

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 20 34 35 44
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$27 million

FANTASY 5

13 14 16 19 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 2 2
Evening: 0 5 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1.45.47

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

A male beluga whale signals his urge by, basically, crashing into a female to draw her attention to his aroused state, according to a February Chicago Sun-Times report from the city's Shedd Aquarium. If the female is also ready, she turns her body to expose herself, after which mating is accomplished in a matter of seconds, followed by the male's abrupt and permanent departure from her life.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today the 81st day of 2006. There are 284 days left in the year.

On March 22, 1765, Britain enacted the Stamp Act to raise money from the American colonies. (The Act was repealed the following year.)
In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I do not get my ideas from people on the street. If you look at faces on the street, what do you see? Nothing. Just boredom."

MARCEL MARCEAU

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Freeway sweep nets 12 arrests

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

INTERSTATE 10 — Police on Tuesday arrested 12 homeless individuals during the first of what is expected to become routine sweeps of illegal encampments along this stretch of freeway.

At about 6:45 a.m., as commuters on their way to work sped past the embankments on both sides of Interstate 10, Santa Monica Police and outreach workers were combing the steep terrain — littered with garbage hidden within the thick brush — searching for homeless people.

What officers found on the roughly two-mile stretch of freeway were less-than-desirable living conditions, as well as health and safety concerns. Human feces and the stench of urine permeated the area. Discarded food was strewn along the walkways, and garbage was piled up at various spots. Syringes and crack pipes lay next to empty beer cases. At one location near the Lincoln Boulevard off-ramp, a car battery was used to provide electricity.



Santa Monica Police Capt. Mark Smiley and Lt. Al Venegas survey a homeless encampment underneath the Fourth Street overpass on the north side of Interstate 10. Local police, along with social service outreach workers, conducted a sweep on Tuesday along the freeway to clear out the encampments and get homeless individuals off the street. Several people were using this location as their home base. The area smelled of urine and feces, and was littered with crack pipes, syringes, garbage and sleeping gear, including stuffed animals. See page 6 for more photos.

Roused from their nesting spots included a woman six months pregnant, a 63-year-old stroke victim and a man who was listed as an

endangered missing person, meaning he has a mental or psychological problem and his family has been looking for him. Some were

found sleeping naked underneath their bags; others were high on

See FREEWAY SWEEP, page 6

Veterans enlist help from SMC students

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — Veterans gathered here Tuesday to recruit students in their campaign to block commercial development at the Veterans Affairs property in West Los Angeles.

Representatives from Citizens For Veterans Rights said they want to see the remaining 389 acres of open space at the site used only for services helping veterans. They said that money generated from commercial development would be funneled outside of the VA.

The group is planning a march tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. outside of the Federal Building in Westwood to raise awareness of the development proposals, including its own. The group's plan would include the construction of housing for veterans, a hospice, an occupational training and physical therapy center, and more gardens. CFVR would also like vet-

erans to be employed by companies during construction.

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson is currently evaluating proposals to develop the property as part of the Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES), a business model developed to streamline the VA to better provide services to veterans. A commission formed as part of CARES recommended selling or leasing excess property to generate revenue.

Representatives from the VA could not be reached for comment.

"Some view veterans' services as charity, welfare. It's not," said CFVR president Francisco Juarez, a veteran of the Vietnam War. "These are services that were promised to veterans, many of who gave their lives serving this country ... We want to relate to SMC students and let them know what is going on. Many don't even know what a veteran is."

Search for new super underway

By Daily Press staff

SMMUSD HDQRTS. — Local school board members tonight will conduct a series of job interviews as they look to hire a consulting firm that will recommend candidates to become the next superintendent of schools in Santa Monica and Malibu.

The meeting, which was called specifically to address the departure of former superintendent John Deasy, will begin at 5 p.m. at the district's main office, 1651 16th St.

Deasy, 45, has accepted the post of chief executive officer for the school district in Prince George's County, Md. Former assistant superintendent of schools Mike Mathews has been named

superintendent in the interim. Mathews said he would like to be Deasy's permanent replacement.

The three firms to be considered are RJ Gatti Associates; Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates Ltd.; and Leadership Associates. Representatives from each firm will give a roughly 30- to 45-minute presentation and be questioned by school board members.

Members of the public also will have an opportunity to address the board and representatives from the companies.

After the interviews are completed, the board may chose a winner; however, it is the intention of the board to select a firm at Thursday's regularly scheduled meeting, according to the district's Web site.

The three firms were selected by district staff out of a total of nine that submitted bids. The firms were judged based on "internally developed criteria," with a scale ranging from "not acceptable" to "extremely strong."



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HOROSCOPES

Talk up a storm, Scorpio

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)
★★★★ You reverse directions and head down a new path. Without intending to, you could incur someone's ire. You might be surprised at what comes up with a person you look up to. Tonight: Could be late.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Take the high road, especially if you are feeling touchy. Instead of deciding that others are attacking you, consider what might be going on with them. You will gain a new perspective and relax. You will have much more inner peace as a result. Tonight: Tap into your imagination; you'll come up with great plans!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Not everyone sees life like you do. Be willing to relax and get the big picture. Listen to someone's feedback without dissing the person or reacting in a hostile manner. He or she might have a valid point or two. Everything flows in a new direction. Tonight: Happy as a cat.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to take a leap of faith when it comes to dealing with a specific person in your life. You might not be as controlling as this person. Take a strong stand when handling a responsibility. Increase your status. Tonight: A must appearance.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Suddenly, the practical aspects of your life invade. You might need to put on your thinking cap to clear out as much as you can. After all, according to the Lion, life is about living, not working. Remember that you are someone's role model. Tonight: Save your energy.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You are always so practical, but now your imagination takes you to new realms and different thoughts. Someone who admires your practical behavior might throw a boomerang in your path. Just jump over it. Tonight: Enjoy the midweek break.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Sometimes you need to step back and understand more of what is going on with someone close to you. Keeping a tight persona could be the perfect follow-through for a project or important situation. Tonight: Homeward bound.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You can make anything possible if you relax and work with the circumstances. Loosen up and make the most out of a very positive, creative few days. Think in terms of reaching out to others. Listen and evaluate. Tonight: Talk up a storm.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be sensitive about expenditures and choices. You can no longer deal with a problem; find ways of eliminating it. Your creativity surges, and you gain as a result. Listen well. Tonight: Happy as a cat.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ With the Moon in your sign, you come out on top, a force to be dealt with. You might want to think before you take a major action. Your personality helps you melt others' barriers. Tonight: As you wish.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ Don't make assumptions, but consider new possibilities. Try out an idea on someone else. Think positively, and you'll come up with solutions. You do your best work alone, by yourself. Be creative. Tonight: Play the recluse. (It won't be forever.)



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Knowing what you want will help you accomplish your goals. You cannot go too far out or try something too weird right now. Take your time with choices. You'll feel much better if you relax. Feel free to reinvent yourself. Tonight: Don't let anyone stop you.



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AUDIT PENDING

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A bipolar advantage

By Daily Press staff

Dealing with a loved one who is bi-polar can be a confusing for everyone involved. Tom Wootton hopes to shed some light on the disease during a lecture on Thursday, March 23, at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Wootton will discuss his book, “The Bipolar Advantage,” and the weekend workshop that he offers called “Bipolar In Order.” After the talk, Wootton will answer questions and sign books. The book is available for purchase at all events for \$20. All proceeds from the book benefit the activities of Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of North County.

Wootton’s book covers the concept that bipolar is not an illness, but a condition that has both bad and good aspects. Finding the good traits of the bipolar mind and turning them into an advantage is the first step in changing bipolar from a personal nightmare into a life worth living, Wootton writes. Interweaving stories of his own life, Wootton demonstrates that with a conscious effort, even the bad aspects of a bipolar condition can be turned to an advantage. With proper medication, exercise and diet, those suffering from bipolar disorder are on the way to a better lifestyle, Wootton says.

The free lecture will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the library at (310) 458-8600, or (760) 749-5719.

Elks kids shoot some hoops

By Daily Press staff

Throughout the United States, local Elks Lodges conduct Hoop Shoot contests for boys and girls between the ages of 8 to 13. Ages 10 to 13 shoot free throws from the normal line. The young ones shoot from 4 feet closer. Each person in a category shoots five practice shots and then 10 for the record. After that’s completed, they rotate through again, shooting 15 for the record. The winners participate in district, state, regional and national competitions, where a \$25,000 college scholarship is up for grabs.



Photo courtesy

In the front row, left to right, are Hoop Shoot winners Ray Mancini and Caitlin Cavanaugh. In the back row are Ray Beers, Elks exalted ruler; winners Jerry Shevlin and Lauren Gustafson; and Grady Sain, Hoop Shoot chairman.

THE SANTA MONICA ELKS CLUB RECENTLY HOSTED ITS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST. HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

Age		Girls	Boys
8-9	1	Caitlin Cavanaugh	Najja Hunten
	2	Ianni Maxwell	Darrell Miller
	3	Alex Harris	Maxwell Steven
10-11	1	Lisa Scott	Ray Mancini
	2	Jodeci Wheeler	Connor Green
	3	Guru Simaran Khalsa	Daunte Bell
12-13	1	Lauren Gustafson	Jerry Shevlin
	2	Iluana Hernandez	Christian Salem
	3	Marketa Wade	Jemel Wheeler

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 5"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 12/12
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 156" - 188"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 39	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
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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 39	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 6"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 4/4
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 5"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 12"	BASE DEPTH 48" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 54°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today is when our next NW swell is due. This one is holding some 12-second periods-not a lot of oomph for a ground swell. Size will bump up though to around chest high for most west facing breaks as this one brings in some 290-degree NW energy.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW bumps up a bit for SoCal Today..

Small NW by week’s end...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:13AM	1.3FT	2:47PM	0.2FT
HIGH TIDE	8:12AM	5.2FT	9:03PM	4.4FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:43AM	0.9FT	3:06PM	0.0FT
HIGH TIDE	8:52AM	5.1FT	9:20PM	4.6FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:13AM	0.7FT	3:30PM	0.3FT
HIGH TIDE	9:13AM	5.0FT	9:38PM	4.8FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:46AM	0.6FT	3:49PM	0.6FT
HIGH TIDE	9:47AM	4.5FT	9:57PM	4.9FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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The new film “Thank You for Smoking” makes light of much of the nation’s demonization of smoking, as well as smokers. Here in Santa Monica, anti-smoking laws have already been passed in efforts to rid the beaches and parks of smoke.

