people who might wish to visit the Promenade at night and on weekends will have to rely upon their cars or at least rely upon friends or relatives to drive them downtown. Many more parking spaces therefor are imperative. However, councilman McKeown whose no growth policies downtown have contributed to the imminent failing of the movie complexes on the promenade as wonderful theaters are built outside of Santa Monica, might actually see his position justified in the long run as the theater complexes on the promenade close without replacements, meaning that fewer people will need to reach the promenade by public transportation, or by car, and the proposals by the Big Blue Bus company and Kevin McKeown’s adamant position about parking structures might signal that the theaters are gone without replacements.”

☉ “What? More buildings downtown? It’s like driving through canyons as it is. Building five-story parking structures just gives the developers a foot in the door to build higher. More businesses and housing downtown mean more of what our leaders love most: taxes to spend on their social programs. How about less business, less housing, less traffic, less bums, less City Hall bureaucracy? We want our beach town back.”

☉ “I strongly support the building of the new parking garages in Santa Monica, the original plan of 1712 spaces. In addition, I think they should make those buildings two more stories higher and put low income housing on top of them and do this whenever they have a public works project for a new library, police station, fire department parking structure, whatever they got the funds to do the building that does not cost them that much more to but two stories on top and give people a place to live.”

☉ “Spending a large amount of public money on parking cars is becoming less and less wise given that the ability to use cars is becoming more and more compromised by the price of fuel and the congestion. Let’s focus on getting people into downtown without having to use their automobile. Let’s get them onto smaller vehicles, let’s get them onto mass transit that works for everyone especially the employees who are trying to make a living downtown. It’s too expensive to drive from places where they can afford to live. So less parking and better ways to get people into downtown that don’t require cars.”

☉ “Well, the 715 spaces seem warranted. It’s the 1,000 extra spaces that, a developers scheme, to have the city provide parking for a half million square feet of unapproved new commercial development in downtown. That’s in addition to the civic center and the Santa Monica Place. Just how much more congestion do we want our downtown to be in Santa Monica?”

Hard to put a finger on what’s amiss in these courtships



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Years ago, people found dates and prospective mates at school, at work, through friends, or just by running into them by accident. That was back in the years B.C., Before Computers. Now, computer dating sites are extremely popular. But even if they work, are they preferable to meeting people the old fashioned way?

Eharmony.com claims that 30,000 couples have gotten married as a result of meeting on its site. Of course, there are millions of people who have gotten married without going on a dating site. There are many online dating services, some catering specifically to people of a certain religion or ethnic background. For some online services, you have to answer hundreds of questions. Some of the dating services claim to be “scientific.” Reducing love to science has been repudiated in many romantic comedy movies involving a scientist who falls in love in spite of him, or herself. But I guess some people just

haven’t been paying attention.

Chemistry.com was started by Helen Fisher who is something called a bioanthropologist. She seems to believe that love can be boiled down to brain chemistry. The first question on her site has to do with whether your second or your fourth finger is longer. According to Ms. Fisher, if your fourth finger is longer, this means that you were awash with testosterone while your mother was pregnant with you. But it’s not clear if that means your life partner should be someone with a similar ring finger longy or with a pointer longy.

Assuming that both people are telling the truth about themselves, it’s fairly easy for a computer to match people with similar interests. But do similarities attract or do opposites attract? The answer, obviously, is that it varies from couple to couple. We all know happy couples who have nothing in common and we all know couples who share all kinds of interests. So how does a dating computer handle that reality?

One of the goals of these services seems to be speed. The assumption is that busy professionals don’t have the time to go out on a bunch of dates with losers. Let the computer weed out the Mr. and Ms. Wrongs, and you just go out with the ones you’re more likely to hit it off with.

I have a feeling there are many people who, if their friends call to ask them out for the evening, they’d reply, “I can’t. I’m going to be up all night filling out my online dating questionnaire.” Wouldn’t all those hours they spend checking boxes and typing out their favorite foods be better spent outside of the house where they might actually meet someone in person?

Besides, I’m not so sure if the goal should be somebody you hit it off with right away. While there are many stories of love at first sight, there are at least as many about people who hated each other at first. Once again, we only need to look to most romantic comedies for collaboration. After a disastrous meeting, the couple gets to know each other, and then they realize they’re in love. You must know people that this has happened to.

I wouldn’t be married to my wife of 35 years if I had given up after the first time she told me she wanted to be “just friends.” But I badgered her and wore her down. That was part of the courtship process. How does badgering fit in with digital dating today? Is it becoming a lost art? Is there a “Come on. You’ll like me once you really get to know me” box to check?

Now there’s a new on-line service to help daters. It’s called

Don’tDateHimGirl.com. It’s a site that lists men who are known to have cheated on their girlfriends. If a woman has a bad experience with a cheater, she can register his name and photograph with the Web site, and, presumably, other women won’t get hurt as she did. Yikes! Shouldn’t we hear the cheater’s side of the story before he’s blasted all over cyberspace? And if this service is needed, shouldn’t there also be a Don’tDateHerGuys.com to help protect men from cheating women?

Reputable e-dating services warn that a person has to be patient, has to have realistic expectations, and has to use his or her instincts. Isn’t that the same advice you’d give someone using more old-fashioned dating methods? If they’re going to do all that, why do they need a computer dating service? But of course, that’s just my opinion. I’m no expert. I’m just a guy who’s been married a long time, has seen lots of movies, and whose second finger is slightly longer than his fourth.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com.)

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ELIAS SERNA

Solutions to violence among our youths aren't out of reach

Along with my 11-year-old son, Pico Youth and Family Center members, community members and more than 700 Samohi students, I marched to call for peace on the streets on Friday, March 11. We consoled the family and remembered Eddie Lopez who was fatally shot on Feb. 28. Marches also consolidate community around ideas, so I am writing at a crossroads to clarify that very different agendas were present, and mark divergent directions.

I propose that we do not need to look too far away to see critical solutions, and that "getting tough" on crime is not one of them and in fact contributes to violent outcomes. As in Iraq, I do not believe we need to police and attack suspects. City leaders do. The Pico neighborhood has the only Santa Monica park with a police sub-station, and has no library. The City Council last week proposed to change the color of police cars to "black and white" to resemble the more notorious LAPD.

At the same time, city leaders have actively worked to exclude the Pico Youth and Family Center from Virginia Park, explaining that the park needs to be inclusive to outsiders and will not grant the PYFC "permanent presence." No one is given exclusive use of the park — except police.

Gentrification comes with a police escort.

In January a packed meeting of the Virginia Park Advisory Committee overwhelmingly advocated for the presence of the PYFC at the park. They wanted transfer of PYFC programs from its present location on a busy Ninth Street and Pico Boulevard corner to the neighborhood park. City officials, namely cultural affairs director Barbara Stinchfield and elements of the SMPD have made it a point to exclude the PYFC mainly through miscommunication, delay and criminalization — creating a climate of fear they accuse the center of associating with "gang members."

By the end of the meeting, the advisory board decided to meet in committee to reword a recommendation to the parks and recreation department as to the "urgency in the need for programming for older youth at the park." This signaled the division among the board, but also a hesitancy to make a judgment on the place of the PYFC.

It's important to review key points brought up by speakers that day to clarify the function of the PYFC in Santa Monica. Santa Monica College student Alex Aldana, a recent Samohi graduate, emphasized the role of the center in providing him counsel and role models that have shaped his role as a community leader. Alex has organized poetry slams, Malcolm X Day and was a teaching assistant at UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access (IDEA). Numerous youth from the center spoke, including two who produced a socially conscious rap CD in the PYFC's music studio. They were attending SMC and pointed out that no songs had cuss

words. Several college-bound seniors recognized the center's influence on their lives and explained that its presence at the park will allow various older youth with younger siblings to also have a place at the park.

Two sole Anglo men spoke against the center, implying it as a haven of crime. I thought this was racist but a Chicano educator who grew up on Pico emphasized that the park needs to be inclusive of all of Santa Monica, and cordially suggested the men visit the center before making judgments. The final speaker, Mike Jackson, a black case manager at the center and Samohi graduate reiterated two key themes that are worth evaluating here.

Firstly, he recognized one of the children of a parent who at 10 years old is an adorable child. To think of how in perhaps six short years he will be looked at as a threat to society and fit the appropriate profile, color and age to be suspect of gang membership demonstrates how pervasive and deceptive the criminalization of black and brown youth is in our society.

Secondly, he acknowledged how the work, achievements and goals of the PYFC are ideal for the community, and the leadership consists of people who grew up in the neighborhood, yet are for some reason feared and not trusted. I had earlier pointed out that our city is plagued by a similar fear of organic leadership.

From my own experience as an English teacher at Samohi four years ago, black and Latino educators were hampered by administrative neglect of their unique and important skills. Instead of valuing indigenous connections to the community, these teachers and staff were expected to be "good Mexicans" or "good blacks," employees who follow the leadership of authority. Community connections and insights continue, in fact, to be perceived by these authorities as "political" and a threat to their control.

While PYFC staff busy themselves running programs, the center's director Oscar dela Torre stated recently, "people are playing politics with the lives of youth."

In the larger picture — not only Santa Monica, but the nation and world — established leaders need to be more inclusive and, if the word has not completely lost its meaning, democratic. We need to abandon old patterns and behaviors of exclusion, and understand that marginalized voices and ideas from the street level contain insights and genuine answers to urgent problems.

By supporting unique and effective organizations such as the PYFC — as opposed to outside or state agencies and their often rigid, imposed and token solutions — we not only give a voice to local residents, we also empower one of our own home-grown institutions that is involved in building necessary "ways of life" for a world that crucially needs new social visions.

(Elias Serna is a professor at Cal State University Northridge who resides in Santa Monica.)

