



FREE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

April 3/4, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 123

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
2, 8, 22, 26, 38

DAILY 3

 Afternoon picks: 9, 5, 1
Evening picks: 2, 7, 5

DAILY DERBY

 1st Place: 5, California Classic
2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star
3rd Place: 9, Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.71

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ A suspected prostitute became the latest police detainee to commandeer a patrol car and drive it away after twisting her body to move her cuffed hands from behind her to the front of her (all in a briefer time than it took officers to walk around the outside the car) (Kensington, Pa., February).

■ A Harrods Estates broker announced that he had sold a private, one-car parking space in the tony Knightsbridge section of London for the equivalent of US \$187,500.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Love is like the measles; We all have to go through it."

— Jerome K. Jerome

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Photo courtesy

Ring in the year 2547 at this weekend's "Water Festival" in Thai Town. Sections of Hollywood Boulevard will be closed to traffic Sunday to make room for a parade, games and ceremonies.

Time-honored tradition: Longer days on horizon

By Daily Press staff

It's that time of year again.

Most Americans will return to daylight savings time this weekend, resetting their clocks ahead by one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. The reward is an additional hour of daylight in the evening for warm-weather outdoor activities.

Standard time returns Oct. 26.

Federal law does not require any area to observe daylight savings time, and a few parts of the country like Arizona, Hawaii, the section of Indiana in the Eastern time zone, Puerto Rico and Guam have opted not to do so.

It's also a good time to check the batteries in home smoke detectors, safety experts contend.

Clean sweep for embattled Santa Monica motel owner

 BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE

— After a nearly two-year investigation into alleged drug use and prostitution at two Santa Monica motels, the owner of the establishments on Friday escaped 88 of the 99 criminal charges levied against him.

Maurice Farzam pleaded no contest to the remaining 11 misdemeanor counts, including committing a public nuisance at the Holiday and American motels, attempting to receive a stolen credit card and violating a variety of health and safety codes.

If Farzam adheres to a nine-page list of conditions imposed by City

Hall, he will remain a free man. The motel owner spent three days in custody last summer.

"My goal was to stop the public nuisance portion of it ... and I believe we've done that," said Deputy City Attorney Betty Haviland, who prosecuted the case. "It's my hope that this will solve the problem for both the city of Santa Monica and residents in the area."

According to the terms of the settlement, Farzam must serve three years of probation. He was also ordered to immediately sign a form authorizing police to arrest loiterers, evict any tenants engaged in drug use or prostitution, remove pay phones, rent

See MOTEL, page 6

Stone-faced



Photo courtesy

As part of a weekly contest, the Daily Press will give away a free prize to the first reader who can accurately describe where this photo was taken. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

Lifeguards, Coast Guard have a flare for the dramatic

By Daily Press staff

SM BEACH

Local lifeguards and the United States Coast Guard staged an

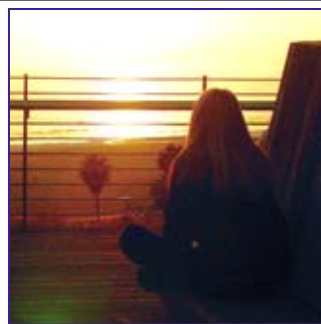
emergency drill off of Santa Monica beach this week.

While the routine drill is staged about twice a month, it seldom fails to

garner the attention of local residents.

The Daily Press fielded e-mails from concerned residents who saw the Coast Guard helicopter hovering above the Baywatch boat Wednesday, lifting bodies up from the deck of the boat while riding into the wind.

Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Garth Canning said the emergency workers may have attracted additional attention this time because of the use of flares during their three-hour exercise. Canning assured residents, however, that nobody was injured and the drill went off without a hitch.



Michael Tittinger/Daily Press

Kelly McCool of Santa Monica takes in the sunset on Friday.

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Be a wild thing tonight Virgo!



