THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006 Volume 5, Issue 118

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
7 21 27 32 41
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $35 million

FANTASY 5
6 13 20 31 34

DAILY 3
Daytime: 9 4 3
Evening: 0 4 3

DAILY DERBY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 07 Eureka !

RACE TIME: **1:41.59**

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

Professors at England's University of Bath, studying adolescents' reactions to brand names, revealed in December an astonishing level of hatred and violence toward Barbie dolls. Many instances were reported of torture and mutilation of Barbie, including scalping, decapitation, burning and even microwaving.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 89th day of 2006.
There are 276 days left in the year.

Twenty-five years ago, on March 30, 1981, President Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr. Also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, a Secret Service agent and a District of Columbia police officer.

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1842, Dr. Crawford W. Long of Jefferson, Ga., first used ether as an anesthetic during a minor operation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As I see it, in this country (America) a land of the most persistent idealism and the blandest cynicism. The race is on between the decadence and its vitality."

ALISTAIR COOKE
BRITISH-BORN AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND

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Canvassing the area

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Art jurors Ronn Davis and Lucy Blake-Elahi pick their selections for inclusion in the upcoming Spring Interlude 2006 Student Juried Exhibition. The showcase will run from May 4 through June 30 at the Emeritus College Gallery, 1227 Second Street. Jurors chose 20 pieces from 75 submissions for the spring show.

Finding space for auto dealers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — After decades of often acrimonious debate, the City Council and car dealers appear to have found common ground in the form of a temporary law passed Tuesday that gives dealerships more room to maneuver while preserving residents' quality of life.

The law, which makes changes to how land is used under the city's general plan, would allow dealerships to expand into a light-industrial zone known as M-1, which runs from 14th Street to Fifth Street, between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard. Parking structures can also be constructed on dealership lots located near neighborhood streets, as long as the total height does not exceed that which has been set for residential developments.

The law is temporary because it is incorporated in City Hall's general plan, which dictates all development in the city, and is currently being overhauled. When a new general plan might be adopted is still undetermined.

In order to protect residents, the unloading and loading of cars on all city streets will be regulated closely, and all dealers will have to demonstrate a need to unload on public property as opposed to private property.

While recognizing that the auto industry is the largest sales tax revenue generator in Santa Monica, city officials have for years grappled with how to respond to resident concerns and dealer complaints that City Hall has created an unfriendly business climate. As a result, car dealership owners have threatened to move their businesses outside of the city.

Previously, there was an application process for the loading and unloading of vehicles, but city staff

See AUTO DEALERS, page 9

Judge's eye on the spuds

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge is moving French fries to the front burner.

Superior Court Judge Wendell Mortimer Jr. told attorneys he wants to move forward with long-delayed Proposition 65 litigation that forces fast-food giants to warn about the potential cancer risks of fries and potato chips.

"It is time to proceed with these claims," Mortimer wrote in a tentative decision lifting a stay in the matter. Industry lawyers wanted the cases delayed pending further studies by government regulators.

But Mortimer wrote that the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment "has not taken any meaningful

See FRIES, page 10

Time running out to ID unknown homeless man

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans become accustomed to seeing homeless men and women in their favorite places throughout the city. But when they disappear, residents often wonder whatever became of them.

Such was the case for Dr. Hadiya Barnes, who knew a man named "Leon" that she and others walked past every morning in Palisades Park. He sat on a bench between California and Montana avenues, with a Walkman in his ear, working on a crossword puzzle, or reading the newspaper.

Leon was found dead on Jan. 1 on a cement bench in the 200 block of Wilshire Blvd. And if his identity isn't known and his next of kin isn't notified in the next two days, he'll be cremated by the Los Angeles Coroner's Office, which refers to him as "John Doe."

Although no family members'

See JOHN DOE, page 10

Photo courtesy of Hadiya Barnes

This man, known only as 'John Doe No. 1' in the Los Angeles County Coroner's files, was a well-known homeless man in Palisades Park, where many knew him as 'Leon.' The man, who died on Jan. 1, will be cremated on April 1 unless he is identified and his family is contacted.

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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)
★★★★ Revise your thinking, and you will feel great. Use your ability to make a difference and add to your coffers. Money matters come to the forefront in the afternoon. Tonight: Cut any wild risks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You have a lot on your plate and feel somewhat tired and dragged down. Think positively before you take a risk. You might want to rethink a situation before you feel pressured to make a decision. You know what to do. Tonight: Slow and steady works.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Realize that just because you can do something doesn't mean you should do it. Use your discerning sixth sense, and you will gain. Sometimes you might not see a situation as clearly as you would like. Think positively. Tonight: Take some extra time for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Verify news, and you will like what comes up. Not everyone has a strong sense of what works, but right now you are more on target than many. Still, you might need to say "no" to extravagance. Smart Moon Child! Tonight: Happy with friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might be far more negative than you realize. Events around you help you gain a new perspective. Consider your options with care. Seek advice and different opinions. You will see life from a new perspective. Tonight: You gotta do what you gotta do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to raise the roof and try something different. Not everyone understands what you need to do in order to make life work. You will see life from a renewed perspective. Think positively. Tonight: Easy does it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Sometimes you can get caught up in others' wishes. Libra is a very giving sign that cares a lot about others. Still, for your own sake, you will have to say "no" sooner or later. Knowing that you cannot be everyone's benefactor is important. Tonight: Quality time with a special friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Get as much done as possible before the afternoon. Others will need you and could be quite demanding. Easily, you could be pushed or feel cornered. Say "no" if you must. Your ability to read between the lines proves helpful. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You solve problems and will do just that until you find you have let an important element of your personal life slide. You could be hard-pressed to cover all your bases, but you will -- as always. You are a very special person. Tonight: Happiness follows you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Everyone has limits -- you included. Think positively, and you will make a difference. Do nothing halfway. You might want to rethink a situation more carefully. You might want to rethink a personal matter more carefully too. Tonight: Easy does it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are happy and positive. You see life from a much different perspective than many. By late afternoon, your good humor could dissipate. You easily could head out on retreat. Think twice before you say anything. Tonight: Happy as can be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Though you might be positive about a venture this morning, you easily could change your tune by the evening. Fatigue and stress will play heavily into your mood in the p.m. Know when to walk away or give yourself a break. Tonight: Relax with a friend.

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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LOCAL

Malibu fest arrives through grapevine

By Daily Press staff

ZUMA BEACH — Hundreds of foodies and wine enthusiasts this weekend will gather here to get a taste of what Malibu and the regions to the north have to offer off the vines and in the kitchens.

The third annual Malibu Wine Classic will take place at the tented grounds at the Sunset Restaurant at Westward/Zuma Beach in Malibu on April 1. The 2006 "tasting" event brings together an anticipated 80 wineries and 30 restaurants, featuring the best wines of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles and Ventura counties, with samples of the signature dishes from dozens of the area's top restaurants.

Participants will sample wines from popular Central and South Coast wineries, as well as private micro-wineries typically available only via exclusive mailing lists, such as Saxum, Linne Colado and L'Aventure. About a dozen of Malibu's own 37 wine makers will be offering barrel samples of wine entirely native to the city.

Michael Barnes, who is an entertainment attorney in Santa Monica, came up with the idea of the wine classic more than three years ago not only because he loves wine and owns a small vineyard at his Malibu ranch but also because he believed the city needed it.

"Malibu didn't have a big, public event, which is important," he said, adding as a native Iowan, he missed the community gatherings that Midwest cities are famous for — like county fairs, city picnics and tractor pulls.

"But it's in a way also to give a bit of recognition to these local wineries," Barnes said.

The event has inauspicious beginnings — it consisted of about 50 enthusiasts who held a food and wine competition. Barnes and others were able to convince about 40 wineries to send in bottles and six restaurants brought in food. The group judged and gave out awards like "best wine with pizza."

The second year, Barnes and organizers put a tent on the sand next to Sunset Restaurant and 1,000 people showed up. A competition was held the night before the event but no seemed to care, Barnes recalled.

"They just cared about getting together, and sampling food and drinking wine," he said.

To accommodate the anticipated growth this year, the Malibu Wine Classic will consist of two wine and food tasting sessions. An afternoon tasting will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and an evening tasting from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Barnes expects between 800 and 900 people per session.

A silent auction of wine, travel and luxury items will be included in the festivities. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefits Childhelp, one of the oldest and largest national non-profits dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Barnes hopes to raise about $100,000 for Childhelp from this year's event.

Tickets are $75 per session in advance, or $125 for both sessions and can be purchased online at www.malibuwineclassic.com. Tickets are $100 per session at the door on the day of the event.

Barnes, who works at the entertainment boutique law firm Barnes Morris Klein Mark Yorn Barnes & Levine, spends his free time indulging in his true passion for great wine and fine friends. Barnes grows and vints Syrah,

See WINE CLASSIC, page 11

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs)6"	36" - 72"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	27	12/12

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 26"	96" - 120"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	50	6/6

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs)21"	180" - 204"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	75	13/28

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 7"	12" - 36"	8:30 am - 10:00 pm	29	8/16

CONDITIONS: Powder, Wet

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 18"	12" - 30"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	20	4/4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 6"	36" - 72"	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	26	14/14

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 8"	36" - 66"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	22	5/11

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder

CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Wind swell will continue on today. Early AM sessions on Thursday may actually be able pick up a head high set wave or two when the tide is right, but then size will back off later in the day.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Storm-driven NW wind swell picks up tomorrow...

Minor SW 4/2, builds 4/3...

Better SW due 4/4, but wind swell possible too...

Smaller SW for 7th...

Tracking impressive SW for 9th-10th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:19AM	0.8FT	1:57PM	-0.9FT
HIGH TIDE	7:23AM	5.8FT	8:12PM	5.2FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:06AM	0.2FT	2:29PM	-0.6FT
HIGH TIDE	8:12AM	5.7FT	8:42PM	5.6FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:46AM	0.6FT	3:49PM	0.6FT
HIGH TIDE	9:47AM	4.5FT	9:57PM	4.9FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:40AM	-0.7FT	3:32PM	0.4FT
HIGH TIDE	9:49AM	4.8FT	9:46PM	6.1FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:08PM	-.57FT	11:35PM	2.3FT
HIGH TIDE	4:28AM	5.0FT	7:00PM	3.7FT

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

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The Q Line

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The city is looking to brand itself as an unforgettable beach city that is the essence of the California lifestyle. Officials hope this perception will be embraced not only by tourists, but also by residents.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **"What is your current perception of Santa Monica? How can Santa Monica best brand itself as an 'unforgettable beach city?'"**

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

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Black and blue over the black-and-whites

Editor:

Well our beautiful, white police cars with the carefully chosen three shades of blue and "Santa Monica" in large letters across their sides will soon be replaced by copies of Los Angeles black and white police cars. One will soon have to look closely to find the words "Santa Monica" on our police cars.

Why? Is this part of a campaign to strengthen an unjustifiable image of Santa Monica as a gang-ridden city? But changing our police cars to an aggressive, and from the pictures presented at the council meeting, ugly black and white with POLICE printed in foot-high letters across the side doors will not reduce access to guns by unruly young people.

Why this sudden change and little debated change? I have heard no complaints from citizens about our beautiful easily identifiable police cars. And none were cited. Santa Monica's police cars convey an image of approachability and service to the public. Whoever long ago designed the present blue graphics on a field of white gave some thought to that.