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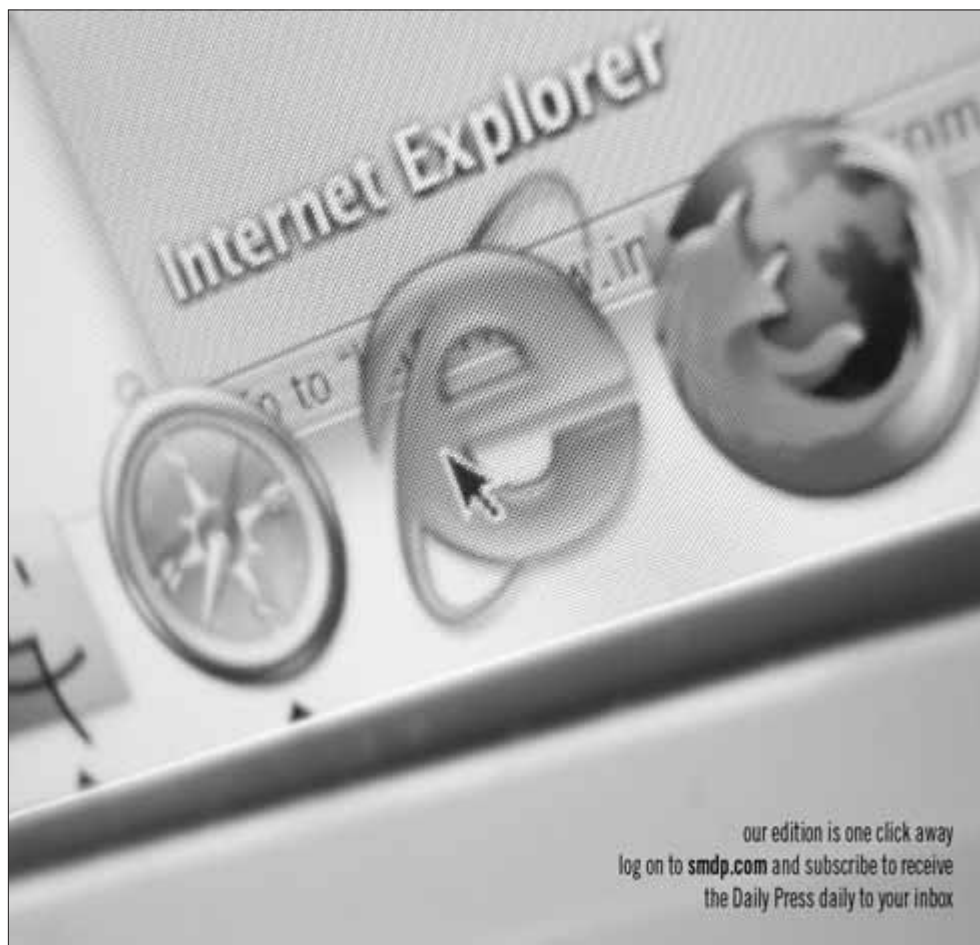
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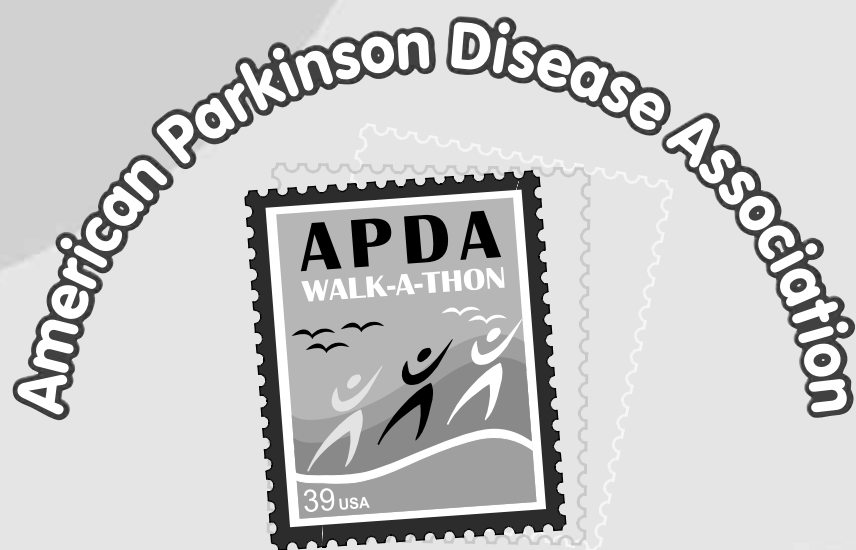
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STATE

Quake centennial a boon for insurers

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — When Charlie Bott got an offer in the mail recently for earthquake insurance, he stared long and hard at the bottom line. Then he threw it away.

"It was way beyond anything you pay for house insurance. Not even in the same league," said Bott, a nuclear engineer with a baby on the way.

Now, like millions of others, he's hoping the Big One doesn't strike — or if it does, that the government will come to the rescue.

Californians have built vast metropolises atop seismic faults, but 86 percent of the state's homeowners have no quake insurance, a proportion that has crept upward as memories of past quakes fade.

"It's a game of Russian roulette," said Norman Williams, an assistant deputy commissioner at the state Department of Insurance.

State officials are hoping that next month's 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake will inspire Californians to prepare. That quake and subsequent fires destroyed 28,000 buildings and left 225,000 of the city's 400,000 residents homeless. Estimates of the death toll range from less than 500 to more than 3,000, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters ever to strike the United States.

Hurricane Katrina, which killed more than 1,300 people, has had a dual effect on homeowners in the Bay Area, where geologists project a 62 percent probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake in the next 26 years.

Some Californians called their insurance agents and signed up for quake coverage. But for many others, watching billions of dollars in federal aid pour into the Gulf Coast merely bolstered a sense that the government would come to the rescue after a big earthquake.

There's a joke in the insurance industry about this mind-set. It's nicknamed the "Air Force One Solution" — based on the myth that the president would surely fly over a disaster zone dropping \$100 bills from his plane.

"Good luck with that," said Nancy Kincaid, director of public policy, mitigation and communications for the California Earthquake Authority. The authority is the state's privately funded, publicly managed quake insurance provider; its member companies provide coverage to about 70 percent of Californians who have such protection.

"Everyone thinks the government will bail you out," she said, "but we've learned it's absolutely not true."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides only limited assistance, said spokeswoman Nicol Andrews.

"FEMA's not designed to make people whole after disaster, but to get people back on their feet," she said. The cap on FEMA grants to a single household is currently \$26,200, and on loans, \$150,000.

"It would be a false sense of security to rely on FEMA to rebuild a life the way it was before a disaster," Andrews said.

FEMA still maintains an office in

Northridge, near Los Angeles, for reconstruction projects 12 years after the deadly earthquake there. It's a testament to the limited powers of the government to swiftly rebuild lives.

The Northridge quake had a magnitude of 6.7 — in the range of the big quake that is likely to strike the San Francisco Bay area. It killed 72 people, left 9,000 injured and wreaked an estimated \$25 billion in damage.

Yet most Californians still pin their hopes on the federal government, should a quake badly damage their homes.

"That would be the only thing that would save the region," said Matthew Park, an information-technology manager who owns a home in Corte Madera, across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco.

"I am hopeful, but I think it's dicey," Park said of the federal government marching in with aid. "Based on Katrina, my confidence is low."

Still, Park decided against adding earthquake insurance to his homeowner's policy. "The deductible is ridiculously high, to the point where the level of protection you actually receive is anemic," he said.

The cost of earthquake insurance varies widely based on the home's location, age, type of construction, proximity to faults and type of land it's built upon — bedrock or landfill, for instance.

One homeowner in Oakland will pay \$1,468 this year for \$306,000 in insurance coverage for his house, with a deductible of nearly \$46,000. A house insured for \$500,000 in the Marina district of San Francisco — a neighborhood built on more unstable fill from the bay — costs \$2,400 a year to insure through the California Earthquake Authority, with a \$75,000 deductible.

In a region where many homeowners are already stretched thin by some of the highest home prices in the country, quake insurance is another expense they cannot afford to take on.

If the worst-case scenario struck, for example, Park would still owe the bank hundreds of thousands of dollars, on top of his reconstruction bill.

"I don't know where my funds would come from to manage that beefy mortgage and the additional costs of rebuilding," he said. "I guess it would be a foreclosure scenario."

The earthquake authority's rates will drop practically across the board in July, with the average decrease 22 percent, Kincaid said. This is driven in part by a recent government study that found the risk of quake damage was lower than previously thought in many densely populated areas.

Earthquake authority officials are also hoping the rate cut will help reverse a long slide in the number of homeowners who have quake insurance.

But some acknowledge they are simply gambling with their homes.

"The costs seem not to justify the expense," said Mike Janover, a marketing official at an Internet company. "My home is on bedrock, as well as the fact the place is 96 years old. If it hung in there this long, I made a bet it can hang in there for another five years before I sell it."

STATE



Trans-border shopping opens new doors at home

BY PETER PRENGAMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Odilon Hernandez recently bought a television for his parents back home in Puebla, Mexico. But he didn't intend to ship it or even load it in his car for his next trip across the border.

Instead, he took advantage of one of the growing number of U.S. retailers that sell products to immigrants here then deliver the items directly to relatives back home.

For Mother's Day, Hernandez bought a refrigerator and stove at the same La Curacao store where he shopped for the TV. Both kitchen appliances were delivered to his parents' house from well-stocked warehouses in Mexico.

"This service is great," said Hernandez, who has worked as a janitor since moving with his wife to Los Angeles five years ago. "More and more people are sending this way."

Immigrants have long sent money to relatives back home through wire-transfer services. But as the remittance market explodes — Latin American and Caribbean immigrants in the U.S. sent an estimated \$40 billion home in 2005 — stores and financial institutions are rushing to create new services to capitalize even more.