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You have a way with words that could make others jealous. You also will be more willing to learn other styles of communicating. Consider signing up for a workshop. Meanwhile, relax and get into a spring project or two. Tonight: Just make it relaxing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your frisky and fun ways could force your hand financially. Yes, your checkbook will see red if you aren't careful. You are vulnerable to wanting to spend money on yourself and other "things" that might be important to you. Tonight: Romp until you are too tired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ With Venus and Mars in your sign, others are attracted to you like a magnet. Your charisma speaks to such an extent that you could evoke jealousy among those around you. Be sensitive to a family member or roommate. Tonight: Order in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Visualize more of what you want. Don't keep your wild ideas to yourself right now. You might decide to take off with a friend and do something unusual. Right now, secrets need to be kept secret. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Be naughty.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Your strong desire to party and enjoy life cannot be suppressed. Stop and put yourself on a budget before you go hog-wild. You will be a lot happier in the long run. Throw a spontaneous party or encourage friends to have a fun get-together. Tonight: Relish the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your smile and sunny way melt others' resistances, especially someone whose opinion you care a lot about. Dance the night away. Paint the town red, but whatever you do, make sure you are enjoying yourself to the max. Tonight: You wild thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Lying back doesn't mean you won't have a good time. In fact, you'll have a veritable party with whomever you vanish with. Get out of your routine and go somewhere new. Explore a quaint town or new spot you haven't been to. Tonight: You don't need to be accountable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Friends push to have you come along. You might feel restricted by finances, but expect a fast change. Set your limits, and you'll find out just how easy it is to have a good time on a low budget. Tonight: Opt for some togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your mood might impact others. However, you are unlikely to get what you want. In fact, you might push a loved one or friend away. Know that this scenario doesn't have to happen. Just let go of a problem and live for the now. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Continue to enjoy yourself — explore other views, meet new people and take advantage of different opportunities. You could be delighted by what will go down if you stay open. Someone wants to teach you a new hobby or sport. Why not? Tonight: Listen to a different type of music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your lovable ways come out when dealing with those in your immediate surroundings. If you are single, others find you to be fun, flirty and irresistible. If attached, you hold a similar magic over your sweetie. A friend could be put off by your detachment. Tonight: Love the one you're with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out, but you actually might have more fun at home with a loved one or with friends. You can find a way of mixing the two without giving yourself additional work. Ask others to bring their favorite junk food. Tonight: Let others take the initiative.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Plenty o' pork and pinot

By Daily Press staff

It will be a rare day when pigs fly. But this April, they'll soar to heights of culinary perfection.

Food and wine enthusiasts are invited to sample the excellence of pairing two of nature's most sumptuous and versatile gifts: pinot and pork.

Kobrand Corp., together with Niman Ranch and Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, is hosting a tasting April 13 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, at which you can compare the extraordinary diversity of Pinot Noir with the no less extraordinary diversity of pork.

Tickets to the 7 p.m. event are \$65 per person, or \$55 for Slow Food members, and are available at (866) 562-7263 or at www.kobrandevents.com.

Featured will be six of the world's finest producers who craft wines from the Pinot Noir grape. Guests may try Old World classic expressions from the slopes Burgundy alongside the more New World exuberance from the foremost vineyards of Carneros, Napa, Santa Barbara and Sonoma in California.

To accompany the pinot noir will be an equally spectacular wealth of dishes made from pork, including naturally raised Niman Ranch pork.

Dishes will range from classic chops to innovative, spicy barbecue, prepared by the top chefs of Fairmont Hotels and Resorts and prominent local restaurants.

Proceeds will benefit Slow Food U.S.A., a non-profit educational organization that celebrates regional food from all over the world.

WISE to face a necessary evil

By Daily Press staff

Planning for death will never be easy, but a Santa Monica organization is offering to do just that.

As an addition to its extensive services to Los Angeles County's community of older adults, WISE Senior Services also provides monthly private estate planning consultations for free.

Initial dates for half-hour sessions are available by appointment only on April 13, May 11 and June 22 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Attorney Fred J. Marcus, who has 22 years of estate planning experience, will conduct the sessions.

Marcus, who serves as chairman of the WISE Senior Services Endowment committee, will advise in all areas of estate planning, including setting up a plan, reviewing already existing plans, estate and probate taxes, beneficiary designations and assistance in philanthropic planning.