The discussion proves timely for Californians, as this week also marked the premiere of the City of Calabasas’ new ban of smoking “everywhere ... except as otherwise provided” — the first such wide-sweeping provision in the country. The laws restrict smokers to their homes, balconies and scant designated areas in and around the city.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **Has Santa Monica gone far enough to protect citizens from secondhand smoke, or has it already gone too far?**

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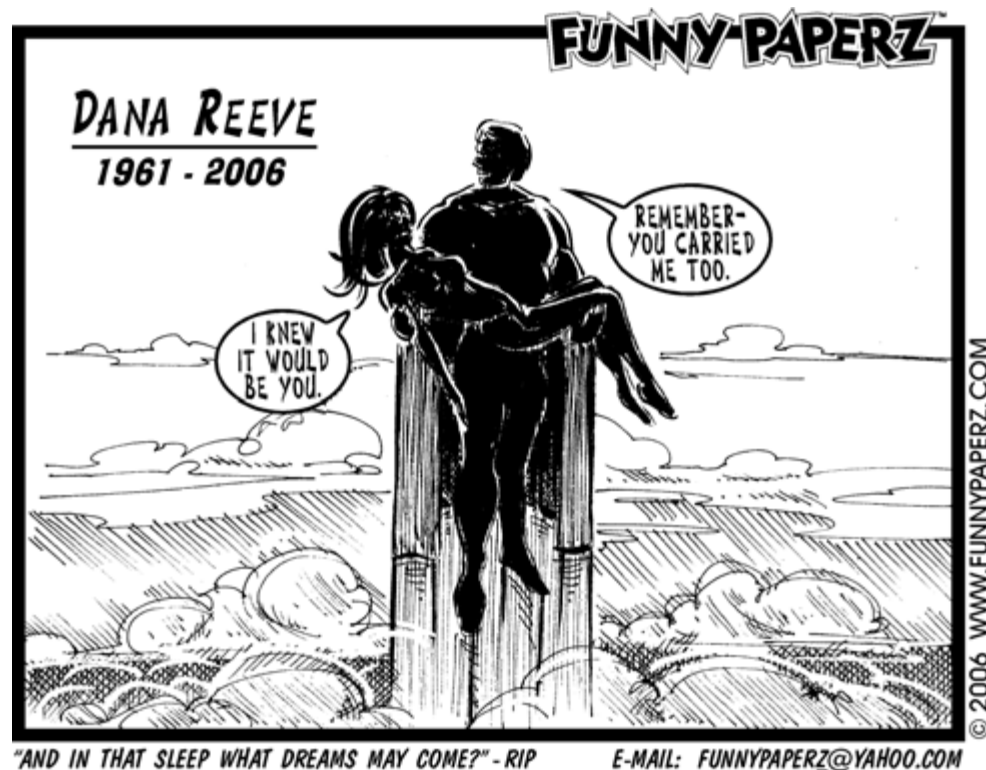
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City officials pushing out the middle class

Editor:

Tremendous attention is paid at City Hall to the production of low-income housing, but not much discussion is devoted to the consequences on the future of this city.

The large amounts of low-income housing advocated by the party ruling this city will destroy the middle class, evaporate support for schools and dramatically increase taxation. The city intends that 30 percent of all new housing to be low income and, therefore, Santa Monica envisions becoming a city where about one in three citizens is low income. Changing the city demographics to include such a large number of low-income residents will not decrease city services but will most certainly increase the tax burden on the remaining residents. When each resident makes a contribution, a group of three residents will give 33 cents per member in order to make a \$1 contribution to the city coffers. If one of the three members of the group is low income and makes zero contribution, then each of the other group members must make an additional 17 cents contribution. So, the non-low income residents will suffer a 50 percent increase in taxes in order to support the non-paying low income residents. Such a substantial increase in taxation will create a heavy burden and much resentment among middle-class residents who struggle to make a living and see their hard-earned dollars going to provide free benefits to other residents.

Support for Santa Monica institutions such as schools that are perceived to provide services at great cost for the benefit of non-paying residents will surely diminish. Businesses will find it more difficult to make a living in a city where a large number of customers has little disposable income. Policies that result in the reduction in available land for housing due to its use for low-income housing; the prohibition of condominium conversions that can provide low-cost housing opportunities to middle class buyers; and more taxation on market rate housing to pay for low-income housing, such as the \$24-per-square-foot tax on new housing that needs a minimum \$200 extra rent for a 1,000-square-foot apartment or the required uncompensated construction of a substantial number of low-income units — based on an amendment to be discussed on April 26; 20 percent to 40 percent of the new units must be dedicated to low income in order to be allowed to build new condominiums — will increase even more market rents and purchase prices and thus accelerate the exodus of the middle class. Eventually, unless the quality of life in Santa Monica significantly decreases, only very rich and very poor will be able to reside in this city.

George Balanis
Santa Monica

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

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America's massive and ongoing sell-out



THE WITNESS STAND

BY CLIFF NICHOLS

We as a country need to wake up and smell the coffee, even if it is imported from Columbia. Last year the U.S. trade deficit was \$804.9 billion, and for 2006 it's estimated to top \$1 trillion. I have a hard time getting my mind wrapped around numbers that big, but I'm pretty sure that it's probably too big to fit into even Mr. Holland's Opus.

For those who may need a visual aid to grasp what's going on, I would suggest they take a trip to an international commercial harbor like San Pedro or Long Beach and watch the cargo containers being unloaded off the many ships arriving daily. On an average day, they will see stack after stack of containers marked simply with one word, "China," as far as the eye can see. They contain the goods arriving into our country that are stocking our store shelves — from clothing to toys to sporting goods to almost every type of household item. They are the products for which we trade our money, but the trouble is because they are not manufactured by Americans, that money is being shipped overseas. Some have called it the "Wal-Mart effect." I think of it as the financial gutting of America. Last year the trade deficit with China alone was \$201.7 billion.

The implications for the U.S. economy are ominous, yet America appears to be asleep at the switch. Our country is being plundered, yet we sit by idly fiddling with our iPods. Since 2000, our country's manufacturing sector has lost 3 million jobs. That equates to an economic blood letting. According to Peter Morici, a professor at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business, the record trade deficits of recent years have resulted in the U.S. economy being about \$1 trillion smaller than it would have been without the deficits. That equates to approximately \$7,000 less per U.S. worker than he/she would have had otherwise. In turn, that reduces tax revenues and that ripples onward toward an increased federal budget deficit for which we and our offspring will pay dearly in the years to come.

In the meantime, to make up for the cash shortfall we are bringing upon ourselves by exporting our jobs and money abroad, we are at the same time selling or leasing our assets in this country to foreign interests. Take for example the plan of the governor of Indiana to lease the Indiana toll road to a foreign consortium in order to get \$3.85 billion needed for highway construction money. As one opposed to the plan put it, "Selling (the) prime productive assets (of this country) is a sure sign of desperation and mismanagement." Another put it this way, "We're the crossroads of America. Spain and Australia are going to be in charge of the road that goes across the top of us. What happens if the wrong person starts buying all these roads up?" Good question. Oh, and let's not forget that the president wanted to award the contract to manage our major ports to Dubai.

Practically speaking, all of this miscreant economic behavior on our part simply means that we as a nation have become cash

exporters. For example, Japan alone has accumulated more than \$1 trillion in American dollars, and who knows how much other countries around the world have accumulated in recent years. To understand the impact this could have consider this: General Motors has a stock market value \$12 billion. That means Japan could buy General Motors with only 1 percent of its American dollars and put it out of business — if they wanted to. For the time being they don't, probably only because it would embarrass us and, since we are the largest consumer of the cars they manufacture, they probably don't want to do that. But that doesn't mean they aren't using their American dollars to buy other U.S. companies and put them out of business.

The transfer of our nation's wealth to foreign ownership is occurring at the rate of \$2 billion a day, according to some sources. That's \$1.4 million flowing out of this country to foreign nations every minute. At that rate, if we do nothing to reverse the trend, our nation will in time be impoverished. It's inevitable. Spin-meisters, however, blur the implications of this by giving it a warm and fuzzy patina of acceptability. They tell us we are witnessing the natural course of "economic globalization." Who, after all, could be against anything called that? It sounds so egalitarian, one-worldish and tolerant of diversity. As long as you are still able to make a living in this country, it may even make you want to join Michael Jackson and his international multi-cultural choir to sing an updated rendition of "We Are The World" followed by a chorus of "Kumbayah." But, when you lose your job, you just may find you have more important things to be doing with your time.

The bottom line is the lifestyles we are enjoying today are being bought on credit, without our giving any thought as to how we're going to pay the bill when it arrives. When it does arrive, however, be assured we will no longer be able to afford to pay even the electric bill necessary to keep the toys and appliances we have bought from foreign manufacturers playing, spinning or rolling.

We need to recognize quickly that our current standard of living is not an entitlement. It was handed down to us from parents who labored hard to earn it. We, however, are spoiled and so somehow think of it as our birth right. But also because we are spoiled, when our lifestyles vanish we will not comprehend it — much less be able to accept it gracefully. To say we will be shocked and angry will be the least of it. Warren Buffet has been credited recently with saying that "(the) U.S. trade deficit is a bigger threat to the domestic economy than either the federal budget deficit or consumer debt and could lead to political turmoil." In hindsight, that may well turn out to be a tremendous understatement. Anarchy and revolutions have been caused by less than the economic collapse of this country that could foreseeably result from what we are witnessing today. The question is, "Is there anyone who can do anything to prevent it?" If there is, now would be a good time to hear from them.

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at either 310-917-1083, cliff@cliffnicholslaw.com or www.cliffnicholslaw.com. You may join his blog at www.thedailystand.com.)

COMMENTARY



PNA: Many miles behind it, still many more to go



(Editor's note: "In the 'Hood" is a regular column written by residents who represent organized neighborhood groups throughout Santa Monica. Published each Wednesday in the Daily Press, residents will cover the pressing issues facing their neighborhoods and call upon their neighbors to get involved. They'll sometimes scrutinize policies and actions of local government, or bring to light a subject that needs attention in their respective environs.)

The Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) was formed with the vision of empowering residents to enhance their quality of life, gain rightful share of city resources, and defend the right of the most vulnerable of us to remain in the city and the neighborhood.

Although the neighborhood organization was formed in 1979, it was during PNA's first year of funding in 1980 to 1981 that PNA received a Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the city of Santa Monica for \$50,000. Members began shifting their focus, organizing block clubs and knocking on doors. The PNA involves itself and its neighbors in the process of uplifting its unique community and making a difference in the lives everyday people. Prior to the advent of PNA, neighborhood housing was deteriorating, streets were unsafe for children, rents were rising, and alleys and streets were in disrepair. At that time, City Hall spent federal dollars targeted for low-income citizens and people of color elsewhere in Santa Monica.