The result is a plethora of options for immigrants looking to spend money on goods and services.

Immigrants can now send everything from flowers to dining room sets. Many stores give them credit, even if they are in the United States illegally. They can even finance a house in their native country and make payments here.

Companies such as Los Angeles-based La Curacao determine credit eligibility for illegal immigrants based on how long they have been in the U.S., statements from relatives or employers about their financial situation, copies of bills paid consistently, and other information.

"We are basically financing people who often don't have a Social Security number or legal residence," said Mauricio Fux, La Curacao vice president for corporate development. "With billions of dollars going home to Mexico, we always ask ourselves, 'What can we do that is different?' to capture some of it."

Fux said competition to sell products has increased so much that La Curacao now guarantees delivery to almost any location in countries where the chain operates.

That sometimes means using donkeys, small boats or other unconventional methods to make deliveries to remote locations, he said.

Conservative groups opposed to illegal immigration often complain that undocumented workers are a drain on social services, but retail plans that allow them to buy products here for relatives back home have not drawn criticism.

Many of the firms involved are American-owned, and the purchases are akin to U.S. citizens using a catalog or the Internet to order products abroad.

Dozens of U.S. and Mexico-based companies — from chain-store retailers to mom-and-pop operations — offer their products and services through distribution deals with companies in Latin

America. Relatives on the receiving end don't have to deal with customs or import taxes.

The heaviest demand for the retail products comes from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Some companies also cater to other Latin American and Caribbean nations.

There are no statistics on immigrant spending on goods and services sent to their home countries. But it could be as much as \$10 billion a year on top of cash remittance, said Donald Terry, multilateral investment fund manager for the Inter-American Development Bank.

"People move north by the millions, and the money moves south by the billions. The key is harnessing the money for productive activity"

DONALD TERRY
Investment fund manager

The scale is so large that the bank has identified money for goods and services, along with traditional remittances, as tools for development in Latin America, especially to build houses.

"People move north by the millions, and the money moves south by the billions," Terry said. "The key is harnessing the money for productive activity" like property investments.

Construmex, a U.S.-based unit of Mexican cement giant Cemex, helps Mexican immigrants find materials and contract with firms back home to have homes built. Construmex also provides financing to buy existing houses.

Immigrants must first have a down payment of 12 percent of the value of a house, which generally cost about \$35,000, said Luis Enrique Martinez, Construmex's U.S. general manager.

The dwelling can be paid off using a payment plan lasting as long as 10 years. In a way similar to a bank, Construmex will foreclose if payments stop.

Construmex doesn't ask applicants about their residency status in the U.S., Martinez said. Instead, it bases approval on whether an immigrant earns enough to make the monthly payments.

The program began five years ago in Los Angeles and has since expanded to major cities around the country with large Mexican populations. It's become popular with Mexican immigrants because it guarantees the money they earn here goes toward something concrete.

"Many people come here thinking they'll save money to build a house," Martinez said. "But often money sent home isn't used for that, and they return with nothing."

Many immigrants agree that it's better to buy products than send money.

"When I send money they don't buy what they need," said Teresa Rodriguez, 55, who has sent everything from refrigerators to gas stoves to two adult children in El Salvador. "Sometimes they just go shopping."

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STATE

Saturn moon interest unlikely to alter NASA

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — To scientists scanning the cosmos for signs of life, the stunning discovery of what appears to be water on an obscure moon orbiting Saturn couldn't come at a more pivotal time.

With a fresh focus on returning astronauts to Earth's own moon, NASA has squashed several missions that over the next decade were to have continued the search for extraterrestrial life.

Can images from Enceladus, an icy moon located more than 800 million miles from Earth, supercharge interest and funding for life-finding missions?

Probably not any time soon. Missions take years to launch and what enthusiasm NASA has for finding otherworldly life already is focused on Mars and the Jupiter moon Europa, where promising leads have been studied for years.

Even those missions aren't on the fast track. Budget woes last year scrapped a NASA project to send a nuclear-powered spacecraft to Europa, which may hide vast oceans of water under thick ice sheets. The cancellation of a trip to a moon more accessible and hundreds of millions of miles closer than Enceladus doesn't bode well for new projects.

"Anyone who thinks they can squeeze an Enceladus mission into the budget planning is awfully naive," said Bruce Jakosky, an astrobiologist at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Still, scientists were abuzz over a report last week in the journal *Science* that showed what seem to be water geysers shooting miles above Enceladus' warm southern pole region. Along with a stable heat source and organic substances, water is believed essential to life.

The tantalizing Enceladus images were snapped by the Cassini spacecraft, an international project managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Cassini plans at least one more pass by

Enceladus, in 2008, which could reveal further details of the moon's potential to harbor life — though not the presence of life itself.

The space agency hasn't ruled out extending that mission, said Andrew Dantzler, director of NASA's solar system division. But any future mission to Enceladus would come after a Europa trip, he said.

"I believe all these great missions that we want to do, we will do," he said. "We just have to space them out."

Extraterrestrial organisms likely would be simple microbes capable of surviving extreme conditions. Not the stuff of movies, but enough to keep some NASA space prospecting programs alive amid the agency's goal of revisiting the moon by 2018.

NASA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 would give science projects \$5.3 billion, but plans are to limit growth over the next four years to compensate for a \$3 billion shortfall in the space shuttle program. Two programs to search for planets beyond the solar system capable of supporting life have been delayed until the middle of next decade.

While unmanned missions are facing a "tough time," the Enceladus discovery should spur interest in the hunt for alien life, said Bruce Runnegar, director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute.

"This is the sort of thing that will help the astrobiology field get stronger and hopefully survive," Runnegar said.

NASA does plan to land two more robotic probes on Mars this decade to search for ancient water and will launch the Kepler spacecraft to look for Earth-sized planets circling other stars.

Astrobiologist Neville Woolf of the University of Arizona would like to see another mission answer whether Enceladus is life-friendly.

"At some point, someone will have the courage and money to look at Enceladus," Woolf said. "As to when that will be, I'm no wiser than anyone else."



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STATE



Wine country caves catch on with vintners, tourists

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Staff Writer

ST. HELENA, Calif. — Don Magorian, like the subway tunnelers who mentored him and the railroad and ore tunnelers who are now his competitors, dug gold mine tunnels in the Sierra Nevada for 20 years before he discovered wine caves in 1997. The owner of Auburn-based Magorian Mine Services never returned to those mountains.

"This is the new gold," said his veteran tunneler Mike Holley.

Deep inside a hole in a Napa Valley hillside, Holley rides a noisy vehicle with caterpillar tracks and grinding tungsten carbide teeth. On a good day, he chews through 3 feet of volcanic earth, creating a 14,000-square-foot space that will eventually wow tourists, store wine barrels at ideal temperatures and house the underground tanks for the future Arkenstone Winery.

Burrow into what's increasingly all the rage in wine country: caves. Vintners are burying whole wineries inside caves, carving out dramatic grottoes for entertaining or creating more utilitarian storage spaces.

In both cases, the wineries are realizing savings by cutting their construction costs — sometimes by as much as half — and reducing bills for heating and cooling.

Chuck McMinn's cave, with burgundy floors and beige walls, feels more like an upscale hotel amenity than a hole in the ground. A double stack of wine barrels lines the walls leading visitors to a stunning tasting room with overhead chandelier and room for 50 people.

"As soon as we walked through those doors we were 30 feet underground," said McMinn, owner of St. Helena's Vineyard 29. Showing off 1,000 feet of three-year-old tunnels directly beneath a sauvignon blanc vineyard, he added: "In this cave, we can store up to 1,000 barrels. That's 25,000 cases of wine, two years' worth of production."

Magorian well remembers McMinn's tasting room, where his crew cut out and carted away a rock the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.

Wine caves, first dug in the 1880s by Chinese laborers at Beringer and Schramsberg wineries in the northern Napa Valley, now number at least 150 in Napa and Sonoma counties, Magorian estimates. A new generation of caves emerged in the 1980s amid the extra wealth of increasing U.S. wine consumption. The trend slowed for a while, but numbers are again taking off with a strong economy.

The idea is spreading now to private homes.

"One of our clients says it's his eye of the hurricane," said David Provost, president of Napa-based Bacchus Caves, named for the Roman god of wine. "We've got people who put an art gallery in. One person down south is putting in a library because they're in a fire danger

area and want their books to be safe. Another guy back East wants a place to store 58,000 bottles of wine," he said.

Provost is digging an 18,000-square-foot cave for Napa's Meritage Resort hotel with room for 245-person dinner parties.

Why a hotel cave?

"Because of the cost of construction," he said. "They're on a hillside, and what better use of a hillside than a cave? It's obviously very unique, and they're hoping for that to be a big draw."

Sacramento-area wine country has caves, too, at Gold Hill Winery at Coloma, Sogno Winery at Shingle Springs, Dobra Zemlja Winery in Plymouth and Winery by the Creek at Fair Play.

"It's a great party spot," said Charles Mitchell, owner of Winery by the Creek. "There's a certain amount of people who don't feel comfortable. They don't want to be underground."

"I love it," he said. "I have about 150 to 200 barrels in there."

Mitchell said the cost of his caves and tasting room "pushed up against \$1 million."

In the Napa Valley, caves typically cost between \$125 and \$300 per square foot to excavate and finish — and more for upscale lighting and doors, Provost said. Winery architects say similar outdoor production and warehouse space is a minimum of \$175 per square foot, while hospitality facilities that include tasting rooms start at \$350 per square foot.

Tourists find caves irresistible.

"We send them to Schramsberg," said Judy Cook, owner of Calistoga's Brannon Cottage Inn. "I also send them to Storybook (Mountain Vineyards). Their caves are amazing. People are very interested because most people don't know what a cave is."