"Estate planning is not easy to even discuss for most people," said Marcus, also a frequent lecturer and author of many published articles. "No one likes to think of 'putting our affairs in order' before we die, especially when doing so is cost prohibitive. If we at WISE can ease the way, we will be adding to our mission of improving the quality of life for aging adults."

WISE Senior Services is a multiservice, private nonprofit organization founded in 1968. WISE offers a variety of services to older adults and their families in the LA area, ranging from support services for the frail elderly to interesting volunteer opportunities for the well and active senior.

The population of seniors served by WISE includes those who are at risk when alone, have a physical or mental impairment, such as Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia, want to continue living in their own homes, are at risk by exploitation by others or are lonely or depressed.

For more information or to set up an appointment on the scheduled dates, call Linda Stracher at (310) 394-9871, ext. 431.

Feeling the healing

By Daily Press staff

As predicted, Santa Monicans will be able to see their futures today. There will be a Psychic Fair and Spiritual Healing Festival today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 1731 21st Street.

Admission to the event and healings are free. Twenty-minute readings of your choice will include tarot, past lives, career, palm, love life, money, aura and more.

Readings will cost \$8 or three for \$20. For information, call (310) 587-3536.

surf report

Look for WNW swell mix to be on the way down, with most spots falling into the waist-high and below range.

New, steep NW swell starts to rise through the day on Saturday with waist-high surf at best breaks. Most other spots are sucking.

On Sunday, the energy out of the NPAC will turn more WNW'erly and build through the day with waist-high surf at the better exposed breaks by the late afternoon, and actually best on Monday with some bigger sets. Those waves slowly wind down by Tuesday.

On Sunday we'll also see a new mix of SW swells build with waist- to shoulder-high surf at the well-exposed spots. Those waves also hold into Monday before slowly fading through the middle of next week.

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

Today the water is:

63°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:38	0.9	2:02	-0.3	7:38	5.2	8:16	5.0
SUNDAY	3:15	0.3	3:29	-0.1	9:18	5.2	8:16	5.0
MONDAY	3:54	-0.2	3:57	0.3	0:01	5.0	10:07	5.7
TUESDAY	4:37	-0.5	4:26	0.7	10:47	4.6	10:38	5.9
WEDNESDAY	5:24	-0.7	4:56	1.3	11:39	4.1	11:13	5.9
THURSDAY	6:18	-0.6	5:28	1.8	12:42	3.5	11:54	5.7
FRIDAY	7:24	-0.5	6:05	2.3	N/A	N/A	2:09	3.1

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Environmental groups get some green

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's largest public foundation recently awarded \$375,000 to 16 groups doing groundbreaking work regarding environmental health and justice.

The groups are addressing critical issues, including working to mitigate toxic threats near schools and residential neighborhoods, creating ecologically-friendly mass transit, and eliminating the use of lead-based paint in low-income housing.

"Community groups are connecting the dots," said Torie Osborn, executive director of the Liberty Hill Foundation, which is responsible for the grants. "They're making the connections between poverty and pollution, between low wages, poor housing and environmental injustice."

The Liberty Hill Foundation has given more than \$1.9 million to environmental justice community organizations in Los Angeles County since 1996.

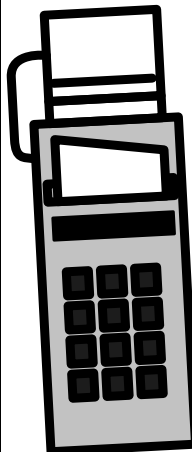
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LETTERS

Perturbed pedestrian missed opportunity

Editor:

As a fellow pedestrian in a town increasingly unfriendly to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, I read Susan Sheu's letter (SMDP, March 31, page 4) with interest. I share her pain — to a point. No one has ever hurled quite the same epithet at me from an open SUV window. Ms. Sheu, who was pushing a stroller at the time of the incident, missed a chance to graphically illustrate her opinion of the driver: Rather than call him a "sack of s--t," she might have hurled a freshly-soiled diaper through his "window of opportunity." May I suggest she keep one on hand for future encounters? For pedestrians whose lifestyles negate the diaper response, another possible reply to impatient drivers who flirt with vehicular manslaughter or who "vent" at someone who's merely crossing the street is an egg-sized rock and a slingshot. This option should only be exercised by the fleet of foot.