Why the sudden change? Apparently, the city asked a graphic design company to advise on how to replace the city seal now on our police cars with the "city image" used throughout the city on our street signs, etc. — the circle with a sun and a streak of ocean and mountains. Covering the present city seal now on the cars would have done the job. But after talking with members of the police department, the consultant came to the council meeting with a proposal to repaint all our police cars with black hoods and rears, cover all of the beautiful blue graphics including "Santa Monica" and painting a very, large black "POLICE" on the sides of the cars. After little discussion and only one real reason offered — tourists will be able to recognize a police car for this expensive and unattractive change our City Council authorized.

Councilmember Katz mentioned how aggressive the black and white image will be and suggested having the foot-high "POLICE" on the side painted blue rather than black, as he said "to soften the image." But he voted to repaint all the police cars as did councilmembers Shriver, O'Connor and Bloom. Throughout councilmember McKeown voted "no" to this radical change, Mayor Holbrook and councilmember Genser were absent.

Betty S. Mueller
Santa Monica

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

A 'guest' is usually someone invited over

ICONOCLAST BLAST

BY SETH BARNES

What does the term "guest worker" mean to you? Given the flurry of recent protests, rallies, and walkouts in response to the pending immigration debate in Congress, I'm sure most folks are familiar with this little piece of verbiage. As euphemisms go, it's right up there with "climate change" and "tax relief." These clever tweaks on the language expertly take the most contentious, divisive issues and scrub them clean. Tax relief? Who could be against alleviating a radical, bloated tithe imposed on all of us by wasteful state and local governments? Climate change? Obviously, that's the natural, inevitable process of global temperature escalation.

Guest worker? Sounds like a prep school student on a two-week jaunt to Belize to build mud huts in an effort to pad the old college application.

Of course, the "guest workers" at the center of this political maelstrom are anything but boarding school students, and I can't imagine any of the illegal immigrant "guests" making their way into the country receive a formal invitation requiring an RSVP.

Save the date: Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Join us in oppressively sunny, dusty Bakersfield, Calif., as we harvest a stupefying crop of carrots, artichokes, etc. Subhuman work conditions and cut-rate, off-the-books pay guaranteed. Please reserve dilapidated hovel in unregulated rooming complex ASAP.

The phrase "guest worker" was coined by the powers that be to push their particular illegal immigration agenda. They believe the federal government should establish a complex registration program to track and monitor the non-resident workers who are sorely needed to fill out the menial, demanding, low-paying jobs on the lower rungs of our socioeconomic ladder. At some undetermined point in time, these people will head back to their native lands, a job well done. I'm guessing the guest worker database will place an automated call politely thanking them along with a final reminder to please leave the country.

For those of you who break into spasms of laughter when you see the words "complex" and "federal government" in the same sentence, I'm with you. Perhaps I'm just a brutal cynic without a patriotic bone in my body, but I'm of the mind that the effectiveness of regulating bodies is inversely proportional to the complexity, size, and importance of the task at hand. Realistically, outside of a full-throttle U.S. Army deployment, shock and awe style, against the people who clip our hedges and refill our water glasses on an everyday basis, I think it's safe to say that illegal immigration is here to stay.

Does that mean that we should throw our hands up in the air and ignore the problem because it's a complicated? No. Does it mean we should be slightly realistic when approaching said problem? Heck yes.

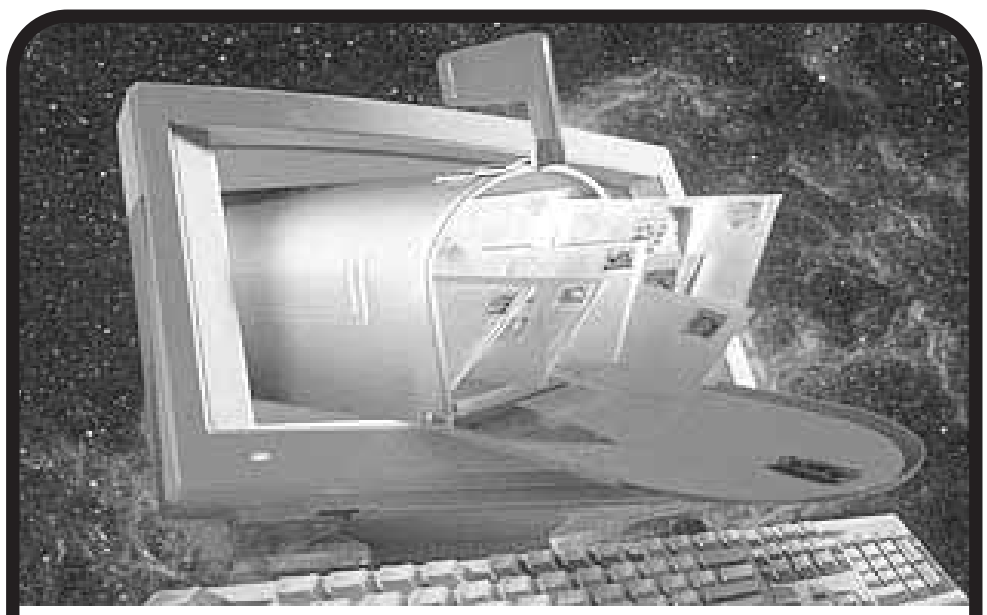
As for specific solutions, I'll continue to leave that to the policy gurus who have made shrewd, tactically brilliant suggestions such as building a titanium-reinforced fence across every solitary inch of the U.S. border — patrolled 24/7 by Special Forces troops naturally — or providing universal health care, citizenship, and elevated wages to any lad or lass who strolls into the country.

I'm just the lazy columnist who swoops in to comment on a particular topic in a breezy, offhand manner, so I'd really like to leave this heavy lifting to the bozos in Washington D.C. and state legislatures across the land. They sincerely believe they're going to change the way of the world with a few panel discussions, and who am I to deny them? All I'm campaigning for is that we cease calling illegal immigrants "guest workers." And at this point it should be clear that I'm not driven by any agenda other than my fervent desire that acorn-brained local news anchors stop uttering the phrase with gravity on a nightly basis.

What should we replace "guest workers" with? I'd suggest something neutral like "immigrant workers." Don't like it? Have another idea you'd like to add to the public sphere?

Be my guest.

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



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The Q Line

STATE

Federal government: Not so fast, California

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Federal officials said Wednesday that new national mileage standards would pre-empt state rules on greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, a move that takes aim at California's first-in-the-nation limits on such pollution.

State air regulators voted unanimously in September 2004 to approve rules that would cut exhaust from California's cars and light trucks by 25 percent and from larger trucks and sport utility vehicles by 18 percent.

The Bush administration said Tuesday that such regulations were "expressly preempted" by the new federal standards.

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer vowed to defend the state rules, setting the stage for a legal battle over the California's ambitious clean air plan.

He said the federal government's claim that its regulations trump the state law was "nothing more than another gift to the auto industry from the Bush administration."

A spokesman for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which issued the new fuel regulations, referred calls to the office of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta. That office did not immediately return a call for comment.

The NHTSA said the federal standards trumped state rules in introducing new mileage regulations requiring modest improvements in fuel efficiency for vans, pickup trucks and SUVs.

Automakers have sued over the regulations approved by the California Air Resources Board, arguing that the rules went beyond the board's authority, could not be met with current technology, and unfairly targeted California, which produces less than 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gases.

The auto industry also argued that the new standards would increase vehicles costs for consumers.

Because California began setting vehicle emissions standards before the federal government, the state is allowed under the Clean Air Act of 1970 to set its own standards, which other states have the option of adopting.

California must apply for a waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its rules to take effect. The state is still awaiting a decision from the agency on its 2004 emissions rules, which are slated to take effect in 2009.

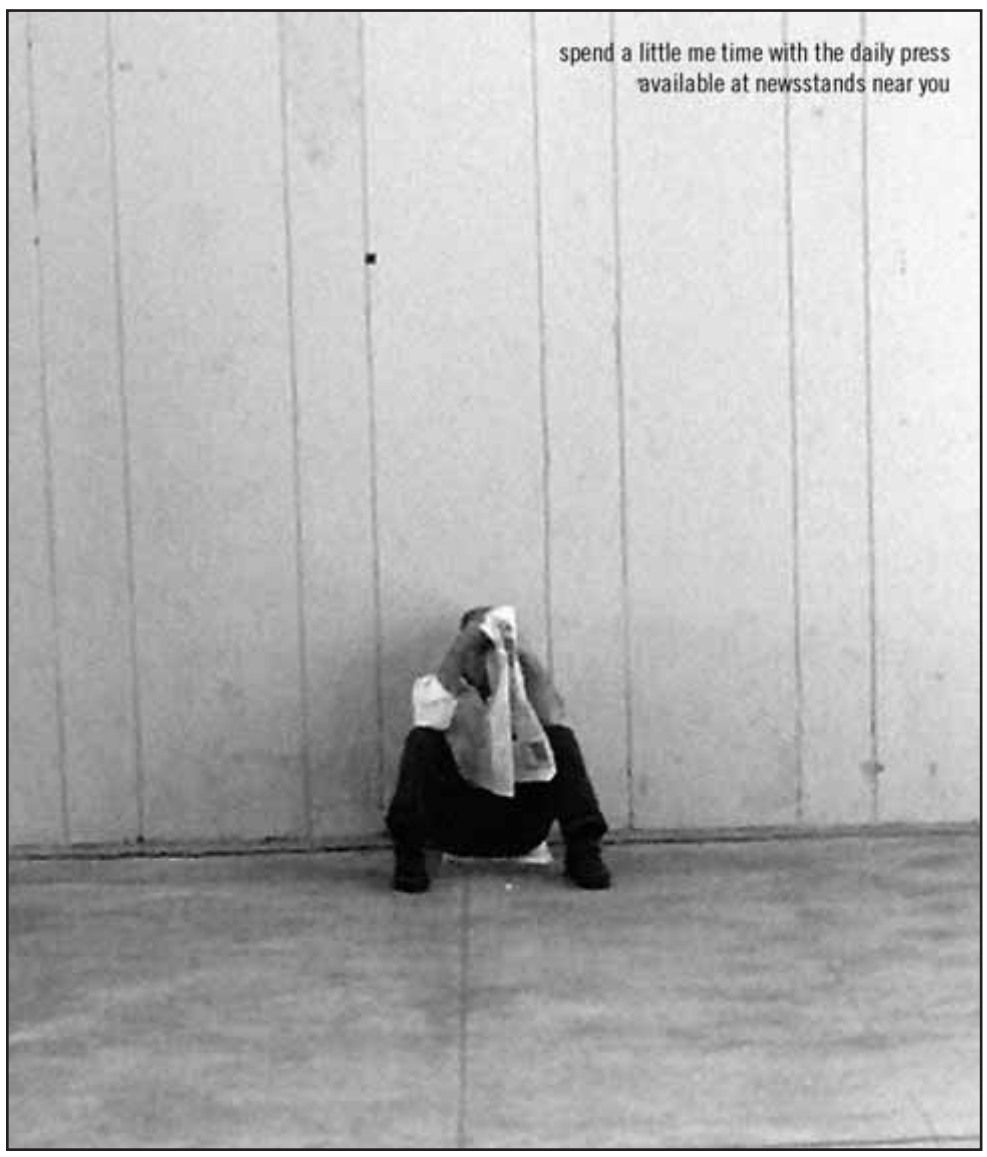
Frank O'Donnell, president of the environmental group Clean Air Watch, said the language of Wednesday's announcement strongly suggested the U.S. EPA would not approve the state's request to set its own regulations.

"This looks to me like the Bush administration is indicating California's waiver request will be in for a very rough ride," he said.

California can sue if the request is denied.