"If I'm on a tour and I can't take my guests to a winery with caves, I don't even mention it," said Don Rickard, president of Solano County-based Platypus Tours. "If I do know I'm going to a cave that day, I play it up. People are very excited about it."

"It's almost an otherworldly activity," he said. "You're in the earth. People are fascinated by being way down, surrounded by rock and dirt."

In St. Helena, Magorian is close to finishing a 5,500-square-foot cave for retired timber executive Dan Voeschen, owner of seven-acre Motion Vineyards.

Voeschen is putting an entire winery inside the hill because "this is all the space we've got."

At about \$135 per square foot, the cave will cost nearly \$800,000 and house a processing facility, barrel storage and private tasting. That's at least \$162,000 cheaper than the minimum for an outdoor facility.

Amid his finished walls and dirt floor, Voeschen can already picture his winery there this fall.

"It will be a cute one," he said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press





Temperature trackers produce results

BY MELISSA MCGRATH

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Ever wonder how those strawberries you're about to buy got to the store? Or more importantly, what happened to the fruit during shipment?

PakSense, a Boise technology firm, has developed a way for those in the food business to monitor their produce, meat and other products in transit with Smart Labels, electronic sensors stuffed into an adhesive label about the size of a sugar packet.

The labels, which can stick to a cardboard box or crate, track the temperature every five minutes for up to four weeks and transfer that information to a computer.

Sysco Food Services of Idaho, which distributes food to local restaurants, hospitals, schools and hotels, is testing the technology and has found it useful in the field.

"For us, it's important, because we want to make sure we're providing the best quality products to our customers," said Terry Reynolds, vice president of merchandising and marketing at Sysco Idaho. "By maintaining and controlling the temperature of the food, you can make sure it is not going to be in jeopardy of shortening its shelf life."

The Smart Labels are different than radio-frequency identification, or RFID, tags that some manufacturers and retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. use. Those tags are used to help Wal-Mart track what items it needs to restock on its shelves.

PakSense Smart Labels are different because the labels are able to record more than just the product's serial number, company officials said. It can track the temperature surrounding the product.

The reaction to the new label from the food industry has been overwhelming, said David Baldwin, vice president of

sales and marketing for PakSense.

PakSense is testing the technology locally with Sysco Idaho, but several other companies already have shown interest in using the labels, including a national supermarket chain, a worldwide banana supplier, a European grocery chain and a couple of food distribution businesses, Baldwin said. He declined to disclose the names of the interested companies.

The idea for the Smart Labels started when Tom Jensen, the founder of PakSense, was on an airplane in 2002. He sat next to an executive from a Midwestern meat packing plant who complained to Jensen that there was no quick and easy way for him to track the temperature of his beef in transit.

So Jensen, who was working as a product design consultant in the tech industry at the time, developed a rough prototype that he eventually turned into PakSense's TTi Smart Label. (TTi stands for time/temperature integration.)

Jensen, who now has several patents pending on the technology, founded PakSense in 2004 to develop more of these labels. He brought on a management team last year to help run the company and sell the product worldwide, and his technology startup has grown to eight employees.

The field trials with Sysco Idaho started about three weeks ago, and the local food distributor already has embraced the technology.

Before using PakSense Smart Labels, Sysco relied on data recorders that were stored on each shipping truck. After a shipment, the company would open the recorder and take out a sheet of paper from inside the recorder that tracked the temperature trends during travel.

But the recorder does not say at what time of day the temperature rose or

dropped, said Keith Hahn, a produce category manager at Sysco Idaho.

"It is more a measure of a trend," he said of the recorder. "You can see it over the course of a day."

The PakSense label, however, lets the food distributors know immediately whether mushrooms, tomatoes or lettuce are fresh when they get off the truck because each label has three lights — over temp, under temp and OK. One of the lights will be lit depending on what the temperatures were during shipment.

Right now, Sysco is testing the labels on the shipments it gets from producers, rather than the truckloads it takes to retailers in the area. If the PakSense label says a product is no longer fresh when it shows up at the Sysco warehouse, Sysco officials can save time and money by sending the food back to the producer immediately instead of shipping it on to its customers.

Sysco also can download data from the label into a spreadsheet on the computer to find out exactly what time of day the produce went bad. The label records the temperature every five minutes.

For example, if a box of mushrooms — which generally needs to be stored between 28 degrees and 39 degrees Fahrenheit — gets around 45 degrees at one point in the day, Sysco would be able to know exactly what time the temperature went above 39 degrees and how long it stayed there, Hahn said.

"We've had several incidences where the product came in out of temperature, and we're not going to pay for it. ... (The label) is your proof that there was a problem on the truck," Hahn said. "It is somewhat of an insurance policy."

Hahn also likes that the information the label collects is digital. That means Sysco

workers don't have to deal with getting paper from the recorder. Instead, they can download the data about the temperatures and times using a reader device that attaches to the chip inside the label and a computer to transfer the data.

Then, Sysco can print out the information or e-mail it, Hahn said.

Still, some aspects of the technology need to be improved to make it easier for people in the food industry to use, Hahn said. For example, he'd like the data to measure temperatures in Fahrenheit instead of Celsius, and he wants PakSense to develop a handheld reader device so Sysco workers can download the data on the dock.

But that is why Sysco is testing the product, so it can give PakSense feedback, Hahn said.

"It is brand new and just getting off the ground. I definitely see potential in it," he said.

PakSense has plans to make its product wireless in the future, Baldwin said. Right now, the company is focused on improving its existing product and lowering its cost.

PakSense is making hundreds of labels a month now and selling them for between \$10 to \$12 each. But the company hopes to bring that price down as it continues to ramp up production to make thousands of labels in the next few months, said Eric Larson, the company's president and chief executive officer.

PakSense makes its labels locally, buying circuit boards from companies in Boise and then hiring local manufacturers to assemble the labels, Baldwin said.

"We are keeping it a local, Boise company," Baldwin said. "This is the plan."

In the future, Jensen and his management team can see the label being used to ship pharmaceuticals, chemicals and other products.

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NATIONAL



Bandits find easy targets by holding up immigrants

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Armed robberies of illegal immigrants by bandits are on the rise along the busy Arizona-Mexico border, with some of the most notable spikes coming in more remote areas increasingly favored by crossers, authorities say.

The increases also reflect competition among smugglers pressured by U.S. Border Patrol crackdowns and bandits eager to take advantage of easy targets, officials say.

"A lot of it has to do with what we're seeing on the border in terms of enforcement efforts," said Gus Soto, spokesman for the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, which covers most of Arizona's roughly 380-mile border with Mexico.

"It's becoming more difficult to cross, and the smugglers are going after each other, battling each other for control, going after the other organizations after they're in the country to rob them and steal their human cargo."

The heaviest increases apparently are in an area southwest of Tucson around the border community of Sasabe, including the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, and in Yuma County in the southwestern corner of Arizona.

Both of those areas are used heavily by border crossers and their smugglers. Yuma County has become a more desirable route in recent months for some migrants since the Border Patrol stepped up enforcement in other heavy traffic areas to the east.

The robbery numbers have gone up with the traffic.

"We have seen a significant increase in armed robberies of illegal aliens over the last year or so," said Capt. Eben Bratcher of the Yuma County Sheriff's Department, which has dealt with many of the victims. "Without a doubt the numbers have increased."

The Border Patrol in the area is also reporting increased numbers.

In the 2004 fiscal year, 12 illegal immigrants reported being robbed in three incidents in the patrol's Yuma sector.

In 2005, there were 17 incidents involving about 98 victims, Border Patrol spokesman Rick Hays said.

During the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, there have been 39 incidents involving about 330 victims, Hays said.

"A lot of these individuals have become targets of opportunity," Hays said. "The Yuma sector is seeing an increase (of traf-

fic) through this corridor. It's an opportunity for these criminal organizations to prey upon."

Early this month, Border Patrol agents who came under fire shot and killed a robbery suspect while patrolling a thickly vegetated area along the Colorado River where many of the Yuma-area robberies have occurred.

The sheriff's department's Bratcher said there are indications that some immigrant smugglers may be working with bandits.

More than once victimized migrant groups reported that their smuggler, or coyote, brought them to a particular area along the river and told them to wait, only to have the bandits emerge from the undergrowth and rob them.

Soto, the Tucson sector spokesman, said that sometimes bandits working with a smuggling ring will jump a group of migrants being escorted by a competing organization's guide, scare him off and take the migrants at gunpoint to demand additional money from their families.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff Tony Estrada suggested that migrants trying to cross the border by themselves, without a coyote's assistance, are particularly vulnerable to theft, assault, robbery, rape or even murder.

Many of the crimes against migrants are believed to occur on the Mexican side of the border, but some bandits jump groups of migrants once they've crossed into Arizona, officials say.

According to the Mexican consulate in Yuma, the victims usually report that they were held up before they crossed into the United States. Humanitarian workers have said much the same.

"Most of it is occurring just as you stage to cross the border in the darkness," said the Rev. Robin Hoover, who heads a humanitarian organization called Humane Borders.

But Soto noted that victims often don't know where the assault occurred.

In many cases, the crimes go unreported. Estrada characterized such robberies as being "grossly underreported."

"If the Border Patrol doesn't pick them up," Estrada said, "we never hear about it."

Hoover said the border helps create crime in both directions, noting that if a bandit robs someone on the U.S. side and flees to Mexico, "then no crime has been committed in Mexico, and so unless he's apprehended by U.S. officials, there's no prosecution."