Ms. Sheu's unfortunate experience reflects a culture which glorifies aggressive, "in-your-face" behavior and markets overpriced, oversized "road warrior" vehicles to individuals for whom infantile, "the-world-revolves-around-me" action is the norm. Rude and reckless drivers are genuinely life-threatening manifestations of this, but there are others, merely annoying. With apologies to Ms. Sheu and other young moms, may I point to the use of their "sports utility prams" at the farmers' markets and in other crowds as battering rams? I await the appearance of the "Ben Hur" model with daggers attached to wheel spokes. And as a pedestrian who is also a motorist, I am occasionally amazed by how confident of their immortality my fellow pedestrians can be. I once sat motionless at the wheel in the western most block of Pico Boulevard while an elderly woman wearing headphones walked her dog down the middle of the street. Not wanting to risk giving the old dear a heart attack by honking at her, I simply waited for this parade to slowly pass.

The driver of the SUV Ms. Sheu encountered surely would've reacted differently. It would be well to say we all should be more conscious of one another (if only for our own safety), more willing to demonstrate courtesy, respect and patience, qualities which can be life-saving where large machines traveling at high rates of speed towards people on foot are concerned. But the odds of that happening are marginally less than that of our putative president suddenly going whole hog for solar energy. Ms. Sheu invites police enforcement of bad behavior on our streets while remarking that many of our local gendarmes are far from exemplary drivers themselves. However, when she looks to the city, she may find a solution there. The city's traffic planners have a genius for creating gridlock where none was before. Just look what a boon "one lane each way Santa Monica Boulevard" is! This may be the real answer to making our streets safe to walk: citywide gridlock. Where traffic barely budes, the odds of being run down by a speeder are slim to none.

Mark Humphrey
Santa Monica

Careless drivers press their luck

Editor:

I want to express my gratitude to Susan Sheu for the views she expressed in her letter published (SMDP, March 31, page 4). I, too, have noticed an abhorrent and growing lack of civility among drivers in our community. I've spent a great deal of time thinking about what motivates people to act in this way, and I can find no decent explanation.

Perhaps it has something to do with the affluence of so many in our community. But could it really be true that people with money believe they are entitled to act in ways that not only give them the right to violate rules of law and standards of decency but also to denigrate the value of others' lives? The optimist in me wants to believe that this is not true, but the evidence presented to my senses on a daily basis suggests otherwise.

Could it be that people who cut off pedestrians in crosswalks and who greet them with obscene gestures and rude language simply don't understand the vulnerability of pedestrians? Obviously, this cannot be true, for every one of us has been a pedestrian at one time or other. But what I see tells me otherwise.

Can it be that people who run red lights, ignore stop signs, fail to yield to pedestrians, and speed through residential neighborhoods are simply more important than those of us who obey the rules when we drive? Certainly, that is not true. But the behavior all around me suggests that many people must think their own business, personal needs and their own lives are more important than those of the rest of us.

How did it come to this? I just don't know. But I do have a solution. What we need to do is simple: We need to think about others. We need to put ourselves in the place of those with whom we come in contact. We need to realize that at any given moment, we might be either the perpetrator of senseless and selfish behavior or its victim. Please, think about this the next time you are speeding through a residential neighborhood with one hand on your cell phone and the other holding a drink. Think about this the next time you see a pedestrian with a baby stroller waiting to cross the street. If you're a public servant or law enforcement officer, think about this the next time you disobey the rules you are sworn to enforce. And think about this the next time you hear of a fatal accident that left a pedestrian dead. Are you sure you'll always be the lucky one?