Jerry Martin, a spokesman for the Air Resources Board, declined to comment on whether that might happen. But he did say the board wasn't surprised by the federal announcement.

"It's basically in line with the administration's policies on this issue," he said. "It's really the same thing that the automakers have been saying all along."



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STATE

Retiring Tagliabue still eyes team for LA

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Before he retires as commissioner, Paul Tagliabue would like to see the NFL get closer to placing a team back in Los Angeles.

While Tagliabue plans to be gone from the league in July — if the owners can get together and find a successor by then — a solution to the situation doesn't figure to come that soon.

Two sites are being considered, in Anaheim and at the current location of the Los Angeles Coliseum, each with cost estimates at $800 million, considerably higher than previous price tags. Tagliabue is eager to see a franchise return to Los Angeles, which was abandoned by the Raiders and the Rams after the 1994 season — then failed to come up with public financing for an expansion team, which went to Houston beginning in 2002.

The subject is being discussed this week at the NFL meetings, although it will be at the spring meetings in May that any concrete plans are developed.

"My guess is that we will be going forward with those presentations on behalf of the Coliseum and Anaheim so that we can make some decisions in Denver, to select one of the stadium projects and to go forward with the process of identifying a team and building a stadium," Tagliabue said.

Tagliabue has told the 32 team owners that unless a plan for Los Angeles is formulated soon, getting a team back into the nation's second-largest market won't occur by the end of the decade. For now, a six-man committee is handling the issue.

He admitted that the stadium situation in California is not a good one. The Oakland Raiders, San Francisco 49ers and San Diego Chargers all play in older ballparks and are seeking new homes — with a large chunk of municipal funding. The league has the G3 fund that helps get stadiums built and has worked well in other cities.

But it has not gotten anywhere on the West Coast, south of Seattle.

"They don't have the best stadiums in California," Tagliabue said, "and we're trying to work on that. Yes, it will be a priority."

Another priority for Tagliabue is making sure the Saints get back to New Orleans. The league scheduled the Saints' first home game in the Louisiana Superdome since Hurricane Katrina hit last August for Sept. 24, the third week of the season. Tagliabue said he's been assured by Saints owner Tom Benson that the team is progressing well toward its return, and the commissioner will be in New Orleans next week to "identify progress made in critical areas."

"In five years, we won't be allowed to hit the quarterback at all."

HERMAN EDWARDS
Chiefs coach

Tagliabue also dismisses the chance of a regular-season game outside the United States this year. In 2005, Arizona hosted San Francisco in Mexico City, drawing 103,467, the largest crowd in NFL history. The Cardinals won 31-14 and Tagliabue called the game "an element of legitimacy."

Still, the NFL won't be going overseas in '06.

The competition committee presented its proposals to the ownership on Tuesday and votes will be taken Wednesday on the issues. They include:

■ Cracking down on end-zone celebrations. Players won't be allowed to do anything while on the ground, and also can't use props such end-zone pylons. They can spike, dunk or spin the ball as long as they are standing in the end zone and it is not a group thing.

■ Allowing video reviews of down-by-contact plays; this proposal was defeated in an owners vote a year ago. Currently, a play is dead once the whistle blows and the ballcarrier is ruled down by the officials.

■ Toughening enforcement on pass rushers who hit quarterbacks below the knees.

"In five years, we won't be allowed to hit the quarterback at all," Chiefs coach Herman Edwards joked, then added he strongly supports the rule. "Hey, I went through five (quarterbacks with the Jets) last year."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Former tenants strike back, strike payouts

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former tenants who sued the owner of a dilapidated, vermin-infested Lancaster apartment building owner will get $3 million.

Settlements approved this week by Superior Court Judge Jane E. Johnson include 36 children who lived in the apartments. Amounts range from $25,000 to $150,000. Twenty-six adults will also get money in the settlement.

The higher amounts include a 3-year-old boy who suffered a gash around his eye when he fell on a stairway and a toddler who fell on metal spikes. Tenants complained about fires, cockroaches, mold and broken windows.

"I believe that the settlement will send a message to other landlords ... that they need to treat people with dignity and respect or there will be a price to pay," plaintiff attorney Robb Strom said.

The former tenants of Melrose Place Apartments sued owners Edgar and Linda Reinoso and former owner Mark Kaufman, claiming their homes were unfit. Lancaster and county officials repeatedly cited the owners for health and safety violations.

Grant Riley, attorney for the Reinosos, said his clients are pleased that the case has been resolved. He said the building is under new management and the owners have invested more than $200,000 in repairs.

Settlements in the adult cases ranged from $50,000 to $265,000 to a woman who allegedly was verbally abused by Edgar Reinoso, Strom said.

Payments to the children will be held in a deferred annuity account until they reach 18.

Converted jetliners make a major splash

By The Associated Press

VICTORVILLE, Calif. — Two companies want to use jumbo jetliners to battle wildfires.

A converted DC-10 unleashed 12,000 gallons of water on Tuesday at Southern California Logistics Airport to demonstrate the aircraft's firefighting prowess for federal and local officials.

"Ideally, we'd have five of these in the United States, positioned such that one could be at any fire ... in one hour. And offseason, you'd take them to Australia (to fight fires)," said Rick Hatton, a partner in the privately funded DC-10 project.

Hatton is close to making serious sales pitches to the U.S. Forest Service and other potential customers. Tuesday's drop was part of the process of obtaining the final Federal Aviation Administration safety clearance.

But Hatton's Victorville-based 10 Tanker project has a competitor.

An Arizona-based Boeing 747 owned by Evergreen Aviation plans to drop about 20,000 gallons in San Bernardino as part of a nationwide tour designed to get federal and state support.

In recent years, fatal crashes and other safety concerns whittled the nation's fleet of privately owned air tankers from 44 to 33. This year, 16 large tankers have passed the Forest Service's revised safety standards, and the largest can hold no more than 3,000 gallons.

Both firms expect to be ready to fight fires this year.

City officials sorry to be boxed in

By The Associated Press

MURRIETA, Calif. — The city wants to shut down Dream Box, a shop that sells sex toys and adult videos.

A Riverside County Superior Court lawsuit filed Tuesday claims Dream Box is in violation of city code, which requires adult-themed businesses to be at least 1,000 feet from churches, parks, schools and children's activities.

The store, which opened March 1, is two doors down from a children's party place at the corner of Madison Avenue and Pear Street in a generally industrial area of town.

The complaint also alleges Dream Box's merchandise does not match the merchandise description listed on its business license application, which states the store will sell men's and women's clothing and gift items.

The complaint was filed against Dream Box parent company Sun Worldwide Corp. of Los Angeles and Larry and Sharyl Rieser, the property owners who leased the space to Dream Box, according to the suit.

The city is seeking a court order telling Dream Box to refrain from conducting business.

Sun Worldwide owner Sam Kim said he hasn't seen a copy of the lawsuit, but noted he has opened 20 such stores and has gone to court over some of them.

"If they sue us, we will have to sue them," he said. "I never lose."

Kim maintains that Dream Box would not be classified as an adult-based business, according to the definition provided in the city's ordinance. Instead, he says, it's a store that sells some adult items.

There's no crying in softball

By The Associated Press

ARCADIA, Calif. — A judge threw out a lawsuit alleging an Arcadia High School softball coach inflicted emotional distress on a teen player when he called her "a 2-year-old" and frequently called other players idiots.

Attorney Michael Oddenino filed the Superior Court suit claiming coach Don Riggio yelled at his daughter when she played on the junior varsity team last spring.

Superior Court Judge Jan Pluim dismissed the case, writing in her March 14 decision that there is nothing wrong with "a coach pushing an athlete to excel, and in so doing, using words that in another context would be considered rude, demeaning and even intimidating."

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Business

How to cope with a volatile market

MIND YOUR BUSINESS
BY KIRK G. AGUER

Periods of increased stock market volatility, when securities prices tend to sharply rise or fall within a relatively short period of time, make many investors understandably uncertain. Whether you are currently "in the market" or are considering entering, you've probably been wondering, "What's the best course of investment action to take during periods of unsettled market activity?"

DON'T OVERREACT

It's somewhat of a cliché to say that two emotions — fear and greed — are the driving forces behind a good deal of stock market activity. During a bull market, as share prices rise, some investors develop a false sense of confidence regarding future price levels and believe that nothing short of catastrophe will stop the continuing upward trend. In their zeal, they erroneously project their short-term gains into an uncertain and long-term future.

On the other side of this coin lies the disappointment that may set in whenever market values start to drop within a relatively short period. During these bear markets, some investors overreact and begin imagining a loss of their nest eggs due to lower share prices. They may even begin selling their holdings in the fear that prices may fall even further.

It's important, however, for individual investors to view market volatility in its proper perspective. Swings in stock market prices, even those lasting a few months or years, generally should not be allowed to disrupt your long-term investment strategy. Why? It's simple. Historically speaking, long-term investing has tended to smooth out many of the fits and starts that can cause investors so much short-term discomfort.

FOCUS ON LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

Setting a middle course, one that avoids both bullish euphoria and bearish despair, can help individual investors keep their long-term financial objectives in sight. A focus on long-term objectives also helps avoid the temptation of trying to predict what the financial markets will do tomorrow, next week or next month. Long-term investors realize that even investment professionals cannot always accurately predict short-term market movements.

Adopting a long-term investment philosophy also helps guard against overreacting to business stories that appear in the newspapers or other media. Regardless of whether such news is generally thought to be "good" or "bad," always consult with a Financial Advisor to evaluate the potential impact of these developments on your overall investment plan.

REVIEW YOUR STRATEGY PERIODICALLY

Reviewing your financial strategy at least yearly is yet another way of helping you cope with market volatility. As you review, make sure your investment plan takes into account your age and investment timeline, as well as your financial resources and tolerance for risk.

At least for the foreseeable future, occasional spells of stock market volatility are probably unavoidable. However, following a long-term financial plan can help you to weather the storm.

(Kirk G. Aguer is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanely. He can be reached at his Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5220.)

THE WEEKLY RECKONING
BY BILL BONNER

In debt and indifferent

You wouldn't think so. Here, it is just another cold, dark day in London.

And in the U.S. markets, the last week passed as any other without history. Nothing much happened. Still, we thought we felt a chilly wind, like a ghost crossing a room. We thought we saw the candles flicker.

History hesitates. History feints. History even seems to pause. But, history never stops. Here we offer a prediction: History will grind Mr. Greenspan's reputation to dust — along with the finances of millions of American families.

"The national debt — currently over $8 trillion — is only the tip of the iceberg," explains a review of Kevin Phillips's new book, American Theocracy.

"There has also been an explosion of corporate debt, state and local bonded debt, international debt through huge trade imbalances, and consumer debt (mostly in the form of credit-card balances and aggressively marketed home-mortgage packages). Taken together, this present and future debt may exceed $70 trillion.

"The creation of a national-debt culture, Phillips argues, although exacerbated by the policies of the Bush administration, has been the work of many people over many decades — among them Alan Greenspan, who, he acidly notes, blithely and irresponsibly ignored the rising debt to avoid pricking the stock-market bubble it helped produce. It is most of all a product of the 'financialization' of the American economy — the turn away from manufacturing and toward an economy based on moving and managing money."

Most economists would put it differently. They would say that the U.S. has moved from old industry — making things — to a new form of industry in which services are emphasized. But the service that is offered is a financial one - helping Americans borrow money they can't pay back and spend it on things they can't afford.