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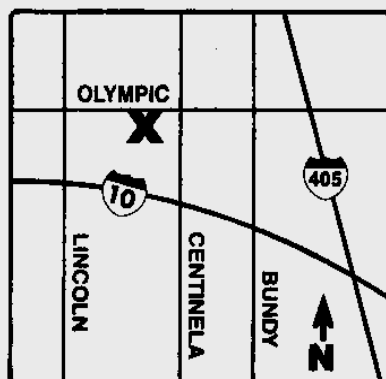
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A city mulls how to keep kids inspired

GANG VIOLENCE, from page 1

Participants — including elected officials, educators, and members of law enforcement and faith-based communities — will give status updates as to where they are in implementing programs to keep youth inspired and away from gangs.

The workshop will also afford residents the opportunity to offer suggestions, along with a chance to voice their frustration and anger over the loss of Lopez, a popular athlete at Samohi who was shot and killed Feb. 28 by a suspected gang member.

The success of both the workshop and programs devised as a result, is highly dependent on the participation of the community, officials said, which is why they are encouraging everyone to attend.

“Gang violence is an issue in which the community needs to take ownership,” City Councilman Richard Bloom said earlier this week. “Every person in our city needs

to work to make this community safe — that means every resident, elected officials, law enforcement, city staff.

“We all need to pull together and form a common agenda that says this type of behavior will not be tolerated in this city.”

In a report given to the council at its meeting last Tuesday, Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. said the key to eliminating the presence of gangs is adults willing to offer youth hope, unconditional love and opportunity. He also said it’s going to take continued collaboration with other cities, and not just in the area of law enforcement.

The problem is officials outside of Santa Monica may not be aware of the severity of gang violence here, perhaps under the impression that this wealthy, beach community is immune to such problems. That is why turnout is so important, to raise awareness not only in the city, but in the region as well, said gang intervention specialist William “Blinky”

Rodriguez, executive director of Communities in Schools Greater Los Angeles, who served as a panelist for the first workshop more than a year ago.

“I don’t think it really has sunken in yet, even for those who live (in Santa Monica,)” Rodriguez said. “You need to get people to understand the culture of these gang members, to witness the warning signs so that maybe if they see a kid down the block start turning towards the gang life, they can intervene.”

The workshop will begin with an introduction by Kuehl, and then City Manager Lamont Ewell will give a report regarding recent efforts City Hall has engaged in following Lopez’ death, such as a new rapid graffiti removal program and new lighting in alleys.

Interim Superintendent of schools Mike Mathews will update the public on the district’s efforts to engage community partners, such as a new mentoring program at Santa Monica High School.

There will also be representatives from the Pico and Ocean Park neighborhoods to talk about the impact of gang violence there. Members of the Los Angeles County Probation Department will give a report as well, along with the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California.

A representative with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will be on hand to announce their annual job fair — scheduled for April 26 at Samohi — as well as a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club to increase the number of adults willing to adopt a new brother or sister.

“I’m hoping that this session will really provide the public with some answers and give them options for how they can help,” said Kuehl. “We know people will want to vent, and that is OK. We understand there are a lot of intense emotions right now. But we hope at the end of the day they can walk away with something tangible.”

Volunteers in it for long haul with kids



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Luis Evangelista grubs down during this week’s carbo load dinner in preparation for Sunday’s LA Marathon.

MARATHON, from page 1

health for the better, and maybe be a role model for others who want to get away from junk food.”

No longer afraid of developing diabetes like other members of his family, Cuellar said he owes his health and a new outlook on life to the local branch of the Police Activities League, or PAL, and its dedicated staff and volunteers.

“They never let you down,” he said of PAL, a non-profit, law enforcement-affiliated service provider for youth. “They’ll encourage you all the way through, supporting you and making sure you never give up.”

One of those mentors is Karen Humphrey, a program supervisor at PAL who will be running her 10th marathon on Sunday. Humphrey and other volunteers agree to train along with 54 PAL kids, ages 12 to 18, at least two times a week for roughly nine months. Thirty-two kids will be running the marathon, while 22 more will ride bikes.

“I think we’re all feeling the aches and pains right now,” Humphrey said. “But I’m looking forward to it. It’s like having another baby. Why put yourself through all that when you know what the pain is like? I do it for the kids. That’s my motivation.”

Training starts in the fall, with a series of short runs from Memorial Park to the pier and back. As the kids adjust, the runs grow longer, until by the end of training the kids run at least 20 miles or more, Humphrey said.

The training follows a formula set by Students Run LA, a non-profit which challenges at-risk youth to experience the benefits of goal-setting, character development, adult mentoring and improved health by training for and completing the city marathon.

“Students Run LA is a great organization,” Humphrey said. “We couldn’t do this without them.”

Training can be tough, as some have never run for distances before, but after a while it becomes easy, even fun, said Sharice McDonald, 16.

“I’m really excited about Sunday,” she said. “I can’t wait to get out there and see all the people cheering. It’s going to be a great time.”

McDonald said she’s a little nervous, having never competed in a marathon before, but she is confident the training she has received, plus a little adrenaline, will carry her through.

As will her new running shoes from Saucony, which donates two pairs of shoes to each PAL participant, one for training and another pair for the marathon. Each PAL member will also wear a specially designed uniform — blue trunks with a white tank top made by Coolmax.

They will also be loaded up on carbohydrates, thanks to more than \$3,200 worth of pasta provided by the Sheraton Delfina Hotel during PAL’s annual carbo-load dinner, held last Thursday.

“It’s really a blessing — the uniforms, the shoes, everything,” Cuellar said. “The shorts are a little small, but it’s only for one day. I guess it won’t hurt to wear them for one day.”

There will be an extra incentive for those running this year. To help the family of slain Santa Monica High School Student Eduardo “Eddie” Lopez, City Manager Lamont Ewell, Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega and Maria Crocker — sister of SMPD Officer Ricardo Crocker, who was killed in Iraq in 2005 — have offered to donate to the family \$100 for the first person from PAL to finish the marathon within 4 hours and 1 minute, and \$50 for both the first boy and girl.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega gives a pep talk to PAL kids competing in this weekend’s LA Marathon during a carbo load dinner at the Sheraton Delfina on Thursday night.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
An international field of professional runners, in town for this Sunday’s LA Marathon, take a ‘glory lap’ around the school track on Friday with students from Manual Arts High School, on Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles. The students are taking part in Students Run LA, a non-profit that challenges at-risk youths to set goals and improve their health through training.

No need for Ringo



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Arthur Nakane, a one-man-band, entertains at the Santa Monica Pier. Nakane can play up to seven instruments at one time, among them — an electric guitar, a drum machine, keyboards, harmonica, electric kazoo, tambourine, maracas and symbols. He also sings duets. Nakane has been performing since 1976, after serving as a high school teacher. He currently spends his days working as a translator.

The weight will be over soon for adventurers with bank

SPACE TOURIST, from page 1

Several private companies will begin building their prototype vehicles this summer with plans to test fly them as early as next year. If all goes well, the first tourist could hitch a galactic joy ride late next year or 2008 — pending approval by federal regulators.

Unlike the Cold War space race between the United States and Soviet Union that sent satellites into orbit and astronauts to the moon, this competition is bankrolled by entrepreneurs whose competition could one day make a blast into space cheap enough for the average Joe.

“This time, it’s personal. This space race is about getting ‘us’ into space,” said space historian Andrew Chaikin.

For now, commercial space travel remains an exclusive club.

Over the past few years, three tourists have paid a reported \$20 million each to ride aboard a Russian rocket to the orbiting international space station.

A fourth would-be tourist — Lance Bass from the former boy band ‘N Sync — did astronaut training, but failed to come up with money for the trip.

The three who made it spent about a week weightless and described the experience as “paradise” and “wondrous.” The most thrilling part for millionaire U.S. scientist Gregory Olsen, who blasted off last year, was viewing the swirling Earth from the dark of space.

Prospective prices for the next round of personal space flights aren’t so astronomical — a seat aboard one of the yet-to-be-built commercial spaceships will fetch

between \$100,000 to \$250,000. Space entrepreneurs expect the price tag to drop once the market matures.

Tourists will get what they pay for.

Instead of days in space, the commercial spaceships under development will only reach suborbital space, a region about 60 miles up that is generally considered the beginning of the rest of the universe.

Since the private spaceships lack the speed to go into orbit around Earth, the flights are essentially up and down experiences — lasting about two hours with up to five minutes of weightlessness.

It’s more of a ride than those offered by several companies that use Boeing 727s to produce a half-minute of weightlessness through a series of maneuvers about 25,000 feet up. Those flights, which generally sell for about \$3,000, never reach space.

“It’s like an upside-down bungee jump,” said John Logsdon, director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University. “There’ll be a few moments to view the Earth and then you come right back down.”

Before tourists can lift off, several federal hurdles must be cleared. Federal regulations that will govern human space travel and spell out safety and training requirements are expected to be wrapped up this summer.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta last month told a gathering of space entrepreneurs that the government would move swiftly to grant space travel licenses to companies that can prove they can operate safely.

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NATIONAL

For Latino business minds, the good Dr. O is always in

BY YVONNE WINGETT
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Louis Olivas hollered hello to students from his plaque-lined office at Arizona State University. It was lunchtime, and three undergrads dressed in flip-flops and fashionably ripped jeans stopped by to talk to him about marketing strategies for the Hispanic Business Student Association.

"Hey, Dr. O," a 20-something said.
"Hello, mijo, how are you?" asked Olivas, using an endearing term many Latino parents use with their children. "How are the classes? You staying on the ball? Make me proud. If not, mom and dad will find out."

Many of the state's top advertisers, business owners and corporate leaders know him as a numbers wizard, a scholarly professor and perhaps the Phoenix area's foremost expert on Arizona's burgeoning Hispanic market.

But his true calling may be his skill at building long-lasting relationships with students by putting his arm around them and offering candid career counseling, fatherly advice and keepin'-it-real lectures.