David Leonard
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 sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

When in doubt, cut it out

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Should the words 'under God' be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

■ "The United States is certainly comprised of every tongue, tribe and nation. Everyone who is a citizen here enjoys the freedoms and liberties purchased with the blood of those who took a stand to ensure them. 'One nation, under God' reflects American culture and the historical underpinnings of how this nation was founded by brave men and women. There is no forcing of any religion with this statement. If certain people don't want to say 'under God,' or even say the Pledge of Allegiance they can just sit idly by. Even this is a practice purchased by the blood of Americans."

■ "I think they should be removed because they were not even added until after World War II, and then it wasn't written in stone. It might as well be deleted now."

■ "The words 'Under God' should not be removed. As a native Angeleno,

born to Mexican immigrants, reciting the Pledge throughout the years has invoked great patriotism. Since 1954, the Pledge has been said in its current form. Leave the time-honored Pledge alone. As citizens, we have the right to choose to say the Pledge or not. We can move to another country so we don't have to say it. To this day, the Pledge invokes great pride."

■ "Of course these words should be removed. They never should have been there. Young people don't remember that the original Pledge did not contain those words. It was about pledging allegiance to a country that has a Bill of Rights, not a country unified under one religion. This is the country I pledge my allegiance to."

■ "They should be removed from the Pledge for the simple fact that God doesn't exist."

■ "The Founding Fathers believed in God, most of the citizens believe in God and until the Muslims rule this country, the country should continue using 'Under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance."

■ "This country was founded under God, we all believe in God, one way or another, and there is nothing wrong with stating that each and every day."

■ "I am now 69 years old, in the better part of my life, and originally the words 'Under God' were not in the Pledge. It is not the way I remember it. I believe strongly in the separation of church and state. Even to this day, I have trouble saying the Pledge the way it is. It is not the Pledge I learned."

■ "I am for upholding the ruling and taking the words out. In my world, as opposed to some people's, God is big enough not to care if sleepy children say his name every day. I think God is more concerned with us showing tolerance to one another, not feeling the need to have these words in the Pledge that were not present for most of our history."

■ "Yes. Pascal, the distinguished philosopher, said it best when he said, 'Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.'"

■ "We got along for decades without 'under God' in the Pledge. It was put there

in the 1950's over some patriotic religious fervor, so it should be taken out. Anyone that believes God is an idiot, which means 95 percent of all people are idiots, which is close enough."

■ "They should leave the words in, even though I am an atheist. I think with Bush in the White House we need all the help we can get."

■ "I see no reason to pledge allegiance to any flag. Should we not pledge allegiance to each other? Should we not try to be compassionate and understanding without needing God to make this OK?"

■ "This nation was founded and preserved by men of faith. Our freedom comes from God, not men. All freedom comes from God."

■ "I object to the words 'under God' in the Pledge, based on the simple fact that it is everyone's right in this country to pledge to God in any way they see fit. I don't think the government has any right to determine how we appreciate or show our love to our own country. Plus, religion tends to separate people more than it seems to bring them all together. I used to be a Christian. Then they said I had to oppose homosexuality because God didn't approve. They said I couldn't see my family because they didn't follow the Bible. They said I lost my way. I feel pretty good about myself and I think God does too."

OPINION

The reports of my life can be greatly exaggerated



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

I'm not much of a do-it-yourself-er, but the latest trend has caught my attention: do-it-yourself obituaries. Carolyn Gilbert is the founder of the International Association of Obituarists. (Imagine how much fun those office parties must be). Ms. Gilbert says the number of self-written notices have been increasing lately, and she doesn't feel this trend will die off soon.

The Internet makes writing your own obituary simple. There are web sites that can help you, some of which have fill-in-the-blank forms. It's kind of like a computer dating form. In fact, some people can probably use some of the same phrases on both forms, like "loves to hang-glide," and "smokes too much."

Some people write their own obituaries because they want to make sure the facts are correct. Probably the most famous case of a mistaken obituary was that of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of both dynamite and the Nobel Prize. Alfred's brother died, but the newspaper mistakenly thought Alfred had passed away, and they printed his obit-

uary. In it, the paper described the inventor of TNT as the "Merchant of Death." After reading this, Alfred re-evaluated his life, and dedicated himself to rewarding people whose work would help humanity, not destroy it. He left millions of dollars to be given away with Nobel Prizes.