A recent study by the Fed tells us where this new service economy has gotten us:

"The typical family now has $3,800 in the bank, but owes $2,200 on a credit card. The typical family owns a house worth $160,000, but has a mortgage of $95,000 on it. The typical family earns $43,000 per year, but has no bonds, no mutual funds, no stocks, and no retirement plan."

Meanwhile, inflation is supposed to be under control, but the typical family's living costs continue to rise.

Why are costs rising? Well, the Bank of Greenspan, now the Bank of Bernanke, added $827 billion to the nation's money supply (M3) in the last 12 months. The forces of deflation — India, China, the Internet, and Wal-Mart — kept prices down for many things. But, the new money had to go somewhere. So, it went into the items that cheap, globalized labor couldn't touch: Housing, education, health care, gold and resources.

Eventually, globalization may cut into education and health care costs, too. You can get a perfectly good professional education in India for less than a quarter of the charge in the United States, but for the moment, American families struggle to keep up with rising costs on stable or declining earnings.

Well, thank you, Alan Greenspan.

And thank you, also, George W. Bush. No president has ever added so much to the typical family's burdens. The debt ceiling has been raised four times during the younger Bush's years.

We don't know why Americans stand for it, but they don't seem to notice. Or it doesn't seem to matter. But we thought we felt that chilly breeze ... as if history had begun to stir.

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

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Go get your veggies on in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Three Santa Monica restaurants have gotten a good critique from People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Real Food Daily, RAWvolution and Toi on Wilshire — these vegetarian-friendly Santa Monica-area eateries have helped to establish Santa Monica as one of the most vegetarian-friendly cities in the United States. PETA's national survey of vegetarian-friendly cities took into account the number of vegetarian restaurants, nonvegetarian restaurants with vegetarian selections, top vegetarian and vegan product sales, and extensive retail selections. Santa Monica got high scores in each category.

Longtime favorite Real Food Daily offers a selection of animal-friendly fare, including salisbury seitan, the supreme burrito, and the burger with the works. If you're in the mood for exotic eats, Toi on Wilshire features "Bangkok homestyle cooking." If you'd rather stay in, RAWvolution brings pre-made, gourmet vegan foods straight to your door.

Vegetarian food sales have doubled since 1998, hitting $1.6 billion in 2003, and the market is expected to grow another 61 percent by 2008. Twenty-four percent of college students ask for vegan options in school cafeterias, an indication that vegetarian diets are growing in popularity among young people. The American Dietetic Association has endorsed vegetarian diets, noting that vegetarians have lower rates of heart attacks, diabetes, cancer and obesity.

"Santa Monica is a mecca for people seeking healthy and delicious vegetarian food," said Bruce Friedrich, PETA director of vegan campaigns.

SM entrepreneur seems to fit the 'Bill'

By Daily Press staff

LowerMyBills.com®, an Experian company, has announced that Santa Monica businessman Matt Coffin, its president and founder, has been recognized as Entrepreneur of the Year for 2006 by the Software Council of Southern California. Winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year awards were selected based on sales and revenue growth, team-building skills, product innovation and fiscal resourcefulness.

Recipients of the 12th annual Software Industry Awards were announced during a gala dinner event held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles earlier this month. The Software Industry Awards recognize leaders and companies that have made extraordinary contributions to the growth of Southern California as a center for technological innovation. The awards also measure the continuing growth and influence of the software industry in Southern California, representing more than 8,000 companies and tens of thousands of talented employees.

"My team and I have worked night and day since 1999 to build the business, so to be recognized by the Software Council of Southern California is a great honor for everyone at LowerMyBills.com," Coffin said. "Having survived the dot-com shakeup and scaled the business, this recognition is very satisfying. This award is a capstone on a terrific year in which we've continued to build the business and sold the company to Experian for approximately $400 million."

Coffin founded the company in 1999, raising a total of $13 million in venture capital funding. Three of the investors are Southern California based companies, including eCompanies Venture Group, Evercore Ventures and Baroda Ventures.

LowerMyBills.com, based in Santa Monica, is the only Web site where consumers can research the lowest rates on their monthly bills.

LOCAL ❑ STATE

City making room for residents, dealers

AUTO DEALERS, from page 1

and dealers both said there are no records that any permits have been filed.

The changes in land use approved Tuesday allow for the creation of a new application process that will open the door for city staff to survey dealerships to see if there is enough room for trucks to park and unload new cars. In the interests of nearby residents, auto dealeraships will have to demonstrate on an annual basis their compliance with the new laws. City staff is currently formulating a list of criteria in which to measure the dealerships' cooperation.

"This isn't a cause to celebrate, but it is definitely a positive step that will help us remain competitive," said Mike Sullivan, whose family owns several car dealerships in town, including Lexus, Volkswagen and Toyota. "We did get some things, but the most important part is the council was willing to listen to our concerns and meet us somewhere in the middle."

Some residents expressed concern that allowing for the construction of parking structures would block views from back yards. They are also concerned about traffic caused by the loading and unloading of vehicles on residential streets, a practice they said has increased to the point where some dealerships receive a delivery every day of the week except Sundays.

Noise has also proven an issue, as residents expressed fear that allowing operations in the M-1 district would mean car repairs could be done at all hours of the night, which was offered as an incentive to dealers so they would purchase land and move their dealerships there.

"Most of the dealers have been good neighbors," said resident Ruth Ann Shanley. "We might have to bitch and complain a bit, but they listen … Some are much worse and they may abuse this.

"Please let the them go underground," Shanley added, telling the council to approve construction of parking structures underground. "I don't want to lose my sun. I lost some of the sun on one side of my building and I don't want to lose the other."

The City Council passed the ordinance after four hours of discussion, which included making several amendments to address concerns raised by the Santa Monica Auto Dealers Association, or SMADA, which has for the last 20 years fought with City Hall over expanding dealerships, many of which were built more than half a century ago and can't accommodate changes in the marketplace.

Council members said the debate has dragged on because the issue is so complex, and time was needed to come up with a consensus that auto dealers, elected officials and residents could all accept.

"Our goal was to draft something that can be good for everybody, and I think we have," said Mayor Bob Holbrook. "This is a serious subject and I think if we keep working together we are going to get it solved."

Members of SMADA said they contribute more than $6 million a year in sales tax revenue to the city's general fund, helping to pay for police, firefighters, street cleaning and programs to feed the homeless. Without their businesses, the dealers said the city would not be able to finance many of its progressive programs.

Attorney Chris Harding, whose law firm represents SMADA, said tension has built up between the council and auto dealers because many felt their contributions were being overlooked or were not appreciated.

"But that's changed," Harding said. "Dealers are more upbeat than I have ever seen since I've been in Santa Monica. They feel they are being treated fairly and with respect. Go back 15 years and there was a lot of tension, a lot of distrust. It was not a healthy relationship. (Tuesday) night was a big contrast."

For example, Harding and city staff were able to reach an agreement during council discussion that led to dealers supporting a section of the law dealing with loading and unloading, a major concern for residents.

"It was just a few words," Harding said. "But it made a lot of difference to the dealers."

Inside schools, protests prompt student debates

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA AND JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES — Teachers and students are turning the walkouts that have emptied high schools across Southern California into a real-life civics lesson about national immigration policy and even the nuances of civic duty itself.

In Christian Quintero's social studies classroom, the conversation flowed easily from English to Spanish — but the topics his students discussed didn't have easy answers.

"So do you think yesterday was a good thing or a bad thing?" Quintero asked of Monday's walkout, which involved an estimated 36,000 students in Los Angeles County, including many from Belmont High School where he teaches.

"A good thing!" a boy in the back shouted.

"Why?"

"Because we let them know what's up," the boy said.

Indeed, the protests landed the Los Angeles Unified School District — the nation's second largest, and 73 percent of its students Hispanic — in the debate on congressional proposals to crackdown on immigration.

Wednesday was relatively quiet after two days of protests that began with blocked freeways and pleas from the mayor to go back to class, and escalated Tuesday to school lockdowns and truancy citations. On the popular Web site MySpace.com, where many students have said they went for protest instructions, the word was wait until Friday for the next

See WALKOUTS, page 12

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COUNCIL COUNTDOWN

(The following is a summation of what went on in the Santa Monica City Council chambers during the council's meeting March 28, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.)

TIMELINE:

5:55 p.m.: The City Council is called to order. Mayor Bob Holbrook, Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver, and councilmembers Pam O'Connor, Herb Katz, Kevin McKeown and Richard Bloom are present.

5:57 p.m.: Public comment for consent items begins. There were three requests to speak.

6:03 p.m.: Public comment ends. Council approves a series of consent agenda items, except item 1-B — the purchase of 25 mobile computers for police cars from Motorola as part of the department's wireless computer network. Councilman Shriver excused himself from voting on that item because out a conflict of interest, since he is working on a philanthropic deal with Motorola. Council then voted on the item without him, approving the contract, 5-0.

6:06 p.m.: Council moves into closed session.

7:24 p.m.: Closed session ends. Assistant City Attorney Joseph Lawrence reports that council agreed to settlements in two cases for a total of $125,000. One lawsuit had to do with the construction of park facilities, while the other involved a man who was injured while working out at Muscle Beach. He was awarded $75,000.

7:29 p.m.: On behalf of the council, Mayor Holbrook presents members of the Commission on the Status of Women with a proclamation congratulating the commission on 25 years of service and recognized March as Women's History Month. The council also recognized youth from the Police Activities League, who, with the help of volunteer coaches, ran the Los Angeles Marathon earlier this month.

7:36 p.m.: Staff from the planning department presents a report on an interim ordinance modifying regulations related to automobile dealerships.

7:55 p.m.: Public comment begins on the ordinance. Councilman Katz, an architect who has designed several car dealerships and is married to an executive at W.I. Simonson Mercedes, assures one speaker that he does not have a conflict of interest.

8:05 p.m.: Auto dealerships issue is placed on hold so that the council can hear an update from homeless czar Ed Edelman on efforts, both locally and countywide, to end homelessness. In addition to the update, Kate Vernez of the City Manager's office said efforts are underway to establish a community court in West Los Angeles and that she has been communicating with judges, the Westside Council of Governments and hospitals in the area. Mona Miyasato, who heads City Hall's Homeless Services, said a program implemented to help those who have lived on the streets longest is working. She said the program has served 81 people in two years, with 41 living in permanent housing. Miyasato also introduced cards and referral guides to be distributed throughout the city as a resource for residents and businesses.

8:41 p.m.: Council votes to support legislation sponsored by State Sen. Gil Cedillo that seeks to address the issue of homelessness. Bills include increased penalties for drug sales near homeless shelters or rehabilitation centers, extending foster care to youth until they turn 21 years old, and establishing services that help homeless people in jail transition back into society.

8:47 p.m.: Council returns to the auto dealership ordinance, beginning with comments from the public.

9:38 p.m.: Public comments end. Council questions staff and makes modifications to the proposed ordinance.

11:40 p.m.: Council approves interim ordinance modifying regulations related to automobile dealerships, associated parking structures and storage lots. The council authorized auto dealers in the light industrial district, running from Memorial Park south to Fifth Street, between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard. Certain elements of the ordinance — including floor area of rooftop parking, permitting inventory parking in residential surface lots and limiting outdoor work in the light industrial zone, or M1 zone — will be reworked by staff for council consideration when the ordinance is extended, 60 days after final approval.

11:42 p.m.: Council votes to move discussion of analysis on the Childcare Linkage Program to the April 11 council meeting because of time constraints. Council votes unanimously to approve extending the interim ordinance modifying the city's Density Bonus and Affordable Housing Incentives in accordance with the state law.

