



Santa Monica Daily Press

March 25-26, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 114

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 2 4 6 35
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$31 million

FANTASY 5

6 15 21 25 26

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 8 3

Evening: 1 7 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags

2nd: 06 Whirl Win

3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1.48.86

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

It's All About Meeee! Prominent interior designer June Matheson, 72, pleaded guilty in January to poisoning several majestic trees bordering Stanley Park in Vancouver, British Columbia, just so they would no longer obstruct her view of the Pacific Ocean (and to enhance the value of her home, which she was preparing to sell). In Media, Pa., Colleen Lacombe, 34, was sentenced in December to two years' house arrest for embezzling \$325,000 from the First Church of Lansdowne, whose charity and repair-fund money she used to buy a second home and to get breast implants. (With the help of relatives, she made full restitution to the church.) **It's All About Meeee!**

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 84th day of 2006.
There are 281 days left in the year

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks. In 1634, Maryland was founded by English colonists sent by the second Lord Baltimore.

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Just off the tops of their heads



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Patrons take five while listening to music from 'The Cutting Edge,' with its circular signal for a true surround sound, at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium during 'CA Boom 3,' a three-day contemporary design show.

Selling the city is task at hand

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVENUE — When you think of Santa Monica, what comes to mind? Progressive political views, gourmet cuisine and high-end retail shops? Or, perhaps panhandling, traffic congestion and high prices?

Those are just some of the impressions shared by residents and tourists who participated in a series of meetings with the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) as part of a two-year effort to create an image of the city that captures its distinctive qualities and unique attributes — commonly referred to in the industry as a destination brand promise.

The result: "Santa Monica ... the best way to discover LA; an unforgettable beach city experience filled with eye-catching people, cutting-edge culture and bold innovations. It is the essence of the California lifestyle."

That's what the CVB, city officials and business leaders want visitors to think and feel so that they will spend their time and money in Santa Monica.

It's also what they hope residents believe as well when they wake up in the morning, filled with pride for their city, which may translate into a stronger, more amicable relationship with the millions of tourists who visit each year.

"Perceptions are everything," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of the CVB. "People's percep-

See BRAND, page 12

Assault stirs debate over public safety

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — The head librarian of the Ocean Park Library was assaulted last week by a homeless man who spent the majority of his time sitting outside the facility, sources said.

Celia Carroll was outside of the library, 2601 Main St., on March 16 at 5:35 p.m. when she was attacked by Melvin Winston Hardy, 39, a transient, police said.

Apparently, Carroll was talking to Hardy near the bus stop on Main Street in front of the library. As she walked away from him, he

See LIBRARY ASSAULT, page 13

REI heeds call of the outdoors

Santa Monica location getting set up for business

BY JACKSON HOLTZ

Associated Press Writer

KENT, Wash. — To get people outside, REI brings them in. At stores around the nation, climbing walls and indoor hiking trails mix with racks of backpacks and rows of bicycles. There are snowshoes, camp-sized espresso makers and more synthetic fleece than a flock of polyester sheep.

Recreational Equipment Inc. started as a basement co-op in 1938 by Seattle mountain-climbing buddies selling ice axes, sleeping bags and tents. Today it is the toy store for devotees of muscle-powered recreation and people who want to look like them.

"They have everything," said Sunni Rudd, 53, who was shop-

See REI, page 11



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A welder goes to work on Friday in REI's new location in Santa Monica.

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HOROSCOPES

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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 might not be sure what you want to do or accomplish, but what you can depend on is that you will have a good time during the process. If you're not sure, hook up with friends. Christen the first weekend of spring together. Tonight: A little spring fever could be heading your way.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ What you perceive as a slam-dunk might not be, as confusion seeps into the best-laid plans. A yellow light flashes with all money matters, as changes occur easily and perhaps randomly. Tonight: A force to be reckoned with.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your vitality triggers many different reactions, some of which you might not see immediately. You know far more about what is happening than you realize. Listen carefully to others' ideas. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Work with a special person in your life. This person understands your feelings and doesn't judge you. Realize the positives of such a situation. You'll discover the depth and validity of your relationship with this person. Tonight: Show your appreciation.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others dominate. What is interesting to you is what a difference it makes when you get off your throne and allow others to try it on for size. People get a chance to demonstrate their affection and caring. Tonight: Relish the attention.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Recognize that spring is here by getting into a project or two. Plant some flowers. Share your happiness with others. Get a case of the butterflies. All becomes possible on this day if you just put yourself out there. Tonight: Plans don't need to be dramatic, just satisfying.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Make enjoyment and spring the theme of your day, and you cannot go wrong. Someone who cares deeply about you finally steps up to the plate and lets you know how important you are. How nice! Tonight: Celebrate spring.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might feel invisible right now, though at the same time you might recognize that you are human! Spending a day close to home deep into a spring project could be unusually satisfying. Tonight: Dinner at your place.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You meet the occasion with the right words and answers. Listen well to someone you care about. He or she might be tired of routine. Use your imagination to tweak plans. You can make a memorable event out of a normal happening. Tonight: Easy does it.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You have a lot to do. Though not intending to make an error, a purchase or financial dealing, though it might be pleasing on some level, could be fraught with mistakes or problems. A little care goes a long way. Tonight: Happiness surrounds the cautious Goat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ If you decide to rip up the town or do something unusual, you could have an unexpectedly exciting time. Events come in from left field, as you might not be altogether realistic. You are happy anyway. Tonight: Conjure up what you want.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Know when to play the recluse -- like today. Everyone needs some time off -- you included. Lighten up about new possibilities, and you'll become far more happy and carefree. You could be worrying for nothing! Tonight: Add more privacy.



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LOCAL
COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

Santa Monica Mayor Robert Holbrook and Malibu Mayor Andy Stern delivered meals to area senior citizens.

Mayors serve up meals

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Mayor Robert Holbrook and Malibu Mayor Andy Stern this week delivered meals to the homebound in their communities for Meals on Wheels West, joining 462 mayors across the country delivered meals on national “Mayors for Meals” day. The Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) created the March for Meals campaign in 2000 to call attention to the problem of senior hunger in America. The month of March was chosen because it was during March 1972 that a law was passed to include senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act. March for Meals is a national campaign in which Meals on Wheels West is a participant, to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of the local community. Senior nutrition programs across the United States promote March for Meals in their local communities through public events, partnerships with local business, volunteer recruitment and fundraising initiatives. Meals on Wheels West has been providing home-delivered meals to the ill, frail, disabled and senior person in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Topanga since 1974.

Status check: Women look back on 25 years

By Daily Press staff

It’s time to celebrate 25 years of the status of women in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) will celebrate its 25th anniversary at a special reception on Tuesday, March 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the lobby at City Hall. “We are thrilled to be celebrating 25 years of working on and advocating for issues that make a tangible difference for women and girls in Santa Monica,” said Tia Skulski, chair of COSW. “The commission has a long history of being on the cutting-edge of issues from helping found the Westside Domestic Violence Network, to helping secure a lactation station in City Hall to, most recently, advocating for the Child Protection Act, Ranked Voting and Clean Money Campaigns.” The reception will feature COSW outstanding women leaders — women who have demonstrated exceptional personal and/or professional dedication to improving the lives of women and girls in Santa Monica, as well as recent COSW projects, such as the Report on the Status of Women and the Work-Life Study. The commission works to enhance the status of women in the community and promotes those goals through investigation of, advocacy for and policy development regarding issues relevant to women and girls, and by creating leadership and career advancement opportunities for women and girls in the community.

See BRIEFS, page 13

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS					DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM				
BEAR MOUNTAIN									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 12/12	CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
JUNE MOUNTAIN									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 192"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6	CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 168" - 192"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 25/28	CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
MOUNTAIN HIGH									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 42	LIFTS OPEN 9/16	CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Wet				
MT. BALDY									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 4/4	CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				
SNOW SUMMIT									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14	CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring, Wet				
SNOW VALLEY									
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 5/11	CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 55°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today another system dives down from the Gulf, which should boost size towards waist to chest. A trough of low pressure is riding behind this swell, but SoCal is looking to stay dry (Ventura northward could see a sprinkle or two but it's not likely).

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Small bump up in NW Today but...

Storm-driven NW wind swell by the 29th...

Minor SW 4/2...

Better SW now being tracked for potential swell 4/4...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE

12:47PM

-0.9FT

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

5:37AM

5.4FT

7:20PM

4.1FT

SUNDAY

LOW TIDE

12:30AM

1.6FT

1:23PM

5.7FT

HIGH TIDE

6:33AM

-1.0FT

7:45PM

4.7FT

MONDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

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The Q-Line

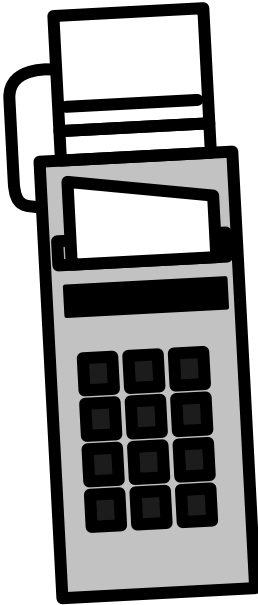
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You have the answers.
Check out this week's Q-Line
responses on page 4-5.

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The Q-Line

UP IN SMOKE, UP IN ARMS

This past week, Q-line asked:

As part of the debate of whether officials in Calabasas were right in banning smoking in all public places, here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question: **"Has Santa Monica gone far enough to protect citizens from secondhand smoke, or has it already gone too far?"**

Here are your responses:

© "I think it has gone way overboard. I think the whole thing is stupid and such a joke, it's ridiculous. You can't smoke in parks. You can't smoke in open air areas, at the beach. Where can you smoke? Everyone knows smoking is bad for you. People who have a problem with it are just weak. I think there should be a law against leafblowers, which make too much noise. Graffiti people should be caned. Those are things that mainly affect the community, not smoking a cigarette."

© "I think Santa Monica has adequate bans against smoking in certain areas. I am a non-smoker and have always been terribly bothered by second-hand smoke. But I think we should be fair and reasonable, for now anyway. I do hope and pray though that smokers will see the light and get themselves weaned off this terrible, unhealthful, dirty habit and addiction."

