WEEKEND EDITION

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

March 26-27, 2005 | A newspaper with issues | Volume 4, Issue 115

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
9 23 26 31 36
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $50 Million

FANTASY 5
10 11 18 29 36

DAILY 3
Daytime: 3 8 9
Evening: 2 9 6

DAILY DERBY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:44.65



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Harvey Kash, 69, and Carl Lanzisera, 65, were arrested while standing in line at the courthouse in Hempstead, N.Y., in January, only because, said court officials, they were telling anti-lawyer jokes, to the irritation of a lawyer within earshot. Charges against Lanzisera were dropped, but prosecutors actually referred Kash's case to a grand jury, which, three weeks later, refused to indict him. (Said Kash's attorney, "Crime must be at a record low in Nassau County for the grand jury to have time for this.")

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 85th day of 2005. There are 280 days left in the year.

On March 26, 1979, the Camp David peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the White House.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is denied by lack of attention, whether it be to cleaning windows or trying to write a masterpiece."

NADIA BOULANGER
FRENCH MUSIC TEACHER (1887-1979)

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Bayside presses city over parking

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — After years of planning ways to improve downtown parking, business leaders challenged city officials this week to come up with short-term solutions in an effort to end the headache of traveling to the Third Street Promenade.

But city officials who presented a 10-year parking plan to the Bayside District Board — a group that oversees downtown Santa Monica, in conjunction with City Hall — warned the bureaucratic process isn't always that swift.

City staff provided Bayside board members on Thursday with a status report on the plan.

Bayside board members questioned city officials on what can be done before the upcoming summer season, when millions of tourists are expected to flock to downtown Santa Monica. Board members said local employees and customers will continue to feel impacts of the parking crunch until better measures are in place.

"I think what we're seeing now

See **PARKING**, page 11

'Y' bothers: Women recognized for works



Photo courtesy of YWCA
Left to right: Jacqueline Caster, Libbie Agran, Jody Priselac and Julie Wilhoit.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Economic and social justice. Innovative philanthropy. Empowerment.

Those are words used to describe the four "Women of the Year" honored this week by the Santa Monica/Westside YWCA.

Santa Monica residents Libbie Agran and Jody Priselac, as well

See **WOMEN**, page 12

Aluminum toil



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Artuero Pacheco sorts through cans on Friday as they move up the conveyer belt at the Santa Monica Recycling Center.

Raise, lather, repeat: Kids' car and dog wash benefits others

BY LESLIE ANNE JONES
Special to the Daily Press

Two dozen elementary students recently worked themselves into a lather to raise nearly $2,000 to help kids on the other side of the world, victims of this year's devastating tsunami.

On Friday, third- and fourth-graders at the Pluralistic School #1 handed their hard-earned cash over to Santa Monica-based International Medical Corps., a 21-year-old humanitarian organization that last year distributed $62 million in resources with the help of 6,000 workers in 20 countries.

The class of 25 students, taught by Abbie Perttula and Chris Kuzina, raised $1,930 themselves through their car and dog wash.

Students had brainstormed a list of almost 30 possible fundraising ventures, including making a movie or opening a restaurant. But in the end, they decided that the car and dog wash was the most feasible option.

Before cleaning up in the name of charity, the students hit the pavement and sought donations from their neighbors.

"I didn't actually like washing the dogs, only the cars," explained 10-year-old Morgan Pantuck. "The dogs got all soapy and smelly."

Some classmates agreed, but the group appeared united in their assertion they had a lot of fun raising the money through hard work.

The class wanted to find the charity that they felt would best maximize the use of their money for tsunami victims. They looked into five charities before deciding on IMC.

See **CLEANING UP**, page 10



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In the limelight, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ An opportunity that appears today might not be offered again. Know when to not hesitate and to leap into action. If you want what is put on your plate, grab it. You might be skeptical or a bit cynical. Tonight: News from a distance opens new doors.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your innate physical strength and buoyancy come out with whatever you take on. Your ability to zero in on what needs to get done saves the day. Bring friends together. A loved one or dear friend could change his or her tune. Tonight: Do what comes naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Add lightness, humor and a sense of fun to a get-together. Others naturally gravitate toward you. If you are single, you could meet someone quite spectacular out of the blue. Relationships could be transformed because of today's happening. Tonight: Enjoy your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Laugh and relax in your favorite milieu — your home. You might decide to make a major domestic change today. This decision could be quite fortunate in the long run. Study ways to streamline your day. Tonight: Entertain at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ What you say soothes another's soul. Make an effort to reach out to the many people in your life. You have a way of making others happy, especially today. Take care of yourself, as exhaustion could hit hard. Tonight: At a favorite spot. A loved one flips his or her stance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You could be spending way too much lately, but you love the indulgence. Life could easily provide a hard dose of reality if you're not careful. What you do right now could prevent something more important from happening. Tonight: Treating yourself doesn't need to cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your personality melts others' resistances. Knowing what you want could help you accomplish a lot. On the other hand, you might want to let your hair down and simply have a good time. Know that you can have what you want. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Sometimes you might be overwhelmed by the responsibilities that descend on your shoulders. Your sixth sense directs you through extra work. Family makes demands. You have what it takes to make others happy. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your wild imagination bounds out of control. What you zero in on becomes a source of delight and tremendous happiness. Allow more in your life to flow. A partner could be touchy or difficult. Tonight: Stay on cruise control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Someone presents a very special opportunity, which you will want to pursue. What you visualize as a possibility could make a big difference if made a reality. Review a personal matter more carefully. A partner could be a little uptight. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Reach out for a loved one at a distance. Your ability to understand what others mean and where they are coming from makes a big difference. Assess a situation that has a bearing on your energy levels and is draining you. Tonight: Follow the music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A partner lures you in a new direction. Work as a team rather than as an individual. Together you will greet success. Understand a loved one or dear friend a lot better. Allow more feelings to emerge. Tread water with an authority figure. Tonight: Indulge, my dear Fish.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lofty hopes on display high above the pier

By Daily Press staff

The world's largest airborne public art display, the Ameriquest Soaring Dreams Airship, will make its maiden voyage over the Santa Monica Pier next week.

The airship will travel to cities across the U.S. in the upcoming months as a symbol of children's hopes and accomplishments. Since October, more than 6,000 children from a variety of states have participated in creating the flagship for Ameriquest's Soaring Dreams philanthropy program. Meeting with their after-school programs, youth organizations and pediatric care facilities, the children used more than 450 gallons of paint and topcoat, 75,000 square feet of tarp, hundreds of thousands of brush strokes with as many as 1,000 paint brushes to produce the 40,000-square-foot canvas as an expression of hope and opportunity for America's youth. The airship is a work of art measuring five times the size of the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

The airship will hover over the pier on Wednesday, March 30, at 11 a.m.

SMC airport campus to expand

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College is looking for some vision.

SMC is seeking public input on its long-range planning effort for the soon-to-be-open Santa Monica Airport campus at two "visioning" workshops, scheduled for 7 p.m. on both March 29 and March 30 at the Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Ave.

SMC is currently developing a long-range educational plan that will assure the community of continued access at the airport campus to college transfer programs and job training.

The planning process includes an environmental review to address issues that are identified during the study.

The March 29 workshop will have a Santa Monica focus while the March 30 workshop will have a Mar Vista focus. The new campus is located in the city of Los Angeles, adjacent to the city of Santa Monica.

The satellite campus is a 10.4-acre site at 3171 S. Bundy Dr. that the college purchased from BAE Systems in December 2001 for $30 million. A number of site improvements, including the removal of a 100,000-square-foot building, a new sound wall, and landscaping, were completed in 2004 following a series of meetings with nearby neighbors to develop consensus. An existing 64,000-square-foot building is currently being renovated to house programs to be offered this summer, including nursing, teacher training and professional development.