The PNA vowed to "save the neighbor-

hood for those who live here now" and held its first comprehensive planning session, producing a community plan. The community plan addressed issues such as housing, traffic, neighborhood beautification, commercial/industrial development, crime, youth and public services. Because of outstanding resident participation and strong local leadership, the PNA has seen some of the goals of that early community plan become reality, such as street and sidewalk repairs, enhanced street lighting and traffic protection plans, traffic reduction, and an expansion and renovation of Virginia Avenue Park.

While many improvements have been done to improve the lives of residents in the Pico neighborhood, there are still many issues that continue to be present from the original community plan back in 1983. The PNA will continue to address the issues that affect our residents that include the need for affordable housing, culturally relevant social services for youth, promoting community-centered policing, improved community-police relations and addressing the impacts of gentrification. We want a better neighborhood with the same neighbors.

The PNA has many things to be proud of in its 26-year history. As a neighborhood, we have pursued our dreams and we have stuck it out long enough to see a lot of them come true. We will continue to speak out to ensure that our community is given the resources and attention from City Hall that our families need and deserve.

The PNA's boundary includes Lincoln Boulevard, Centinela Avenue and Pico Boulevard and Colorado Avenue. The PNA board is currently represented by the following board members: Maria Loya, Wes Thompson, Ana G. Jara, Irma Carranza, Gina Ingineri, Ruth Ramos, Clyde Smith, Gina De Baca, Joesph Blanks, Michael Jackson and Kristina Lizama.

WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 16!



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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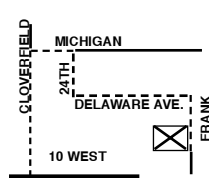


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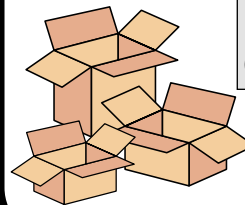


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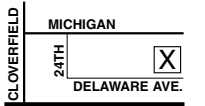


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LOCAL

Many makeshift homes dismantled



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Syringes and crack pipes were a common sight during the Santa Monica Police Department's homeless encampment sweep Tuesday morning.

FREEWAY SWEEP, from page 1

drugs and alcohol as they watched the cars whiz by.

Several people were taken into custody or cited with misdemeanors either because they were pedestrians along the freeway, which is against state law, or were illegally camping, which is against city law. Others were in violation of probation or parole. Some had outstanding warrants, and others were in possession of illegal drugs.

One commonality among all of them was the hard truth that the only place they knew as home would be gone by the end of the day. Caltrans workers were expected to dismantle the makeshift homes and clear the embankments of the garbage and debris after the sweep was concluded.

About 20 SMPD officers, some of whom work with the Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) — an outreach team that makes contact with homeless people throughout the city — directed the individuals they encountered to the appropriate social service providers.

"This is the way we find them, and we get them to people who can help them," said SMPD Lt. Al Venegas.

Some people are in need of medical attention, like the 63-year-old stroke victim who has been squatting with her 53-year-old boyfriend near the 20th Street off-ramp for two years. She suffered a stroke in 2001, is bound to a wheelchair and has refused help thus far. SMPD Sgt. Larry Horn explained that the woman is more likely than her boyfriend to receive

help from various social service providers because she is a female and is in need of medical attention. Because of that, she hasn't sought assistance because the couple will be separated.

Several officers spent a majority of Tuesday following up with the couple, assisting them with services that are available to them. Other officers spent hours checking personal property into safekeeping. They will be able to collect their personal property after they go through the system or get the related services to which they are linked.

"The chief (James T. Butts Jr.) will use the appropriate resources to assist people down on their luck, and it gives us the ability to touch people we might not see," said SMPD Capt. Mark Smiley. "There are 1,900 people identified as homeless in Santa Monica, and we need to put these people into the services they need."

As SMPD conducts more sweeps, it hopes to involve many more local social service providers, including the local Red Cross chapter, the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration, St. Joseph's Center, Ocean Park Community Center and Step Up on Second.

"It's a long-term effort on everybody's part," Smiley said, adding that the effort made by the SMPD is not only to get criminals off the street but also to get homeless people the help they truly need.

But it's convincing them that they need help that's the tricky part, said Ronald Bass, a volunteer with the West LA VA hospital, who was on hand Tuesday as part of an outreach team. He said often times the individuals he comes into contact with believe they've either used up what resources they can get at the VA or that they can't be helped at all. Others just don't want to play by the rules.

"They say, 'I do what I want when I want,'" said Bass, who has been volunteering on the outreach team for two years. Today, he will help the SMPD with its sweep along the Palisades Bluff, another popular squatting area for the homeless. "I keep trying to come back and make a connection with them."

Another VA volunteer, Chauncey Goodloe, said the pregnant woman he found at the off-ramp near Lincoln Boulevard told him she had been addicted to crystal meth and pot but that she kicked the habit when she learned she was pregnant. She had been in the hospital on Monday night because of contractions. A man who was camping near her was arrested for possession of ecstasy. He was booked on a felony charge.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A makeshift bedroom created by the homeless just off the Lincoln Boulevard exit along Interstate 10 was dismantled on Tuesday after local police did a sweep along the freeway.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police officers and outreach workers from the West Los Angeles Veterans' Administration talk to a homeless couple who have been camping along an embankment on the south side of Interstate 10 in Santa Monica for two years. The woman, 63, suffered a stroke in 2001 and is bound to a wheelchair. Her boyfriend, 53, continues to care for her. They have been homeless for 20 years. As he was escorted off the freeway ramp, he said to officers, 'Thank you for treating me like a human being' after they suggested how he and his companion could get assistance.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Sgt. Larry Horn looks inside a tent set up by a homeless man at the embankment on the south side of Interstate 10 between 14th and 20th streets on Tuesday. A homeless couple who lived just feet away said the man works in Santa Monica and told them he has been living along the freeway for 10 years. SMPD officers planned to connect with the man at his workplace and try to get him help through the local social services network.

(Inset) The man's cat was hunkered down in the Eddie Bauer tent. The tent, the man's property and the cat will be held by the SMPD until he claims them.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Local police escort a homeless man off the embankment on the north side of Interstate 10 at the Lincoln Boulevard exit.

STATE



Mushroom trade is growing in dark places

BY JACOB ADELMAN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Doug Stenger pulled the lid from a small cardboard box of chanterelle mushrooms in the chilly storage room of a shop at the Wholesale Produce Market on the edge of downtown. Inside was a jumble of the knotted, fleshy lumps that command nearly \$20 a pound from restaurants and upscale markets this time of year.

"Of all the exotic wild mushrooms, these are probably the ones people want the most," said Stenger, an employee at produce wholesaler Davalan Sales.

Growers have found ways to cultivate some popular wild mushrooms such as morels and hen-of-the-woods. But not chanterelles. The fungus favored by gastronomes for its meaty texture and fruity flavor only grows in the wild, and at certain times of the year.

The rarity — combined with Americans' increasing interest in fine cuisine in general and exotic mushrooms in particular — makes chanterelles a valuable commodity for the Central Coast ranchers who find them growing at the base of oak trees.

But the enterprise has also caught the eye of an unusual breed of rustlers who target the mushrooms on midnight missions and sometimes use high-tech devices to keep track of their whereabouts.

"It's been a big issue," Santa Barbara County sheriff's Lt. George Gingras said. "Some of those ranchers and farmers count on those chanterelles as a source of income."

In February, three men were arrested near Lompoc for investigation of trespassing on private land to pick mushrooms.

Deputies seized several thousand dollars worth of chanterelles from a hotel room where some of the men were staying, Gingras said. Ledgers detailing more than \$10,000 in sales of mushrooms were found in the car of one suspect, according to a sheriff's report.

Officials believe the men, based in the Pacific Northwest, used global positioning devices to record locations of chanterelle patches.

"They'd make a harvest, click in the GPS coordinates, and then they'd come back next year," Gingras said.

Ranchers told authorities they had seen the men each year between November and April, when damp, woody areas were bursting with chanterelles.

Mushroom theft in the United States is rare but not unheard of. A group of pickers in Oregon were fined in 2002 for foraging on U.S. Forest Service property without a permit.

Pickers have also been busted for possession of hallucinogenic mushrooms harvested from farms and ranches in Louisiana and Florida.

The men arrested in Santa Barbara County are scheduled to be arraigned on March 28 on charges of theft and trespassing. They are suspected of hitting ranches and forests along the West Coast, moving north to Oregon and Washington in the spring when mushrooms fruit there, Gingras said.

Bill Giorgi, a cattle rancher in Buellton, said chanterelles are plentiful on his property. Yet he didn't realize the value until pickers first invaded his ranch in the 1980s. He's been picking and selling the mushrooms ever since.

He even has deals with his neighbors to harvest chanterelles on their farms and share the profits.

Sales of chanterelles and other wild mushrooms are not tracked by the much larger cultivated mushroom industry. But the demand for cultivated specialty varieties such as shiitake and oyster mushrooms jumped more than 26 percent, to more than 15 million pounds a year, between 2002 and 2005, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Anything with a mushroom sells," said chef Brett Macras, who keeps in-season chanterelles on the menu at Campanile, a popular Los Angeles restaurant. "Our customers are always looking for something new."

Macras usually buys his chanterelles from a mushroom broker but sometimes goes directly to an elderly man in Santa Barbara County he calls "The Mushroom Hunter." The chef has paid as much as \$16 for a pound of the mushrooms.

Mushroom brokers who serve produce wholesalers and restaurants pay Giorgi about \$5 a pound for his chanterelles.

That figure might seem low, considering the mushrooms can retail for more than four times that amount. But Giorgi doesn't invest any time or labor to grow the crop, and experts say it's not unusual in some years to find 10 pounds of chanterelles under a single oak.

Giorgi won't say where the mushrooms grow or who buys from him. He said it's information that could help poachers find his mushroom patches.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Super cops to money misuse

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — The former superintendent of the Manhattan Unified School District was placed on probation and fined \$10,000 for misappropriation of public funds.

Jerry Davis, 58, pleaded guilty Monday to the felony count. Besides the \$10,000 fine, he must pay an additional penalty of up to \$20,000 and nearly \$6,500 in restitution to the school district.

Former school board member Mary Rogers, 63, pleaded not guilty to the same charge and a May 2 hearing was scheduled. She faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

The former school officials were charged last week with illegally using public funds for personal expenses.

Davis, who now lives in Florida, used money for a hotel room in Laguna Beach, new eyeglasses and theater tickets in New York, among other things, from Nov. 6, 1997, to June 13, 2002.