© "Former United States President James Earl Carter and Surgeon General Koop stated through research that at least 500,000 people each year in the United States of America expire prematurely due to the residual effects of using tobacco. When this number of deaths is compounded internationally, it capitulates into millions. And that is just the beginning. This horrific, deadly, bad habit drives the cost of Medicare and other forms of health insurance to skyrocket beyond the grasp of average Americans and proves to only be profitable to the tobacco companies, morticians, coffin makers and gravediggers. When smokers finally see the light and stop smoking, the life they save will be their own. Any method used by the city of Santa Monica to curb smoking is fine with me."

© "Until the federal government outlaws smoking, Santa Monica should butt out."

© "This is the most ridiculous case of government getting involved with private citizens. Do you know the amount of hydrocarbons that are produced by our cars everyday? I have a better suggestion. Let's put cars in the same category as smokers. You cannot drive them because they produce 10 times the amount or more than smokers do and I don't even believe the secondhand smoke ritual. Do you know what put an end to the Great Depression? It was not the end of the war, it was the repeal of the Volstead Act where government again tried to legislate morality by making drinking alcoholic beverages illegal. After it was repealed the government made millions and millions of dollars in taxes and the people spent millions and millions of dollars on their product. This is I would say probably unconstitutional but above that it is asinine. I don't want to live in a country that has these stipulations, and believe me I am very happy

in Costa Rica or Mexico or anywhere. This is the case of the minority trying to lead the majority. But personal preference goes out the window somewhere. This calls for a revolt, an absolute revolt. I hope you print this because all the small minded individuals that came up with this Calabasas plan ought to be exorcised from office. This is very, very degrading and seriously flawed and I would love to see them enforce it because no one is going to pay a fine and it will be a government revolt."

© "Calabasas has the right idea. There's too many smokers. It stinks, causes lung cancer, it's bad enough. If they want to kill themselves with lung cancer fine, but when they start killing everybody else it's gotta stop. They should be arrested or fined if they don't put out the cigarettes. If there is nobody around to complain then maybe they can smoke but as soon as somebody complains then they have to put it out. Although smokers stink they don't cause as much stink and mess as all the bums on Third Street and the rest of Santa Monica do."

© "Santa Monica is doing positive things to protect people from the hazards of secondhand smoke. The next step should be to prohibit smoking in the city's outdoor patio dining areas. Why should people have to go indoors to get a breath of fresh air?"

© "I don't think Santa Monica has gone far enough to protect us from secondhand smoke. Other cities have taken bigger steps. It is known to be highly toxic and the city should make any crowded outdoor areas smoke free, outdoor dining areas, the Promenade, waiting in lines, wherever we are exposed to that poison."

© "Way too far. There is something not only stupid but bordering on demented to set aside a dog park on the beach south of Wilshire which is probably the most crowded. At the same time prohibit a single smoker sitting in the hot sand away from the shoreline. Which is worse? A few cigarette butts on the beach or a lot of dog waste on the beach and in the ocean. Can't we ask a smoker to put butts in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash? Only the most fanatic, Nazi, smoker police are at the bottom of this idiocy. Whenever the City Council wants to pretend they are working they declare another smoking ban."

© "I personally appreciate what Santa Monica has already done to protect us non-smokers and provide residents with a cleaner, healthier environment. I don't think though we have done enough. Especially now that we are hearing and seeing what other cities are doing. There is so much more the city of Santa Monica can do to protect us resi-

See Q-LINE, page 5

Class is about saving a life or two, dummy



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

I recently took a CPR class at the Santa Monica Red Cross offices on 11th Street. I'd been wanting to do this for a long time, but since it was a four-hour class, it was always easy for me to find an excuse not to go. But this time, because of my love of humanity and the absence of any games on TV that I wanted to watch, I went to the class. There were a few reasons that I wanted to learn CPR. I wanted to have confidence and to be more relaxed in case of an emergency situation. And I admit that when I fantasized about using my CPR and reviving someone, I kind of liked the idea of being a hero.

There were six of us taking the class from our instructor, Sean Tyler. Sean was a great teacher who exuded confidence. If I could just always have him with me, I'd be able to handle any emergency. The other five students all had jobs that required them to take the course and be certified. I was the only one there for heroic/neurotic reasons.

One of the first things I learned is that I need a new cell phone. I had been proud of the fact that, unlike the other members of my family, I'd resisted getting a new cell phone with all kinds of unnecessary features. I have no intention of ever watching "The A Team" on my phone or taking a picture of a shirt I'm thinking about buying. Unfortunately, a cell phone as old as mine is not what is called "GSM ready." In other words, it can't automatically tell the people at 911 exactly where I am like the newer ones can.

Once Sean started talking in more detail about CPR, we all seemed to have the same fear: What if we accidentally kill the person we're trying to help? But Sean quickly put this fear to rest. As he pointed to the plastic dummy, "Bob," he reminded us that the person you're working on, in the worst possible situation, isn't breathing and doesn't have a pulse. He's already dead. Our job is to revive Bob and keep him revived until the professionals arrive.

So you can't kill him. The worst you can do is to not miraculously revive him. (OK, I added the word, "miraculously").

Bob was a very good patient, who never complained if we accidentally tickled him or pressed too hard on his ribs. On the other hand, Bob never thanked us for bringing him back to life.

We got a short lesson in using an AED which is an "automated external defibrillator." We had the thrill of yelling, "clear!" Unfortunately this also brought on a little anxiety when Sean mentioned if the patient were a woman with a metal underwire in her bra or with metal piercings on her torso, we'd have to remove them. This didn't seem like the kind of action I'd be able to do calmly. But I reminded myself that taking off that woman's bra could save her life. Sounds like a line some teenage boy might use, but in this case it was true.

After taking the class, I felt that everyone should take CPR. You might save someone's life. Isn't that worth a few hours in a classroom?

Knowing that there's a chance that I might save someone's life gave me a new sense of responsibility — and anxiety. I realized that everywhere I go from now on, I might be called upon to respond to an emergency. My first instinct was to just stay home and avoid being around people so my CPR skills won't be tested. But then I realized that even though I might forget a detail or two of what I learned, I'm certainly more qualified to help someone than before I took the class. I'm not so anxious to be a hero as I was before. I'll be happy if I never have to use CPR, but I'll use it if necessary. It's like having a good spare tire in the trunk.

However, there's one set of circumstances about which I have complete confidence. I will spring into action without hesitation if I'm ever with a plastic dummy who has a heart attack.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier" to "Home Improvement." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at lloydgarver@yahoo.com.)



Got News?

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COMMENTARY



The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

dents and non-smokers from second-hand smoke. We make up the majority and our rights and our health should be protected. Anything the city can do to protect us from the risks and hazards of secondhand smoke should be applauded and supported."

☉ "We think the city has already gone too far and should worry more about the gang violence and vagrants in the city."

☉ "Secondhand smoke outdoors is a joke. It's astonishing how this cough, cough, dribble, dribble has even become a topic since anyone with a brain would realize that driving a SUV for one minute creates more toxic fumes than all the smokers in LA make in a week."

☉ "My hope is to make Santa Monica smoke free in as many public places as possible. I'm a mom of a boy who is 11 years old and I do know that smoking and being around smoke is accumulative in that it can damage your lungs and over the years the damage just increases. At this point I know that he doesn't like to be anywhere where someone is smoking and especially if we are outside trying to enjoy a meal and there is someone who is smoking. We are forced to then move because he hates it so much and I as well. But it does affect him a lot. I think that Santa Monica should make as many outdoor restaurants and outdoor places and ATMs be made as smoke free as possible."

☉ "Well, one of the things Santa Monica did to protect citizens against secondhand smoke was to pass a law saying that there is no smoking at bus stops. However, at every bus stop I'm ever at people are smoking and blowing smoke in your face and there's little kids inhaling secondhand smoke. So, no they don't go far enough because they pass a law saying they're going to protect citizens against secondhand smoke and then do nothing to enforce it. And probably none of the people smoking at the bus stop realize it's against the law because there is no sign posted saying that. That's another one of Santa Monica's laws they have no intention of enforcing."

☉ "The idea that the government needs to protect people from secondhand smoke going up into the air on a remote part of a park or beach is just preposterous. I think that the government should get off the back of its citizens and get a life and find something to do other than over regulating its citizens."

☉ "The City Council should stop trying to regulate or legislate good manners when there's really not that much of a problem and start taking care of some serious issues like the homeless problems. So City Council, stop it."

☉ "There is so many airborne pollutants in LA that it's beyond ridiculous, even sinister, to include outside second-hand smoke. Evidently, a well-funded scientific group will support any position. City leaders are like prostitutes ready to jump on the latest bandwagon. Now, the cultural lynching of smoking

Johns. Have you ever noticed that things which are of supposed good require more laws brought on by this cultural hysteria if children, seniors, or the infirm are thought to be harmed. Politicians love to acquire power over the ignorant by fermenting hatred towards this weak group, the smokers. I guess Rob Reiner and the City Council are the only ones who have used the new \$70 million library and actually read 1984. What's next, gun control, speech control, worship control, God control?"

☉ "Santa Monica has not gone far enough to protect its citizens from secondhand smoke. I believe that smoking should only be allowed in your apartment if your apartment building allows it and not outside anywhere."

☉ "I feel that not enough is being done as far as banning smoking. I would like to see a lot more areas take advantage of what's being offered and a lot more restaurants to get involved."

☉ "I do not feel like Santa Monica has done enough with the secondhand smoke. It has already gone too far as everything in Santa Monica goes too far. I just wonder what those people who are in charge down there, what the hell they are doing. But I wish they would get with it."

☉ "The city of Santa Monica has not gone far enough to protect its citizens from secondhand smoke which kills many, many people annually who have never smoked. In addition to eliminating smoking in parks and on the beaches, it should also be restricted wherever individuals congregate including lines, waiting to buy tickets, and/or gaining entrance to movies, theaters, sporting events, etc. This no smoking ban in restaurants should also include adjacent patio and outdoor dining facilities where a slight breeze can permeate the entire area. Also, the entire Third Street Promenade should be made smoke free so that all Santa Monica residents can enjoy the entertainment as well as shopping in and around the area."

☉ "I don't smoke but I'm not an anti-smoking fanatic either. Santa Monica has gone way too far. Do they really expect us to believe that someone could contract cancer by walking past a smoker in the park? National policy on this issue reveals government hypocrisy at its worst. Nothing is done to prohibit the sale of tobacco products because the tax revenues are too lucrative so the message is: Please buy these products but don't use them because they could kill you. Not surprisingly, Santa Monica has carried this policy to extremes. Thank you city hall for prosecuting people even in the park who dare to use a product that is legally available over the counter in Santa Monica stores."