The new campus will provide "an opportunity to broaden career programs offered by the college, both for the beginning worker and for the worker looking to improve skills or change careers," said SMC interim president Dr. Thomas J. Donner. "It is also an opportunity to provide needed community improvements."

The Santa Monica airport campus is just south of SMC's shuttle parking lot, in operation since 1988. The shuttle serves more than 1,700 students a day. The shuttle lot must be relocated as two youth soccer fields and an off-leash dog park have been approved for this site and surrounding area.

As part of the long-range planning for the airport campus satellite site, SMC has proposed to fund the city of Santa Monica's Airport Park (the planned soccer fields and park improvements) in exchange for the right to build replacement shuttle parking underground at college expense. Funding for the project would come from Measures U and S, bond measures passed by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in March 2002 and November 2004.

"This proposal has several benefits, including the ability to enlarge the available park space sufficiently to build the planned soccer fields to standard size for high school tournament play and adult use," Donner said. "This would free city funds for other uses and would free college funds for other field space improvement projects, probably as joint projects with the city. By maintaining the shuttle lot at its current site, traffic between the new airport campus and the main campus is most likely reduced as well."

SURF REPORT

On Saturday, we have a light, small mix of NW and SW. Both are about equal in energy from opposite hemispheres, and should produce knee- to waist-high surf most everywhere. South facing breaks may see the best wave shape however.
Sunday looks like a repeat of Saturday.

Write us at **alex@smdp.com**
and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	**3:14**	**0.3**	**3:14**	**0.4**	**9:16**	**4.9**	**9:27**	**5.5**
SUNDAY	**3:52**	**0.1**	**3:36**	**0.9**	**9:55**	**4.5**	**9:52**	**5.6**
MONDAY	4:34	0.0	3:58	1.3	10:38	4.0	10:20	5.7
TUESDAY	5:23	0.0	4:20	1.8	11:33	3.4	10:54	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:26	0.1	4:40	2.3	12:54	2.9	11:39	5.4
THURSDAY	7:51	0.2	4:24	2.7	4:06	2.7	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	8:17	0.3	5:02	2.4	1:22	2.6	1:47	5.8

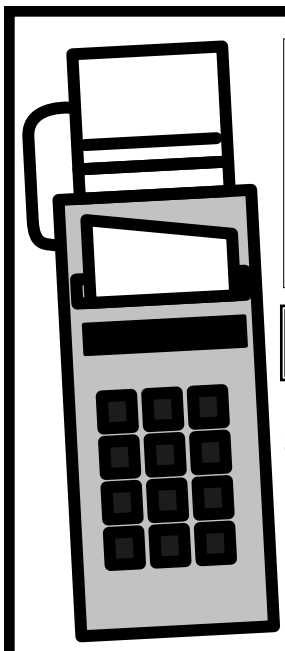
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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!
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YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



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OPINION

The Q Line

ARMED AND FABULOUS: RECRUITING IS OK

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Do you believe it's appropriate for the Armed Forces to recruit on college campuses?"

Here are your responses:

✆ "Every major corporation, law enforcement agency and major sports team recruits on college campuses in search for the cream of the crop. Protesters against military recruitment on campus should search out the root cause of wars that create the need for the military and not find fault with the military. If we are to have a military force, our officers should be the cream of the cream of the crop, due to an officer's decision often being very final. The military has an important need for both men and women officers with well-sharpened leadership skills and intelligence. Colleges are a good place to start that search."

✆ "This is clearly a First Amendment issue. The left, in its usual hypocritical fashion would rather suppress free speech than allow military recruiting to fail on its own merits. What are they afraid of? It's rather ironic: The left is the first to claim the Patriot Act somehow limits their civil rights, but is the first to ban speech they don't like. You may not approve of military recruiting on campus, but it is not for the left to decide. It is for the individual student and family to determine their own choice. The left claims to be for choice, but apparently not when individuals are free to think for themselves."

✆ "I think it's an excellent idea for the armed forces to recruit on college campuses, because that way the students can possibly know about different available options and it's good because it pays for their college tuition if they enroll. So I think it's an excellent idea. And if somebody doesn't like it, that's their problem. I think it's a wonderful idea."

✆ "People who protest the military recruiters are a bunch of idiots. The military is a legal occupation. If anybody wants to join it they have a right to do so. The military offers certain benefits that they got to tell people about. But of course, there's also the risk of war. The Army, Marines and National Guard are getting all the casualties so they're having trouble meeting their numbers, but maybe the Air Force — they don't have that much risk — so they're able to get the number of people they need. But anybody who joins the military has got to know there may be a war and they may have to fight it. That's what the military does for a living. You don't join the military to learn how to make furniture, you join the military because you might have to fight. Until they have a draft, it's an option for people to join the military. They should have the right to do so if they want."

✆ "Recruiting, maybe if they were recruiting for a militia, as outlined in the Second Amendment of the Constitution or other areas, fine. But as a part of a new world order, mercenary police force, no."

✆ "Of course it's appropriate to recruit young people at colleges. They don't have to join, you know. And I think those that are against it should take another look at the First Amendment and get a grip."

✆ "Yeah, I'm not sure if it's appropriate for them to recruit on college campuses, especially if the students don't want them there. However, I was really surprised that they were recruiting on college campuses. Normally they recruit in the poor neighborhoods, the ethnic neighborhoods, because these are the people that they traditionally consider as expendable. I would really like to see them recruiting the congressmen and the president and the vice president. Let them recruit their children for this war. I'd like to see them recruiting in Washington D.C."

✆ "Yes, they should be allowed to offer opportunities and recruiting in the military. To offer an opportunity for those to serve is a privilege. I am a retired veteran myself, and consider my time in the service a privilege that I could do, and although some people might not agree with different ideas politically, one way or another, to serve your country in the United States is a privilege allowed to those who are actually citizens and have the privilege to serve and the opportunity to invest and give to their country fully rewards them for their service."

✆ "I want to respond to the question about the armed forces recruiting on campus. I think that it's very appropriate that they are allowed to recruit along with many other agencies that do so. They should be able to give the options and since the military is very important to our country, they certainly should have an equal opportunity to talk with students. That's my opinion."

✆ "Yes, it's appropriate, it's free speech. These people need to get a life."

Killer dates might not be a good thing after all



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

In addition to receiving the death sentence after he was found guilty of murder, lately Scott Peterson's been receiving something else — marriage proposals. Death row marriages are not unusual. I know I shouldn't be judgmental when it comes to matters of the heart, but it's hard for me to see these romances as anything but weird.

We often hear single women complain, "All the good men are taken," but marrying a guy "until lethal injection do us part" seems a bit desperate.

We all know unlikely couples who seem to be doing just fine. I know a woman who's a liberal Democrat married to a conservative Republican. At first, you might think how can that work? Doesn't that mean they have different values? Then you realize they must have other things in common that make their political differences seem minor. So, are the friends of women who marry murderers saying the same thing? "Sure, she works in a bank and he's a serial killer, but they have so many other things in common."

Women marrying the most frightening people of our society should make regular, lonely single guys more confident about their futures. I can imagine them saying to themselves, "If Lyle and Erik Menendez could find somebody, there's got to be hope for me."

What makes guys behind bars so attractive to these women? Are we men really that hard to live with? I guess these are women who just don't want to put up with our usual garbage. They'll never have to say, "You told me there were only two minutes left in the game 20 minutes ago" to their husband. Or, "We both work. Why should I have to be the one to put the dishes in the dishwasher?" Or, "She's your mother. Why don't you sit next to her at Thanksgiving?" They won't have to help him find his keys, they won't trip over his shoes, and they won't have to come up with new and exciting things to do together on the weekends to keep their marriage fresh.