His impact can be felt through hundreds of former students who helped form the Phoenix area's backbone of entrepreneurs and company executives.

They credit Olivas for nurturing their dreams and helping achieve them. His lessons, they said, go beyond the classroom, to the importance of first impressions, networking with business and political leaders and giving back to the community.

"It's one thing to have professors who have office hours," said Anthony Leonardo, a former MBA student who now lives in Atlanta and works for Intel Corp. "But Dr. O is always available, no matter what he's got going on. With Dr. O, you were truly one of his priorities."

Education was big in the Olivas family, which dates back to the mid-1800s in Arizona. Olivas grew up in a two-bedroom house in Phoenix and was the youngest of five siblings.

Three things were important to his parents: representing the family well in public, finishing homework and graduating from high school.

Working with your hands and back was respectable, he remembered them saying, but working with your mind put you in positions of authority.

Olivas was an average student but a better athlete, lettering in baseball, football and wrestling at Phoenix Union High School.

His first mentor was Ruth Cole, a history teacher who taught Olivas how to learn and drew him into class discussion.

Olivas intended on going into retail management after graduating from high school in 1965. His brother Angel was the first in the family to earn a college degree. He worked as a store manager for Montgomery Ward. Olivas looked up to him.

Olivas enrolled at ASU in fall 1965. By the time he was 22, he had graduated from college and had put in four years at Montgomery Ward as a salesman and management trainee. Store officials offered him his dream job during his senior year: retail manager. But it wasn't meant to be.

"I knew I wasn't being fulfilled," remembered Olivas, now 58. "My heart wasn't in it. It was a great-paying job. But I didn't feel that I could flourish."

Olivas went to his college adviser and mentor, Lohnie Boggs, for help.

"So when he asked what I'd like to do, I said, 'I'd like to be a teacher.' He thought I was nuts. He said, 'It's a very admirable vocation, but you will starve in comparison to what you'd make in retail management.'"

Olivas quit his job at Montgomery Ward and a year later, in 1970, he was hired as a business teacher at Alhambra High School.

"I was given a paycheck for entertaining high school students," Olivas said with a laugh. "That's when it occurred to me that there were these young minds that could be tapped into and influenced and directed."

In 1979, after seeking advice from Cole and Boggs, he returned to ASU as an assistant business professor and director for the Center for Executive Development.

Now, Olivas is the mentor and has been for nearly three decades.

He's also a tenured professor in the management department of ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business. He advises the Hispanic Business Students Association and teaches entrepreneurship and small-business management each Monday, and with a team of Hispanic MBA students, he researches trends in Arizona's Hispanic market.

At the same time, he writes the yearly Datos reports about Hispanics in schools, business and the media. But he's not some geeky expert merely churning out data. He breaks down pie charts and percentage points in a matter-of-fact and humorous style to show hundreds of mainstream corporate execs and small-business owners the potential profit of tapping into the Hispanic community.

"He puts it into real terms," said Max Gonzales, former director of Hispanic marketing at Salt River Project. "He speaks the same language as business. I can see it in the eyes of my management when he comes and he presents. They understand Dr. O, and they respond to him."

On a recent Monday afternoon, a parade of students walked into Olivas' office for their own sessions. He calls them his "needs analysis," focus groups to help him get to know his "customers."

The 15-minute power meetings with each student help him understand students' needs and wants, their career goals, family backgrounds and personalities.

That open-door policy and fatherly approach play well with students, past and present.

"He has been there for me at every major crossroad of my life," said Gary Trujillo, former chairman, president and CEO of Quepasa.com. "I couldn't go home and ask my mom and dad, 'How do I get financial aid? What classes do I get? Should I be getting a career in this, or that? When you're Latino, growing up in south Phoenix, and your parents don't even have an education, and you're entering a university that is foreign to you, and Dr. O reaches out his hand and makes sure you're OK, he does become a god figure to you.'"

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL



Senate forsakes Bush tax cuts

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A \$2.8 trillion election-year budget blueprint that narrowly passed the Senate forsakes President Bush's tax cuts and Medicare curbs and smashes his cap on spending, disappointing GOP loyalists anxious to see their party stem the flow of federal red ink.

The Senate on Thursday adopted the spending plan on a 51-49 vote, but with little enthusiasm since it anticipates deficits greater than \$350 billion for both this year and next.

The measure little resembles Bush's proposal last month for the budget year that begins Oct. 1., and its passage sets up a confrontation with the House, which is certain to oppose the Senate's call for additional spending.

"House conservatives are going to look at this budget and say, 'Whoa, what happened to fiscal conservatism?'" said Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the Senate Budget Committee's top Democrat.

Action on the budget plan came hours after Congress pushed the ceiling on the national debt to nearly \$9 trillion. The House then promptly approved \$92 billion in new money for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for relief along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast. The Senate added billions of dollars for education.

To the dismay of budget hawks, the Senate's budget measure would break Bush's proposed caps on spending for programs such as low-income heating subsidies and health research, as well as education. All told, senators endorsed more than \$16 billion in increases above Bush's proposed \$873 billion cap on spending appropriated by Congress each year. Vice President Dick Cheney was on hand for a possible tie-breaking vote on the budget. But the spending blueprint advanced without need of Cheney's vote in the Republican-led Senate when Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu supported the plan after winning concessions to help her hurricane-damaged state of Louisiana and rest of the Gulf Coast.

She won inclusion of a proposal that could provide up \$2 billion a year for levee and coastal restoration projects. The money would come from auctioning television airwaves to wireless companies and from potential oil lease revenues from exploration in an Alaskan wildlife refuge.

Among the specific votes to increase spending above Bush's tightfisted budget were:

■ \$3 billion more for heating subsidies for the poor. It passed 51-49.

■ \$7 billion more for education, health and worker safety accounts. It passed 73-27.

■ \$3.7 billion more for military personnel costs.

■ \$1.2 billion more for aviation security and stopping Bush's proposed increase in airline ticket taxes. They

advanced by voice vote.

■ \$1 billion more for benefits for military survivors.

Given the mood in the House, the Senate's action Thursday appears to make it less likely that Congress will settle on a final budget plan this spring. House Republicans will not release their budget until after next week's congressional recess.

The votes dismayed deficit hawks such as Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H. He already had decided to drop Bush's proposals to cut the growth of Medicare, strengthen tax-free health savings accounts and advance legislation to make permanent his 2001 tax cuts.

The White House issued a tepid statement supporting the plan despite the numerous setbacks experienced on the floor.

"While the administration will continue to seek entitlement reforms and the elimination of additional discretionary spending ... we recognize that this is an important first step in the congressional process," Budget Director Joshua B. Bolten said.

Republicans are eager to show their conservative supporters they are getting serious about cracking down on spending. Last weekend, GOP presidential aspirants at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Memphis, Tenn., promised to be more thrifty.

But GOP moderates such as Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania apparently did not get the message. His amendment to add \$7 billion for education, health and labor programs won support from most Republicans, including Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee, who has criticized Congress for embarking "down a wayward path of wasteful Washington spending."

"All the talk in Memphis just doesn't comport with the realities of these important items" such as education and health research, Specter said.

The debt limit increase, needed to prevent an unprecedented default on Treasury notes, was the fourth of Bush's presidency, totaling \$3 trillion. With the budget deficit near record levels, an additional increase in the debt limit almost certainly will be required next year.

The House avoided an election-year vote on raising the debt limit by automatically sending the bill to the Senate when it passed a budget last year.

Treasury Secretary John Snow applauded Congress for "protecting the full faith and credit of the United States." He said it ensures that the government "can deliver on promises already made, such as Social Security and Medicare payments and aid for the victims of the 2005 hurricanes."

The present limit on the debt is \$8.2 trillion.

Democrats blasted the bill, saying it was needed because of fiscal mismanagement by Bush, who came to office when the government was running record surpluses.

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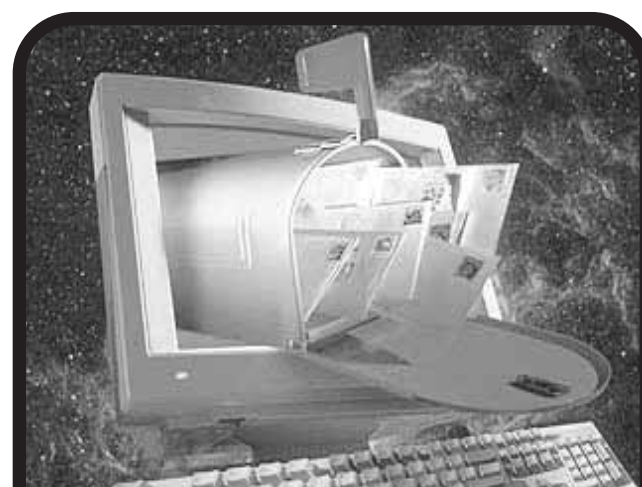
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NATIONAL



Katrina victims struggle anew

BY ERIN MCCLAM

AP National Writer

SNOWMASS VILLAGE, Colo. — It is impossible to imagine, here in the tranquil resort towns tucked among the Rocky Mountains and topped by a gentle meringue of snow, that nature could be the sinister force that caused Hurricane Katrina.

But the hurricane, which sprayed victims to Houston and Memphis and Atlanta, has also landed small communities of storm survivors here, in the exclusive ski resorts along the Continental Divide.

Some of them are here by affluence: They lived in well-off parts of New Orleans and its suburbs, places where high land meant Katrina took mercy on their homes, and they were easily able to plunk down the money it takes to settle here.

Some of them are here by good fortune, taken in by wealthy natives or, in at least one case, a sprawling ranch for artists.

And while it can seem difficult to pity any of the Katrina survivors in these gilded shelters, the storm victims who find themselves in the wealthy Colorado outposts are struggling with their own unique traumas: What will become of their families? Should they return to the New Orleans they so love — and so loathe — and when?