Rogers allegedly misused district money sometime from Nov. 7, 2000, to May 20, 2003.

Police, firefighters lead in bonuses

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Some \$80 million in police and firefighter bonuses last year make up nearly three-quarters of the \$117 million in bonus payments to all city workers, it was reported.

Extra pay is offered for everything from shift differentials and bilingual premiums to marksmanship bonuses and uniform allowances.

Records obtained by the Daily News show payments quadrupled over the past five years as labor negotiations have expanded the number of available bonuses and the number of employees eligible to get extra pay.

The number of bonuses paid rose from 11,383 to 52,272 last year, with some employees receiving more than one, according to documents obtained under the California Public Records Act.

Police Department and Fire Department bonuses had the steepest rises. Police bonuses have grown an average 22 percent annually since 2001, while firefighter bonuses rose an average 41 percent annually.

"To see the huge dollar increases in bonuses over the last five years — it's enormous," City Controller Laura Chick said. "I think the most pure and simple answer is labor asked for these bonuses, and the city gave them."

Center's campaign nets \$200M

By The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE — Eisenhower Medical Center's five-year capital campaign to expand and build new facilities reached its \$200 million goal a year early.

"The community response and support for Eisenhower to continue being a quality medical facility has been very rewarding," hospital chief Aubrey Serfling said.

The hospital board originally set a goal of \$150 million over five years, but the amount was later increased to \$200 million, said Michael Landes, president of the Eisenhower Medical Center Foundation.

But the capital campaign will continue for another year.

The hospital plans a new four-story structure, the Annenberg Pavilion, with 160 beds, with groundbreaking in August. Additionally, Eisenhower is in escrow to purchase a 14-acre property in La Quinta for a 95,000-square-foot ambulatory care facility, including a day-surgery center and physicians' offices, Landes said.

Pechanga ousts another family

By The Associated Press

TEMECULA — The casino-rich Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians has kicked out another large family, the second time the tribe has ejected members in the past

two years.

The Pechanga tribe ousted descendants of Paulina Hunter, whose family numbers more than 90 adults. Disenrolled members lose their vote on tribal matters and their share of casino profits, which can total \$120,000 annually per adult.

"Tribal nations have sole jurisdiction and authority to establish and enforce procedures to determine their own tribal citizenship. The courts have consistently upheld this tribal right because of more than 200 years of legal precedent," tribal chairman Mark Macarro said in a statement.

The Hunter family tribal disenrollment, as it is known, surfaced days after the first ousted family of Manuela Miranda asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider landmark litigation filed more than two years ago.

The tribe has kicked out more than 220 people.

John Gomez Jr., an ex-tribal member and part of the Miranda family, said disenrollments are the result of greed. Pechanga tribal members receive monthly casino profit checks and cutting membership rolls give remaining members larger checks.

Gomez said Paulina Hunter and her family were one of the original families to be granted reservation land in the "allotment" process in the 1800s.

"Disenrollment actions occurred at Pechanga before we ever had a casino as well as after, quite independent of our gaming activities," Macarro said in his statement. "Contrary to the allegations of a few, this matter has nothing to do with politics or profits."

Planners: Reduce LAX reliance

By The Associated Press

CORONA — Transportation planners told a congressional panel a costly road and high-speed rail network is needed to connect suburban airports and break Southern California's reliance on Los Angeles International Airport.

Planners told the U.S. House Aviation Subcommittee on Monday that they envision bustling airports scattered throughout the suburbs to handle some of the air traffic that otherwise would smother LAX.

They estimated it could cost up to \$18 billion to develop high-speed transportation needed to make those airports real alternatives to LAX.

Although they agreed Los Angeles International Airport will be overwhelmed by air traffic in coming years, committee members said federal funds will be difficult to find.

"Delays in the region will worsen over time," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., and the chairman of the subcommittee. "It's just inevitable."

Planners said LAX traveler volume will more than double to some 170 million passengers a year by 2030, tens of millions more than LAX can handle.

The solution can be found in places such as Long Beach and Burbank, Palmdale and Ontario, according to the Southern California Association of Governments.

The association estimated it would take nearly \$6 billion to make the necessary improvements to terminals and runways at those airports.

And travelers need high-speed links to the outlying airports. Planners estimated a regional web of high-speed transit and bus lines would cost \$18 billion or more.

Officer charged in whisky beating

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — A Coast Guard petty officer pleaded not guilty to the brutal whisky bottle beating of his 74-year-old uncle.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Claude Kaukini Kaaikamanu, 29, entered pleas Monday to assault with a deadly weapon and elder abuse charges in the March 15 beating of Albert Estiamba, who is unconscious and on life support at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Bail for Kaaikamanu, who is stationed in Pearl City, Hawaii, was set at \$1 million.

Kaaikamanu allegedly beat the elderly man after drinking six beers and four shots of whisky, investigators said.

Schwarzenegger, state GOP raise \$2.5 million at SoCal fundraiser

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

AP Political Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state GOP collected an estimated \$2.5 million Monday at a fundraiser headlined by Sen. John McCain, as scores of union members protested outside the event calling for the governor's ouster in November.

For Schwarzenegger, the closed-door dinner begins to replenish a political fund drained last year by his costly and losing campaign to enact ballot proposals to slow state spending and curb public union power in Sacramento. Top donors kicked in as much as \$100,000 to attend the dinner and reception.

But the event was reminiscent of 2005, when union activists angered by the governor's agenda hounded his public appearances and ran millions of dollars of TV ads to help defeat the proposals. At one point, about two dozen members of the California Nurses Association tried to march into the reception shouting, "Shame on Arnold." They were turned away by security guards and police.

"This fundraiser is the prime example of what is wrong with our system," said Jill Furillo, Southern California director of the nurses association. "They write their \$100,000 checks because they hope to get a favor in return."

The event was headlined by McCain, R-Ariz., who was enlisted by Schwarzenegger last year to help campaign for the governor's ballot proposals. The measures were defeated by voters in November.

McCain has urged Schwarzenegger to push for campaign finance reforms in California in 2006. But the governor has spent much of his time talking about building highways, levees and schools, not restraining the flow of campaign dollars.

McCain spokesman Craig Goldman said that to his knowledge, the senator and governor did not discuss campaign finance reform at the fundraiser. McCain has said in the past he's uncomfortable with the level of fundraising in California elections, but that candidates like the governor must play within the current rules to be competitive.

"He's a good friend of the governor's, and a big supporter of him," Goldman said. "If he had his wish come true, it would be that all states fall under the federal

(campaign) guidelines, to limit the amount of money needed in campaigns."

Democrats have filed a complaint with federal regulators arguing McCain was violating federal law by appearing at Monday's event, which asked for checks well above federal limits. But legal advisers for McCain say there is no conflict since the money is being raised by Schwarzenegger and the party, not McCain.

The event, conducted under heavy security at the Beverly Hilton, was hosted by donors from the entertainment and business elite, including "The Terminator" director James Cameron, Interscope Records chief Jimmy Iovine, Yahoo Inc. Chairman Terry Semel and Univision Communications Inc. Chairman A. Jerrold Perenchio.

The fundraiser featured a silent auction, which included a cornucopia of Schwarzenegger mementos and curios, including cigars, campaign jackets, even a haircut from the governor's personal stylist.

State GOP Chairman Duf Sundheim said the event would raise at least \$2.5 million, adding the turnout was a sign of political strength for the governor.

In some cases, the funds raised will be divided with the state Republican Party, which can use the money to support Schwarzenegger or run its statewide operations.

Outside the hotel, union members berated the governor for pursuing corporate donations and accused him of selling out working families. They also accused him of planning to gut pensions.

"The working people of California are the real heroes," Patrick McOsker of the United Firefighters of Los Angeles told the cheering crowd. "Let's throw this bum out in November."

Schwarzenegger was elected in 2003 after promising to upend politics as usual in Sacramento. He's now recognized as one of the most prolific political fundraisers in state history. His campaign committees have banked millions of dollars from supporters with business and corporate ties.

The Democrats who want to replace him — state Controller Steve Westly and Treasurer Phil Angelides — were also busy fundraising, sometimes appealing to the same corporate and entertainment industry donors pursued by the governor.

Washington state erases its widely detested \$5 day-use fees for its 120 state parks

BY DAVID AMMONS

AP Political Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington is removing the \$5 day-use parking fee from its 120 state parks. The much-maligned fee caused people by the millions to shun the park system during the three years it was imposed.

Gov. Chris Gregoire signed the repeal bill on Monday. It isn't official immediately, but state parks Director Rex Derr said rangers will no longer ask that day users pay the fee.

"We want people back," Derr said.

Derr and the citizen commission that runs the system are concerned about the repeal legislation, because of the multimillion-dollar revenue loss. But on Monday, Derr took a more optimistic tone.

"I'm happy," he said in an interview. "Parks are there for everyone and we love people being able to use their park system. I do expect the return of several million visitors."

After the fee was imposed by the state Parks and Recreation Commission, with the blessing of the Legislature, park attendance slid by about 8 million, down from more than 45 million. Derr said part of that probably was due to the spike in gasoline prices, bad

weather and other causes.

State House Majority Leader Lynn Kessler, D-Hoquiam, took on repeal as her personal top priority of this year's legislative session, calling the fee "an experiment that failed," because too many average citizens simply stopped using their parks.

Gregoire conceded that the state does not yet have a workable fix for the parks' budget hole, but said Monday she was happy to sign the bill.

"I think we instill and carry on our environmental ethic when our families, our children, are growing up and have an opportunity to go to our state parks," she said. "I did it as a kid. I took our two daughters to state parks camping."

Derr said the park system remains very nervous about the uncertain revenue picture.

"It's real worrisome," he said. "But I'm leaning on the promises legislators made to us."

This year, however, lawmakers dipped into the general treasury to replace most of the projected shortfall.

With the repeal, Washington returns to its status as the only state in the West without day-use fees in at least some parks.

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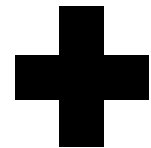
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Real Estate

Embrace your breaks with the IRS



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Our historically low interest rates, coupled with the assumption that property is a safer place to park cash than the stock market have made real estate the investment of choice in recent years. Some go for income producing properties, others retirement homes. It doesn't matter what type of real estate investment property you own — rental houses, commercial buildings, shopping centers, apartments, warehouses or land — they all offer big tax incentives.

As tax time draws near, here are some additional tax deductions you can take.