Some motivational types point to Nobel's story as a way for all of us to evaluate our lives and change them. They suggest that we write our obituaries now, read them, and then ask ourselves if this is really how we want to be remembered. It's a nice idea.

However, this assumes that people would be honest in what they write. Would Nobel really have written his obituary the same way the paper did? Would the evil tyrants of history have described themselves as "evil tyrants," or as "great leaders?" I don't think a ruthless, crooked businessman would write, "He made thievery and corruption an art form."

Why do we even care what people think about us after we're dead? I guess it's the same reason we don't like people talking about us behind our backs. We don't want them judging us when we can't defend ourselves. If someone lies about us after we're dead, we want to be able to shout out from the grave, "That's not true!"

So, some people would rather not leave their obituary to others. They want to tell their side of the story. This might result in

some very interesting obituaries that could contain things like:

"At least while you're reading this, could you wipe that smile off your face?"

"By the way, Eddie, I was bluffing. I only had a pair of deuces."

"Mr. Smith is survived by his devoted wife, three children, four grandchildren, and a conniving cousin who still owes him 10 bucks."

"It's true that I signed that living will, but I don't think a glass of water qualifies as an 'extraordinary or heroic measure.'"

As self-written obituaries become more

popular, I assume that self-written eulogies will, too. Having your own words spoken at your funeral could make for some interesting services. We're bound to hear things like, "I'd like to thank you all for coming to my funeral — although, I wish it were the other way around."

And if someone wants to shake things up at his or her funeral, they can always go with, "I'm not positive there was foul play, but doesn't that guy in the second row with the bad tie look a little suspicious to you?"

With all due respect to

Mr. Nobel and his explosive obituary, in general, I don't think self-written obituaries are going to end up being more accurate than those written by strangers. But they'll probably be more fun to read.

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

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Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday
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6:30, 8:00am, 12:10 and 6:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY - April 8th
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm
Altar of Repose until Midnight - Auditorium
Night Prayer at Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, April 9th
12:00 Noon - Stations of the Cross
1:00pm and 7:30pm Solemn Liturgy
Holy Communion and
Veneration of the Cross
7:30pm Solemn Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY, April 10th
Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30pm (no 5:30pm Mass)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 11th
6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 1:15pm in the Church

MASS IN THE GYMNASIUM
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am

MASS IN THE AUDITORIUM
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California reconsiders nation's only bio-pet ban

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California regulators voted this week to reconsider the nation's only ban on biotech household pets after one commissioner said he was lobbied by his wife, a household aquarium owner who wants to buy the outlawed fluorescent fish.

Fish and Game commissioners voted in December to prohibit sales or ownership of the trademarked GloFish. They refused to exempt the fish from a ban on genetically altered species intended to protect wild fish like endangered salmon from contamination or competition.

Since then, the federal government has declined to regulate sales of the common zebra fish that have been implanted with a fluorescent sea anemone gene. Natural zebra fish are black and silver, but the gene turns them red and makes them glow under fluorescent or black lights.

Commissioners voted 3-1 to seek an updated recommendation from the Department of Fish and Game on whether the fish are dangerous, and to hold public hearings before making a final decision.

Commissioner Jim Kellogg changed his mind after his wife, Lynn, "ripped me apart, because she's an aquarium fish owner and challenged me on why GloFish would be harmful to the state of California."

A new commissioner also cast a vote in favor of reconsidering the ban; commission chairman Michael Flores has consistently supported an exemption.

"It's legal in 49 states to own them as pets, so why not here?" Flores said. "The federal government is not stepping in. ...That ought to tell you something."

But new evidence since then could prompt state scientists to recommend against the GloFish, reversing their December conclusion that the warm water transgenic fish pose no problem largely because they couldn't survive if dumped into California waterways, said Ed Pert, the department's fisheries programs chief.