And they are dealing with guilt — that they were so lucky when others have merely a trailer to call home, or no home at all.

You would be hard-pressed to think of Rashad Butler as lucky. He is 23 years old, the 14th of 15 children, all raised poor. Thirteen of them are left. The other two were shot dead in New Orleans years ago.

Their obituaries were tucked into a family Bible that their mother kept on the second floor of her small, government-subsidized duplex in New Orleans East, and so survived the Katrina-spawned flood that left a 6-foot water line on the first floor.

Rashad Butler has a modest beard, a small hoop earring in his left ear and a soft, low monotone. He was not like his brothers, he says: “A lot of the time I felt like I was prey. I was perceived as not having those street smarts.”

In his teens, he fell in love with sculpting. He was discovered two years ago by Anderson Ranch, an old sheep ranch in Snowmass Village near Aspen that was turned into an artists’ community.

He was an assistant there in 2004, and after Katrina the ranch tracked him down again to offer him and his wife Michelle, also an artist, a six-month residency, a way out of their post-Katrina nightmare.

His family was living in Auburn, Ala., where he was training at an Outback Steakhouse.

“I wanted to decline the offer, just thinking about my mom,” he says. “I didn’t want to leave her.”

But Butler’s father-in-law talked him into going. And now, while his mother gets by in Auburn with government help, Butler spends long days crafting lumps of clay into works of art, many of them using a bullet motif.

The snow here makes everything quiet. He misses the noise of New Orleans.

He will stay at the ranch through April. Then he hopes to finish his last semester at Xavier University of Louisiana, in New Orleans. He wants to go to grad school, but he is irreversibly drawn back to his home, even with all those bad memories.

“Before the hurricane hit,” he says, “I sort of had a love-hate relationship with the city. Now there’s more of an obligation for me to return to the city, to always be part of it in some way.”

You have to drive more than two hours toward Vail and cross several economic classes to get from Rashad Butler to the Samuels family — Keith, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and his wife, Leesa, a nurse and former stay-at-home mother.

Their two daughters — Kelsey, 12, and Haley, 9 — are both extremely well-spoken and well-behaved. (Kelsey,

asked how she is adjusting to her \$14,000-per-year private school in Vail, answers: “Socially, I’m doing well.”)

Katrina forced them and their 108-pound golden retriever out of their 5,000-square-foot home in Metairie, just west of New Orleans. They went first to Houston, then to Vail, where Keith Samuels’ parents have had a home since the 1970s.

They have since rented their own 1,800-square-foot mountain house, with designs on one day buying or building a home in the Vail valley, and hope they can sell their Metairie home, which took on relatively minor water damage.

The Samuels are quick to say they love New Orleans. But they will not go back. And for that they struggle with occasional pangs of guilt, not to mention pressure from friends and old neighbors.

Leesa Samuels, who has a soft, kind voice and resembles a young Sally Field, says friends have asked why they are not staying behind to help rebuild the ruined city.

“It’s hard to explain,” she says. “They’re the type at home that are probably never going anywhere, never going to take that chance and leave New Orleans. And then there’s us, trying to make a good thing out of a bad thing.”

For them it is about the kids, she says. They are thriving here, love their new schools and new friends, are soccer stars on their new teams and have taken up snowboarding.

“I love New Orleans,” Keith Samuels says. “It’s my home. I grew up there. It’s just — it wasn’t New Orleans anymore.”

Not far from the Samuels’ home, in a small shopping and restaurant district in Edwards, Colo., is Gallery Rinard. The second one, actually: The original is on Royal Street, in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

Their owner is Matt Rinard, a 41-year-old painter and motorcycle enthusiast who was driven from New Orleans by Katrina and landed in the Vail valley because his wife, who worked at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in New Orleans, was offered a job at its enormous resort on Beaver Creek Mountain.

They lucked into a two-room apartment — furnished, with granite countertops — above the garage of a magnificent, \$5 million mountain home whose owner was not even advertising the place.

Rinard skis several days a week, usually at Vail. Still, he says he is struggling in his new business market: New Orleans is a city completely about art — the jazz, the architecture, never mind the plentiful galleries.

“You just don’t have the traffic,” he says. “It’s just too damn cold for people to be walking around. Everyone says wait until the summer — everyone says once I see the summer of Colorado I’ll never leave.”

“Of course,” he adds wryly, “they’ve also said there’s 300 days of sunshine, and I’ve seen about four.”

Allison Stewart and her husband own two homes, a five-bedroom house just to the west of Aspen and a condominium near New Orleans’ now-infamous convention center, in a building wracked by looters after Katrina.

She spends summers in the Rockies, but has been suspended here since the hurricane. Now she channels her energy, her thoughts of home, into thick, black binders where she almost obsessively stores news clippings about New Orleans.

She is eager to talk politics, to detail her frustration with the city’s system of governing its levees, of what she says were good people in charge in Louisiana who were simply overwhelmed by Katrina.

She, too, says she feels guilt about having a second home here, having come through the storm so well. The condo in New Orleans sustained some roof damage from the storm, but the looters took nothing.

Stewart says there is no way she could not — eventually — go back to New Orleans, and help rebuild.

“I still wake up at night with those anxieties: What can we do to help?” she says. “I have no answers.”

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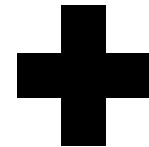
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INTERNATIONAL

U.S., Iraqi troops sweep insurgents

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY
AP Special Correspondent

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Heliborne U.S. and Iraqi troops pressed their sweep through a 100-square-mile swath of central Iraq on Friday in a bid to break up a center of insurgent resistance, the U.S. military said. No casualties were reported on either side.

"We believe we achieved tactical surprise," Lt. Col. Edward Loomis, spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division, said of the day-old Operation Swarmer, the biggest air assault here in three years. He said about 40 suspects were detained, 10 of whom were later released.

In tense Baghdad, meanwhile, drive-by gunmen targeting streams of Shiite Muslim pilgrims killed three people and wounded five in Sunni areas of the city, police reported.

Devout Shiites headed south to the holy city of Karbala for a religious holiday, a pilgrimage that authorities feared would present "soft" targets in the continuing Sunni-Shiite violence roiling Iraq.

A standoff between the Shiite majority and Sunni minority underlies the political impasse blocking formation of a new government of national unity here. An all-party meeting was scheduled for later Friday to try to move those negotiations forward.

The joint U.S.-Iraqi air assault Thursday focused on a 10-by-10-mile area some 60 miles north of Baghdad and northeast of the city of Samarra, where an insurgent bombing on Feb. 22 badly damaged a major Shiite shrine, an attack that ignited days of sectarian bloodshed across Iraq in which more than 500 people died.

Fifty U.S. transport and attack helicopters ferried in and gave cover to some 1,500 U.S. and Iraqi troops taking part in Operation Swarmer — units of the 101st Airborne Division and the Iraqi 4th Division.

On Friday morning, Loomis said, the forces "continue to move" through the area. "Approximately 40 suspected insurgents were detained without resistance," he said. "Tactical interviews began immediately, and 10 detainees have been released."

The sweep also uncovered six weapons caches, the U.S. military spokesman said.

The operation was aimed at disrupting "terrorist activity in and around Samarra, Adwar and Salahuddin province," he said, an area that was a stronghold of Sunni support for Saddam Hussein's ousted Baathist party regime.

Saddam's former No. 2, Izzat Ibrahim, who was deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, was from the city of Adwar and is still at large — at times thought to remain in that area.

The deputy governor of Salahuddin province, Abdullah Hussein, told reporters

Friday that 48 alleged insurgents had been detained, men accused of bombings and kidnappings.

He said intelligence indicated about 200 insurgents were in the area, including people linked to the Baathist group Jaish Muhammad — Muhammad's Army — and to the al-Qaida in Iraq terror group, led by Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.

The sweep was aimed particularly at capturing two local leaders of the Zarqawi group, said a police official. He said they had not yet been located.

Iraqi officials said Salahuddin province became more important as an insurgent center after the U.S. offensive that seized the resistance stronghold of Fallujah in late 2004, and subsequent U.S.-Iraqi offensives in other western areas close to the Syrian border.

Friday's Baghdad bloodshed began as groups of Shiite faithful, many parents with children in tow, trekked down city streets in the morning, headed for the southbound highway and Karbala, a shrine city 50 miles south of here.

At about 7:30 a.m., a BMW sedan driving alongside pilgrims in the western district of Adil opened fire, killing three and wounding two, said police Lt. Thair Mahmoud. Further details, including identities and ages of the victims, were not immediately available.

Police later reported a second incident, also in western Baghdad, in which armed men riding in a car fired on pilgrims near Um al-Tuboul Square, wounding three.

Such attacks were feared this pilgrimage weekend as Sunni-Shiite tensions heighten across the strife-torn country. To help guard against violence in Shiite holy cities, the U.S. military dispatched a fresh battalion of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, about 700 troops, to Iraq from its base in Kuwait to provide extra security.

Tens of thousands of devout Shiites are converging on Karbala for Monday's celebration of Arbaeen, marking the end of the 40-day mourning period after the date of the death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, killed in Karbala in 680 A.D.

On the political front, Iraq's new Parliament held its first session on Thursday, as the first permanent elected legislature since the U.S. invasion, which began three years ago this coming Monday.

The lawmakers immediately adjourned, however, after taking their oaths of office, since the deep-seated sectarian disputes have all but paralyzed efforts to name a prime minister and Cabinet. The U.S. ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, has been trying to broker talks to establish a government embracing major factions in a way acceptable to Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish blocs in Parliament.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Up your nose with a new rubber hose

NEW YORK — Former “Welcome Back, Kotter” creator-star Gabe Kaplan says Ice Cube is a great choice to play his old role in the big-screen remake of the hit 1970s TV series.