LOSS DEDUCTION

A real estate investor who is not a "real estate professional" is legally limited to a maximum annual \$25,000 realty investment property loss deduction against their ordinary taxable income — providing this non-professional investor's annual adjusted income does not exceed \$100,000. Above the six-figure adjusted income level, the allowable tax loss deduction phases out, flatlining at \$150,000. Comfortably, IRS Notice 88-94 allows those in that tax stratosphere to suspend

their undeducted real estate investment tax loss until the property is sold. The suspended tax loss is then subtracted from the capital gain to lower the taxable profit at the time of sale.

To qualify, part-time investors must own at least 10 percent of the investment property and must "materially participate" in property management decisions.

A real estate professional — who spends at least 750 hours per year, or more than 50 percent of their business time in qualified real estate work — has deductions galore. "There is no limit to the allowable tax deductions from your properties that can be subtracted from your other ordinary income," according to real estate expert Bob Bruss.

DEPRECIATION

The government has gifted property investors the opportunity to depreciate their investment properties. Depreciation is a "paper loss" required for estimated wear, tear and obsolescence. Keep in mind, land value is not depreciable.

Residential income property is depreciated more than 27.5 years on a straight-line basis — equal annual reductions in the book value of a property. Commercial property is depreciated over 39 years. Personal items used in operating the property, such as apartment appliances, are usually depreciated over five to 10 years. Automobiles and trucks used in the invest-

ment operation can be depreciated over their useful lives. There also is the new first-year 100 percent deduction for up to \$100,000 of business equipment.

Depreciation is a non-cash expense deduction, which reduces taxable income from the investment property. According to Bruss, depreciation expense deductions can turn a positive cash flow property into a tax loss for income tax purposes, thus creating a "tax shelter" for that income property's tax flow. While most investment properties appreciate in market value each year, on paper their "book value" depreciates as the property ages. Accounting shows that the book value declines while the market value goes up.

RECAPTURED DEPRECIATION GETS TAXED WITH THE SALE

The 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act reduced the federal capital gains tax rate to 20 percent. In 2003, the government again reduced the capital gains tax rate to 15 percent for assets owned more than 12 months. The special 25 percent depreciation "recapture" tax rate remains unchanged. Those depreciation deductions you've taken are taxed when a property is sold.

Many investors will avoid paying the 25 percent federal recapture tax rate for deducted depreciation by exchanging the property for another investment property, better known as a 1031 exchange.

Since 1921, Internal Revenue Code 1031 has sanctioned tax-deferred exchanges of investment and business properties. A 1031 exchange allows individuals and corporations to trade in existing business and investment property for new property — and defer the capital gains tax along the way. A qualified tax-deferred trade up is viewed, taxwise, as one continuous investment. Traditionally, 1031 exchanges were used most by owners of large commercial real estate properties, but the real estate boom has made exchanges a favorite among smaller investors as well.

"This is one of the last goodies in real estate," said Kelly Yates, an attorney and house counsel to the Exchange Facilitator Corp. "Our typical customer is the mom

and pop who maybe inherited land many years ago and want to move unproductive land into income-producing property. We also see the phenomenon of people in their 40s and 50s looking ahead to retirement and looking to sell a property to buy a home in Florida that they can rent and maybe retire to someday."

Advocates of 1031 exchanges say the best part about them is that you're able to reinvest the money you would otherwise have spent in capital gains taxes. To qualify for the tax-deferred status, the proceeds from your sale must go back into your replacement property, but those are pre-tax dollars you're putting to work for you.

According to Tim Egan, executive director of the Federation of Exchange Accommodators, like-kind exchanges have been going strong for the past decade, since the treasury department adopted new guidelines for executing a tax-deferred exchange.

"The feedback we are getting from our members is that the preponderance of business these days is coming from small, mom-and-pop investors. They are the ones who benefit from this the most," Egan said.

Any serious 1031 exchange prospect begins the process with a visit to a qualified intermediary, a firm approved by the IRS to facilitate 1031 exchanges.

A proper 1031 exchange will see that you don't pay taxes on the transaction until you sell the replacement property. By that time, most investors are well into their retirement years and fall into a lower tax bracket. If you have a smart team offering investment advice, you may be able to avoid paying taxes altogether. That's because the capital gains tax you owe on replacement properties are forgiven upon your death, meaning your heirs won't get hit for taxes either.

"This can be a great estate planning tool," said Margo McDonnell, president of 1031 Corp., a qualified intermediary.

(Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or call 310-309-4219.)

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Make your exchange and make your capital gain



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

A taxpayer's ability to exclude and/or defer capital gains tax liability from the sale of a primary residence can be a powerful tool and deserves serious attention. Those gains, if dealt with properly, could be used to significantly increase an investor's cash flow and ultimately the person's net worth.

Most homeowners do not consider a 1031 exchange when selling their primary residence, and the ones that do, after a cursory investigation, might surmise that the gain from the sale of a primary residence does not qualify for a 1031 exchange.

There are two ways that a residence can be involved in a 1031 exchange. The first is an investor buying a residence under a 1031 exchange as investment property and later converting it to a primary residence. The second is an investor buying a residence as a primary residence, then converting it to an investment property to be sold under 1031 exchange.

Revenue procedural code Section 121 is the main way that homeowners deal with any gain on the sale of their home. It allows homeowners to exclude up to \$250,000 — \$500,000 for married couples filing joint tax returns — of the tax obligation incurred from a capital gain as a result of the sale of their home, and up until a few years ago those amounts were sufficient to cover any gain.

Since the price of residential property has increased to a point that homeowners are incurring gains in amounts much higher than \$250,000 or even \$500,000, creating an excess — more than the exclusion allowed in Section 121 — and what appears to be an unavoidable tax liability, combining Sections 121 and 1031 is being looked at more closely.

The requirements to qualify for a Section 121 exclusion are that the taxpayer must have owned the property for the past five years and lived in it for a minimum of two years of those five — not necessarily consecutively. The Section 121 exclusion can only be used every two

years. Unfortunately, properties categorized as primary residences alone do not qualify for a 1031 tax deferred exchange.

The requirements to qualify for a 1031 exchange are that the property to be exchanged (relinquished) must be used in the seller's trade or business and/or for investment at the time of the sale. The replacement property — the one to be purchased — must be of "like kind," meaning to be used in the buyer's trade or business or held for investment. Any property being held in that fashion can be depreciated, and the investor will be obligated to pay or be permitted to defer depreciation recapture and capital gains taxes upon its disposition or exchange.

Multi-use properties: Many homeowners and investment property owners have converted their primary residence into investment property and vice versa. Additionally, business owners are increasingly converting primary residences into a multi-use property by allocating a portion of it for use as a home office, business or trade.

Careful planning is required to ensure that the property that has been or will be converted to or from a primary residence or business/investment property in order to qualify for both the tax exclusion of Section 121 and the deferral of Section 1031.

As in all tax matters, it is important for the investor to consult with their real estate attorney or tax advisor before making a final decision.



(You can reach Christina Porter at 1-877-4 TM 1031, or e-mail her at christina@tm1031exchange.com to discuss your specific needs. TM 1031 Exchange assists investors in planning and executing successful real estate investment strategies. Visit www.tm1031exchange.com for a complete list of investment properties and to download the TM 1031 Tool Kit.)

What you truly need to know about being a homeowner



THE HOA ADVISOR

BY MICHAEL CHULAK

QUESTION: I am seriously considering investing in short term notes secured by deeds of trust. What documents should I receive from the mortgage company?

ANSWER: You should receive all of the following:

- A copy of the borrower's loan application, property appraisal, credit report and any other available documentation that would help you in making an informed investment decision.

- The recorded deed of trust.
- The original promissory note.
- A policy of title insurance that guarantees title.

- A hazard insurance policy with a Loss Payable Endorsement Clause in your favor.

QUESTION: As a condominium developer, I would like to point out that the present law in California discourages the building of condominiums and other developments with homeowner associations. The primary reason is that homeowner associations have up to 10 years to find construction defects and sue developers, architects, engineers and contractors.

Consequently, building homes that are included in a homeowner association has become very expensive due to the high cost of insurance and expensive litigation, which ultimately is passed on to the consumer.

As much as 50 percent of any financial settlement goes to attorneys and so called

See HOA, page 12

Sample Properties For Sale

Self Storage

City	State	Price	Sq.Ft.	Cap Rate
Tempe	AZ	\$2,000,000	50,515	6.60%
San Angelo	TX	\$2,680,000	75,000	8.75%
Kingston	NY	\$3,000,000	90,000	9.49%
Pearland	TX	\$3,290,000	91,735	8.75%

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Managed Condominiums	AZ	\$100,000	8% / 8%
Assisted Living	USA	\$100,000	10% / 10%
Dry Stack Storage/Marina	FL	\$100,000	8% / 21%
Food Lion Retail Center	SC	\$300,000	8% / 11%

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Few buy insurance in case of flood

By Daily Press staff

Only about half of homeowners living in some of the most flood-prone areas of the United States buy federal flood insurance, leaving millions of families at risk for severe financial losses when floods strike, according to a recently released RAND Corp. study.

Most homeowners buying flood insurance do so only because it is required in areas considered most vulnerable to flooding, the study found. Just 20 percent of homeowners living in the most flood-prone areas buy federal flood insurance when they are not required to do so, the study says.

“Substantial flood damage from Hurricane Katrina was suffered by homes located in flood zones whose owners were not required to purchase flood insurance,” said Lloyd Dixon, lead author of the report.

Only about 1 percent of Americans living outside flood zones buy federal flood insurance, according to the study, even though they sometimes become flood victims as well.

Fifty to 60 percent of the 3.6 million single-family homes in the most flood-prone areas are required by law to buy federal flood insurance. But the owners of the remaining homes in the most flood-prone areas and the roughly 76 million single-family homes in the nation outside these areas are not required to buy flood insurance.

The National Flood Insurance Program, established by Congress in 1968, makes flood insurance available in communities that adopt floodplain management programs. Requirements to purchase flood insurance were first adopted in 1973, in response to very low participation in the program in its initial years.

Under the law, most homes with mortgages located in designated Special Flood Hazard Areas must purchase flood insurance. Special Flood Hazard Areas are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as having at least a 1 percent chance of experiencing flooding in any given year.

The study is part of a wide-ranging evaluation of the nation’s flood insurance system that was requested by the FEMA and coordinated by American Institutes for Research (AIR). AIR is an independent, nonpartisan not-

for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research on important social issues and delivers technical assistance both domestically and internationally in the areas of health, education and workforce productivity.

“The findings represent important new information that contributes to the larger effort to improve the flood insurance program,” said Marc Shapiro, AIR’s director of the evaluation project. Additional studies and the final AIR report will be released later this year.