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Renewing the bid for medical marijuana

BY DAVID KRAVETS
 AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Each time the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on medical marijuana, the justices have come down against allowing the sick and dying to use the drug to ease their symptoms and possibly prolong life. But the door has never been fully closed.

This week, a federal appeals court in California will hear arguments in the latest round of legal wrangling over the issue.

The case to be argued before the 9th U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday narrows the matter to the so-called right to life theory: that marijuana should be allowed if it is the only viable option to keep a patient alive or free of excruciating pain.

It would apply only to the sickest patients and their suppliers, regardless of whether they live in one of the 11 mostly Western states authorizing medical marijuana.

“A victory would affect people who are very seriously ill, facing death or great physical suffering,” said Randy Barnett, a Boston University law school professor working on the case.

The case was brought by Angel Raich, a 40-year-old mother of two from Oakland who suffers from scoliosis, a brain tumor, chronic nausea and other ailments. She uses marijuana every couple of hours to ease her pain and bolster a nonexistent appetite.

“She’d probably be dead without marijuana,” said her doctor, Frank Lucido, who has recommended marijuana for some 3,000 patients. “Nothing else works.”

The Bush administration says the lawsuit is without merit.

“There is no fundamental right to distribute, cultivate or possess marijuana,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Quinlivan, the government’s lead medical marijuana attorney, wrote to the appeals court.

Voters in 1996 made California the first state to authorize patients to use marijuana with a doctor’s recommendation. Ten other states have since followed suit, but the federal government says there is no medical value to the drug.

In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that Raich’s supplier, the Oakland Cannabis Buyer’s Cooperative, could not lawfully dispense marijuana despite California voters approving its medical use.

Two years later, in a small victory for medical marijuana backers, the high court let stand a 9th Circuit decision saying doctors have a First Amendment right to discuss or recommend the drug to patients without the threat of federal sanctions.

But last June, the Supreme Court ruled the federal government could prosecute medical marijuana users and their suppliers.

In some states, federal agents have been sporadically arresting users and raiding so-called pot clubs that dole out the drug to patients.

Still, a footnote by Justice Clarence Thomas in his 2001 ruling left the legal questions surrounding medical marijuana unsettled and helped open the door to Monday’s 9th Circuit hearing.

Thomas wrote that important underlying constitutional questions remain unre-

Key medical marijuana Supreme Court cases

By The Associated Press

Here are key developments in medical marijuana litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court:

- May 14, 2001: The Supreme Court said it was illegal to distribute medical marijuana to sick and dying patients. *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative*, 00-151.
- Oct. 14, 2003: The court let stand a lower court decision saying doctors have a First Amendment right to discuss or recommend marijuana to their patients without the threat or fear of federal sanctions. *Walters v. Conant*, 03-40.
- June 6, 2005: The court ruled that medical marijuana users in states allowing it are not immune from federal prosecution, because Congress has deemed it illegal. *Gonzales v. Raich*, 03-1454.

solved, such as Congress’ ability to interfere with states experimenting with their own laws and whether Americans have a fundamental right to marijuana as a vehicle to stay alive and ease pain.

The justices answered the first part of that footnote in June, ruling in another case brought by Raich that patients living in states with medical marijuana laws could be prosecuted because Congress has classified marijuana as an illegal controlled substance.

That prompted Reps. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., and Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., to propose legislation that would have blocked the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana users in states where it is legal. The House balked at the measure 264-161. A Hinchey spokesman said the congressman will resurrect the proposal this summer.

Raich is back before the 9th Circuit, one step short of the Supreme Court, in a bid to settle the second part of Thomas’ footnote.

Her lawyer, Barnett, is arguing the Constitution guarantees the gravely ill a right to available medication to keep them alive and relieve torturous pain.

Even if it is successful, the case would be unlikely to stop the raids on pot clubs or protect most users and suppliers. Raich herself was arrested last week for disorderly conduct after she demonstrated outside the Oakland federal courthouse over a recent raid on a medical marijuana dispensary.

Regardless of the outcome of her case, she said she will continue using marijuana to treat her symptoms, and will keep fighting to do so without the threat or fear of federal prosecution. She expects her case to go to the Supreme Court no matter the outcome.

"I am going to keep doing this until they stop me because this is not a medical cannabis case but a right to life case," she said. "The federal government can say who can live and who can die if I lose in the Supreme Court."

States that allow the use of medical marijuana

By The Associated Press

- Here are the 11 U.S. states permitting the medical use of marijuana:
- Alaska
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Hawaii
 - Maine
 - Montana
 - Nevada
 - Oregon
 - Rhode Island
 - Vermont
 - Washington

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STATE



Winemakers pitch macho merlot for the manly men

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

HEALDSBURG, Calif. — They're making macho merlot in California wine country.

Hot on the stiletto heels of last year's wines-for-women trend, new releases from Ray's Station Vineyards in Sonoma County are being pitched to the Y-chromosome set as "Hearty Red Wines for Men."

The bottling of the sexes seems to be part of a wider industry trend that includes cute labels and easier-to-use packaging. Vintners want to break from the pack by making wines more consumer friendly.

"You face this challenge: How do you even get people to know you're alive?" said Robert Smiley, a management professor at the University of California, Davis, who follows the wine industry. Considering the fierce competition to get noticed among the hundreds of brands lining store shelves, gender vending is "not a bad strategy to try," he said.

Last year, wine for women was the theme with brands such as Mad Housewife from Rainier Wine and White Lie Early Season chardonnay from Beringer making news.

Wines marketed to women may be finding an audience.

ACNielsen supermarket data on eight wines aimed at women indicated the brands, some of which are in limited distribution, accounted for \$10 million of the approximately \$8 billion in wine sales for the year ending Feb. 11.

Wine, especially the higher-end vintages, has long been considered a man's world. But the people behind the Ray's Station campaign say there's an overlooked audience in the backyard barbecuer and NASCAR fan who enjoys wine but hasn't made a hobby of it.

"These guys, they're married; they've got a couple of kids," said Brian Hilliard, who heads up marketing for Ray's Station. "Wine is part of their lives, but it's not integrated in a way that they really force themselves to be knowledgeable."

Ray's Station is selling a merlot and cabernet sauvignon both priced at about \$15 and made mostly with grapes from hillside vineyards where the vines have to struggle to survive, producing richer fruit that adds heft to the flavors.

Don't expect any Ray's Station buttery chardonnays or silky sauvignon blancs, though.

"White wines ain't cutting it," Hilliard said with a laugh, referring to the industry axiom that women prefer white wines.

The wines are packaged simply with a label bearing the outline of a galloping stallion. The accompanying tongue-in-stubbed-cheek ad campaign features the winery's namesake, Sonoma County pioneer John G. Ray, and such masculine pursuits as fishing and hunting.

One ad shows a hunter at sunset, dog by his side, with the copy "John G. Ray did not serve pinot noir," a sly dig at the varietal adored by wine sophisticates.

The company doesn't have sales data yet, but the response from distributors has been good, said Hilliard.

"People react to it in the way they should; they chuckle," he says. "It's a little irreverent and it's meant to be fun. But, at the same time, the wine that's going into the bottle is very serious stuff."

Another Sonoma County winery, Ravenswood, has been getting in touch with its strong side for years, rallying behind the slogan "No Wimpy Wines!" The winery, known for its zinfandels, is sponsoring the No. 27 Brewco Motorsports car in the NASCAR Busch Series for 2006.

Although they may seem an unusual pairing, wine and auto racing have been connected for a while, with a number of wineries founded by the sport's greats, including Mario Andretti, founder of the Andretti Winery in Napa.

NASCAR fan Boyce Brannock of Staunton, Va., is watching the trend with some interest. He's someone who already appreciates fine wines and fast cars. He and like-minded enthusiasts of both sexes — they call their group "Rednecks and Red Rhones" — get together every February to kick off the season and sample wines from the Rhone region of France.

Brannock sees the new marketing outreach as dovetailing with a consumer-driven trend of more nontraditional wine drinkers being willing to take an interest in wine, "or at least not turn up their nose when it's offered."

He wasn't sure men would be won over by marketing aimed at them, but speculated it might be a hit with their wives. "Something like Ray's Station might be an opportunity to say, 'Here's something that's not coming out of a flowery bottle,'" he said.

Leslie Sbrocco, author of "Wine for Women," liked the idea of trying to broaden wine's appeal.

"I'm all for gender marketing," she said. "I'm all for getting wine in more people's hands regardless of how we do it."

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STATE

Wise cracks: Residents on fault stay cool

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

Associated Press Writer

HAYWARD, Calif. — The cracks in Elke DeMuynck's ceiling appear every few weeks, zigzagging across her living room, creeping toward the fireplace, veering down the wall. Month after month, year after year, she patches, paints and waits.

"It definitely lets you know your house is constantly shifting," DeMuynck said. So does the gate outside that now swings uselessly 2 1/2 inches from its latch. And the strange bulges in the street, and the geology students who make periodic pilgrimages to her cul-de-sac.

DeMuynck could throw a putty knife from her front stoop and hit the Hayward Fault, the most dangerous in the Bay Area, if not the nation. Like others who live here, she gets by on a blend of denial, hope and humor, putting earthquake anxiety on a long list of modern-day worries.

It's the geologists, emergency planners and historians who seem to do most of the fretting, even in this year of heightened earthquake awareness, when the region is marking the 100th anniversary of San Francisco's Great Quake on April 18.

Several faults lurk beneath this region, but geologists say the Hayward is the most likely to snap.

"It is locked and loaded and ready to fire at any time," said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Tom Brocher.

The Hayward Fault runs through one of

the country's most densely populated areas, slicing the earth's crust along a 50-mile swath of suburbia east of San Francisco. Experts say 2 million people live close enough to be strongly shaken by a big Hayward quake.

It runs directly under thousands of houses, from exclusive hilltop manors overlooking the bay to Hayward's humble flatlands. It snakes beneath interstate bridges, strip malls, nursing facilities, retirement centers, and it splits the uprisings of the University of California, Berkeley's football stadium, official capacity 67,537.