There also is the celebrity factor. Our society is fascinated by celebrities, whether the person's fame is related to his doing something good or bad. These killers are on the cover of "People" magazine, right next to the latest celebrity diet. So, maybe the adoring women feel that a little bit of the spotlight that's shining on the celebrity murderer will also shine on them — just as they think that if they go on Jennifer Anniston's diet, they'll look just like her.

Then there's the "bad boy syndrome." An example would be a high school girl who chooses the boy who is constantly in trouble for cutting class over the math genius. But there seems to be a huge difference between that and an adult woman who spurns her shoe salesman boyfriend for a serial killer.

Although women being attracted to murderers is nothing new, the digital age has made it frighteningly easier. There are Web sites that help direct people to prisoners who may want to get married. I get nervous for my friends who use "regular" Internet dating, and now I learn there is a whole new meaning to the term "pen pal." One of these Web sites contains a warning for those seeking to start a relationship with a prisoner: "Use your instincts and look for sincerity; if you feel something doesn't seem right, it most certainly isn't." Well, my instincts tell me that looking for a date on one of these Web sites doesn't seem right.

So, my suggestion for those who are so frustrated with the dating world that they are tempted to start up a relationship with a convicted murderer is this: If you must do it, at least do it as a last resort.

Start with people who are guilty of lesser crimes. Don't contact the murderers until you've already dated every man in America who's ever gotten a speeding ticket.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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COMMENTARY

GUEST COMMENTARY **ELAN JOURNO**

Death to 'Diplomacy' with Iran

The widely hailed diplomatic effort led by Britain, France and Germany is touted as a reasonable way to settle the dispute over Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program without any losers. By enticing Iran to the negotiating table, we are told, the West can avoid a military confrontation, while Iran gains "economic incentives" that can help build its economy. But this deal--now backed also by the Bush Administration--can only strengthen Iran and turn it into a greater menace.

The European deal — which is said to include the sale of civilian aircraft and membership for Iran in the World Trade Organization--rests on the notion that no one would put abstract goals or principles ahead of gaining a steady flow of economic loot. And so, if only we could negotiate a deal that gives Iran a sufficiently juicy carrot, it would forgo its ambitions.

But to believe that Iran really hungers for nuclear energy (as it claims) is sheer fantasy. Possessing abundant oil and gas reserves, Iran is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC. To believe that it values prosperity at all is equally fantastic; Iran is a theocracy that systematically violates its citizens' right to political and economic liberty.

What Iran desires is a nuclear weapon--the better to threaten and annihilate the impious in the West and in Iran's neighborhood. Iran declares its anti-Western ambitions stridently. At an official parade in 2003, Iran flaunted a Shihab-3 missile draped with a banner announcing: "Israel must be wiped out." A missile paraded last year declared another of Iran's targets: "We will crush America under our feet."

A committed enemy of the West, Iran is the ideological wellspring of Islamic terrorism, and the "world's most active sponsor of terrorism" (according to the U.S. government). A totalitarian regime that viciously punishes "un-Islamic" behavior among its own citizens, Iran actively exports its contempt for freedom and human life throughout the infidel world. For years it has been fomenting and underwriting savage attacks on Western and American interests, using such proxies as Hezbollah. Like several of the 9/11 hijackers before them, many senior Al Qaida leaders, fugitives of the Afghanistan war, have found refuge in Iran. And lately Iran has funneled millions of dollars, arms and ammunition to insurgents in Iraq.

It's absurd to think that by offering Iran rewards to halt its aggression, we will deflect it from its goal.

The only consequence of engaging such a vociferously hostile regime in negotiations is the whitewashing of its crimes and the granting of undeserved legitimacy. The attempt to conciliate Iran with "incentives" further inflames the boldness of Iran's mullahs. What it teaches them is that the West lacks the intellectual self-confidence to name its enemies and deal with them accordingly. It vindicates the mullahs' view that their religious worldview can bring a scientific, technologically advanced West to its knees.

Far from converting Iran into a non-threat, the "incentives" would sustain its economy, prop up its dictatorial government and perpetuate its terrorist war against the West. Whether Iran accepts the European deal or merely prolongs "negotiations" indefinitely, so long as the "diplomatic" approach continues Iran gains time enough to engage in covert nuclear-weapons research. Iran's flouting of a previous agreement to stop enriching uranium (which prompted the current talks) and its documented attempts to acquire nuclear-bomb technology erase any doubts about how it will behave under any future deal.

This approach of diplomacy-with-anyone-at-any-cost necessarily results in nourishing one's enemy and sharpening its fangs. That is what happened under a 1994 deal with communist North Korea. In return for boatloads of aid and oil from the United States, Japan and other nations, North Korea promised not to develop nuclear weapons. Despite U.N. inspections, North Korea flouted the agreement repeatedly. When caught cheating, it promised anew to end its nuclear program in return for more "incentives." In February 2005 North Korea declared (plausibly) that it had succeeded in building nuclear weapons.

Another, older attempt to buy peace by giving "incentives" to an enemy was a cataclysmic failure. In 1938 the Europeans pretended that Hitler's intentions were not really hostile, and insisted that "peace in our time" could be attained by allowing him to walk into Czechoslovakia. Instead, he was emboldened to launch World War II.

Ignoring the lessons of history, the Europeans are advocating a deal with Iran that likewise purchases the reckless pretence of peace today, at the cost of unleashing catastrophic dangers tomorrow.

To protect American (and European) lives, we must learn the life-or-death importance of passing objective moral judgment. We must recognize the character of Iran and act accordingly. By any rational standard, Iran should be condemned and its nuclear ambition thwarted, now. The brazenly amoral European gambit can only aid its quest--and necessitate a future confrontation with a bolder, stronger Iran.

(Elan Journo is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute (http://www.aynrand.org/) in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand--best-selling author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead and originator of the philosophy of Objectivism.)

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

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STATE

Fair play: Watchdog eyes Schwarzenegger

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The state's political watchdog agency defended campaign contribution limits, promoting ballot measures this week as a protection against corruption in the court battle over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to raise unlimited campaign cash.

Schwarzenegger and his allies sued the Fair Political Practices Commission last month to remove restrictions on how much donors could give to ballot measure committees controlled by candidates. They argued the rule violated the constitutional rights of candidates to participate in the political process.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shelleyanne Chang issued a tentative ruling Wednesday favoring Schwarzenegger, but held a hearing Thursday to consider further arguments. Chang did not indicate when she would rule and a clerk said no decision was made Thursday.

At issue is a regulation adopted by the FPPC last summer that limits contributions to committees controlled by candidates. The contribution limit is $22,300 to a committee controlled by a gubernatorial candidate — the same maximum allowed for candidates for governor.

Schwarzenegger, who raised a record $26 million last year, is trying to raise $50 million this year for a slate of constitutional amendments he wants to put before voters in a special election this year. He claims opponents are raising $200 million to defeat his so-called reform agenda.

Officials at the FPPC, however, said voters imposed the limits with the passage of Proposition 34 in 2000 because they were concerned about the influence big donors could have on candidates.

"The danger that the voters were focused on was the appearance of corruption through large, large contributions," said Commission Chairwoman Liane Randolph after the court hearing.

But lawyers representing the governor and his ballot committee, the California Recovery Team, as well as Citizens to Save California, a political committee organized by Schwarzenegger allies, said Proposition 34 did not authorize limits on contributions to ballot measure campaigns — only contributions to candidates themselves.