The Center for Technology Assessment and Center for Food Safety sued the federal government in January, alleging the benign fluorescing gene was inserted using other genes derived from animal and human viruses and as well as antibiotic-resistant bacteria. They want government regulation on the grounds the hidden genes might pose health risks if the biotech fish are released into natural waterways and consumed by other fish that eventually are eaten by humans.

Thursday's reconsideration was sought by Austin, Texas-based Yorktown Technologies, which owns the U.S. marketing rights, and by Florida's agriculture department. The fish are grown in Florida.

Settlement with motel owner seen as victory for all involved

MOTEL, from page 1

rooms for a minimum of eight hours at a time, buy security cameras, hire a patrol guard, install high-intensity lighting systems and clean up both properties, among many other conditions.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins also ordered nearly \$18,000 in fines, but said he would stay those indefinitely if Farzam cooperates. Kamins said lawyers on the case did a remarkable job by keeping Farzam from spending "a couple of years in county jail."

"Thank you very much, Mr. Farzam," he said, as Farzam's wife watched from the courtroom. "Hopefully, (you'll now have) only a good association with the court."

Richard Beada, Farzam's lawyer, said the motel owner felt the settlement was the best way to abate the matter for everyone involved. Last month, Farzam said he had wanted to fight City Hall, but couldn't afford the tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees it would likely cost.

The Santa Monica Police Department capped a year-long investigation into Farzam on July 30 of last year. Lt. Frank Fabrega said police fielded more than 150 calls over a span of 4 and 1/2 years related to the Holiday Motel at 1102 Pico Blvd. and the American Motel at 1243 Lincoln Blvd.

Farzam was arrested at the time for pimping and held in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

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STATE

Officials search for reasons for gas price spikes

BY ANNA OBERTHUR

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Lack of competition, a stagnant supply and too many cars on the road are contributing to the skyrocketing cost of motor vehicle fuel, Attorney General Bill Lockyer and energy officials told an Assembly committee Thursday.

"There aren't any easy solutions or we would have done it," Lockyer said.

California's gas prices are about 20 cents higher than the national average, and prices of more than \$2 a gallon have become the norm, said Assembly Transportation Committee chairwoman Jenny Oropeza.

San Diego has the highest gas prices in the country, at \$2.12 for a gallon of regular unleaded.

"I frankly cannot pretend that we will have any magic bullets to make thing better. Clearly there are factors beyond our control," said Oropeza, D-Carson, citing

the OPEC cutbacks announced Wednesday and burgeoning demand for petroleum products in China and India.

A lack of competition between oil companies is contributing to the price spike, Lockyer said.

"The fact is, robust competition reduces prices," Lockyer said. "When you don't have robust competition you lose those things. That's what has gone wrong."

Although he has investigated price fixing in the industry, Lockyer said he's never found evidence of unlawful conduct.

As the population of the state grows, its gasoline supply has become stressed, said California Energy Commissioner James Boyd.

The state needs to look at alternative fuel, increase the use of hybrid vehicles and look for ways to increase the fuel efficiency of its cars, Boyd said.

Another factor contributing to costly gasoline is California's cleaner burning

fuel requirements.

Reducing demand should be a cornerstone of the state's policy, said John White, executive director for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies.

"The bottom line is, for this summer we are going to have to do like we did during the energy crisis and make conservation and reducing demand something that we talk about everyday," White said. "People need to get the link between the price and the demand."

The state also needs to take an active role in encouraging people to buy more

fuel-efficient cars, White said.

And California should pursue a waiver of the federal government's requirement that gasoline contain an oxygenate like ethanol, a step that would reduce the cost of gasoline 3 cents a gallon, said Rob Oglesby, legislative director for the California Air Resources Board.

California officials have sought unsuccessfully for more than two years to get a waiver from the requirement, which is supposed to help reduce pollution. State officials argue that because of California's cleaner-burning fuel, the additives are unnecessary and costly.

State parks boosting fees, cutting seasonal lifeguards

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The annual fee to use California state parks is going up, officials announced Friday, even as the nation's largest park system trimmed the number of seasonal lifeguards for the third consecutive year.

Both developments are driven by the state's budget problems, the Department of Parks and Recreation said.