The RAND study also found little evidence to suggest that increasing the number of homeowners who buy flood insurance would lower FEMA disaster assistance to individuals following floods. The lack of relationship is partly because flood insurance does not cover temporary housing assistance, which accounts for roughly 60 percent of FEMA individual assistance following flooding disasters. The FEMA individual disaster assistance program is one of many forms of federal disaster assistance available to individuals, businesses and governments following floods.

Extending the National Flood Insurance Program to include temporary housing could help reduce FEMA individual disaster assistance payments, according to the report, although such a policy change would require a broader examination of potential impacts.

The RAND study also explores the number, location and characteristics of homeowners who purchase federal flood insurance. In addition, it outlines what motivates people to buy insurance and assesses the implications of increasing sales of flood insurance.

The analysis provides a solid basis for policymakers to determine the National Flood Insurance Program’s impact, assess costs and benefits, and evaluate proposed reforms, Dixon said. For example, the findings provide the data needed to better estimate the effects of recent proposals to extend the mandatory purchase requirement to all homes in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

The study is based on a more-reliable method for estimating participation in the federal flood insurance program than has been used on broad scale previously. A random sample of single-family homes was selected from the property tax rolls of 100 communities across the country. The National Flood Insurance Program policy-in-force database was then used to determine which homes had flood insurance policies. The study demonstrated the feasibility and power of this approach, and the authors recommend that it be extended to a larger sample of communities to increase the detail and precision of the estimates.

The RAND study also found that:

- Flood insurance purchase rates are much lower in communities that have a relatively small number of homes in a floodplain or that have a low proportion of

homes in a floodplain. The disparity may be because insurers market flood insurance less aggressively in communities with fewer homes in the floodplain or because there are fewer insurance agents familiar with the program and enthusiastic about writing policies in such communities.

- In communities subject to coastal flooding, about 63 percent of homeowners purchase flood insurance, compared with 35 percent of homeowners in areas subject only to river flooding. The disparity may be due to a lower perception of risk or the limited insurance coverage available for basements, which are more common in inland areas. The RAND report recommends policymakers examine these and other reasons why the flood insurance is less attractive in inland areas.

- Within Special Flood Hazard Areas nationwide, about 75 to 80 percent of those who are required to purchase flood insurance have done so.

- Communities with lightly populated flood zones or a small percentage of homes in flood zones present a growth opportunity for the National Flood Insurance Program. However, developing strategies to increase participation in the insurance program across the large number of such communities (roughly 19,000 of the approximately 20,000 communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program) will be challenging.

- Overall market penetration for flood insurance in Special Flood Hazard Areas is approximately 60 percent in the South and West regions of the United States, compared with 20 to 30 percent in the Northeast and Midwest.

- In the South, 75 percent of homes with flood insurance policies also have contents coverage, compared with 16 percent in the Midwest and 49 percent in the Northeast.

- Nearly 60 percent of single-family homes in Special Flood Hazard Areas nationwide are in the South, although less than 25 percent of the nation’s single-family homes are in the South.

The study also found that that the decision to purchase flood insurance is not particularly sensitive to the price of flood insurance, at least over the range of flood insurance prices currently observed. Consequently, the study concludes that when developing strategies to increase participation in the flood insurance program, program managers do not have to be greatly concerned about moderate changes in policy premiums.

The study was conducted jointly by the Institute for Civil Justice and the RAND Infrastructure, Safety and Environment division.

The RAND Corp. is a Santa Monica-based nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world.

Addressing the concerns of a developer

HOA, from page 11

“experts” who find defects. Attorneys who specialize in this field often solicit business from homeowner associations by telling these groups that they will make money at no cost to the association.

For small developers the current system is very unjust because we are unable to get insurance except at very high costs. To me it is quite obvious that these costs are being passed onto the consumer.

In the contracting field it is customary for the contractor to be responsible for defects for 12 months after completion. Most states in have such a law, except California. The existing law “10 years” was passed as a result of strong lobbying by trial lawyers in California who spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get it passed.

What is your response?

ANSWER: First let me point out that the 10 years within which homeowner associations can sue a developer applies only to hidden defects. These are defects that a person could not reasonably discover such as the failure of a developer to insert fire blocks inside walls. Defects that are reasonably discoverable have a limitation of three or four years depending on the claim.

Lawyers specializing in protecting consumers would never advise homeowner groups that they could make money suing developers. Even if an association prevails in court on every issue, the association must pay expert fees, legal fees and other costs, which are rarely fully

recoverable. The fact is that defective construction costs homeowners money. Homeowners don’t make money when their building is defective.

You claim that the system is unfair and against developers. This is not true. In fact, the building industry association strongly supported the recently enacted civil code Section 1375. This law is the most pro-developer law ever approved by the legislature in the history of the state. It makes suing a developer for construction defects more difficult, more time consuming, and more expensive.

You state that the cost of litigation is increasing the cost of housing, which is the fault of trial lawyers. The fact is, if developers built buildings without material defects or voluntarily repaired any defects there would be no need for litigation. Defects are the cause of litigation, not lawyers.

When someone dies in a fire because fire blocks were left out of buildings or buildings slide down a slope because of defective soil preparation, a trial lawyer is the only person an association of homeowners can count on to protect their rights.

(Michael T. Chulak is a partner with Chulak Shiffman Quisenberry & Drescher LLP, Attorneys at Law. Questions can be sent via e-mail to info@CSQDLaw.com. Answers are general in nature. An attorney should always be consulted when legal advice is needed. For more information visit these two Web sites: www.CSQDLaw.com and www.HoaQandA.com.)

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NATIONAL



Hispanics now owning more small businesses

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew at three times the national rate for all companies from 1997 to 2002, the government said Tuesday.

Hispanics owned nearly 1.6 million businesses in 2002, a 31 percent increase from five years earlier, according to the Census Bureau report.

“The Hispanic consumer market is exploding,” said Michael Barrera, president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. “That means that a lot of Hispanic businesses are going to benefit from that.”

The overwhelming majority of the new businesses were one-person enterprises, according to the report. Only 13 percent of Hispanic-owned businesses had any employees other than the owner. About a fourth of all U.S. businesses had employees in 2002, the report said.

New businesses started by Hispanics face many of the same problems as businesses started by non-Hispanics, and the biggest hurdle usually is money to start and expand the business, said Louis Olivas, assistant vice president for academic affairs at Arizona State University.

“All startup businesses face funding issues,” Olivas said.

Some Hispanic business owners also face language barriers, but those who speak both Spanish and English have advantages, he said.

The report is based on administrative records and a survey of 2.4 million businesses. The Census Bureau defines Hispanic-owned businesses as private companies in which at least 51 percent of the owners are Hispanic. The report does not classify public companies, with publicly traded stock, because they can be owned by many stockholders of unknown ethnicities.

Hispanics owned nearly 7 percent of all businesses in 2002, up from about 6 percent in 1997.

They made up a little more than 13 percent of the population in 2002, but they have accounted for half of the nation’s population growth since the start of the decade, according to a recent report by the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

Clara Rodriguez, a sociology professor at Fordham University, said immigrants are fueling much of the growth, in population and in businesses.

“As with all immigrant groups, the first who come tend to be more entrepreneurial and more daring,” Rodriguez said.

Among the report’s findings:

■ Nearly three in 10 Hispanic-owned firms were in construction or other service-related industries in 2002.

■ The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in New York grew by 57 percent from 1997 to 2002, faster than any other state. Rhode Island, Georgia, Nevada and South Carolina rounded out the top five.

■ Los Angeles County had 188,472 Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, more than any other county. It was followed by Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Harris County, Texas; Bronx County, N.Y.; and Hidalgo County, Texas.

■ There were 29,184 Hispanic-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more in 2002.

■ There were 1,510 Hispanic-owned firms with 100 or more employees. Those firms generated more than \$42 billion in receipts in 2002.

■ About 44 percent of Hispanic business owners were of Mexican descent in 2002.

Hispanic business ownership

By The Associated Press

Nationally, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew by 31 percent from 1997 to 2002. Here are the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in each state.

State	1997	2002	Percent Change
Ala.	2,919	2,523	-14
Alaska	1,385	1,241	-10
Ariz.	28,894	3,5104	21
Ark.	2,586	2,094	-19
Calif.	336,405	427,727	27
Colo.	20,859	24,054	17
Conn.	6,594	9,408	43
Del.	898	879	-2
D.C.	2,153	2,162	0
Fla.	193,902	266,727	38
Ga.	11,741	18,310	56
Hawaii	4,153	3,095	-25
Idaho	2,844	2,775	-2
Ill.	31,010	39,542	28
Ind.	4,277	5,481	28
Iowa	1,343	1,536	14
Kan.	3,547	4,188	18
Ky.	1,481	2,094	41
La.	6,645	7,645	15
Maine	545	731	34
Md.	11,158	15,353	38
Mass.	12,725	15,922	25
Mich.	9,997	9,842	-2
Minn.	3,616	3,984	10
Miss.	988	1,326	34
Mo.	4,107	3,652	-11
Mont.	1,006	964	-4
Neb.	1,437	1,966	37
Nev.	6,565	9,740	48
N.H.	735	913	24
N.J.	36,116	49,841	38
N.M.	28,285	29,708	5
N.Y.	104,189	163,639	57
N.C.	7,270	9,043	24
N.D.	444	230	-48
Ohio	6,448	7,109	10
Okla.	4,349	5,442	25
Ore.	6,022	6,360	6
Pa.	7,893	11,023	40
R.I.	2,186	3,415	56
S.C.	2,036	3,015	48
S.D.	261	355	36
Tenn.	3,639	4,301	18
Texas	240,396	319,339	33
Utah	4,740	5,177	9
Vt.	898	452	-50
Va.	13,703	18,988	39
Wash.	10,009	10,262	3
W.V.	940	648	-31
Wis.	3,020	3,750	24
Wyo.	1,239	1,320	7
Nation	1,200,598	1,574,395	31



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WSCAE06010



U.S. putting down more roots in Iraq

(Editor's note: This report is based on interviews with U.S. military engineers and others before and during the writer's two weeks as an embedded reporter at major U.S. bases in Iraq.)

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

AP Special Correspondent

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — The concrete goes on forever, vanishing into the noon-day glare, 2 million cubic feet of it, a mile-long slab that's now the home of up to 120 U.S. helicopters, a "heli-park" as good as any back in the States.

At another giant base, al-Asad in Iraq's western desert, the 17,000 troops and workers come and go in a kind of bustling American town, with a Burger King, Pizza Hut and a car dealership, stop signs, traffic regulations and young bikers clogging the roads.