11:47 p.m.: Council convenes a joint meeting with the Redevelopment Agency and approves the refinancing of earthquake recovery bonds from 1999. The move is estimated to save the city $3.9 million over the length of the bonds.

11:50 p.m.: Council reconvenes regular meeting and extends by two years the appointment of Nancy Greenstein to the Vector Control Board. Other appointments were continued until another meeting.

11:51 p.m.: Public comment begins. There are two requests to speak.

11:55 p.m.: Council adjourns in memory of Thomas Garcia, retired employee of the water department and husband of finance department employee Donna Garcia, who died on March 20; Werner Simon Phillips, father of Risk Manager Tom Phillips, who died on March 4; and in memory of Carrie Phillips, a teacher at Turning Point school in Culver City, who was killed when a car struck her as she was walking students back to school from a nearby park.

BY THE NUMBERS

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

Homelessness: 42 minutes
Traffic: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Parking: 2 hours
Public Comments: 1 hour, 10 minutes
City Council/staff discussions: 3 hours and 37 minutes.

LET'S TALK CHIT

"Chits" (Public addressing City Council)

■ "There was no enforcement. So I had to be out there at 2 in the morning looking like the crazy lady in a robe with the video camera."
Resident Ruth Ann Shanley, who said she had to go to great lengths to get City Hall to understand there is a problem with auto dealers unloading cars on residential streets late at night, a violation. Shanley said it was only a few dealers and loves her neighbors, Volkswagen of Santa Monica.

■ **Joy Fulmer Incite:** "I think one thing you're not trying is giving people housing for like five days at a time, or 10 days here and there. Some homeless here went down to Inglewood and got 10 days, little Inglewood, poor Inglewood. I don't know how they managed it, but they did it."

QUOTE OF NOTE

Quote of Note: "This thing, is completely not my thing."
Councilman Bobby Shriver, responding to a complaint from activist Jerry Rubin about a mailer distributed by Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities, which singled out councilmen Bobby Shriver, Robert Holbrook and Herb Katz as leaders on the issue of homelessness, excluding other council members, who affiliated with Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

Case of 'Leon' coming to end

JOHN DOE, from page 1

contact information was found, coroners did locate in Leon's pocket several phone numbers, including that of Barnes. She also had given him books she had written, as well as hot tea, food and clothing.

"He told us that he has a son who was a minister somewhere in the Midwest and that his son is the pastor of a church," Barnes said. "Leon also had a daughter and frequently spoke fondly of a granddaughter who made him the Indian talisman that he wore around his neck."

Leon told those who knew him that he was born Sept. 26, 1934. He often spoke of his mother, whose name is Mary Lamont. Leon said that she lived in Canada and that he flew Air Canada on a special pass around the various holiday seasons to visit his mother. Leon said he would be flying standby, using the pass provided by his mother for the holidays between Christmas and New Years.

"When we missed him on the bluff right after Christmas, we just assumed he had gone to see his mother on Air Canada," Barnes said. "We thought his name was Leon Stephens or Leon Stevens or even Leon Stephenson. We would chat about sports, church, or politics. We would bring him food, and inquire about his health, since he had osteoarthritis in his knees. All of us were encouraged by the fact that he was an inspiration to us and kept us on our toes until we finished our laps for the mornings. Even though he slept outside in the doorway at 16th and Wilshire, Leon never begged or asked for handouts. He went into the VA hospital for knee treatments, sometimes weekly. But they have no record of his visits.

"Leon was intelligent, well read, a born again Christian and told us that he attended church weekly," Barnes added. "He could give you the stats on every baseball, basketball or sports team, as well as political insight on each party, local, state and national issues. His views on the plight of the homeless in Santa Monica were very vocal and valid."

Leon often talked about attending church, although exactly where remains a mystery. Barnes believes the church was off of Wilshire Boulevard, between 15th and 18th streets. Barnes said she knew he wore a size 12 extra wide shoe because she had given him a pair in December. But he told her that he exchanged the shoes with his pastor, who also wore a size 12, because they were tight.

Barnes is pleading with anyone who knows more about "Leon" to contact investigator Dan Machian at the LA County Coroner's Office at (323) 343-0770, before he is cremated as a John Doe.

"If no identification is made by April 1, 2006, there will be no family to mourn the loss, no friends to claim the body and no evidence that this man who was a friend to many and a mystery to some, ever existed," Barnes said. "He was a man of integrity, with a big smile and a great heart, who survived the Vietnam War, even though the VA Hospital in Westwood and the U.S. Government has no record of it. Leon deserves a decent burial."

Judge has a proposition for restaurants: Cancer-causing chips require a warning

FRIES, from page 1

action" since a Los Angeles judge initially blocked the matter from proceeding.

The state agency oversees scientific issues relating to Proposition 65, the right-to-know law at issue in the litigation.

The lawsuits want mandatory warnings to consumers that the foods contain acrylamide, a chemical the state says causes cancer. Acrylamide appears in a wide variety of processed or cooked foods, such as fries, chips and bread.

The delay technically applied to a 2002 case filed by a private group, the Committee for Education and Research on Toxics, against McDonald's Corp. and Burger King Corp., the Daily Journal said Wednesday.

The defendants sought a hold on lawsuits filed last year by state Attorney General Bill Lockyer and two other private groups against McDonald's, Burger King and additional companies.

"We get to do what the attorney general is supposed to do, which is enforce the law, or try," said Supervising Deputy Attorney General Edward Weil, who is leading Lockyer's efforts in the case.

Michele Corash, a San Francisco attorney representing some of the largest defendants in the litigation, said the state agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating acrylamide.

LOCAL

Love is in the Malibu air for food, wine enthusiasts

Photo courtesy

Attendees at last year's Malibu Wine Classic drink in some offerings. This year's event will bring together some 80 wineries and 30 restaurants for the gathering of enthusiasts.

WINE CLASSIC, from page 3

Barbera, Malbec and Touriga Nacional winegrapes at his vineyard in Malibu. He founded the Malibu Wine Classic in 2004, as well as the Malibu Small Vineyard Association, and his Republic of Malibu vineyard and winery.

John Selman, the co-founder of the Malibu Wine Classic, is a former technology executive with a graduate school stint as a bartender. He became enamored with food and wine while entertaining his clients at IBM. Little did he know that his penchant for seeking out haute new eateries and wineries would become a new career.

In 2001, the Malibu denizen took a left turn to pursue his passion and purchased a failing gourmet food and wine shop. Through an investment of hard work and his ability to befriend strangers, Selman re-invented it as the premier wine boutique in the area. Today, Malibu Village Wines serves as a burgeoning social hub for the winemakers of Malibu and a magnet for wine sellers from all over the world.

As co-founder of the Malibu Wine Classic, Selman views Malibu as the gateway to the booming Central Coast wine region.

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Raw sewage causing big stink in Waikiki

BY JAYMES SONG
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Millions of gallons of raw sewage have gushed into a Waikiki canal daily since a major sewer line ruptured Friday, creating a big stink with neighbors and environmentalists.

Eric Takamura, director of the city Department of Environmental Services, said that as of late Tuesday, well over 10 million gallons of untreated wastewater has been diverted into the Ala Wai Canal which flows into the Pacific Ocean between two of the state's most popular beaches: Waikiki and Ala Moana.

The beaches remained open, but officials were closely monitoring bacteria levels.

Takamura and other officials called it the largest sewage spill on Oahu in decades.

The 42-inch sewer main, installed in 1964, cracked open early Friday after heavy rains flooded the aging sewer system. City crews have been working 24 hours a day to repair the break but have been hampered by underground utilities.

The line was patched and a concrete jacket was poured around the pipe Tuesday to keep it secure. But the sewer main wasn't expected to be operational for a couple days, Takamura said.

Meanwhile, human waste continues to pour into the man-made canal around the clock, creating health and environmental concerns. Warning signs have been posted in the area as city and state officials constantly sampled the bacteria level in the ocean near the outlet of the canal.

"For the most part, we've been pretty lucky and the current has been taking the sewage straight out to sea," state Health Department spokesman Kurt Tsue said. "But that could change at any time."

Environmentalists worry about damage to the fragile coral reef and other marine life in the area.

"It's horrible. It's just not acceptable," said Melody Heidel of the Sierra Club. "That's the kind of pressure on an ecosystem that's hard to recover from."

In 2004, the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit alleging deficiencies in the city's wastewater system.

"What's happening today is a result of a long-term history of poor design or mismanagement," Heidel said. "A lot of sewer lines have been down there since the '50s and '60s and we have an increased amount of people and therefore more usage."

High levels of bacteria had been detected in some areas including off Ala Moana Beach Park, one of the busiest beaches in Hawaii.

Despite the warning signs, several swimmers and surfers took advantage of the open waters.

"I see people swimming in the ocean. That's a real health crisis," said Patricia Sanders, who lives in the area. "There seems to be more of a severe crisis than is being portrayed by the city and county officials. Will this cause severe and long-lasting damage to the ocean? We need answers and we're not really getting them."

Mayor Mufi Hannemann said there was no other option than to divert the waste into the canal.

Forest Service to seek more input on land sale

BY JENNIFER TALHELM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — People will have 30 more days to let the Forest Service know what they think of its plan to sell more than 300,000 acres of national forest to help pay for rural schools in 41 states, agency officials said Wednesday.

Forest Service officials extended the deadline, which originally was Thursday, after several members of Congress asked them to give people more time to examine the tracts proposed for sale. The new deadline is May 1.

The plan, part of President Bush's proposed 2007 budget, would funnel $800 million to the schools over the next five years.

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who oversees the Forest Service, said the agency had received 4,000 comments, about three-quarters of which were form letters or postcards. About 5 percent referred to individual parcels up for sale.

"There is a great deal of interest in this proposal and we want to ensure that the public has ample opportunity to provide its input," Rey said. "As we indicated from the beginning, this is a transparent process to encourage the public to provide specific information on the list of Forest Service parcels proposed for sale."

Lawmakers from both parties dislike the proposal, and several said Wednesday they were skeptical the extension would change anyone's opinion.

Critics say the permanent loss of public lands isn't worth the short-term gain to schools. They also say it wouldn't raise enough to help rural governments pay for schools and other services.

"Their plan to extend the comment period doesn't make a bad plan good," said Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D.

After taking to streets in protest, kids wonder if it made difference

WALKOUTS, from page 9

mass protest.

Meanwhile, in classrooms and hallways some students have turned to reflection: Were the protests effective? Were they the right thing to do?

Some teachers seized the opportunity to make the connection between the textbook and real life. Some offered lessons on how a bill becomes law. In one school, lunchtime morphed into an organized forum on immigration policy.

The shape of the discussions was up to individual schools and teachers.

"There is an opportunity to take this and fold it into what students are learning in their government, history and civics classes," said district spokeswoman Susan Cox.

Keeping kids in class also helps the 746,000-student district. With two days of walkouts, the Los Angeles district alone could lose more than $900,000 in state funds based on student attendance.

The principal at Belmont, on the edge of downtown Los Angeles, told teachers to let students talk freely about the walkouts but to stress "the merits of being in school and continuing with their studies to make a difference."

For 10th grade history teacher Ernesto Torres, that meant fielding questions about legislation working its way through Congress.

Why is the government targeting immigrants, one student asked.

Torres asked the 18 year old whether he registered to vote.

When the student said no, Torres responded, "That's why."

The students were surprised to learn theirs wasn't the first mass student protest in Los Angeles history. Torres told them about the landmark 1968 Chicano walkouts to protest poor learning environments in East Los Angeles.