"A lot of these structures are going to come down," said David P. Schwartz, the chief of the USGS's Bay Area Earthquake Hazards Project. He spoke with one foot on either side of the fault, straddling a thin crack that snaked through a parking lot in Hayward's business district.

Before there was the Great Quake of 1906 on the San Andreas Fault, there was the Great Quake of 1868 on the Hayward Fault. The 6.9 rumblers also rattled the city across the bay, killing two people there.

The Association of Bay Area Governments estimates that a severe quake on the Hayward Fault today would wipe out some 37,000 housing units.

It's a time bomb waiting to go off. Historically, severe quakes have occurred on the Hayward Fault every 151 years, give or take 23 years, meaning it is now into the danger zone. Experts forecast the next big one will be in the potentially lethal 6.7 to 7.0 range.

In a big quake, the earth on either side of the fault could shift three feet. Two objects sitting on different sides before the quake could be abruptly carried a total of six feet apart, he said.

"You can visualize what would happen if it moves six feet," Schwartz said, gesturing toward the telltale asphalt crack, which disappears underneath businesses.

The Hayward Fault runs directly beneath Eden Jewelry and Loan, but the men working in the pawn shop shrugged when asked whether they fear a quake.

"I better get a new job!" said Saul Gevertz, 64, flashing a smile at his co-worker. "Honestly, it's a nonissue."

One of the building's co-owners, Darrell Davidson, 47, said that ever since a renovation and retrofit about five years ago, the structure is essentially an enormous steel cage, designed to flex in an earthquake.

"I'm not worried-worried. I've thought about it," said Davidson, his eyes scanning the steel beams. "I think we're in good shape. I hope to God we are."

Nickey Avila, 23, confessed some alarm when a reporter informed him the fractured pavement outside his house was the fault. Avila had just returned from a tour with the U.S. Army in Iraq; the "welcome home" banner and balloons still hung from the house.

"I knew I was close to the fault, but I didn't know I was this close," Avila said.

"I'm thinking one day it's going to move, but if I survive it, I'll be able to say

I survived one of the biggest quakes of all time," he said. "For my family — I'm third-generation military — it's like, 'bring it on.'"

That could be any moment, seismologists say.

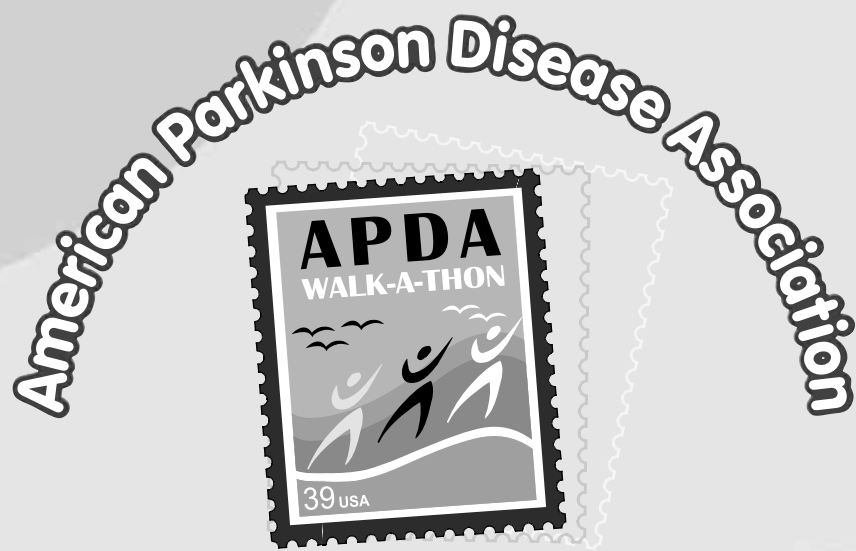
"If it moved while we were walking, it wouldn't surprise me," Schwartz said during a tour of Hayward's misaligned street curbs, warped concrete gutters and abandoned buildings. Among the shuttered structures was the former Hayward City Hall, a grand art deco complex deemed too dangerous to occupy. The fault runs right underneath.

Built in 1930, it was part of a 20th century Bay Area building boom nurtured by an unusually quake-free period. The Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 released stresses on all faults in the region, resulting in few earthquakes, Schwartz said.

The legacy of the boom, and the fault menacing from below, are both visible in an unnerving new "virtual tour" of the fault developed by the USGS. Meant to simulate a helicopter flight, the new images show the Hayward Fault represented as a bright red line, slashing through specific, identifiable structures, like DeMuynck's house.

DeMuynck, 62, is resolved not to worry.

"There's dangers all around us, all the time, so if we thought about those dangers all the time, we wouldn't have anything else to think about," she said. "We just come home and say, the house is still here. We're OK for another day."



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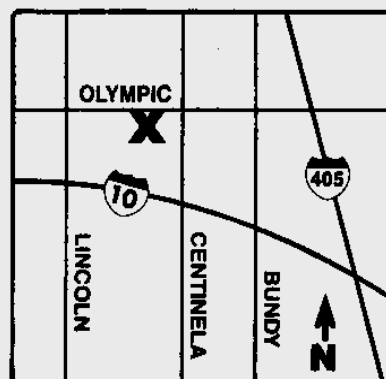
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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

New flood plain maps could be a boon to insurers

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. — New federal flood plain maps could more than double the size of Camarillo’s 100-year flood plain and require thousands of people to get flood insurance for the first time.

The city has appealed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, saying local officials need more time to study the new flood plain boundaries before the maps are made final, perhaps as early as this fall.

Some 10,000 homes and businesses would be within the flood plain.

Some areas shown in the new maps could be removed with more specific studies than those used by FEMA, city public works director Tom Fox said.

“If the response back from FEMA isn’t one we want to see,” Fox said, the city will ask Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, to request that federal officials sit down with the city and attempt to find some common ground.

The city notified thousands of people earlier that the new maps, still in draft form, designate their properties as being subject to a 100-year flood, defined as a severe flood with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

The new maps were drawn after a three-year study of the 341-square-mile Calleguas Creek watershed, which includes Camarillo, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. The study was funded by FEMA, the cities and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

Man, 61, arrested for throwing wife off balcony

By The Associated Press

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. — A 61-year-old was arrested for allegedly tossing his wife off a second-floor balcony at the couple’s home.

The 42-year-old woman, whose name wasn’t released, was in critical condition with a major head injury at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department was called to the Los Alisos Boulevard home at about 8:45 p.m. Thursday, sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino said.

Grant Randolph was arrested and booked for investigation of attempted murder and cruelty to a child. Bail was set at \$1 million.

No other information was released.

Snuffing fireworks left up to voters

By The Associated Press

LAKEWOOD, Calif. — Voters will decide on Nov. 7 whether to ban fireworks in the city.

The City Council voted to place the fireworks ban measure on the ballot. A similar proposal is on the June 6 ballot in neighboring Artesia.

A fireworks explosion that razed a house on March 5 led Lakewood officials to consider an immediate moratorium on fireworks sales.

But community groups that raise about \$250,000 each year from Fourth of July fireworks sales protested and the council decided Tuesday to let voters decide.

Hit-and-run driver gets year behind bars

By The Associated Press

VENTURA, Calif. — A hit-and-run pickup truck driver who ran a red light and killed two people riding on a motorcycle was sentenced to a year in jail.

Superior Court Judge Bruce Clark also placed Faustino Lopez, an illegal immigrant living in Oxnard, on five years’ probation. Lopez pleaded guilty Feb. 23 to one count of hit-and-run and two counts of vehicular manslaughter.

“The defendant had no record and pled guilty in the early stage of the proceedings, which led the judge to give him probation, but yet still give him a very significant amount of custody time,” Deputy District Attorney Kevin Drescher said Thursday.

Lopez was driving a pickup that ran a red light at Rice Avenue and Fifth Street in Oxnard on Sept. 25 and struck the motorcycle, killing Carol Fiorina-Long, 45, of Los Osos and Claus Peter Rogasch, 59, of Camarillo.

Lopez said he didn’t stop because he was rushing his cousin to a hospital. But police investigators said Lopez was arrested miles away from the accident.

Lopez faces deportation after he completes his sentence. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service had a custody hold on Lopez because he is in this country illegally.

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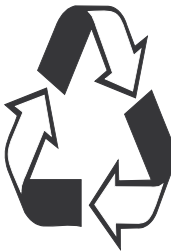


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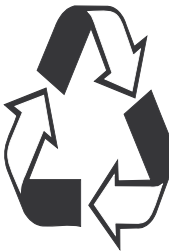


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LOCAL



Co-op retailer REI is setting the pace for outdoor industry

REI, from page 1

ping for triathlon gear.

The company plans to open a REI store in downtown Santa Monica at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Fourth Street by mid May. The Santa Monica location will be REI's seventh store in the region. REI opened its first store in the Los Angeles area in 1977. REI's closest retail location is currently in Manhattan Beach. The company opened a store in Huntington Beach in August.

With 82 stores in 26 states from Washington to Massachusetts, Minnesota to Texas, REI cleared \$1 billion in sales in 2005 for the first time. Its growth has invigorated an industry and inspired millions to get off the couch and into the outdoors. More stores are planned, and a new East Coast distribution center will be built in Bedford, Pa.

Still, REI is trying to balance its glitzy success against the values forged in that Seattle basement.

They have become the 800-pound gorilla in an industry where hitting the top of a climbing pitch once meant more than hitting profitability.

Not anymore.

"Everything is driven by the bottom line," said Michael Hodgson, co-owner of Specialty News, an outdoor retail trade journal who tracks REI and its thousands of vendors. "I'm not sure you could say that five or six years ago."

He said REI has transformed outdoor retailing from a cottage industry to a real business. REI says 159 million Americans participate in at least one outdoor activity each year, spending \$18 billion annually.

"When REI goes into a community more people play outside," said Sally Jewell, 50, a climber, hiker, kayaker, sailor and former banker, who took the helm as REI's CEO last year. "We're not looking to take business from the little guy. When we go into a market we're looking to make that market bigger."

While small rock-climbing and other specialty shops compete with REI locally, few companies compete with REI nationally.

Eastern Mountain Sports has a concentration of stores in the Northeast; Cabela's Inc. focuses on hunting and fishing gear; and L.L. Bean is mostly an online and mail-order business. By contrast, 85 percent of REI's business is in its stores.

But Jewell said the real competition for REI is in the living room.

"Our competitors are television and video games," she said. "If we can get people off the couch and doing something they aspire to do, that also helps keep them in shape and helps them achieve life balance, then we know we're doing things that are all good."