They argued that the commission created an unfair playing field when they applied the limits to ballot measure committees in which a candidate has a controlling role. The rule forces the candidate to either give up that role or accept a fundraising disadvantage.

"The governor is trying to pursue a political reform agenda and he ought not to have one hand tied behind his back," said Chuck Bell, one of Schwarzenegger's attorneys.

The judge's tentative ruling agreed, saying the rule "chills" a committee's ability to raise resources "that are admittedly essential to the modern political initiative process."

Chang also said the regulation unfairly restricts who can be associated with a committee, because candidates might be apprehensive that their association would force the committee to accept tougher contribution limits.

Schwarzenegger and Citizens to Save California are pushing measures that: make it harder for public school teachers to gain tenure; impose new restrictions on state spending; privatize much of the state's public pension system; and give a panel of retired judges authority to draw congressional and legislative districts.

Plan allows development in Southern California deserts

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The federal government announced the nation's largest conservation plan for 9.5 million acres of desert in Southern California that would protect wildlife but make development easier in fast-growing regions.

The 30-year plan unveiled Thursday by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management seeks to balance an ancient landscape of rugged volcanic mountains, 11,000-year-old creosote bushes and more than 100 species, including the threatened desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel, with developers' push for new homes and businesses.

More than 10 years in the making, the plan covers parts of the Mojave Desert, Joshua Tree National Forest and the Algodones Dunes, which is a popular destination for off-road enthusiasts. It also covers dozens of cities and communities in San Bernardino, Kern, Los Angeles and Inyo counties.

"Everybody out there in this tremendously large, 9-million-acre area will know which areas are targeted for conservation and which areas would be allowed for development," said Jan Bedrosian, spokeswoman for the BLM's California office, which began developing the plan a decade ago.

Conservation areas for the tortoise and squirrel would increase by an average of 28 percent, totaling 1.5 million acres, according to the plan. In addition, it establishes 14 new areas where only 1 percent of the land can be disturbed.

Off-roading would be restricted in some areas, including a 15-mile-long area on the northeastern edge of San Bernardino County.

The plan would ease building restrictions in some areas. In return, however, developers would pay fees to help manage the 1.5 million acres of wildlife. The fees are about $770 per acre.

The BLM plans to finalize the guidelines by May 1, after reviewing public comments and getting support from state and federal wildlife agencies.

Some environmental groups say the plan doesn't go far enough to protect desert wildlife.

Daniel Patterson, desert ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity, said the plan allows cattle to remain in some grazing areas that are critical habitats for the tortoise.

STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Councilman peppered with problems

By The Associated Press

COACHELLA — Councilman Gilbert Ramirez Jr. was arrested for allegedly assaulting a female sheriff's deputy during an argument over the impounding of a car with expired registration.

The deputy used pepper spray to subdue Ramirez and he was booked Wednesday night for investigation of felony obstruction and misdemeanor assault on a peace officer, said Cpl. Dennis Gutierrez of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The councilman was later released on $5,000 bail and was ordered to appear in court April 25.

The incident began when a female deputy, working an ongoing city program to impound abandoned vehicles or those with expired registrations, spotted a car with expired tags. A woman asked what she was doing, then she made a telephone call.

Ramirez showed up a short while later, Gutierrez said. The car was not registered to Ramirez, and his relationship to the woman was not known.

Gutierrez said Ramirez began to argue with the deputy, then the councilman grabbed the deputy's baton, authorities said. The deputy sprayed him in the face with pepper spray and the councilman was arrested.

Coachella Mayor Jesse Villarreal said the case was being investigated.

Filmmaker can picture better school system

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "All in the Family" actor, filmmaker and activist Rob Reiner is promoting a new campaign to provide preschool for California children.

"We want to build an economy. We want a better school system. We want to keep our kids out of jail," Reiner said during Thursday's kickoff of a program designed to eventually make preschool available to every 4-year-old in the state.

"This is the investment you make in young kids, and we've started the process of building an infrastructure in this city and county and then throughout the state to bring California back to the kind of economy it needs and the kind of economy it deserves," Reiner said.

Reiner made his comments at the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles' Union Pacific Children's Center in East Los Angeles, the first of an expected 100 preschools that will receive funding to provide preschool to all 4-year-olds in the county within 10 years.

In 1998, Reiner led the Proposition 10 ballot initiative to add a 50-cents-a-pack tax on cigarettes to pay for early childhood development programs. He is chairman of First 5 California, which distributes those funds.

"The folks at Los Angeles Universal Preschool and First 5 Los Angeles have stepped up to the plate and joined four other counties _ San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Alpine _ in the beginning of a movement that will provide preschool for all children in California," Reiner said.

First 5 LA has committed more than $600 million over five years to provide access to preschool to each of the 153,000 4-year-olds in Los Angeles County.

County gets to the root of the problem

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A Fillmore wholesale nursery accused of altering a Santa Clara River tributary settled an environmental protection civil suit filed by county prosecutors.

Moon Valley Nursery Inc., L.B. Palm Growers LLC and Leslie W. Blake, president of the firms, must pay a $40,000 penalty, the district attorney's office said Thursday.

Prosecutors said the defendants violated state Fish and Game laws by illegally altering the bed, banks and channel of a tributary to the Santa Clara River in September 2001.

Under terms of the settlement reached Wednesday, Blake and the two companies did not admit any wrongdoing but agreed to pay $40,000 in civil penalties. The money will be split among the Ventura County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund and Fish and Game's wildlife preservation fund.

The defendants also agree to a restoration plan that requires planting of native vegetation and removal of nonnative plants on property owned by the companies. The agreement also prohibits them from changing the bed, bank or channel of any river, stream or lake.

That's rubbish: Engineer gets eight months in prison

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The chief engineer of a Maltese-flagged cargo ship was sentenced to eight months in prison for allowing oily bilge water to be pumped into the ocean. Edgardo A. Guinto, 49, of the Philippines pleaded guilty in January to a federal charge of obstructing justice. He allegedly allowed a bypass on a device that separates oil from the 600-foot-long Katerina's wastewater and made false entries in pollution compliance logs.

Katerina captain Ioannis Kallikis, 65, and second engineer Rolan Sullesta, 42, pleaded guilty in February to the same charge. DST Shipping Inc., the Greek company that owns the ship, paid a $1 million fine. The Katerina berthed at Long Beach Harbor in September 2004 for four days. Court documents showed crew members were ordered to throw trash into the water and discharge sewage and oil.

While charges were pending, 13 Filipino sailors were forced to stay here as material witnesses. They have since been flown home.



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NATIONAL

No class: Immigrants may lose school rights

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Already barred from certain government benefits, illegal immigrants in Arizona could face more restrictions because of a proposal meant to discourage people from sneaking into the country.

The proposal at the Arizona Legislature would prohibit illegal immigrants from attending state colleges and adult education classes.

It would bar illegal immigrants from receiving utility and child care assistance, college tuition waivers and financial aid that's subsidized by state money. It also would keep them from having in-state status at Arizona's public colleges, a classification that results in lower tuition.

The measure builds on Proposition 200, a voter-approved law that denies some welfare benefits to illegal immigrants. The law's easy victory in November is a source of encouragement for advocates for limiting immigration.

The latest proposal was softened earlier this month when lawmakers removed language that would have prevented illegal immigrants from adopting children and receiving state housing assistance. They also nixed a requirement for citizenship checks on parents before they enroll their children in primary and secondary schools.

The less restrictive proposal was approved in an 33-26 vote Thursday by the state House and now moves to the Senate.

Proponents said the restrictions are needed because the state shoulders huge health care and education costs for migrants and their families.