"You are a part of history now," Torres said.

Students at some other schools complained that their teachers didn't want to discuss the issues. And some said their peers didn't seem to know what they were protesting.

"I don't think any of them actually read the 40-page proposed bill. They were just jumping the gates to get out," said Amanda Ellis, 15, a student at San Pedro High School on the edge of the bustling ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

After students there walked out, police issued 100 truancy citations.

"I don't think it's fair to us," said 15-year-old Destiny Duran of the crackdown.

Asked whether she was angry with her classmates, Duran shook her head.

"I blame the government," she said.

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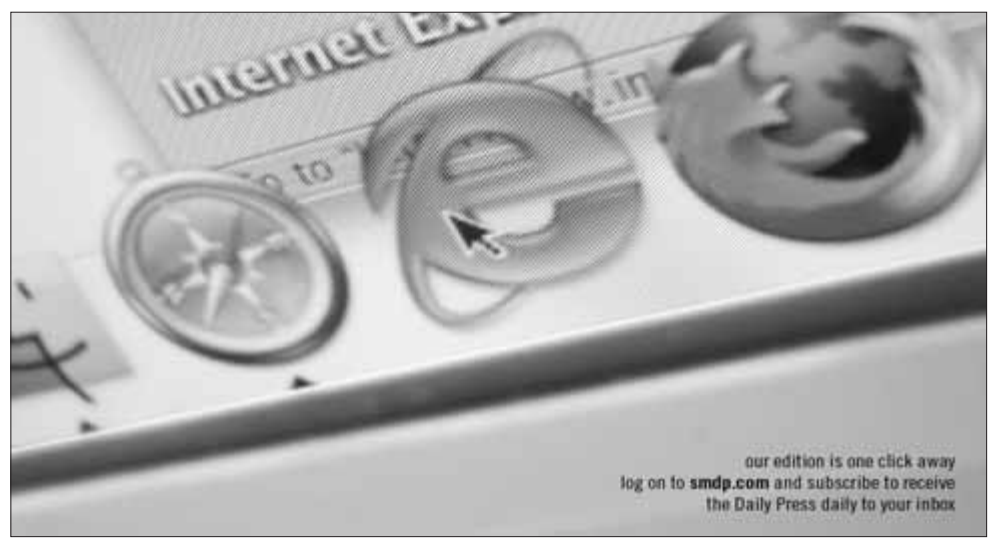

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. agrees to extra training for beef workers

BY CARL FREIRE
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — The United States has agreed to require further training of American workers handling beef exports to Japan, U.S. agriculture officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. delegation, led by Chuck Lambert, undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs, finished two days of talks in Japan in hopes of lifting Tokyo's ban on U.S. beef.

Lambert told reporters the U.S. would provide additional training to beef workers and follow up to make sure they know what meat products are prohibited in Japan and which are allowed.

"From our viewpoint, this is another step on the path to lifting the barrier," he said. "We had a very thorough and complete discussion, and reached an agreement over further measures."

Hirofumi Kugita, chief of the Animal Health Division at the Agriculture Ministry, said the two countries reached a degree of understanding but cautioned that differences remained.

"We discussed our concerns in a positive manner and were able to hold meaningful talks," Kugita said. "However, there are numerous issues that remain to be discussed. We have yet to solve all of our problems."

Going into the talks, the United States knew Japan would have more questions, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Wednesday.

"My hope is that it's not a stalling tactic," he added. "There'll probably be some additional questions. We'll respond to those very quickly. But there's a point where this needs to be resolved, and we have really reached that point now."

Japan shut its doors to American beef in January after spine bones were found in a U.S. veal shipment. The bones are considered by Japan to be at risk for mad cow disease and are banned under the agreement that eased a prior ban on U.S. beef in December.

Japan has been pressing the U.S. for more details on why the mishap occurred and what further steps Washington would take to ensure the safety of its meat.

The U.S. issued a lengthy report about its safety system in February, and then answered follow-up questions from Japan. Officials in Tokyo last week said they would press Washington for further clarifications.

Japan banned all imports of U.S. beef in December 2003 after the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the American herd. That ban was eased in December 2005 to allow imports of American beef from cows aged 20 months or younger which did not contain body parts thought at risk of mad cow disease, but trade was halted again after the faulty veal shipment.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a degenerative nerve disease in cattle. Eating contaminated meat products has been linked to the rare but fatal variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Israeli leader faces tough task in forming a new government

HBY JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — After declaring victory in Israel's elections, acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Kadima Party said Wednesday it would quickly form a broad ruling coalition that will carry out its plan to pull out of much of the West Bank and draw Israel's borders by 2010.

Party officials said that despite a weaker-than-expected performance in Tuesday's election, Kadima has widespread support in parliament.

Kadima won only 28 seats in the election, less than the 35 it had hoped for, but still making it the largest party in the 120-member parliament. Like every other ruling party in Israeli history, it will have to form a coalition government with other parties.

Haim Ramon, a senior Kadima lawmaker, told Israel Radio that the party is confident it will get broad backing for its withdrawal plan in parliament. "I believe we will have more than 70 legislators who will support the disengagement plan," Ramon told Israel Radio, referring to the expected West Bank pullout.

Ramon was quoted as saying he expects Olmert to have a government in place after the Jewish holiday of Passover, which begins in mid-April.

Israel's ceremonial president, Moshe Katsav, said Wednesday that he will start talking to party leaders next week about forming a coalition. Traditionally, the Israeli president gives the nod to the leader of the largest party to try to form a government.

"I assume there will be a stable government," Katsav told Army Radio.

Declaring victory early Wednesday, Olmert renewed his call for peace talks with the Palestinians and said he is prepared to make painful compromises, such as uprooting some Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"In the coming period, we will move to set the final borders of the state of Israel, a Jewish state with a Jewish majority," Olmert said. "We will try to achieve this in an agreement with the Palestinians."

But he said Israel will act on its own if it cannot reach peace with the Palestinians. This scenario appears increasingly likely following Hamas' victory in recent Palestinian legislative elections. The militant group's new government, which rejects peace talks, was set to be sworn into office late Wednesday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday the results of the Israeli election would have little effect unless Olmert agrees to peace talks. "We want negotiations and not to dictate unilateral solutions," he said in Khartoum, Sudan, where he was attending an Arab Summit.

With 99.7 percent of the votes counted Wednesday, the center-left Labor captured 20 seats and the hawkish Likud, which had dominated Israeli politics for decades, plummeted to 11 seats, making it only the fifth-largest party in the new parliament.

Final results are expected Friday, officials said. But for the first time, Israel will not be led by Labor or Likud. The results showed voters turning away from conventional parties to an assortment of third parties.

Among them were Shas, a party catering to Orthodox Jews of Middle Eastern ancestry that won 13 seats; Yisrael Beitenu, a Russian immigrants' party that wants to redraw Israel's map by transferring Arab towns to Palestinian control, with 12 seats; and the new Pensioners' Party, which won seven seats.

"The Big Bang," said the headline in Israel's two largest dailies, referring to the new political shake-up. The aftermath will likely be a period of difficult negotiations with potential coalition partners.

Olmert has said he would govern only with parties that accept his program. Likely partners include Labor, which ran on a social platform advocating a higher minimum wage and guaranteed pensions for the elderly; the Pensioners' Party, which also advocates more benefits for retirees; and the dovish Meretz party.

Kadima also will likely target an ultra-Orthodox party, and receive tacit support from Arab parties that won 10 seats.

Tuesday's vote was billed as a referendum on Olmert's withdrawal plan, and analysts said Kadima's lackluster performance could hinder — but not prevent — his ability to push forward.

"It will take a while to set up a coalition," said Asher Arian, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank. "It will take a while to massage the partners into willingness to hear about very costly and independent, unilateral moves."

Olmert inherited Kadima leadership after Sharon, the country's most popular politician, suffered a stroke in January and lapsed into a coma. Much of Kadima's campaign was built around Sharon, the party's founder.

After a cautious transition period, Olmert laid out his own political program, saying he would aim to draw Israel's final borders by 2010 — with or without an agreement from the Palestinians.

Under Olmert's plan, Israel would unilaterally dismantle dozens of settlements deep in the West Bank, while beefing up major settlement blocs and incorporating them inside Israel's borders.

While handing over large chunks of the West Bank to the Palestinians, the plan falls short of Palestinian claims to all of the territory. Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war.

The go-it-alone approach follows Sharon's unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip last summer. With peacemaking at a standstill, Sharon said Israel had to "disengage" from the Palestinians to improve security and guarantee its future as a Jewish democracy.

Hawkish parties that oppose concessions to the Palestinians fared poorly, winning just 32 seats.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, a former prime minister, was among the biggest losers. The party's drop, from 38 seats to 11, was summed up by a headline in Yediot: "The crash."

"We have no doubt that the Likud

See ISRAEL, page 14

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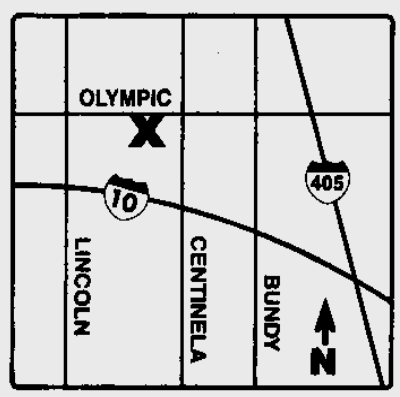

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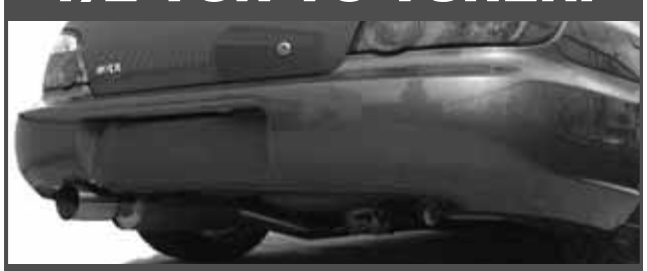

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INTERNATIONAL

Gunmen line up, kill eight at electronics trading firm

BY VANESSA ARRINGTON
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen lined up 14 employees of an electronics trading company in Baghdad on Wednesday and shot them all, killing eight and wounding six, police said.

Politicians working on forming a national unity government postponed talks scheduled for Wednesday, saying they needed more time to consult their political blocs about what the security powers of the prime minister should be.

The motive of the attack at the al-Ibtikar trading company in the upscale Mansour neighborhood was not immediately clear. According to survivors' accounts to police, the assailants first asked for the company's manager, who was not there, before shooting.

The survivors said the assailants, some of whom wore police uniforms, identified themselves as intelligence agents from the Interior Ministry.

Hundreds of Iraqis have been killed in sectarian violence and by death squads operating inside the Shiite-dominated ministry since the Feb. 22 bombing of an important Shiite shrine in Samarra set off a wave of revenge attacks. Usually, the victims are killed in secret, their bodies discovered hours or days later.

The assault Wednesday was the second to target a trading company in Mansour this week. On Monday, gunmen wearing military uniforms and masks kidnapped 16 employees from the headquarters of the Saeed Import and Export Co. Police said the assailants went through papers and computer files before leaving with their captives.

Another mass abduction took place Tuesday, when masked gunmen, many in military uniform, stormed into a currency exchange and two electronic stores in broad daylight, seized 24 Iraqis and took tens of thousands of dollars. The kidnappings occurred within a half-hour, and police were investigating whether they were linked.