All good means doing well by the community and by the bottom line.

Many in the company and industry credit Jewell's energy, business smarts and leadership as central to REI's recent boom. She joined the company's board a decade ago, and became chief operating officer in 2000, a year in which the company lost money for the first time.

The more recent success is a combination of strategic business practices, luck with good weather and an unusual business model for a big retailer: REI is a member-owned cooperative.

Anyone can shop at REI, but only customers who pay a one-time \$15 fee to join the co-op are entitled to a 10 percent annual dividend based on their purchases.

There are approximately 125,000 REI members who live within 15 miles of the new Santa Monica location. They currently purchase their products online or commute to the Manhattan Beach store to shop. Members also can vote for the company's leadership and receive exclusive deals on used products for sale.

In 2005, the company paid out more than \$50 million to 2.8 million active members, up nearly 14 per-

cent from 2004.

The board of directors, all members, are elected by the membership. They regularly turn down outside investors, and executives don't receive stock options or equity. That doesn't mean executives are poorly paid, though; Jewell earned \$1.3 million last year.

But REI's critics — who are hard to find — say the growth has moved the company away from its co-op roots.

"I would argue vehemently that it's not a co-op," said Hodgson. He said limited participation in governance — the company says only 3 percent of members actually vote — means REI is more a corporation that happens to be a co-op, than a co-op run like a corporation.

David Blanke, a history professor at Texas A&M who studies co-ops, said that historically that model is problematic for co-ops.

"Those market forces will overpower the values of a co-op," he said.

Jewell flatly rebuts that argument.

"Others may assume you have to be small and a poorly run business to be a co-op," she said. "People vote with their dollars."

Some manufacturers quietly express fear that REI holds too much sway in the industry. With nearly 100 stores, an order from REI can make or break a company.

"If REI wrote me a 'Dear John,' it wouldn't put us out of business, but we'd have to run a really lean ship to recover," said Mark Day, a spokesman for La Sportiva, a manufacturer of rock climbing shoes and mountaineering boots.

But most REI vendors say they are treated with respect, and they praise the company's expertise.

Fred Hugelmeyer, president of the Outdoor Industry Association, a trade group, said REI helped establish practices for manufacturers that help them avoid using sweatshop labor.

"With their size comes great responsibility," Hugelmeyer said. "They take that very seriously."

For Jewell, being a co-op means being able to focus on long-term objectives and staying true to three core constituencies: members, employees and the community.

Although some of the small specialty shops with whom REI competes argue they have better service, surveys and industry experts place the green-vested REI sales staff equal to, if not better, than anyone else.

Fortune Magazine has consistently ranked REI as one of the best 100 companies in America to work for. Last year REI ranked ninth.

Once criticized for not paying well, REI has increased retail salaries by about \$4.5 million in the last two years, said Michelle Clements, REI's personnel chief. It has extended an incentive plan to cover the entire company and last year began offering health benefits to part-time employees.

Talk to REI employees and each one tells a story of outdoor activities and adventures. They bike to work and climb mountains on the weekends. They telemark ski and go kayaking in Costa Rica.

Reathel Geary, an inventory supervisor and salesman in women's clothing who put on the trademark green vest after working 15 years in retail elsewhere, embodies that passion.

"Every new member is likely to be more involved in the outdoors," he said.

And to maintain the great outdoor playground it equips people to enjoy, REI invests millions in organizations like the National Park Foundation.

Since Jewell came on board, REI has ramped up its giving from less than \$900,000 in 2000 to \$4 million in 2006.

The money goes to a variety of causes, from maintaining open spaces to providing gear that youth groups can borrow for weekend camping trips.

What concerns Jewell most about the future, she said, is encouraging young people to get outside — and making sure there still is a wilderness to enjoy.

"I don't want the REI of 50 years from now to have to resort to selling outdoor-themed video games because there's no places to play anymore," she said.

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Getting down to 'essence' of SM life

BRAND, from page 1

tions can really affect us in both a positive and negative way ... What we are trying to do with the destination branding promise is to define exactly what our lifestyle is and what it is that we offer that sets us apart from other destinations.

"And the important thing is everyone can own it. This is about the community coming together to say, 'What is the experience we want people to leave with when they come to Santa Monica?'"

The brand was unveiled Friday at the beachside Loews Hotel, where business leaders and elected officials gathered by the pool, dining on fresh fruit under a clear blue sky while members of the Santa Monica Symphony played in the background and a group of seniors wearing swim caps and floaties gathered for their morning exercises. Nearby, fit young women practiced their yoga poses, stretching out with the beach as the backdrop.

And then came Mayor Bob Holbrook, zipping through the hotel's ballroom on a Segway — an electric scooter for use in pedestrian areas. He was wearing a blue cap and brown T-shirt with "Santa Monica" written across the bottom in

large orange letters.

Except for the seniors exercising, the rest was staged as a way for the CVB to demonstrate the many amenities Santa Monica has to offer, such as a strong arts community, beautiful beaches for recreation and exercise, a pedestrian-friendly environment, and a willingness to embrace new technologies.

Kerns said the CVB has budgeted \$50,000 for the branding process so far. The event Friday cost \$18,000, with the hotel donating the use of the ballroom, as well as lunch and discounted valet parking.

"We have an operating budget of \$2 million a year, and considering that we took in about \$30 million this year from the (hotel room tax), I would say it has been a solid return on the investment," Kerns said of CVB's work to spread the word about Santa Monica.

Creating a brand that is easily identifiable is very important not only for a major corporation such as Coca-Cola or Sony, but also for a city. The right brand, such as Las Vegas' "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," can help raise the morale of residents, as well as the financial fortunes of a city. The wrong brand, like the state of Washington's new slogan "SayWa," can



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Duane E. Knap, President of Brand Strategy, inc., speaks at the Santa Monica brand summit on Friday at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

create confusion, resulting in less tourism and fewer jobs, said branding expert Duane Knapp, a speaker at Friday's summit, who helped guide CVB in the research and development of the city's brand.

"This is about being distinctive, being one of a kind," he said. "It's not about hype or slogans, but about delivering an experience that people want and will remember. It's about how you want to make people feel."

In developing the brand, the CVB gathered input from local businesses, elected officials, residents and other community members. The CVB conducted focus groups with tourists coming from markets such as Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and London — where the majority of Santa Monica's visitors come from.

During those sessions, participants were candid about what they felt were Santa Monica's strengths and weaknesses.

Some of the strengths included "friendly, healthy people; the beach; shopping; atmosphere; safety and cleanliness; and weather and location to other areas of interest in Los Angeles County."

The weaknesses included "a large, unattractive homeless population; traffic; the high cost of goods and services; a lack of public transportation and attractive venues/events; and grumpy or mean locals."

Many of the perceptions conflicted with one another and is an issue that will be discussed as the branding process

moves forward, CVB officials said.

In the coming months, the CVB will host a series of brand implementation workshops to help residents and city employees become acquainted with the new brand so that each can become ambassadors to the city.

There will be training programs for hotel workers and other customer service-related employees who routinely come into contact with visitors. The programs will outline how to deliver an experience consistent with the brand and how to better sell the merchandise. They also will hone their skills on how to sell Santa Monica as a destination.

The beach will get special attention. A series of meetings will be held with civic and business leaders, and residents that will help identify methods to enhance the beach experience at Santa Monica. There have been complaints that the beach is difficult to access in certain areas and there are not enough signs telling visitors how to get back to downtown. That has caused many people to become lost underneath the pier, according to merchants.

Kerns said the branding process is ongoing and residents will be encouraged to participate and make the brand their own.

"It's only fitting that Santa Monica has taken the lead on this approach given the city's well-deserved reputation for innovation and staying on the cutting edge of global culture," she said.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The image of Misti Kerns, President and CEO of the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, speaking at the Santa Monica brand summit on Friday is projected for the audience.



Buds light



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP DAISIES: Spring is in the air and the daisies are popping up along Santa Monica Beach.

LOCAL



Neighbors grow concerned after assault of librarian

LIBRARY ASSAULT, from page 1

pushed her from the back, causing her to fall forward. Carroll sustained a laceration to her face when she fell to the ground. Santa Monica Police arrested Hardy and booked him for assault and battery. His bail was set at \$5,000. He is being held in the men's central jail in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Carroll is recuperating at her Santa Monica home and is expected to return to work on Monday.

Carroll, who also had been the head librarian at the Fairview Library in Sunset Park, is known by many in the community, particularly because of her dedicated volunteerism in the school system. Those who know her describe her as gentle, kind and polite.

E-mail messages among residents in the Ocean Park neighborhood are testament to the shock by many people that Carroll could be attacked during the day at the library. In their e-mail dialogue, residents also raised concerns that there isn't enough security at the city's libraries, where many transients congregate.

"Celia is a beacon of this community; she is the person that everyone knows," said Joel Brand, an Ocean Park resident and the vice president of the Ocean Park Association, a neighborhood group. "And if something like this happens to someone like her, it shakes the community to the roots."

Main Street, like many neighborhoods in Santa Monica, has a fair amount of homeless people loitering, primarily because of its close proximity to the beach and parks. Typically, the associated prob-

lems resulting from the homeless have been quality of life issues, such as public urination and defecation, public drunkenness and audible ranting and raving. But last week's assault has woken residents up to a new reality.

"It raises serious concerns of the city's ability to police public spaces," Brand said. "It's unfortunate that it takes something like this to raise the issue."

More violence broke out in the neighborhood this week when a well-known convenience store employee was pistol-whipped while two men held up the Marine Mart, 672 Marine St.

On March 22, at 2:40 p.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the store and spoke to the employee, who said that two suspects had robbed him. The victim said the two suspects entered the store and a black man in his 20s approached him brandishing a handgun. A second suspect, also a black man in his 20s, went to the cash register and removed an undisclosed amount of money. During the robbery, the first suspect struck the victim on the head with the gun. The victim, who sustained a laceration on his head, was treated at the scene for his injuries.