Opponents questioned whether the changes would reduce illegal immigration in Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point on the nation's southern border.

More than any other state in recent years, Arizona has been dogged by a heavy flow of illegal immigrants after the government tightened enforcement in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego during the mid-1990s.

People on both sides of the debate say the federal government hasn't done enough to fulfill its responsibility to enforce immigration laws.

But opponents of the latest proposal said it doesn't make sense to deny adult education classes to immigrants who are trying to learn English and want to contribute to the economy.

Democratic Rep. Pete Rios of Hayden, an opponent of the measure, said the proposal would open up Hispanics, American Indians and other minorities who are legal citizens to tough questioning from the government simply because they might look as if they come from another country.

"We are the ones that are going to suffer the brunt of this legislation," Rios said.

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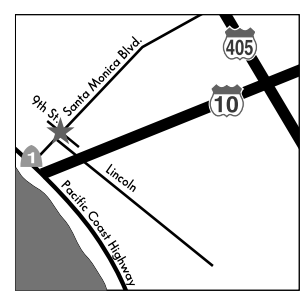
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NATIONAL

Illegals taking a toll on state borderlands

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Land managers for Arizona's borderlands say they are overwhelmed by a rise in the environmental damage caused by people sneaking into the country from Mexico.

Stretches of land in southwestern Arizona are pockmarked with the debris of illegal immigration, from rusting cars to the rutted trails that migrants and their U.S. Border Patrol pursuers cut into the desert.

Conservationists complain the Border Patrol has pushed too far into the desert interior and are critical of a plan that proposes to expand off-road operations, introduce towering stadium-style lights in critical enforcement areas and build more roads and fences.

The public-land managers who run the wilderness areas say they are in the difficult position of trying to protect natural resources and wildlife while acknowledging the needs of border security.

Wilderness advocates are now pushing to move control efforts closer to the border, hoping the Border Patrol can contain the illegal immigration flow without lapping far into the desert.

The Border Patrol acknowledges that would stop much of the damage deeper in the desert, but says money is lacking.

Joe Brigman, spokesman for the Border Patrol's Yuma sector, said the agency tries to be environmentally sensitive by limiting off-road activities as much as possible and relying on airplanes and helicopters for patrol.

Canadian producers seeking to intervene in mad-cow suit

By The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Canadian cattle producers are trying to get involved in a federal court case challenging the reopening of the border to Canadian cattle.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Alberta Beef Producers contend Canadian ranchers have substantial interest in the outcome of the case brought by R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America and that no other party involved can represent those interests adequately.

"You can imagine, trade is very important to Canada," said Ron Glaser, public affairs manager for the Alberta Beef Producers. "Our interest is to normalize trade and to open those avenues to producers."

As of Friday, a federal judge had not ruled on the group's request to intervene.

The judge earlier this month granted R-CALF a preliminary injunction in its lawsuit, temporarily halting a government plan to allow the import of some cattle from Canada beginning March 7. R-CALF contends the plan for expanded trade with Canada poses a risk to U.S. consumers and cattle producers. The USDA is appealing that decision.

R-CALF has also sought in its lawsuit to prevent the importation of "all live cattle of Canadian origin and all edible bovine meat products derived from cattle of Canadian origin."

The United States banned live cattle imports from Canada after that country reported a case of mad cow disease in May 2003. The government has resumed the import of some boneless Canadian beef from younger animals.

Canada confirmed two new cases of mad cow disease this year.

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The course is free but advance registration is required. Attendance is limited to 50, so don't delay!

Register at *www.smgov.net/communication/cityforms/leadership_series.htm* or by phone (call 458-8301).

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LOCAL

Classroom cleans up to aid tsunami victims

CLEANING UP, from page 1

When the class inquired about IMC, the organization's communications officer, Judy Tyler, paid a visit to the classroom. Many of the students were impressed that IMC made the effort to send a representative, when other charities had just told the students to look at their Web sites.

"This is an amazing gift on your part," Tyler said. "At your age, thinking about people you'll never meet ... the money will mean so much to them.

"Everyone at IMC is excited about your contribution."



Photo courtesy of IMC

Students decorated an envelope for the check they presented to a Santa Monica-based relief organization.

Before Perttula handed the check over to Tyler, the students explained why they chose IMC.

One student mentioned he was glad IMC didn't just go to a location for a short time. Instead, the organization sends representatives who stay in the affected areas for years. Another student said the class was impressed that IMC buys its supplies from the country it's aiding, better to support that economy.

They also liked that most of the money IMC receives — 92 cents out of every $1 — goes straight to relief, not administration.

The class seemed intrigued by IMC's method of ensuring children didn't get vaccinated twice. In her previous visit, Tyler explained to the class that after being vaccinated, children had their nails painted so that IMC workers would know who had received a shot. One student wondered if there would be confusion if the children took it upon themselves to paint their nails. Tyler explained it was unlikely that tsunami victims could afford nail polish.

According to Tyler, the class' donation was unique because most people just donated money and didn't specifically work to raise the proceeds.

Another P.S. #1 classroom is apparently knitting scarves that students intend to sell — proceeds of which also will go to IMC.

Begun in Afghanistan in 1984, IMC provides health care training and relief, and development programs. IMC differs from its counterparts by focusing on local preparedness — educating resident doctors and other workers so they can take care of themselves. For example, IMC has had a presence in Indonesia since 2000.



Photo courtesy of IMC

Local teachers Chris Kuzina and Abbie Perttula stand amongst their students, who raised close to $2,000 for tsunami victims through a car and dog wash.

When the deadly tsunami hit last month, Smith said IMC had 91 staffers working there, eighty-eight of them natives.

IMC workers and volunteers are currently stationed in Indonesia and Sri Lanka — areas hit hard by the disaster. The organization has fixed clinics and mobile clinics, and a mental health clinic. IMC services include Malaria prevention, maternity care, psychological care for tsunami victims and nutrition monitoring. IMC also is helping to restore emergency medical services and health centers in those areas.

The money P.S. #1 students raised will go to support those ventures.



Grand design: 1,000 more spaces on way

PARKING, from page 1

are a lot of the long-term, but not short-term parking solutions," said John Warfel, Bayside vice chair. He, along with his colleagues, suggested that a tram be used so people could park a few blocks outside of downtown and be shuttled to the Promenade.

City officials said that might be a possibility, but it likely wouldn't happen until new parking structures away from the Promenade are in place.

THE $91 MILLION PLAN

A downtown parking task force was formed in 2000 to determine if additional parking was needed. In April 2002, the City Council approved the task force's recommendations that were designed to shape downtown with a "park once, pedestrian first" theme so visitors would have to drive as little as possible.

Currently, there is a four-year waiting list to obtain a monthly parking permit, according to city parking coordinator Bill Bortfeld. The city owns 3,200 parking spaces in the downtown area, the majority of which can be leased for $82.50 per month. There are a total of 10,000 private and public parking spaces available downtown altogether, according to Bayside.

On Friday, Bortfeld said those city-owned spaces are often used by employees who work downtown. He said just 200 people on the list have been granted parking over the past three years.

"I know it seems like the list isn't moving, but whenever a space becomes available we call the next person on the list," Bortfeld said. "If he or she doesn't want it, they still stay on the list."

Bortfeld said one reason why a person might not want a parking space is because it is too far from work.

Bayside board members insist that employee parking is a problem that has yet to be resolved.

"People who work in Bayside support Bayside," said board member Joannes Van Tilburg. "As an employer, we should be able to provide adequate parking."

The parking project recommendations include retrofitting, rebuilding and adding 1,700 new parking spaces downtown over the next few years.