At a third hub down south, Tallil, they're planning a new mess hall, one that will seat 6,000 hungry airmen and soldiers for chow.

Are the Americans here to stay? Air Force mechanic Josh Remy is sure of it as he looks around Balad.

"I think we'll be here forever," the 19-year-old airman from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., told a visitor to his base.

The Iraqi people suspect the same. Strong majorities tell pollsters they'd like to see a timetable for U.S. troops to leave, but believe Washington plans to keep military bases in their country.

The question of America's future in Iraq looms larger as the U.S. military enters the fourth year of its war here, waged first to oust President Saddam Hussein, and now to crush an Iraqi insurgency.

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, interim prime minister, has said he opposes permanent foreign bases. A wide range of American opinion is against them as well. Such bases would be a "stupid" provocation, says Gen. Anthony Zinni, former U.S. Mideast commander and a critic of the original U.S. invasion.

But events, in explosive situations like Iraq's, can turn "no" into "maybe" and even "yes."

The Shiite Muslims, ascendant in Baghdad, might decide they need long-term U.S. protection against insurgent Sunni Muslims. Washington might take the political risks to gain a strategic edge — in its confrontation with next-door Iran, for example.

The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, and other U.S. officials disavow any desire for permanent bases. But long-term access, as at other U.S. bases abroad,

is different from "permanent," and the official U.S. position is carefully worded.

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Carpenter, a Pentagon spokesman on international security, told The Associated Press it would be "inappropriate" to discuss future basing until a new Iraqi government is in place, expected in the coming weeks.

Less formally, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, asked about "permanent duty stations" by a Marine during an Iraq visit in December, allowed that it was "an interesting question." He said it would have to be raised by the incoming Baghdad government, if "they have an interest in our assisting them for some period over time."

In Washington, Iraq scholar Phebe Marr finds the language intriguing. "If they aren't planning for bases, they ought to say so," she said. "I would expect to hear 'No bases.'"

Right now what is heard is the pouring of concrete.

In 2005-06, Washington has authorized or proposed almost \$1 billion for U.S. military construction in Iraq, as American forces consolidate at Balad, known as Anaconda, and a handful of other installations, big bases under the old regime.

They have already pulled out of 34 of the 110 bases they were holding last March, said Maj. Lee English of the U.S. command's Base Working Group, planning the consolidation.

"The coalition forces are moving outside the cities while continuing to provide security support to the Iraqi security forces," English said.

The move away from cities, perhaps eventually accompanied by U.S. force reductions, will lower the profile of U.S. troops, frequent targets of roadside bombs on city streets. Officers at Al-Asad Air Base, 10 desert miles from the nearest town, say it hasn't been hit by insurgent mortar or rocket fire since October.

Al-Asad will become even more isolated. The proposed 2006 supplemental budget for Iraq operations would provide \$7.4 million to extend the no-man's-land and build new security fencing around the base, which at 19 square miles is so large that many assigned there take the Yellow or Blue bus routes to get around the base, or buy bicycles at a PX jammed with customers.

The latest budget also allots \$39 million for new airfield lighting, air traffic control systems and upgrades allowing al-Asad to plug into the Iraqi electricity grid — a typical sign of a long-term base.

At Tallil, besides the new \$14 million dining facility, Ali Air Base is to get, for

\$22 million, a double perimeter security fence with high-tech gate controls, guard towers and a moat — in military parlance, a "vehicle entrapment ditch with berm."

Here at Balad, the former Iraqi air force academy 40 miles north of Baghdad, the two 12,000-foot runways have become the logistics hub for all U.S. military operations in Iraq, and major upgrades began last year.

Army engineers say 31,000 truckloads of sand and gravel fed nine concrete-mixing plants on Balad, as contractors laid a \$16 million ramp to park the Air Force's huge C-5 cargo planes; an \$18 million ramp for workhorse C-130 transports; and the vast, \$28 million main helicopter ramp, the length of 13 football fields, filled with attack, transport and reconnaissance helicopters.

Turkish builders are pouring tons more concrete for a fourth ramp beside the runways, for medical-evacuation and other aircraft on alert. And \$25 million was approved for other "pavement projects," from a special road for munitions trucks to a compound for special forces.

The chief Air Force engineer here, Lt. Col. Scott Hoover, is also overseeing two crucial projects to add to Balad's longevity: equipping the two runways with new permanent lighting, and replacing a weak 3,500-foot section of one runway.

Once that's fixed, "we're good for as long as we need to run it," Hoover said. Ten years? he was asked. "I'd say so."

Away from the flight lines, among traffic jams and freshly planted palms, life improves on 14-square-mile Balad for its estimated 25,000 personnel, including several thousand American and other civilians.

They've inherited an Olympic-sized pool and a chandeliered cinema from the Iraqis. They can order their favorite Baskin-Robbins flavor at ice cream counters in five dining halls, and cut-rate Fords, Chevys or Harley-Davidsons, for delivery at home, at a PX-run "dealership." On one recent evening, not far from a big 24-hour gym, airmen hustled up and down two full-length, lighted outdoor basketball courts as F-16 fighters thundered home overhead.

"Balad's a fantastic base," Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, the Air Force's tactical commander in Iraq, said in an interview at his headquarters here.

Could it host a long-term U.S. presence? "Eventually it could," said Gorenc, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. "But there's no commitment to any of the bases we operate, until somebody tells me that."

In the counterinsurgency fight, Balad's central location enables strike aircraft to reach targets in minutes. And in the broader context of reinforcing the U.S. presence in the oil-rich Mideast, Iraq bases are preferable to aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf, said a longtime defense analyst.

"Carriers don't have the punch," said Gordon Adams of Washington's George Washington University. "There's a huge advantage to land-based infrastructure. At the level of strategy it makes total sense to have Iraq bases."

A U.S. congressional study cited another, less discussed use for possible Iraq bases: to install anti-ballistic defenses in case Iran fires missiles.

American bases next door could either deter or provoke Iran, noted Paul D. Hughes, a key planner in the early U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Overall, however, this retired Army colonel says American troops are unwanted in the Middle East. With long-term bases in Iraq, "We'd be inviting trouble," Hughes said.

"It's a stupid idea and clearly politically unacceptable," Zinni, a former Central Command chief, said in a Washington interview. "It would damage our image in the region, where people would decide that this" — seizing bases — "was our original intent."

Among Iraqis, the subject is almost too sensitive to discuss.

"People don't like bases," veteran politician Adnan Pachachi, a member of the new Parliament, told the AP. "If bases are absolutely necessary, if there's a perceived threat ... but I don't think even Iran will be a threat."

If long-term basing is, indeed, on the horizon, "the politics back here and the politics in the region say, 'Don't announce it,'" Adams said in Washington. That's what's done elsewhere, as with the quiet U.S. basing of spy planes and other aircraft in the United Arab Emirates.

Army and Air Force engineers, with little notice, have worked to give U.S. commanders solid installations in Iraq, and to give policymakers options. From the start, in 2003, the first Army engineers rolling into Balad took the long view, laying out a 10-year plan envisioning a move from tents to today's living quarters in air-conditioned trailers, to concrete-and-brick barracks by 2008.

In early 2006, no one's confirming such next steps, but a Balad "master plan," details undisclosed, is nearing completion, a possible model for al-Asad, Tallil and a fourth major base, al-Qayyarah in Iraq's north.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Musician questions Blair's credentials

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke says he turned down the chance to discuss climate change with Tony Blair because the British prime minister has “no environmental credentials.”

The charity Friends of the Earth, for which the singer is an ambassador, asked him to meet Blair.

But Yorke said Blair had no record of championing the environment and added that dealing with the governing Labour Party's “spin doctors” made him feel ill.

“I got so stressed out and so freaked out about it. Initially when it came up I tried to be pragmatic,” Yorke told New Music Express magazine in an issue out Tuesday. “But Blair has no environmental credentials as far as I'm concerned.”

“It was like talking to Blair's spin doctors. It was all getting weird. It was just obvious there was no point in meeting him anyway, and I didn't want to,” he said.

Yorke says the experience has soured him on political activism.

“I came out of that whole period just thinking, I don't want to get involved directly, it's poison. I'll just shout my mouth off from the sidelines.”

Yorke is backing Friends of the Earth's Big Ask campaign, which is calling for international cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

Radiohead will play a benefit concert for the campaign at London's Koko Club on May 1. The band recently announced a club tour in England.

They have been working on new material for the follow up to their politically-themed 2003 disc, “Hail to the Thief.”

GRETNA, La. — The rapper who once went by the stage name of C-Murder has been put in a house arrest program to await a retrial on a second-degree murder charge.

Corey Miller was freed from jail Monday after posting \$500,000 bond on the charge and meeting a \$500,000 bond set by a judge in Baton Rouge on two unrelated charges of attempted murder.

Miller was put into a home incarceration program, said Col. John Fortunato, a spokesman for the Jefferson Parish sheriff. During house arrest, Miller will wear a monitor so that authorities can track his whereabouts. He is restricted

to his home and can only leave for court-approved appointments with his attorneys.

Miller, 35, is charged with the fatal shooting of Steve Thomas, 16, on Jan. 12, 2002, during a fight at a now-closed nightclub in Harvey.

A jury convicted Miller, who faced a mandatory life prison sentence without parole, but a judge tossed the conviction after ruling that prosecutors hid the criminal backgrounds of some state witnesses from the defense.

Authorities in Baton Rouge allege that Miller tried to shoot a nightclub owner and a security guard on Aug. 14, 2001, after he was told he would have to be searched before entering the club.

Since his legal problems began, Miller has changed his stage name to C-Miller.

SOUTH RUSSELL, Ohio — A ceramic bowl painted by Richard Pryor raised \$7,099 in an online auction benefiting an Ohio animal rights group.

The bowl, in which Pryor painted a self-portrait before he died, was sold to GoldenPalace.com, an Internet-based casino company known for buying items online for charity and publicity.

Pryor sent the bowl to the Geauga Humane Society weeks before his death on Dec. 10. The actor-comedian, who was 65, died of a heart attack. He had been ill for years with multiple sclerosis.

The portrait was surrounded by the painted words, “Little Black Man in Big White World.” The side of the bowl has Pryor's signature and drawings of a martini glass, lips and a cigarette.

“Richard and I were both there in spirit and I know he did everything he could to help the auction along,” Pryor's widow, Jennifer, said in a statement. “I couldn't be more delighted that he's still helping animals.”

NEW YORK — Ana Marie Cox is joining fellow cyber-celebrity Andrew Sullivan at Time magazine.