The first suspect is believed to be between 20 and 25 years old, 5 feet, 6 inches tall, with a thin build and black hair. He was wearing a white T-shirt, blue jeans and was clean-shaven. The second suspect is between 19 and 20 years old, 5 feet, 2 inches tall, medium build, and having black hair. He was wearing a dark gray or black pullover sweatshirt, blue jeans and was clean-shaven.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Civic participation needs participants

By Daily Press staff

The Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area is hosting a community dialogue on Sunday, March 26 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. "Civic Participation: Rights, Respect and Responsibilities" will bring people together to hear panelists Jean McNeil Wyner, from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center; Dr. Karen Gunn, from Santa Monica College; and Father Michael Gutierrez, from St. Anne's Church. Following the brief panel presentations, attendees will meet in small groups to share their thoughts on the topic. The afternoon will conclude with healthy refreshments from the Calvary Baptist Church, NAACP Santa Monica/Venice branch and the Pico Community Health Network.

Admission is free as is parking at the site, Calvary Baptist Church, 1502 20th St.

The Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area is a partnership of community organizations, institutions, businesses and individuals which promotes and supports a respectful and socially just community through education, advocacy and resolution of local conflicts and issues.

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NATIONAL

Builders going green for lack of energy

BY SUSAN MONTTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Norm Schreifels is building a 5,500 square-foot dream home with unimpeded views of the Sandia Mountains, an outdoor dining room that faces the city lights and a handful of plazas and portals that take advantage of New Mexico's weather.

Thick hand-hewn beams soar above the great room and windows stretch from near the floor to the ceiling to catch the mountains just beyond the river valley below.

At first glance, the home would send any conservationist into a frenzy.

But Schreifels, who runs Sun Mountain Construction Inc., wants people to take a closer look.

"We put a big house in here just so people would get mad and ask questions," he said.

The answers all point to green building, a trend that's picking up speed across the United States as homeowners struggle with high utility bills and leaders begin to talk about shifting

the country's diet from oil to more renewable energy sources.

Hundreds of homebuilders, architects and industry experts gathered recently in Albuquerque to share their ideas as part of the National Association of Home Builders' Green Building Conference.

Dozens of them got the chance to tour the work of Schreifels and other contractors who are using better building techniques and environmentally friendly materials to create what some in the industry are describing as the future of homebuilding.

"Ten years from now it will be the way of doing it, not because it's mandatory, just because it's the right way of doing it," said Armando Cobo, an Albuquerque designer who has been active in promoting the NAHB's green building standards.

Cobo has been designing nothing but green houses for the past five years and hasn't scared away a single client.

"It just makes 100 percent sense," he said. "For a small amount of money, you can have a better house, more energy efficient house. Why would you want something that doesn't meet those standards? It's a no-brainer."

And gone are the days when green-built homes teetered on the fringe of being freaky with a mishmash of recycled tires and aluminum cans and awkward solar panels.

Now, solar power systems can be hidden on rooftops, insulation made of recycled material becomes invisible behind walls covered with nontoxic paint, and more efficient heating and cooling systems are woven into the home's inner skeleton.

Green builders also use framing techniques that cut down on waste; some look for opportunities to use salvaged materials.

The beams and other wooden accents in Schreifels' home come from timber harvested following a forest fire in northern New Mexico. The wood is just one example of the steps Schreifels — with help from Green Builder magazine — has taken to make the home a green example.

"It gets a little more of the checking and cracking in it, but I like that," Schreifels said of the reclaimed wood. "Every one of these (beams) would have just stayed there and rotted out."

Some builders who cater to the masses are going green by engineering heating and cooling systems to work more efficiently, framing thicker exterior walls to provide more insulation and installing low-flow toilets and other fixtures designed to conserve water.

But NAHB officials admit the number isn't high and they want more mainstream builders jump on board.

According to the organization, about 2,600 homes were built to some kind of green standard in 2002. That jumped to 14,600 in 2004 and it's expected to multiply again this year, said Ray Tonjes, chairman of the NAHB's

green building subcommittee.

"It's not rocket science," Tonjes said of green building. "It's really about common sense."

Both he and Cobo noted that the basic principles date back centuries to a time when people were conscious of their surroundings and built dwellings that worked with the environment.

Tonjes talked about the Nebraska dugout in which his grandfather was born and how it was built into a slope to protect against the north wind. Cobo pointed to indigenous people who built their homes with adobe bricks and positioned them to take advantage of the sun's rays.

"That is a heritage that we should not be taking for granted and we should build upon," Cobo said.

To help builders, the NAHB created green guidelines that cover everything from lot design to indoor air quality and energy efficiency. The guidelines are flexible so builders around the country can use them.

The Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico, for example, unveiled its version of the guidelines in March but with stricter requirements on water conservation. New Mexico is currently experiencing one of its driest winters on record.

NAHB officials hope to see similar programs in more than a dozen metropolitan areas by the end of the year.

"We're going from Boston to Park City and from Durham to Las Vegas and Minneapolis down to Nashville, just all over the place," said Warn Hubbell, executive director of the Green Building Initiative, which has already helped a handful of local associations start programs.

Support for green building is also coming from outside the construction industry.

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez is encouraging builders to move ahead without mandates from the government. He also points out that he's taking his own steps, including an initiative that requires future city vehicles to run on alternative fuel.

"We have different challenges now than we did perhaps 30 years ago," Chavez said. "The reality is that we live here in the high desert. Sustainability has become extraordinarily important."

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, former energy secretary under President Clinton, signed an executive order earlier this year calling for the state to implement green building practices for all existing and new state buildings.

"It saves money and it's a good investment for taxpayers," said Ned Farquhar, the governor's senior policy adviser for energy and the environment.

Saving money is also an aim of Schreifels, who expects his utility bills to be at least 60 percent less thanks to the green elements in his home.

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NATIONAL



Thousands take to the streets for humane immigration rights

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Thousands of supporters of immigrant rights clogged major thoroughfares in central Phoenix on Friday, calling for more humane reform of immigration laws.

The huge turnout, estimated by police at 10,000 to 12,000 people, surprised police and organizers alike. It was one of several across the country that included school walkouts, marches, and work stoppages.

Many participants said they were most incensed by what they see as punitive immigration reform proposals, especially one approved by the House in December that would make unlawful presence in the United States a felony.

Thousands chanted "Si, se puede," one of the rallying cries of the United Farm Workers union that means "Yes, we can." Many clutched Mexican and U.S. flags in protest of the bill.

"It's unfair what they want to do," said 50-year-old Phoenix resident Elida Lozano, who carried a sign saying "Humanitarian aid is not a crime."

"It's racist," Lozano said. "You're not going to find terrorists outside a Home Depot looking for a job."

Other signs read "USA — Made by Immigrants" and "We are hard workers, we are equal."

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., is sponsoring a bill along with by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, that would give illegal immigrants up to five years to leave the country. Those immigrants could apply from their home country to return, either as temporary workers or for permanent residency.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Kyl is a member, is set to vote on the bill passed by the House on Monday.

Kyl's press secretary said his office would have no

immediate comment on the rally.

Malissa Geer, 29, of Phoenix, was among those in the crowd of more than 10,000, saying she was there to support her Hispanic friends.

"They're here for the American dream," she said as she held her 2-year-old daughter. "God created all of us. He's not a God of the United States, he's a God of the world."

The rally was called by the Border Action Network, which also organized a much-smaller rally in Tucson on Friday.

Jennifer Allen, director of the group, said at least 200 people associated with her organization attended the rally outside Kyl's Tucson office, which also drew supporters from another half-dozen immigrants' rights groups, including No More Deaths, the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project and Derechos Humanos.

Allen said she and others had met with Kyl's staff on Tuesday to urge Kyl to support legislation that will be humane and just for immigrants.

"We presented our demands, the same things we've been calling on him for years," Allen said, adding that there was little dialogue with the senator's staff.

Phoenix police were surprised by the turnout.

"We knew there was going to be a demonstration, but the estimates we had from the organizers grossly underestimated the number," said Sgt. Andy Hill. "We were told anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000, but they obviously got a tremendous turnout."

Other than major traffic tie-ups, there have been no other problems, Hill said.

A delegation from Humane Borders also went into Kyl's Phoenix office, presented their positions and then left peacefully, Hill said.

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NATIONAL

Wal-Mart's organic move a new lure

BY MARCUS KABEL
Associated Press Writer

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is throwing its weight behind organic products, a move that experts say could have the same lasting effect on environmental practices that Wal-Mart has had on prices by forcing suppliers and competitors to keep up.

Putting new items on the shelf this year, from organic cotton baby clothes to ocean fish caught in ways that don't harm the environment, is part of a broader green

policy launched last year to meet consumer demand, cut costs for things like energy and packaging and burnish a battered reputation.

Organic products are one lure for the more affluent shoppers Wal-Mart is trying to woo away from rivals like Target Corp., said Alice Peterson, president of Chicago-based consultancy Syrus Global.

A new Supercenter that opened this week in the Dallas suburb of Plano features over 400 organic foods as part of an experiment to see what kinds of products and interior decor can grab the interest of

upscale shoppers.

"Like many big companies, they have figured out it is just good marketing and good reputation building to be in favor of things that Americans are increasingly interested in," Peterson said.

Wal-Mart's Lee Scott is not the first chief executive to advocate sustainability, a term for the corporate ethos of doing business in a way that benefits the environment. Industrial giant General Electric Co., for example, last year launched a program called "Ecomagination" to bring green technologies like wind power to market.

What makes Wal-Mart's efforts unique, sustainability experts say, is the retailer's sheer size and the power that gives it in relations with suppliers. Wal-Mart works closely with suppliers to shape their goods, if they want them on the shelves of Wal-Mart's nearly 4,000 U.S. stores and over 2,200 internationally.

"They have huge potential because it's not just Wal-Mart we're talking about, it's their entire supply chain," said Jeff Erikson, U.S. director of London-based consultancy and research group SustainAbility. The group says it does not do any consulting work for Wal-Mart.

Erikson said Wal-Mart could bring the same pressure it has exerted over the years on prices and apply that to pushing manufacturers and competitors to adopt more sustainable business practices and larger organic offerings.

"We love to see companies like Wal-Mart taking a big step and making pronouncements as they have, because their tentacles are so large," Erikson said.

Wal-Mart plans to double its organic grocery offerings in the next month and continue looking for more products to offer in areas such as grocery, apparel, paper and electronics.

Stephen Quinn, vice president of marketing, told an analysts' conference this month that Wal-Mart would have 400 organic food items in stores this summer "at the Wal-Mart price."

Some Wal-Mart critics call the effort just a public relations job. But others say Wal-Mart could make a real difference if the retailer brings a critical mass of organic products to market and pushes enough suppliers to adopt green practices.

Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope, who is a board member of the union-backed group Wal-Mart Watch that criticizes the retailer, said it is too soon to tell if Wal-Mart will deliver but that the impact could be good for the environment.

"I think the direction they've said is a positive direction. The question is, 'Are they are going to go there strongly enough?'" Pope said.

Some of the new items will be seafood caught in the wild. Wal-Mart last month announced a plan to have all its wild-caught fish, which accounts for about a third of seafood sales, certified by the Marine Stewardship Council as caught in a sustainable way.

The London-based MSC, founded in 1997 as a venture of the conservation group World Wildlife Fund and global consumer products company Unilever, issues the certificates to let consumers know which fisheries avoid overfishing and use methods that don't damage the

ocean environment.

Sustainability experts say what makes this program interesting is that Wal-Mart will work with its suppliers to get more fisheries around the globe certified by MSC, instead of just buying up the existing stock of certified fish.

Wal-Mart says this means there will be more sustainable fish that will also be available to Wal-Mart's competitors, such as Whole Foods Market, which already sells about 18 MSC certified items, according to the MSC Web site. Wal-Mart plans to offer between 200 and 250 items.

The way Wal-Mart hatched the fish plan is typical of how it operates.

"I think the direction they've said is a positive direction. The question is, 'Are they are going to go there strongly enough?'"

CARL POPE
Sierra Club executive director

Peter Redmond, vice president and divisional merchandise manager in charge of deli and seafood, said he conceived the idea after meeting MSC board chairman Will Martin last fall. Wal-Mart and MSC worked out details and then Wal-Mart called in its 25 to 30 fish wholesalers in January to tell them it was switching to MSC certified seafood.

Wal-Mart developed a plan to work with its suppliers to encourage fisheries to adopt MSC practices. The plan includes barring its suppliers from switching fisheries in the first year to 18 months, giving the suppliers more reason to promote the changes.

"We don't want to walk away from a fishery just because it is in fairly poor shape or poor shape," Redmond said. "We want to try and recover that (non-certified) fishery to where it becomes a sustainable fishery. Our point being that if we just go for sustainable fisheries, it won't be enough at the end of the day unless we recover a lot of these that are in trouble now," he added.

The term fishery refers to a particular species of fish and the fleet that harvests them. Redmond said about 60 percent of the fisheries that Wal-Mart buys from now can be brought up to MSC standards within a year or two, and the remainder may need three to five years to change.

Redmond says the decision to go with sustainable fish came after Lee Scott launched the environmental policy last fall and fits Scott's maxim of "doing well by doing good".

"The environmental piece is a company (policy) plank. Secondly and probably the main reason is, when I look at seafood now and how many dollars it does now and how many dollars it's going to do in four years, I'm extremely concerned that that product is simply not going to be there."

"So we have to take the position that if I want to have hake five or six years from now, we as a company have to get involved and do something because I don't think it'll be there for us otherwise," Redmond said.

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Republicans flee ratings, but not president's money

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Many worried Republicans on the ballot in November have been pushing away from the White House, not wanting to be dragged under by President Bush's sinking approval ratings and growing anxiety over Iraq.

That doesn't mean they're also fleeing his cash offerings, however.

Despite approval ratings in the mid-to-upper 30s, Bush remains the nation's most successful fundraiser. Vice President Dick Cheney, whose poll numbers are even lower than Bush's, is not far behind. Both have raised tens of millions of dollars for GOP congressional and gubernatorial candidates running in this year's midterm elections.

Even as some Republicans are becoming increasingly defiant on a range of issues, they're still lining up dutifully for the president's campaign dollars.

"I would be shocked if a legitimate Republican candidate, not just a fringe candidate, who got word that the president was coming to do a fundraiser said, 'no, don't come to my district,'" said GOP consultant Rich Galen.

That said, Republican candidates don't want to be forced off message by such a visit and "have to spend the next two or three days talking about the president's policies ... or what happened yesterday in Ramadi (Iraq)," Galen said.

It has resulted in some fancy GOP footwork as candidates in tight races step away from Bush and Cheney on divisive issues but dance toward them when the subject is money.

Bush has scheduled fundraisers Friday for Rep. Mike Sodrel of Indiana at The Murat Centre in Indianapolis and for Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., at a private residence in the Pittsburgh area.

He's doing another one at a Washington hotel on Monday for Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., where \$1,000 will get you in the door, and \$10,000 in combined contributions from others will get you a "photo opportunity with the president," according to an invitation.

Bush and Santorum, the No. 3 Republican in the Senate, are not scheduled to appear together publicly on Friday. Santorum, trailing Democrat Bob Casey in polls, broke with Bush on a plan to have an Arab company based in Dubai run terminals at some U.S. ports and has raised concerns about the administration's conduct of the war in Iraq.

When Bush went to Cleveland earlier in the week to make a major speech on Iraq, there was a noticeable absence of top Ohio Republicans, including Sen. Mike DeWine, who is locked in a tight re-election race.

Cheney went to Newark, N.J., earlier in the week to help raise \$400,000 for New Jersey GOP Senate candidate Tom Kean Jr. But Kean showed up 15 minutes after Cheney left. Kean said he got stuck in traffic, a claim critics questioned based on the route he took.

Michael Steele, the GOP Senate candidate in Maryland, skipped Bush's speech at the U.S. Naval Academy in November, but joined the president later at a \$500,000 fundraiser. Last month, GOP Senate candidate Mark Kennedy in Minnesota did not attend an appearance by Bush at a 3M Corp. plant outside Minneapolis, but joined him later at a fundraiser.

At a local GOP gathering in Nevada

last weekend, Republican Sen. John Ensign tied himself to Ronald Reagan rather than Bush, saying spending under the Bush administration "has upset me."

Rep. Jon Porter, R-Nev., who also attended the gathering, told reporters: "I believe the president has his agenda, his focus. I have mine. I will always run on mine."

Worries over the Iraq war are weighing down all Republicans and causing strains between Bush and his congressional allies. "The big issue is now the war," said House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

In a White House news conference earlier this week, Bush acknowledged the war was dominating the nation's attention. "So there's a certain unease as you head into an election year. I understand that," he said.

A president is typically his party's fundraiser-in-chief, and Bush has embraced the role like no other, besting even the reception-loving Bill Clinton in total dollars collected. Bush headlined events that raised more than \$140 million for Republican Party committees and candidates in each of the 2002 and 2004 election cycles.

In 2005, Bush held 20 fundraising events, raising \$75.5 million, while Cheney held 36 events that brought in \$15 million. So far this year, Bush has held six events raising \$12.5 million, and Cheney has held 11 events that raised \$1.6 million, according to a GOP tabulation.

"The Republicans want to make withdrawals from the White House ATM. But at the same time, they don't want to be photographed or be seen being anywhere near the White House at this time," said Phil Singer, spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

But Brian Nick, spokesman of the counterpart National Republican Senatorial Committee, said the large sums of money that Bush and Cheney are able to attract are "indicative of what both the president and the vice president have been willing to do since their election. ... It shows the dedication to keeping the majority."

Polls show Bush and Cheney remain enormously popular with the GOP base and conservatives. An AP-Ipsos poll earlier this month showed Bush holding a 74 percent approval rating among Republicans, compared with 37 percent overall.

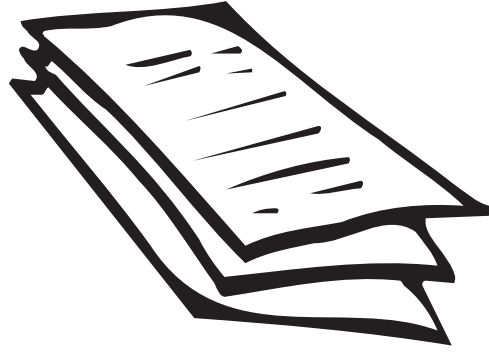
"He enjoys very strong support there. His problem is with swing voters," said Rutgers political scientist Ross Baker.

It is in states like New Jersey and Ohio, where swing voters have the most clout, that the races are the tightest, and where Democrats are working hard to tie Republican candidates to Bush administration policies.

Democrats, for instance, had some fun with Kean missing Cheney at the New Jersey fundraiser, pointing to news accounts that he had taken traffic-clogged Route 1 — at rush hour — rather than driving on the less-congested New Jersey Turnpike. "We made the photo that Tom Kean Jr. feared," said a Democratic news release with a computer-generated picture of Kean and Cheney standing side by side.

For his part, Cheney seemed to take Kean's absence in stride. "I do some of my best work when I'm without a candidate," he quipped at the fundraiser.

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INTERNATIONAL

Police storm into opposition camp

BY JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press Writer

MINSK, Belarus — Police stormed the opposition tent camp in the Belarusian capital early Friday and rounded up hundreds of demonstrators who spent a fourth night protesting President Alexander Lukashenko's victory in a disputed election.

The arrests came after a half-dozen large police trucks and about 100 helmeted riot police with clubs pulled up to October Square in central Minsk about 3 a.m. The police milled about for a few minutes before plowing into the camp.

The United States quickly condemned the police operation and joined the European Union in imposing financial

and travel sanctions against Lukashenko, who has ruled since 1994, and others.

Belarus ally Russia, however, said the media had distorted the severity of the operation.

Belarus forces first wrestled about 50 resisting demonstrators into the trucks. The rest of the 200-300 demonstrators then filed into the vehicles quietly, seeing that the end had come for the dayslong protest that was unprecedented in the authoritarian ex-Soviet republic.

Journalists were kept about 60 feet away behind police lines, but a local reporter who gave her name only as Olga said she heard a man who was apparently heading the operation yell, "I told you not to beat them!"

The police had long truncheons but

were not seen beating demonstrators as they had often done when breaking up smaller opposition rallies in past years. One local journalist said she saw police kick a few demonstrators who fell as they were being hustled into the truck.

By the end of the 15-minute operation, all the protesters had been taken away, leaving only the remains of their encampment — about 20 backpacker-type tents, blankets, refuse and several of the red-and-white flags they had been waving to signify freedom. City workers with dump trucks and bulldozers quickly cleared the debris.

The dismantling of the camp left in doubt the prospects for opposition forces who had rallied behind presidential candidate Alexander Milinkevich. He has called for a new vote without the participation of the iron-fisted Lukashenko, whose election he contends was unconstitutional because he was allowed to run for a third term after an allegedly fraudulent referendum in 2004 abolished term limits.