In Wednesday's attack, the gunmen arrived at the al-Ibtikar offices in five black BMWs about 8:15 a.m., police Lt. Maitham Abdul-Razzaq said. They burned parts of the facility, but didn't appear to have taken any money, he said. The dead included five men and three women.

"All these operations have one aim: to freeze life in Iraq and sabotage the democratic process. They want to take us back to the dictatorship," said Maj. Gen. Ahmed al-Khafaji, a deputy interior minister. He blamed al-Qaida and said, "We will work day and night to arrest them.

Elsewhere, gunmen killed three staffers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in a drive-by shooting in west Baghdad, Abdul-Razzaq said. A mortar round struck just outside al-Sadr's home in the holy city of Najaf earlier in the week. The firebrand anti-American leader, who holds great sway among poor Shiites in Baghdad, was at home but not hurt in the Sunday attack, according to an aide.

Also Wednesday, gunmen attacked a highway police patrol in western Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding four others, including a civilian, police said. In south Baghdad, a sniper killed a policeman on patrol in the Dora neighborhood, and a roadside bomb in the east killed one policeman and wounded five other people, police said.

Nearly 20 others, including a 6-year-old girl, were wounded in the capital in roadside bombings, mortar attacks, gunfire and an explosion on a minibus, police said. Gunmen also wounded an official from the Iraqi Central Bank, then later chased a car carrying five of the official's guards and wounded them as well, police said.

There were several attacks Wednesday in Diyala province north of Baghdad. Gunmen killed two civilians and wounded another in a drive-by shooting in the town of Khalis, 50 miles north of the capital, police said. A roadside bomb in front of an Iraqi soldier's home outside the provincial capital of Baqouba wounded the soldier's 7-year-old son, and another bomb targeted the house of a tribal sheik in Baqouba but caused no casualties, police said.

An unmanned U.S. Air Force Predator fired a Hellfire missile at three Iraqis planting a roadside bomb near Balad Air Base north of Baghdad, killing all three, the U.S. military.

Cameras on the Predator sent back live pictures of the three insurgents for about a half-hour Tuesday night as they dug a hole in the road, placed the explosive and ran triggering wires to a nearby ditch, according to the military.

Balad, 40 miles north of Baghdad, has become the logistics hub for all U.S. military operations in Iraq.

In other violence Tuesday, one U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded when their Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb west of Baghdad, the military said. South of Baghdad, another U.S. soldier was killed by small-arms fire.

At least 2,325 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Meanwhile, negotiations on the formation of a government remained stalled as leaders asked for more time.

The Shiite United Iraqi Alliance, the largest bloc in parliament, had shunned talks Monday to protest a U.S.-backed raid on what Iraqis say was a mosque. At least 16 people were killed in the assault, which freed an Iraqi hostage.

After the one-day boycott, the talks resumed Tuesday, but Wednesday's session was canceled.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad has asked one of Iraq's most prominent Shiite politicians to seek the withdrawal of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari's contentious nomination for a second term.

The United States has been pushing Iraq to speed up the formation of a unity government, seen as the best option to subdue the violence gripping several Iraqi cities — and to allow for the start of a U.S. troop withdrawal this summer.

But the talks are fragile in a country with deep sectarian differences between Shiites and Sunnis and daily violent death tolls in the dozens. More than 1,000 people have been killed since the Samarra bombing.

Police discovered 17 bodies Tuesday, all men from Baghdad who were handcuffed and shot in the head. Hundreds of bodies have been found since the shrine bombing.

Incoming Palestinian prime minister opposes plan to withdrawal by 2010

ISRAEL, from page 13

suffered a hard blow," Netanyahu told his party activists. He blamed Sharon, who bolted Likud to form Kadima, for leaving behind "a broken and shattered party."

Netanyahu vowed to lead the party back to glory, despite calls by some activists for his ouster.

Meanwhile, Abbas, a moderate who favors peace talks, must deal with the new Hamas legislature. Hamas opposes peace talks and has rejected international calls to renounce violence, recognize Israel and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

Incoming Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh told Al-Jazeera television that he opposed Olmert's withdrawal plan. "Such a plan definitely won't be accepted by the Palestinian people or the Palestinian government," he said.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • editor@smdp.com

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Roberts looks to ketchup after break

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first lines spoken by Julia Roberts in her Broadway debut were drowned out by applause at an eagerly awaited preview of "Three Days of Rain."

The play, which started previews Tuesday and opens April 19 at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre, is Roberts' first major project since the birth of her 16-month-old twins, Phinnaeus and Hazel.

A prop tomato fell onto the floor during the preview, making a noise that prompted laughter from the actress, the New York Post reported Wednesday.

Appearing in Richard Greenberg's 1997 Pulitzer Prize nominee, Roberts plays a woman unraveling the truth behind her father's death, and in the second act, plays the woman's mother.

Roberts co-stars with Paul Rudd and Bradley Cooper. The actress didn't take a solo curtain call, instead sharing the spotlight with the two actors, the Post reported.

NEW YORK — Kevin Federline, aka Britney Spears' husband, is the proud father of another baby — his debut hip-hop album, "Playing With Fire."

The expected release date is August, said a spokeswoman for FYI Public Relations, which is promoting the album.

"The inspiration and meaning behind the title, "Playing With Fire," is self-explanatory," the 28-year-old Federline, known to some as K-Fed, said in a statement Tuesday.

"I'm excited about this album and am looking forward to continuing my promotional club tour in support of it and seeing the firsthand reaction of my fans listening to my songs for the first time," he said. "My album is sure to set the dance floors across the world on fire!"

His first single, the critically slammed Brazilian groove "PopoZao," was released earlier this year through Yahoo Music Unlimited.

Federline and Spears have a son, Sean Preston, who was born in September. He also has two children with his former girlfriend Shar Jackson.

LONDON — It's not unusual for Tom Jones to meet Queen Elizabeth II — but being knighted was something special.

The 65-year-old singer, a coal miner's son from the Welsh town of Pontypridd, received the honor Wednesday at Buckingham Palace.

Jones, known for hits including "What's New Pussycat" and "It's Not Unusual," said he had met the British monarch "six or seven times, maybe more," starting with a royal charity performance in 1966.

"I love seeing the queen and I have always been a royalist," Jones said. "She is lovely and she still is lovely."

Jones, who was accompanied by his son, daughter and granddaughter, said receiving the knighthood was "just tremendous."

"When you first come into show business and you get a hit record, it is the start of something," he said. "As time goes on, it just gets better. This is the best thing that I have had. It is a wonderful feeling, a heady feeling.

"Sometimes you just can't believe it, you think you have been dreaming."

SEOUL, South Korea — Britney Spears' songwriters have accused a South Korean pop composer of plagiarism and are seeking damages, a music publisher said Wednesday.

Universal Music Publishing Korea, the company that handles South Korean copyrights for Spears' music, said her songwriters had complained that "Get ya," performed by Lee Hyo-lee, sounded similar to a song they wrote for the 24-year-old pop singer titled, "Do Something."

"Get ya" was the lead song on Lee's second album, which was released last month. Spears released "Do Something" in February 2005.

Kevin Cho, general manager of Universal Music Publishing Korea, said Spears' songwriters claim the Korean track had been "partially plagiarized" and the company sent their complaint to Lee's composer, Kim Do-hyun.

Cho said they were seeking a settlement of undisclosed terms, but hadn't yet received a response from Kim's side.

Kim has said he was influenced by the Spears' song, but denied copying directly from it. He wasn't immediately available for comment Wednesday.

Lee, whose sexy style has earned her prominent appearances in advertising campaigns, is staging a comeback this year with a return to live performances.

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Prince Harry has completed a military exercise on Cyprus, British military officials said.

"As part of the (officers') commissioning course, he was on the island for the exercise," British military spokesman Capt. Crispin Coates said Wednesday.

Some 200 officer cadets, including Harry, 21, took part in "Spring Victory" at the British sovereign base of Episcopi, western Cyprus, Coates said.

Former colonial ruler Britain maintains two military bases on Cyprus, which gained independence in 1960. The other base is at Dhekelia in eastern Cyprus.

Prince Harry is third in line to the British throne, after his brother, Prince William, 23, and father, Prince Charles, 57.

TORONTO — Pamela Anderson has added her name to the growing list of celebrities speaking out against Canada's annual seal hunt, which just got under way.

Anderson, who hosted Sunday's Juno Awards, Canada's largest music awards, has asked for a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper turned down a similar request by French film legend Brigitte Bardot, who traveled to Ottawa last week to protest the hunt.

The seal hunt has attracted plenty of celebrity protesters this year, including Paul McCartney and his wife, Heather Mills, who called the cull "a stain on the character of the Canadian people" and urged the government to turn to ecotourism in the region.

British singer Morrissey said he won't include Canada on any tours until the seal hunt ends.

"As a proud Canadian who frequently travels abroad, I am alarmed that people are starting to see Canada as a country more beholden to a pack of greedy hunters and to the sealskin `fashion' whims of a few countries than to the massive international outcry against the hunt," Anderson said in a letter faxed to Harper's office late Monday.

"One of the biggest problems facing the U.S. government is appearing aloof about its own hostile behavior; I'd hate to see that happen north of the border too."

Anderson is a native of British Columbia in western Canada.

The actress said she's collected thousands of signatures on an online People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals petition protesting the annual hunt, which opened Saturday in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2006

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

Capote
1:15pm 4:15pm 7:00pm 9:45pm
The Hills Have Eyes
2:00pm 5:00pm 7:45pm 10:15pm
Find Me Guilty
1:45pm 4:35pm 7:20pm 10:00pm
Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector
1:00pm 3:15pm 8pm 10:30pm

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

Aquamarine
12:50am 3:20pm 5:50pm
The Libertine
1:30pm 4:30pm 7:30pm 10:20pm
Munich
11:40am 8:30pm
The Pink Panther
3:10pm 5:30pm 7:50pm 10:30pm
The Libertine
2:20pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:20pm
She's the Man
11:30am 2pm 4:40pm 7:20 pm 9:50pm
V for Vendetta
12:30am 1:20pm 3:45pm 4:20pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 10:10pm 11:15pm

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

16 Blocks
11:45pm 2:10pm 4:40pm 7:20pm 9:50pm
Failure to Launch
12:10pm 2:30pm 5:00pm 10:10pm
The Shaggy Dog
11:30am 1:55pm 4:20pm 7pm 9:30pm
Inside Man
11:00am 12:45pm 1:35pm 32:45pm 4:30pm 7:00pm 7:40pm 10:00pm 10:45pm
Stay Alive
12:20pm 2:20pm 4:50pm 7:10pm 9:40pm
Transamerica
2:00pm 4:45pm 7:50pm 10:20pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Tsotsi
1pm 4pm 7pm 9:30pm
ThankYou For Smoking
11:45am 2:15pm 4:45pm 7:15pm 9:50pm

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

Ask the Dust
1:20pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 9:55pm
CSA: The Confederate State of America
1:15pm 3:30pm 5:45pm 8:00pm 10:15pm
Don't Come Knocking
1:40pm 4:20pm 7:00pm 9:40pm
Ballets Russes
11am
Going Shopping
11am
L'Enfant (The Child)
1:55pm 4:30pm 7:20pm 9:50pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
11am
Why We Fight
11am

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Avenue
(323) 466-FILM

ZABRISKIE POINT
Friday, March 31, 7:30 PM
HENRI LANGLOIS-PHANTOM OF THE CINEMATHEQUE (Spielberg)
Friday, March 31, 7:30 PM
M & CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI
Saturday, April 1, 7:30PM
HENRI LANGLOIS-PHANTOM OF THE CINEMATHEQUE (Spielberg)
Saturday, April 1,7:30 PM