One-thousand more spaces would come from two new parking structures, to be located at the Santa Monica Library, which is scheduled to be completed in January 2006, and at the Civic Center, expected to be completed the following summer.

The plan also includes three parking structures that will be completely rebuilt, providing an additional 712 spaces.

The estimated cost of the project is $92.1 million. The city has earmarked more than $84 million, with $7.8 million yet to be secured. A majority will be financed from City Hall's general fund and some state money, to be recouped through various fees and assessments.

Part of the recovery costs may come from charging motorists extra for temporary and long-term parking use. The task force suggests some paid-meters jump from 50 cents to $1.50 per hour, while monthly permits would possibly increase from $82.50 to $105 per month.

Developers also might be charged an "in lieu fee," expected to add $2.5 million to the project.

Once all of the funding for the parking project is secured, the City Council will be able to approve the plan, expected some time in the fall, according to city staff.

Of the $7.8 million still needed for the project, about $1.1 million includes the cost of a tram Bayside wants available to shuttle employees and visitors year-round from distant parking structures to and from the Promenade, which would be

See **PARKING**, page 13

American beauty



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The largest flag flown in Santa Monica, high atop the Southern California Transfer Company, billows in the wind at 1908 Frank St. on Friday.



Notice of Meeting: Housing and Community Development Workshop

The City of Santa Monica needs your feedback on our community's housing, homeless, and community development needs. Your comments will help shape the City's federal funding strategy for the next 5 years.

The Community Workshop is scheduled for :
Tuesday, March 29, 2005
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica

This meeting is part of the Consolidated Planning process required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in order for the City to qualify for over $2M in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program grants annually. The new Consolidated Plan will cover the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010.

For more information, visit santa-monica.org.

City of Santa Monica

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'Women of the Year' viewed as role models

WOMEN, from page 1

as Westside residents Jacqueline Caster and Julie Wilhoit, were tapped by a community-based committee for displaying leadership and passion that has served to inspire young women.

"(The committee) looks at what they've done, how they've been role models and how they have given back to their communities," said YWCA Executive Director Sally Young.

The women were honored at the Loews Hotel on Thursday during the YWCA annual "Women of the Year" dinner. For 76 years, Santa Monica/Westside YWCA has provided community service programs to women and children in surrounding communities. This is the 28th year the YWCA has selected its "Women of the Year."

LIBBIE AGRAN

As president of Libbie Agran Financial Services, Agran is devoted to economic justice and mentoring young women and girls. In 1964, Agran graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received her master's in public health administration from UCLA in 1970.

For years, Agran's special focus has been on the economics of being a woman in today's society, working to empower women who are divorced or widowed to take control of their finances. In her leisure time, Agran focuses on supporting organizations that contribute to environmental economic and social justice for women, children and their families.

Agran serves as an advisory board member to the Wonder of Reading, which rebuilds public school libraries in Los Angeles. She launched the first stay-at-home-and-read fundraiser to benefit the program. She is also a member of the endowment of Big Sisters of Los Angeles, among other organizations.

JODY PRISELAC, PHD.

Priselac is the executive director of "Center X" at UCLA. The focus of Center X is to use the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of Los Angeles to ensure a high quality education for children. She has spent much of her life serving as a role model for women.

In 1974, Priselac received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from UCLA, and the following year, she received her teaching credential in secondary mathematics. For the next two decades, Priselac taught junior high and high school students mathematics at Le Conte Junior High School and Santa Monica High School.

While working her way through school and raising a family, Priselac returned to UCLA to earn her doctorate in 1999. She serves as a faculty advisor in secondary mathematics in the UCLA Teacher Education Program. She has been a member of the race and discipline task force at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and was the past chairman of the board for the National Conference for Community and Justice in the South Bay.

For more than 30 years, Priselac has dedicated her life to improving the educational system in Los Angeles.

JACQUELINE CASTER

Caster is founder and president of Everychild Foundation, which has provided a means for busy women to give back to their communities in a meaningful way without requiring a time-consuming commitment. The organization awards grants to make a difference in the lives of needy children. In 1999, Caster set out to find more than 200 women who would donate $5,000 annually to make the dream of the Everychild Foundation a reality.

Each year, the women pool their dues and target a different non-profit organization. The foundation has supported the creation of at least four other new charities. The foundation, now with 180 members and serving more than 30,000 children, has given out $2.5 million in grants since its inception. It has funded a mobile dental clinic for children without access to quality dental care; helped build or rebuild 15 new libraries for low-income LA public schools, purchasing books and training volunteers for those libraries; and provided a grant to expand services at the Violence Intervention Program, an agency that assesses and treats children impacted by violence.

Caster earned her bachelor's degree at Pomona College, her master's degree in city and regional planning at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and her JD at the Boston University School of Law.

JULIE WILHOIT

Wilhoit, the head women's basketball coach at Loyola Marymount University, enters into her 10th season as the back-to-back West Coast Conference Coach of the Year recipient, steering the Lions to more than 60 wins over the last four years. Her teams have won the West Coast Conference Championship and the NCAA Championship.

Wilhoit believes that intercollegiate basketball is a conduit for young women and women of diversity to be role models to young girls and boys who may not have advantages and opportunities to identify, articulate, plan and reach their dreams.

Wilhoit co-founded a nonprofit organization called "Sneaker Sisters." The goal of the organization is to give disadvantaged young girls the opportunity to experience success through sports. Utilizing LMU women basketball players as role models, the organization creates opportunities for young girls to experience the values of sports.

In 1985, Wilhoit earned her bachelor's degree in physical education at Marian College. In 1988, she earned her master's degree in education from Indiana University.

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LOCAL

Bayside wants a tram to help shuttle visitors

PARKING, from page 11

available for use at a cheaper rate than preferred parking downtown.

Fearing the parking structures might go up without a shuttle service, Bayside officials want City Hall to make sure the tram is a priority. Bayside wants an open-air tram that is fun and geared for people who don't want to walk, Warfel said.

Bayside Executive Director Kathleen Rawson said the tram is necessary for a host of reasons, not the least of which is safety.

"A woman getting out of work at 11 p.m. may not want to walk to her car at one of these parking garages away from the Promenade," she said.

In order for the project to begin, City Hall needs to finish an environmental impact report, making sure the project falls within the guidelines of a new city transportation plan, and identify the final funding sources.

The environmental impact report is expected to be released in June. It will discuss the eight parking project options and how they might affect the city.

The new transportation plan will dictate policy in Santa Monica for, at least, the next two decades. City Hall is currently encouraging public comment on the transportation plan, which should be proposed to the City Council in September.

In the meantime, Bayside board members said they are concerned how traffic and parking congestion will be managed downtown until the new parking spaces are available, especially with the summer tourist season fast approaching.

Three parking structures are to be seismically retrofitted to help withstand earthquakes. The first to undergo construction is the parking structure at 1440 Fourth St., set to begin in April.

While that structure is being retrofitted, city officials said they will try to minimize traffic and parking disruptions. The contractor will be restricted to the use of 50 parking spaces in the structure on weekdays and 25 on weekends during construction, which is expected to last six months.

The other two structures will be retrofitted on a rotating basis over the next three years.

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INTERNATIONAL

Opposition leader in control a day after president ousted

BY BAGILA BUKHARBAYEVA
Associated Press Writer

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Kyrgyzstan's triumphant opposition scrambled Friday to restore order in a capital described as "gone mad" with looting, and it named a rebellion leader as acting president after driving President Askar Akayev from power.

Kurmanbek Bakiyev emerged from the Parliament building and said he had been named acting prime minister and president.