"The authorities are destroying freedom, truth and justice. There was only enough democracy for three days and this shows the essence of the regime that has been established in Belarus," Milinkevich told The Associated Press on Friday.

"The people on the square were courageous. They got up off their knees and together with them all of Belarus stood up."

The United States, a persistently harsh critic of Lukashenko, was quick to denounce the raid.

"We urge all members of the international community to demand that authorities in Belarus respect the rights of their own citizens to express themselves peacefully and to condemn any and all abuses," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

"The United States calls on authorities in Belarus to release without delay the hundreds of citizens who have been detained not only in the past 24 hours but in recent days and weeks simply for expressing their political views."

On Thursday, Belarus Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Popov lashed out at repeated U.S. criticism of the election results, saying "it's absolutely irrelevant."

Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik said the 25 EU leaders decided to impose restrictions against those responsible for the raid, including Lukashenko.

The EU decision puts Lukashenko on the same blacklist as Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and Burma's military leaders, all of whom have a freeze on their European assets and visa bans against them.

The United States said it would act in unison with the EU.

In Moscow, Russia's foreign minister

said there was no reason to doubt the election results, and he took issue with the media description of police storming the tent camp.

"I would not call the scenes I saw on TV today the use of force," Sergey Lavrov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Opposition youth movement member Nikolai Ilyin, 21, said the demonstrators were taken to a Minsk jail.

"Many people were made to stand in stockinged feet in the snow for two hours. We were made to stand against a wall with our hands up, and those who would turn their heads or say something were punched in their kidneys," Ilyin said.

He said he fainted and was hospitalized, and then fled.

Released from jail when his father came to get him, Alexander Ushko said police in the trucks "beat those who were the most active and those who were resisting, but beat them in such a way as to avoid leaving traces."

"They punched me in the legs and the back of the head," said Ushko, a teenager in his last year of high school.

The protests began with a rally of more than 10,000 people on Sunday, the day of the election. About 5,000 attended a second protest Monday, when a core group decided to make the protests around-the-clock.

Police had been detaining opposition supporters and keeping would-be protesters away from the square. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe tallied more than 200 arrests in the first three days of the protest.

A top police official said earlier in the week there was no intention to disperse the demonstration.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the pre-dawn raid Friday. An annual television awards ceremony is to be held Friday evening at the Palace of the Republic bordering the square, and the scruffy camp would have been an embarrassment to the government.

Lukashenko supporters, who credit the former collective farm director with providing economic and political stability, were happy to see the tent camp gone.

"They had no business being there; it was a stupid rally," said Natalia, 57, a pensioner who declined to give her last name for fear of attracting attention. "We live OK and if it something's not broken, don't fix it."

Milinkevich had said he would announce "long-term plans" at what was meant to be a major demonstration Saturday, the anniversary of Belarus' first independence declaration in 1918 and a traditional rallying day for the opposition.

He told the AP he would continue to call for the rally.

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4-5.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Vice tightens on Johnson's ranch

By The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — A lending company has asked for court permission to sell Don Johnson's 17-acre Woody Creek ranch, claiming the "Miami Vice" actor hasn't made good on a \$10.6 million note, the Aspen Daily News reported.

New York-based D.E. Shaw Laminar Lending Inc. filed the motion March 16 in Pitkin County District Court. The motion was made public Wednesday.

Johnson's publicist, Elliott Mintz, told the newspaper the filing has been "remedied" and will be withdrawn.

The motion says "defaults have occurred under the deed of trust, including ... the failure to timely make payments as required under the deed of trust."

The note was taken out in August 2004, about four months before a lawyer announced that creditors listed on Johnson's bankruptcy petitions had been paid.

Debtors included Los Angeles-based City National Bank, which sought to auction off the ranch to recoup \$930,000 it claimed Johnson owed.

Other bills paid included Aspen Valley Hospital (\$7,345), the Of Grape & Grain liquor store (\$377), Isberian Rug Co. (\$1,228), Planted Earth (\$764) and the Aspen law firm of Garfield & Hecht (\$2,787).

Johnson's grocery bill of \$5,740 to Clark's Market, which sued him in 2004, was also paid.

The grocery tab saga was the stuff of gossip for supermarket tabloids. The Woody Creek Tavern, near Johnson's estate, at one point had a tip jar asking for contributions to bail him out.

Johnson, 56, also starred in the "Nash Bridges" TV series. He splits his time between Los Angeles and the Aspen area.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Kanye West will be one of the main attractions at this year's Stockholm Jazz Festival.

The 27-year-old rapper-producer-songwriter will take the stage July 20 at the outdoor festival, one of the biggest annual music events in Sweden, organizers announced Friday.

West has won six Grammy Awards for his two multiplatinum albums, 2004's "The College Dropout" and last year's "Late Registration."

Sting is also slated to appear at the July 18-22 festival as part of his Broken Music Tour.

MADRID, Spain — Shakira, the queen of Latin American pop music, will begin her world tour later this year in Spain.

"I'm going to give all my creative energy to a loyal public that has witnessed my evolution," the 29-year-old singer told reporters Thursday.

The tour will begin in June and continue until the end of the year. It will include nine Spanish cities before moving on to the rest of Europe, Latin America and the United States.

SPOKANE, Wash. — Samuel L. Jackson and 50 Cent will shoot scenes in the coming weeks for "Home of the Brave," a film set in the Lilac City.

"Home of the Brave," about soldiers struggling to readjust to life back home after returning from a tour in Iraq, also stars Jessica Biel, Brian Presley and Christina Ricci.

Filming began Wednesday, said Juan Mas, a supervising producer for Spokane film production company North by Northwest. It is expected to continue through the end of April.

NEW YORK — Rapper-actor Ludacris, real name Chris Bridges, who generated strong buzz for his performances in the Oscar-winning "Crash" and "Hustle and Flow," is turning to TV for his next dramatic role.

He'll play rapper-actor Ice T's nephew in a guest spot on NBC crime drama "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," Tuesday at 10 p.m. EST.

"When I was approached to work on SVU and read the script, there was no way that I could turn down this amazing opportunity," Ludacris said in a statement Thursday. "The character was so rich and the storyline so com-

plex, that I knew it was something I had to do."

In the episode, Ice T's character, squad detective Fin, is put in a bind when his son becomes a suspect in a double homicide. The case opens a family secret involving Ludacris' character.

LOS ANGELES — A judge ordered Marion "Suge" Knight to appear at a hearing next month to discuss his assets — or risk having the court take control of the rap-music mogul's Death Row Records.

Knight has been in a legal battle since he lost a \$107 million judgment last year to a woman who claimed she helped start the record empire.

Attorneys for Lydia Harris and her ex-husband, an imprisoned drug dealer who is seeking half of the award as part of their divorce, urged the judge Thursday to place Knight's company in receivership.

Michael Harris' attorneys accused Knight of trying to evade his legal obligations by failing to show up for debtor examinations three times. He was absent from Thursday's hearing.

"Enough is enough," said attorney Steve Goldberg. "It is time for a receiver and an order for contempt. There are rules of court that should be obeyed and Mr. Knight is making a mockery of it."

Attorney Rex Beaber, who represents Lydia Harris, accused Knight of shifting his assets.

Knight's lawyer, Dermot Givens, asked Judge Ronald Sohigian for a postponement because Knight was hiring a new team of lawyers, but the judge refused.

The judge also enjoined Knight from transferring or hiding any assets.

Givens promised Knight would appear at the April 1 hearing, and pledged his client would not hide any assets.

Last December, a judge in Monterey County froze Knight's assets, saying Knight and his lawyers had failed to answer questions and provide information in the case.

Michael Harris, who is serving a 28-year sentence at San Quentin State Prison, claims he put up \$1.5 million from behind bars to help start the record label. Knight has repeatedly denied that.

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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

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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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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

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

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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
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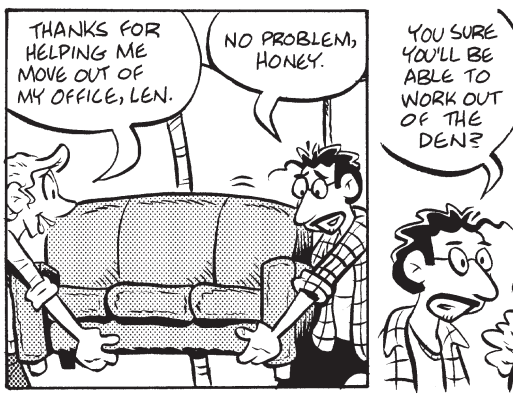


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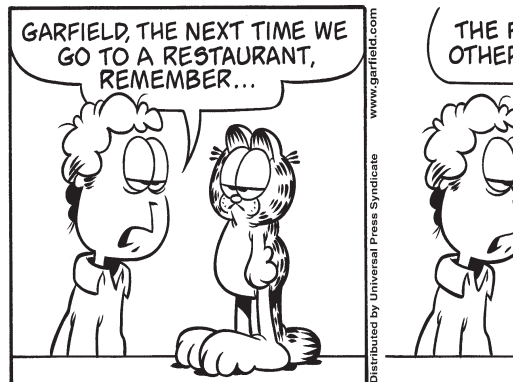
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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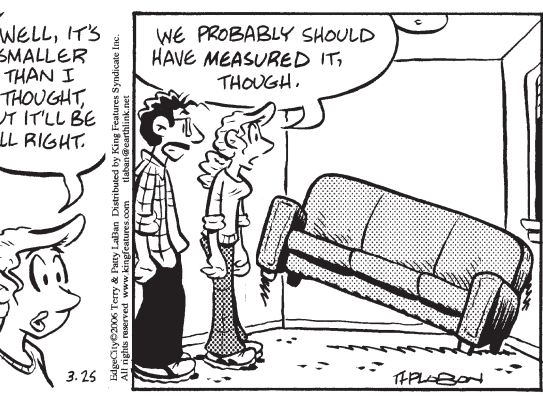
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Case No. SP006781
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID JOSEPH WATTS aka DAVID J. WATTS and DAVID WATTS
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Leslie Bottene in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Leslie Bottene be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION re-

Notices

quests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 5, 2006 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.
IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
KRISTA LEE POWERS ESQ
SBN167202
REYNOLDS & POWERS ALC
TAJ MAHAL STE 115A
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LAGUNA HILLS CA 92653
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