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

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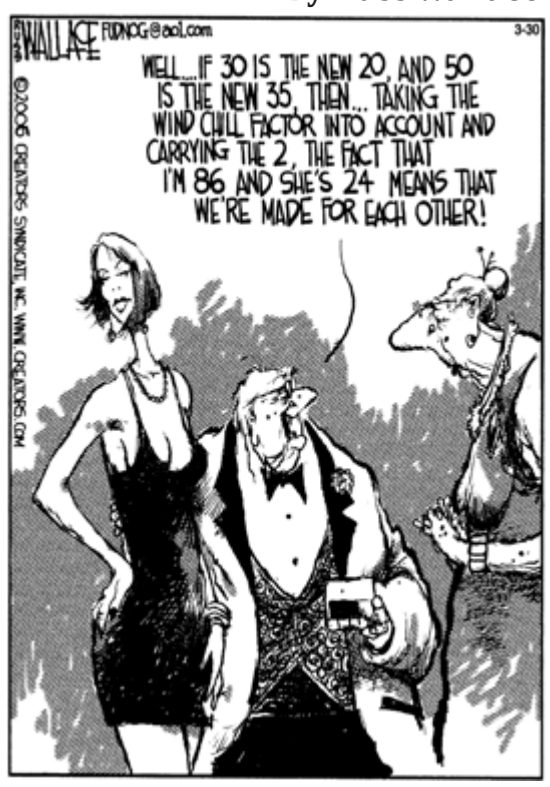
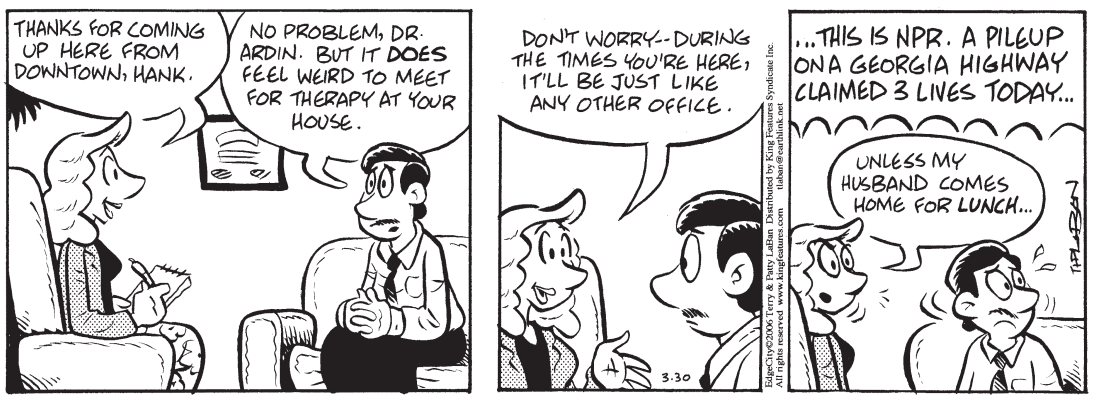
Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



edge City

by Terry & Patty LaBan



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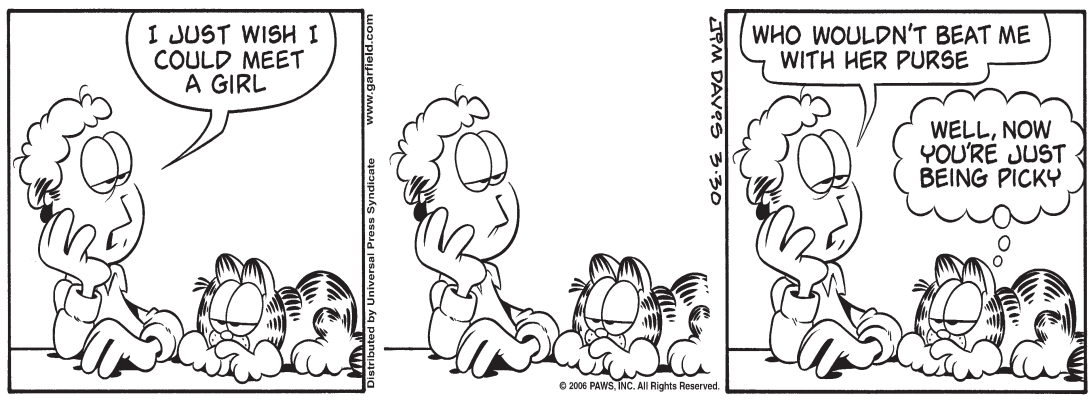
By Jim Davis



Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 They sometimes clash
5 Actor Kirby
10 Fence part
11 Mistake maker's need
12 Guernsey, e.g.
13 Sword-making city
14 Where stolen autos are taken apart
16 Jerry Garcia fan
20 When some duels take place
23 African grazer
24 Byways
25 Kid's shooter
27 Middle: Abbr.
28 Goes sledding
29 Chinese colony
32 Plump
36 Bounty
39 Inkling
40 Makes amends
41 Frost creation
42 Bamboo eater
43 Goofs

DOWN

1 Big-scale movie
2 "Jeepers!"
3 Scandinavian city
4 Mom's new hubby
5 Mope
6 Alice's hubby
7 Purpose
8 Reporter Potter
9 Gold, to Coronado
11 Patriot Allen
15 Puts in stitches
17 Meringue base
18 "Sometimes you feel like —"
19 Demands payment from
20 St. Louis sight
21 Oz visitor
22 Fix socks
25 Gaunt
26 Scottish screecher
28 Seasonal ailments
30 Thou
31 Seoul setting
33 Stench
34 Wolf's look
35 Thanksgiving dish
36 Music genre
37 Greek H
38 Secured

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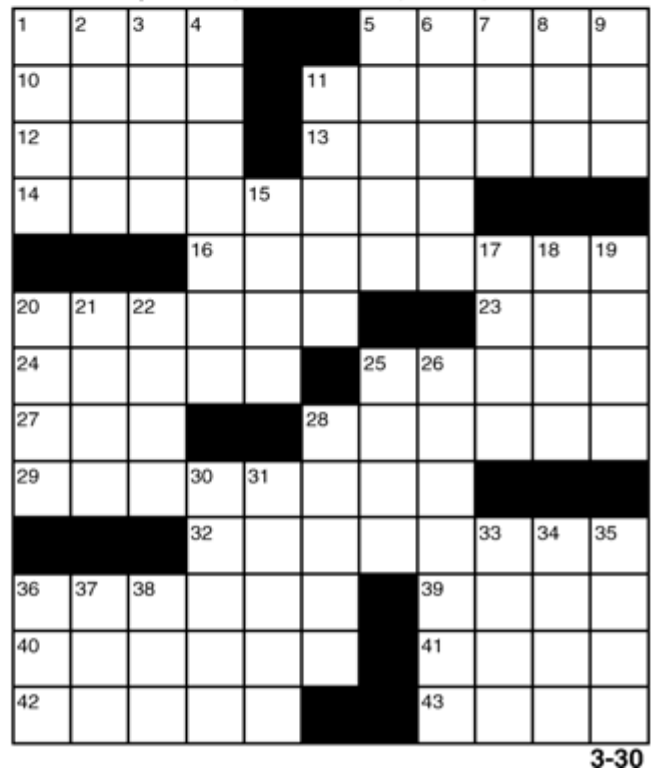

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Escrow No. 44840-EN

Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below.
The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller are:
Sadrudin Alibhai Ismail, 2425 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404.
The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: Same
As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: None.
The name(s) and business address of the buyer are:
Jee Yoon Rhee, 2425 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404.
The assets to be sold are described in general as: furniture, fixtures, equipment, goodwill, tradename, leasehold, improvement and interest, and covenant not to compete and is located at: 2425 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404.
The business name used by the seller(s) at that location is: PLAZA CARD & GIFT.
The anticipated date of the bulk sale is April 17, 2006 at the office of United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010.
The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010, and the last date for filing claims shall be April 14, 2006, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.
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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) the California Courts Online self-help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales pare presenter una respuesta per escrito en esta code y hacar que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesza per escrito tiene que ester en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar pare su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de bago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumpilmiento y corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpia con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucre en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniendose en cantacto con la corte o el colegio de abagados locales
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
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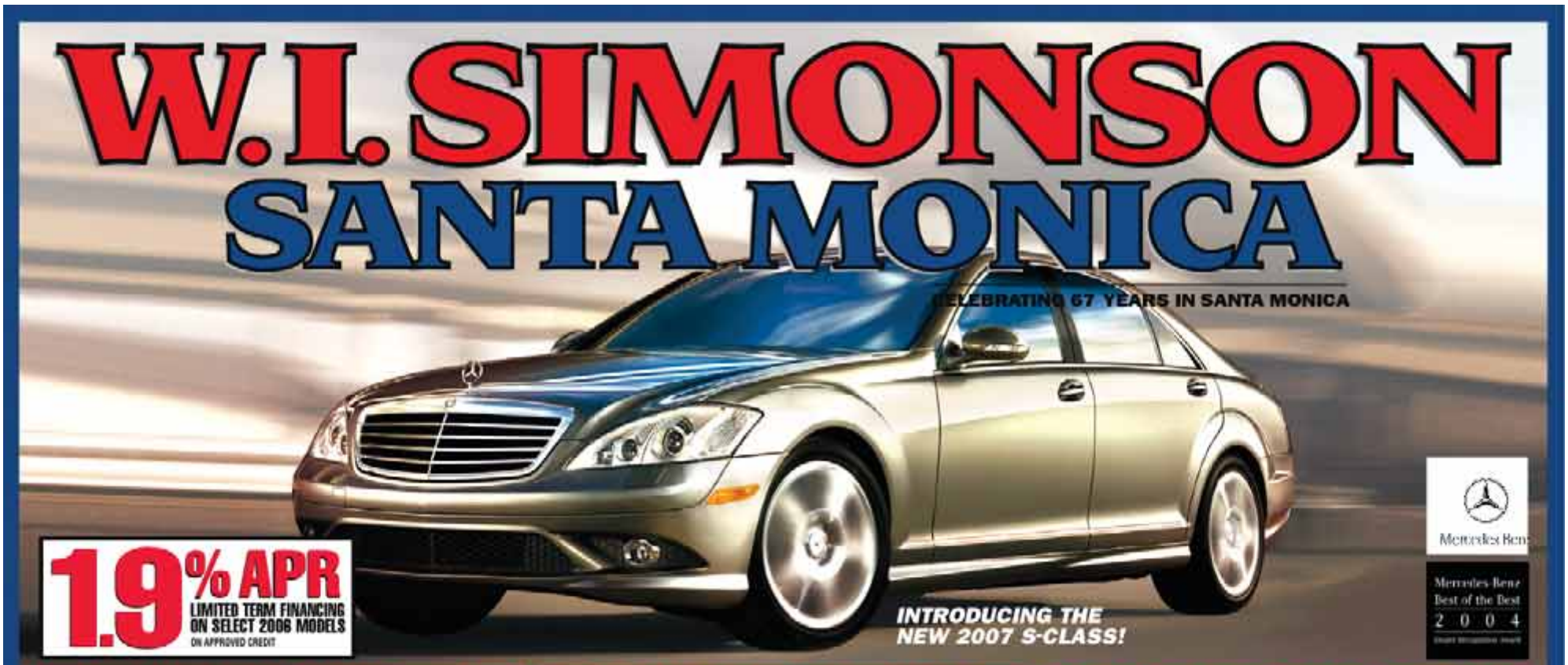

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