"Freedom has finally come to us," Bakiyev told a crowd in the capital, Bishkek. Celebrations also were reported in southern Kyrgyzstan, where the popular uprising began earlier this month.

Bakiyev's appointment as acting president was endorsed in a late-night session by a newly restored parliament of lawmakers who held seats before this year's disputed elections, which fueled protests against Akayev and his government.

Akayev, whose whereabouts were unknown after fleeing the Central Asian country with his family, denied he had resigned, he said in a statement distributed to some media in Kyrgyzstan.

"An unconstitutional coup d'etat has been staged in Kyrgyzstan," said Akayev, who ruled the country for 15 years.

"My current stay outside the country is temporary," the statement said. "Rumors of my resignation are deliberate, malicious lies."

In the e-mailed statement, with the sender listed as the Kyrgyz presidential press service, Akayev said he had given orders not to use weapons or force, ignoring the advice of his aides, and that he had left the country in order to avoid bloodshed.

"I had sufficient forces at my disposal, which were ready to prevent the unrest," Akayev said. "But as you recall, from the very beginning of the unrest in the southern areas of the country, I firmly stated that I would not use force against my people."

Akayev's spokesman, Dosali Esenaliyev, said he did not know of the statement's existence, and its authenticity could not be determined.

Felix Kulov, an opposition leader now heading Kyrgyzstan's law enforcement agencies, said Akayev had fled to a foreign country after being turned away by Russia.

The Russian news agency Interfax said Akayev and his family were in neighboring Kazakhstan, but it later cited unspecified sources as saying he had left that country.

"He had a chance to resign, but he fled," said Kulov, a longtime Akayev opponent who was released from prison during Thursday's turmoil. "He wanted to go to Russia, but the Russians didn't accept him."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the Kremlin wouldn't object if Akayev wants to go to Russia. Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said Moscow doesn't know where Akayev is.

At Akayev's lavish Ala-Archa residence in Bishkek outskirts, the chief of the security guards said he had last been seen leaving for work Thursday morning. Other residents had left Thursday evening, said the guard, who identified himself only as Col. Alymkulov.

The house was empty and as yet untouched by looters, but the guards were prepared to turn back any attempts, he said.

Bakiyev's immediate challenge in the strategic nation was in halting vandalism and looting that left major stores in Bishkek gutted and damaged by youths who roamed the capital overnight, with few police seen.

"The city looks as if it has gone mad," said Kulov. "It's an orgy going on here. We have arrested many people, we are trying to do something, but we physically lack people."

A shopping center on the main avenue was destroyed by fire and strewn with wreckage, as smoke hung in the air. At another shop gutted by fire, elderly people and children picked through what was left after looting overnight. Cars were picked clean, their windows and tires gone.

Kulov, a one-time interior minister and security chief, immediately urged police, who have virtually disappeared from the streets, to return to work or face punishment. He acknowledged that few had shown up and looting went on unimpeded.

"It's an orgy going on here," Kulov told reporters. "We have arrested many people, we are trying to do something, but we physically lack people."

Interfax, citing an unidentified source, reported that the Interior Ministry declared a 6 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew in the capital. Interior Ministry spokesman Nurdin Jangarayev denied that any curfew had been established.

Acting Foreign Minister-designate Roza Otunbayeva said she would recall the country's ambassador to the United States, Baktybek Abdrisayev, who has refused to recognize the new government.

Akayev's departure made Kyrgyzstan the third former Soviet republic in the past 18 months to see popular protests bring down long-entrenched leaders widely accused of corruption.

Putin, speaking during a visit to Armenia on Friday, said "it's unfortunate that yet again in the post-Soviet space, political problems in a country are resolved illegally and are accompanied by pogroms and human victims."

He urged the Kyrgyz opposition to quickly restore order, and praised the Kyrgyz opposition leaders for helping develop bilateral ties during their earlier work in the government.

The Red Cross reported dozens injured in the turmoil Thursday, while lawmaker Temir Sariyev said three people had been killed and about 100 injured overnight.

Bakiyev chose mostly prominent opposition figures for the posts of foreign, defense and finance ministers and chief prosecutor. Bakiyev also appointed governors of the northern Chui and the southern Osh and Jalal-Abad regions, which were the epicenter of anti-Akayev protests.

Thursday's takeover followed weeks of protests over disputed parliamentary elections the opposition said were aimed at keeping Akayev in power.

The 60-year-old Akayev had led Kyrgyzstan since 1990, before it gained independence in the Soviet collapse.

The takeover of government buildings followed similar seizures by opposition activists in the country's impoverished south. The protests began even before the first round of parliamentary elections Feb. 27 and swelled after March 13 run-offs that the opposition said were seriously flawed. The ballots put Akayev's son and daughter in parliament.

Several thousand people in the southern town of Jalal-Abad celebrated Akayev's ouster, said Gamal Soronkulov, opposition chief of security in Jalal-Abad.

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INTERNATIONAL

Pope seen by faithful via video on Good Friday

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer

ROME — Pope John Paul II's own suffering kept him away from his flock for the first time on Good Friday, but he appeared to the faithful via video, adding poignancy as Christians reflected on the suffering of Jesus on the most solemn day of the church calendar.

The thousands who gathered at the Colosseum for the Way of the Cross procession cheered and waved torches as the 84-year-old pontiff appeared on video screens. He was seen sitting alone in his chapel at the Vatican with his back to the camera, watching the ceremony on a television screen under the chapel's altar.

He didn't speak, and his face was never seen.

John Paul sent a message to the crowd that was read by his vicar for Rome, Italian Cardinal Camillo Ruini. In it, John Paul said he was spiritually among those at the Colosseum recalling Christ's last hours.

"I also offer my suffering, so that God's design is completed and his word walks among the people," he said in the message. "I am near all those who in these moments are tested by suffering. I pray for each of them."

Vatican TV had installed giant television screens at the Colosseum to allow the pope to appear via video linkup from the Vatican, but officials waited until the last minute to decide on the pope's appearance, depending on his health.

Images of John Paul at his Vatican chapel were broadcast several more times during the ceremony. Toward the end of the procession, John Paul was seen in the chapel, clutching a crucifix.

Thousands of people gathered for the haunting procession, and on the plateau overlooking the Colosseum where the pope used to sit there was a torch-lit cross.

"We will miss him but we know he's here, even if not physically," said Cecilia Paolombo, a 20-year-old Italian Girl Scout who was giving out torches to the faithful.

The pope used to carry a lightweight wooden cross during the Colosseum procession, which symbolically traces Christ's path to the Crucifixion. He stopped in 2001 because of his difficulty in walking, but he would observe the procession from a chair and offer prayers to the crowds.

The pontiff's physical suffering has been evident for years as he battled Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments. But it has worsened with the effects of breathing problems that prompted two hospitalizations and surgery to insert a tube in his throat last month.

John Paul has been absent for the major events of Holy Week, although he has appeared silently at his studio window twice this week and has delivered messages telling the faithful that he is spiritually near them as he recovers.

"It's very obvious that the pope is carrying a very heavy cross indeed, and he is giving a marvelous example of patience in the face of suffering, and of long suffering which in itself is a virtue," a top Vatican official, U.S. Archbishop John Foley, told Vatican Radio on Friday.

The pope hasn't spoken in public since shortly before he was released from the hospital March 13, and his only commitment during Holy Week is to deliver a blessing on Easter Sunday.

John Paul watched Holy Thursday services recalling the Last Supper of Christ on television from his Vatican apartment, and he relinquished another cherished tradition Friday morning when he didn't hear the confessions of faithful in St. Peter's Basilica.

U.S. Cardinal James Stafford stood in for John Paul for a Friday afternoon meditation service in the basilica. The preacher for the papal household, the Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, delivered the homily and ended with a prayer that the pope recover quickly.