Cox, the creator of the popular political blog Wonkette and author of the Washington novel “Dog Days,” has signed up with the news magazine as a contributor, Time announced Sunday.

Cox will write a regular column for the magazine and a weekly column for the magazine's

Web site. Her first essay for the magazine is “Lobbyists in Love.”

In January, Sullivan moved his blog, The Daily Dish, to the magazine's Web site. And last year, Dr. Andrew Weil began contributing regularly to the magazine and Web site.

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Dagmar Havlova, wife of a former Czech president, is to return to the stage this week in a critically acclaimed play by American author Israel Horowitz.

The former first lady, who turns 53 next week, will co-star with Petr Kostka in “Park Your Car in Harvard Yard” at the Vinohradske Theater in Prague beginning Friday.

“It is a beautiful play and it fills me with joy,” Havlova said.

Under her maiden name Dagmar Veskrnova, she made more than 50 movies and starred in countless TV shows and theater performances before she married Vaclav Havel in 1997 and retired from acting, devoting most of her time to charity.

Havel, 69, a dissident playwright, became president after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution” toppled the Communist regime in then Czechoslovakia. He retired from politics in 2003 after completing his second and final term as Czech president.

NEW DELHI — The son of the late Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray is making a film marking 40 years since the creation of one of his father's most famous characters.

Ray, who won an honorary Academy Award in 1991, wrote some 35 stories about Feluda. The first of the stories, which were extremely popular among Bengali-speaking Indians, came in 1966.

Ray's son, Sandip, told the Times of India his new film is based on a story called “Tintoretto's Jesus.”

Satyajit Ray died in 1992. Through Feluda's adventures, its creator sought to depict the social changes and political upheavals of eastern India in the 1960s and 1970s.

Feluda is a detective hero, who shares much in common with the middle class men of 1960s in Calcutta, which fell to communists in the early 1970s amid growing unrest over poverty and unemployment.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2006

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

Capote
2:00pm 4:45pm 7:30pm 10:15pm
The Hills Have Eyes
2:15pm 5:15pm 8pm 10:30pm
Find Me Guilty
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:15pm 10pm
Transamerica
1:00pm 4:05pm 7pm 9:45pm

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

Aquamarine
11:10am 1:40pm 4:10pm 6:40pm
The Libertine
2:10pm 4:50pm 7:30pm 10:20pm
Munich
11:30am 9:10pm
The Pink Panther
3:00pm 5:20pm 7:40pm 9:50pm
The Libertine
2:20pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:20pm
She's the Man
11:20am 1:50pm 4:30pm 7:20 pm
10:00pm
V for Vendetta
11:00am 1:00pm 2:00pm 4:00pm
5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 10:10pm

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1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Eight Below
1:40pm 4:20pm 7:10pm 9:50pm
16 Blocks
2:15pm 4:50pm 7:25pm 10:05pm
Date Movie
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
Curious George
2:30pm 5:00pm

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

Ask the Dust
1:20pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 9:55pm
CSA: The Confederate
State of America
1:00pm 3:20pm 5:40pm 8:00pm
10:15pm
Duck Season
1:00pm 3:15pm 5:30pm 7:45pm 10pm
Don't Come Knocking
1:40pm 4:20pm 7:00pm 9:40pm

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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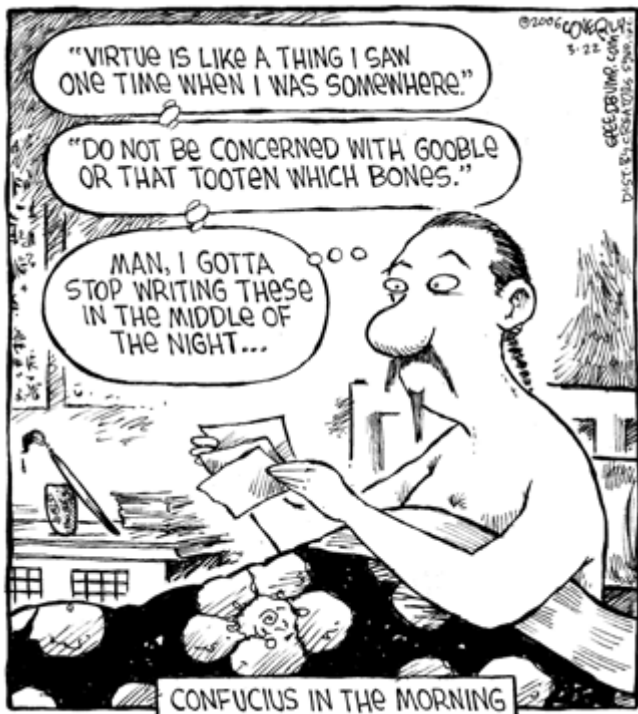
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- 21 Aquarium
- 22 "Diana" singer
- 23 Deplored
- 25 Plucked instrument
- 29 Plot
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Dorothy Mitchell was a lifelong resident of Santa Monica. Dorothy was born July 28, 1923 and passed away March 9, 2006. She is survived by her beloved husband of 64 years, Harry Mitchell, her beloved family; three children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Dorothy attended St. Clements Catholic School in Santa Monica where she sang in the choir. She then went to Santa Monica High where she graduated. Dorothy loved life and always had a kind word about everyone. Her smile and kind words will always be remembered.

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Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF:
DAISY KOUZEL**
CASE NO. BP097288

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,
contingent creditors, and persons
who may otherwise be interested in
the WILL or estate, or both of
DAISY KOUZEL.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has
been filed by MIRIAM KOUZEL
BILLINGTON AND MARGARITA
KOUZEL in the Superior Court of
California, County of LOS ANGE-
LES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE re-
quests that MIRIAM KOUZEL
BILLINGTON AND MARGARITA
KOUZEL be appointed as personal
representative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the de-
cedent's WILL and codicils, if any,
be admitted to probate. The WILL
and any codicils are available for ex-
amination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority
to administer the estate under the
Independent Administration of Es-
tates Act. (This authority will allow
the personal representative to take
many actions without obtaining
court approval. Before taking certain
very important actions, however,
the personal representative will be re-
quired to give notice to interested
persons unless they have waived
notice or consented to the proposed
action.) The independent admini-
stration authority will be granted un-
less an interested person files an
objection to the petition and shows
good cause why the court should
not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be
held on 04/12/06 at 8:30AM in Dept.
9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS
ANGELES, CA 90012

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by

Notices

the court. If you are a person inter-
ested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for Special No-
tice (form DE-154) of the filing of an
inventory and appraisal of estate as-
sets or of any petition or account as
provided in Probate Code Section
1250. A Request for Special Notice
form is available from the court
clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

GAIL D. KASS

LAW OFFICE OF GAIL D. KASS
12100 WILSHIRE BLVD., #780
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025
3/21, 3/22, 3/28/06
CNS-940901#

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 06 0391988 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as OneSoul...Many
Designs, OneSoul, OneSoul Designs, PO Box 3072,
Venice, CA 90294, 2614 1/2 Grand Canal, Venice,
CA 90291. The full name of registrant(s) is/are :
Rebecca Mahboubi-Fardi, 2614 1/2 Grand Canal,
Venice, CA 90291 This Business is being con-
ducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has
not yet begun to transact business under the fic-
titious name or names listed herein. /s/: Rebecca
Mahboubi-Fardi
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 2/22/2006. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE
FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this
statement does not of itself authorize the use in
this state of a fictitious business name statement
in violation of the rights of another under federal,
state, or common law (see Section 14411et
seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA
MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/22/2006,
03/29/2006, 04/05/2006, 04/12/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 06 0318775 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as Alexander Candler
& Company, 5625 Wilhelmina Ave, Woodland Hills,
CA 91367. The full name of registrant(s) is/are :
McKenzie Alexander, 132 N. Brighton St, Burbank,
CA 91506, Alexandra Candler Trippe, 920 Arroyo
Dr, South Pasadena, CA 91030 This Business is
being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: The reg-
istrant commenced to transact business under the
fictitious business name or names listed on
(Date)2/8/2006. /s/: McKenzie Alexander, Candler
Trippe

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 2/10/2006. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE
FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this
statement does not of itself authorize the use in
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in violation of the rights of another under federal,
state, or common law (see Section 14411et
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MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/8/2006,
3/15/2006, 3/22/2006, 3/29/2006

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<div>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>626 SOUTH OXNARD OXNARD \$960,000</div>	<div>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>3557-63 MANCHESTER 4-UNITS, INGLE-WOOD \$755,000</div>	<div>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>760 Millwood Venice \$1,195,000</div>	<div>BUILD 2 TOWNHOUSES PLANS AND PERMITS</div> <div>Venice Canals \$1,825,000</div>	<div>NEW LISTING NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>522 W. Sunview Palm Springs \$305,000</div>	<div>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>8119 Grimsby Westchester \$669,000</div>	<div>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>124-126 Fowling Ocean View Duplex Playa del Rey \$1,499,000</div>	<div>NEW LISTING</div> <div>5600 W. 79th Street Westchester \$739,000</div>	<div>NEW LISTING! NO PHOTO AVAILABLE</div> <div>44116 Dahlia, Lancaster \$319,999</div>
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Recent Transactions

SOLD

1101 Superba, Venice

SOLD

1815 W. Holme #5, Westwood

SOLD

2519 4th St. #9, Santa Monica

NO PHOTO

4020 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

SOLD

3448 Maplewood Ave., Los Angeles

SOLD

2432 21st St., Santa Monica

SOLD

7250 W. 82nd St., Playa del Rey

Pacific Ocean Properties Broker Rob Schultz, #01218743

Department of Real Estate Phone - (916) 227-0864

Pacwest Mortgage

NEW CONFORMING LOAN AMOUNTS

1 UNIT	\$417,000
2 UNIT	\$533,850
3 UNIT	\$645,300
4 UNIT	\$801,950



Rob Schultz
Broker
Licensed California
Broker #01381120

TIME FOR A 30 YEAR FIXED?

Rates as low as 6%

New conforming loan amounts:
One unit \$417,000, Two units \$533,850, Three units \$645,300, 4 units \$801,950



2212 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA
310-392-9223 1-888-FOR-LOAN (367-5626)

VERY AGGRESSIVE RATES

30 year fixed 6%
10 year/1 arm 5.75%
7 year/1 arm 5.625%
5 year/1 arm 5.5%**
3 year/1 arm 5.5%**
1 year/1 arm 5.375%
6 mos./6 mo. arm 3.375%
1 mo./1 mo. arm 1.0%***

* Rates subject to change
* As of February 7, 2006
** Denotes an interest only loan
*** Denotes Neg Am