Kaplan told “Access Hollywood” in an interview that was to air Thursday that he thinks Ice Cube “is the perfect guy. ... He has shown what kind of crossover appeal he has.”

In the TV original, Kaplan portrayed compassionate teacher Gabe Kotter, who returns to his former Brooklyn high school to teach a new generation of troublemakers, including John Travolta’s Vinnie Barbarino.

That formula will be updated in Ice Cube’s version, which Kaplan feels “will totally be acceptable. I think that the setting is going to be in South Central L.A. He is going to be just like how I was in Brooklyn.”

Besides starring as the young teacher, Ice Cube, 36, will also produce the movie, Bob Weinstein, co-president of The Weinstein Company, said in a statement earlier this week. No other casting has been announced.

When asked about his ideal cast, Kaplan, 60, joked, “Well, I think Snoop Dogg will play Horshack, Vanilla Ice would play Barbarino. ... I don’t know.”

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kenny Chesney will perform at football and soccer stadiums in several U.S. cities this year, including a July 8 show at Nashville’s Coliseum.

“The last time I played this stadium was with George Strait,” the 37-year-old country superstar said Thursday at the stadium where the Tennessee Titans NFL football team plays.

That concert was back in 2000, before Chesney became one of the top-selling touring acts of any musical genre. Last year he grossed \$63 million, fourth among all touring acts, and his attendance of 1.2 million was second only to U2.

Gretchen Wilson, Dierks Bentley, Big & Rich and Little Big Town will open the concert.

Chesney also will perform at professional football stadiums in Seattle (June 24), Boston (July 16), Detroit and Tampa, Fla., and at professional soccer stadiums in Dallas, Chicago, Columbus, Ohio, and Los Angeles. Dates weren’t yet announced for all the shows.

Wearing a blue ball cap instead of his trademark cowboy hat, the Knoxville native said he’s excited about the Nashville concert.

“It’s been my hometown for 14 years,” he said.

Recalling one of his earliest performances in the city, at a small club with a tip jar in front of him, he said, “Being able to do the kind of things we’re doing today makes you very appreciative.”

WASHINGTON — Jessica Simpson loves President Bush. She’s just not a big fan of Republican fundraisers.

The Hollywood starlet and tabloid cover girl was on Capitol Hill Thursday to lobby Congress for Operation Smile, an organization

that provides reconstructive surgery to children with facial deformities. But all anyone wanted to know was why she turned down an invitation to attend a Republican fundraiser with Washington’s top star — Bush.

“We went back and forth and we could never get the details worked out,” said her father and manager, Joe Simpson. “When it became obvious that it was not just a state dinner, it was more of a fundraising event, that is the wrong purpose of why we are here.”

Still, he said of the president, “We are huge fans of him and of his family, his girls. Jessica loves the heck out of him.”

In fact, he said they were still trying to squeeze in a meeting with the chief executive. “We are trying to get in and out,” he said.

Jessica Simpson is best known for the MTV reality show “Newlyweds” with now-estranged husband Nick Lachey and for her denim-cutoff role in the movie “The Dukes of Hazzard.”

The 25-year-old actress, who refused to comment on the fundraiser, was to head back to New Mexico Thursday to resume shooting of a movie, “Employee of the Month,” according to her publicist, Rob Shuter.

Rep. Tom Reynolds, R-N.Y., chairman of the GOP campaign committee hosting the fundraiser, said the group had hoped Simpson would attend.

Asked about Simpson’s absence from the GOP dinner, House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, told reporters: “You know, I really feel like I got bagged.”

LAGLIO, Italy — Speculation spread once again that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie would wed on these Italian shores — perhaps this weekend.

George Clooney is a friend of the Hollywood couple and his lakefront villa in the town of Laglio is cited in Italian news reports as a credible location for such a ceremony. Saturday has been mentioned as a possible date.

Clooney’s press representative, Stan Rosenfield, told The Associated Press on Thursday: “Rumors are rumors.”

Pitt’s representative, Cindy Guagenti, declined to comment.

Reports about an impending wedding at the northern Italian lake were rife last year, but quickly fizzled out after Clooney denied his friends were set to marry at his villa.

Meanwhile, Monica Mantero, the wife of Laglio Mayor Giuseppe Mantero, said Thursday her husband could marry the couple on an hour’s notice.

“There’s a lot of movement at the villa, a lot of people there. We were expecting Clooney today but he didn’t show up,” Monica Mantero told the AP.

She said Pitt and Jolie hadn’t fixed a date with her husband, but “even if they contacted him an hour before he could still marry them.”

Mantero, who lives across from Clooney’s villa, said preparations taking place on the

grounds were the ones routinely done ahead of the actor’s arrival.

Jolie — who starred with Pitt in the 2005 film “Mr. & Mrs. Smith” — is expecting his child this summer. Pitt and Jennifer Aniston divorced last fall.

LONDON — A former member of Bob Marley’s band, The Wailers, has taken his fight for a slice of the reggae great’s royalties to a British courtroom.

Aston Barrett, who was Marley’s bassist for almost a decade, is suing Universal-Island Records Ltd. for \$105 million. His lawsuit was also brought on behalf of his deceased brother, Carlton, who played drums in the band.

Barrett claims he is owed royalties from a 1974 contract with Island as well as earnings from songs he co-wrote with Marley, who died of cancer in 1981.

His lawyer, Stephen Bate, argued Thursday at London’s High Court that Aston and his brother were “largely responsible” for providing Marley with a unique sound that brought Jamaican reggae music to an international audience.

The record company tried to have the case thrown out because Barrett had already accepted a settlement.

Marley’s widow, Rita, sat at the back of the court. She may testify during the hearing, which is expected to last up to three weeks.

NEW YORK — Kurt Masur has canceled his New York City appearances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra later this month because of illness.

Robert Minczuk will lead the orchestra on March 20 and Yan Pascal Tortelier will conduct on March 26 at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center spokeswoman Eileen McMahon said Thursday.

There will be a change in the program for the March 20 performance, she said.

According to his Web site, the 79-year-old Masur has a viral infection and circulatory problems and is being treated in Germany. He has canceled all U.S. performances with the orchestra this month but “hopes to return to the podium in the near future.”

Masur became ill during a March 5 concert in Dublin, Ireland.

LOS ANGELES — A judge said she needs more information before ruling on a motion by US Weekly magazine to dismiss a \$20 million libel lawsuit filed against it by Britney Spears.

Spears filed the lawsuit in December, alleging the magazine printed a false story reporting that she and husband Kevin Federline had made a sex tape and were worried about its release.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lisa Hart Cole allowed Spears’ legal team to depose an Us Weekly editor and former employee, the magazine’s attorney, Al Wickers, said Thursday.

The next hearing is scheduled for May 3.

MOVIEGUIDE

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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
V for Vendetta
10pm

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
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Eight Below
1:30pm 4:20pm 7:10pm 9:50pm
16 Blocks
2:15pm 4:50pm 7:25pm 10:05pm
Date Movie
2:45pm 5:05pm 7:20pm 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 9:45pm
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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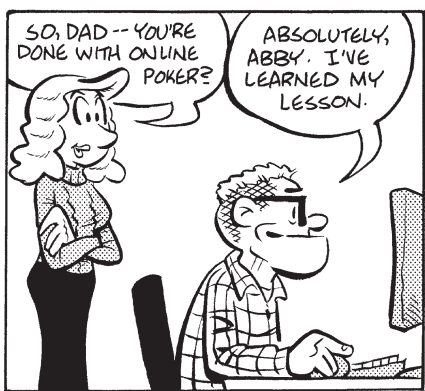


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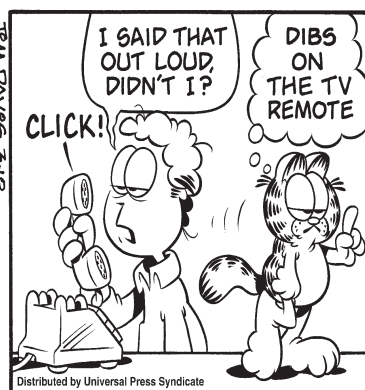
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ACROSS

- 1 Acquire
- 7 Nest resident
- 11 Completely obscure
- 12 Diva's piece
- 13 Interstellar cloud
- 14 Layout choice
- 15 Haunted house sound
- 16 Wild card, often
- 17 Corridor
- 18 Deteriorate
- 19 Bender
- 21 Knack
- 22 Tennessee city
- 25 Spotted cube
- 26 Cuban coin
- 27 Los —, New Mexico
- 29 Pouchlike parts
- 33 "Breaking Away" director
- 34 Noggin
- 35 Holster fillers
- 36 Gaming spot
- 37 Luke's sister

- 38 Twist of fiction
- 39 Stately trees
- 40 Can't stomach

DOWN

- 1 Fancy shell
- 2 Puccini work
- 3 Cabaret singer Mercer
- 4 Capable of handling
- 5 Volume
- 6 Thumbs-up vote
- 7 Thin cookie
- 8 Wakening
- 9 Heartfelt

- 10 Gizmo protector
- 16 Rock's frequent co-star
- 18 Sea sight
- 20 Montreal team
- 22 Hawaiian volcano
- 23 Felix, for one
- 24 Goes ballistic
- 25 Fluorescent
- 28 Western sights
- 30 Full of pep
- 31 Road markers
- 32 Quick drink
- 34 Like a boar
- 36 Seafood choice

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13						14			
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17					18				
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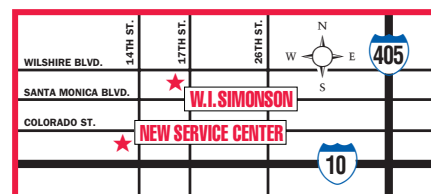
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