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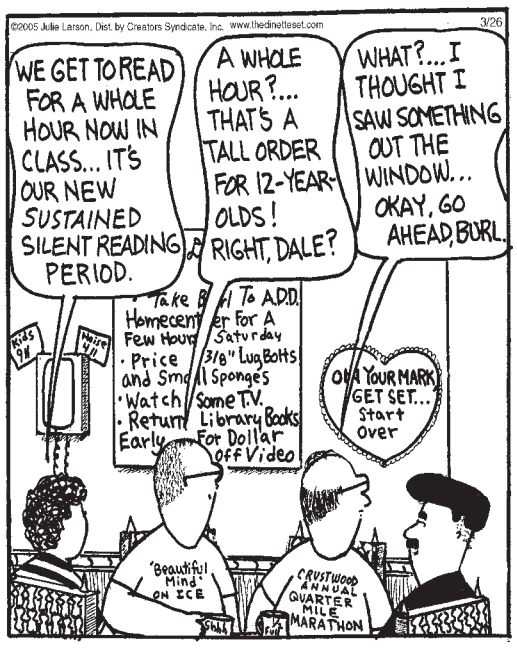
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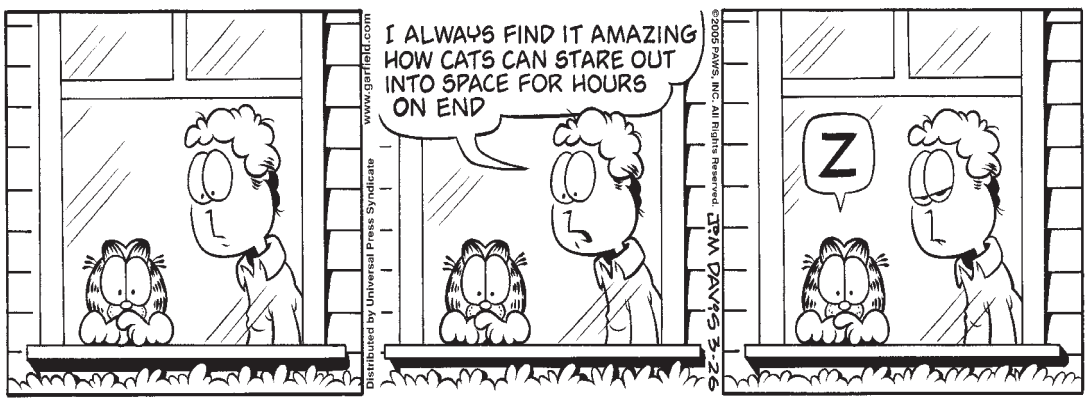
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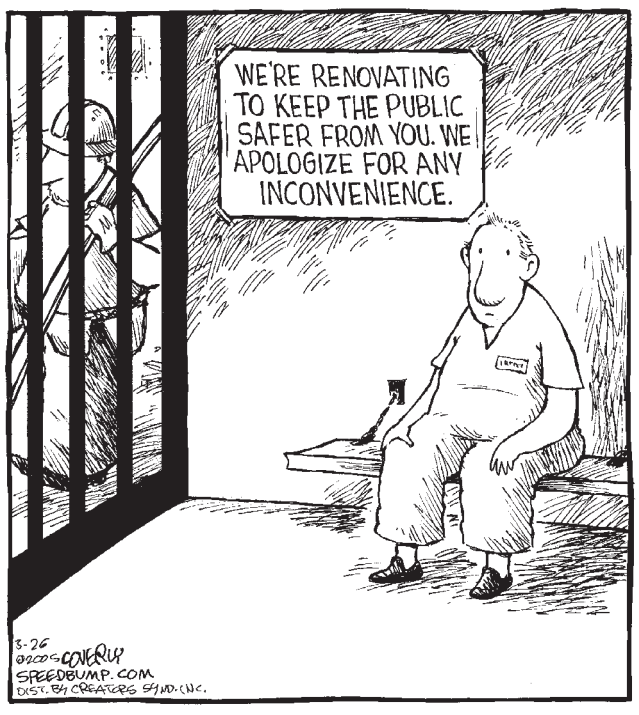
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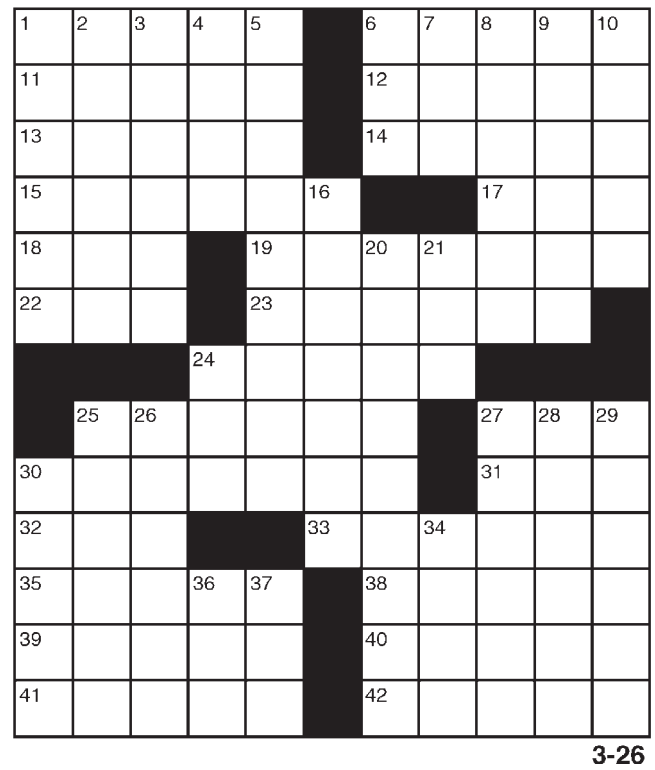
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DR. SIEGFRIED G. KNORR

Dr. Siegfried G. Knorr, 65, Founder and CEO of Colby Instruments, Inc., designer of world's fastest high precision measurement instruments, passed away on March 20, 2005 of sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakobs Disease. He was the holder of many patents. Dr. Knorr is known for his highly innovative designs (such as the programmable microwave and RF delay lines and modules series), which are still unsurpassed in the world today for their functions.

He was a gifted teacher and mentor, and former professor in the Henry Samueli School of Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Throughout the years, he has sponsored students from Germany for specialized studies and laboratory experience in high-frequency electronics. His former students now hold industry and university leadership positions in the United States and Europe.

Dr. Knorr was born in Germany, studied at Oxford and Bristol Universities in the United Kingdom, earned his BS in Electrical Engineering at the Fachhochschule Furtwagen in the Black Forest in Germany, and his MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, CA. His early work experiences were in TV and communications in Bremen and Wilhelmshaven in Germany, and at the Royal Air Force Airbase in Jever, Germany. Prior to his teaching and research at UCLA, he was an electronic design engineer at Tektronix, Inc., Portland, OR.

He is recognized as a brilliant scientist of high integrity, friend and colleague, and a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, son. He is survived by his devoted wife, Betty Chang Knorr; his daughters, Katherine Knorr and Rena Chinn; his son-in-law, Victor Chinn; his grandchildren Joshua and Rebecca Chinn; as well as his sister and brother-in-law, Inge and Franz Cornelius; his sister Gitta Andersen, and other loving relatives in Germany.

A memorial service will be held on April 8, 2005 at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Santa Monica, CA. Remembrances may be sent to the Knorr-Chang Neurological Research Fund, c/o UCLA School of Nursing, Development Office, Factor Building, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1702.

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