Currently, an annual parks pass is \$67. Starting April 15 they will cost \$110. The price will rise to \$115 May 1; to \$120 June 1; and reach their previously announced limit of \$125 on July 1.

Increases had been scheduled to kick in July 1; the earlier phase-in is needed to raise enough money to offset a \$15 million cut, the department said. Without it, the agency said, about 100 parks would have to close.

Former Gov. Gray Davis ordered fees cut in half four years ago when the state enjoyed a budget surplus. The fees are now returning to near-historic levels.

The department also warned there will be fewer lifeguards at state beaches, lakes and reservoirs this year, though drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in state parks. The cuts come as park attendance is increasing.

Last year, park lifeguards rescued a record 10,539 people, about 10 percent of all rescues reported to the U.S. Lifesaving Association from across the nation. Last year the department said there were two drownings in guarded water and 23 in unguarded areas; in 2002, there were no drownings in guarded water and 20 in unguarded areas.

The department urged bathers to use guarded areas where possible, and to take extra precautions when swimming on their own.

It called the decision to cut lifeguard services "an emotionally charged issue," but "there are no easy answers." Similar cuts were made during the economic and budget problems in the early 1990s, the department said.

Some 85 million people visit California parks annually, the most of any state.

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NATIONAL

Qwest executives claim being made scapegoats

BY JON SARCHÉ
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Attorneys for four former Qwest executives criticized the company and prosecutors in closing arguments Friday, saying the men were being sacrificed to protect higher-ups in a case as fragile as a house of cards.

Dan Sears, an attorney for former financial executive Grant Graham, said government prosecutors needed to find scapegoats to show they were fighting corporate misdeeds.

"These four gentlemen didn't bilk Qwest of millions of dollars," Sears said. "These were four dedicated gentlemen who were trying to make a transaction work. Call it misguided, call it exuberant, but don't call it criminal."

Graham, John Walker, Thomas Hall and Bryan Treadway are accused of improperly booking nearly \$34 million in revenue in 2001 as part of a \$100 million deal to link Arizona's public schools to the Internet. Prosecutors say they tried to book the revenue for equipment that wasn't purchased yet and then lied to auditors and regulators about it.

The trial is the first stemming from investigations that prompted former Qwest chief executive Joseph Nacchio to quit in 2002 and ultimately led the company to remove \$2.5 billion in revenue from its books.

Sears and Hall's attorney, Jeff Springer, both said the defendants were offered up as sacrifices by Qwest to protect the company and higher executives from prosecution. Sears also said revenue targets at the company were pushed to high levels by Nacchio.

"Who was driving this bus?" Sears asked.

Springer suggested the government's

case was "a house of cards" put together by overzealous prosecutors.

"Tom Hall did nothing wrong here and the evidence shows it," Springer said. "The only way it doesn't is if you twist and turn things."

On Thursday, Walker's attorney accused the FBI of mishandling the investigation by relying on a slipshod internal investigation of the deal by Qwest.

"What really is wrong with this case is that the finest investigative agency in the world, the FBI, was thrown completely off course by the content and character of these interviews (by Qwest investigators)," attorney Stephen Peters told the jury.

Prosecutors, however, say all four men should have known details about the detail when they approved it. Assistant U.S. Attorney William Taylor said documents were designed to fool corporate accountants, outside auditors and the FBI.

He also noted that a former company official said the Arizona deal had little or no effect on the defendants' bonuses.

"This case has spun completely out of any rational control," he said.

Springer argued Hall relied on Qwest attorneys and accountants whose work seemed to be legitimate.

"This deal stinks. I don't defend it and I haven't defended it for a second," Springer said. "But that is not an indictment of my client. The fact that he is somewhere in the vicinity of a bad deal doesn't make him guilty."

Each defendant faces 11 charges, including fraud and conspiracy, and could spend years in prison if convicted.

Graham was a senior vice president of financial planning and chief financial officer of Qwest's global business unit. Walker and Hall were both sales executives within the unit, and Treadway was a Qwest controller.

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Spring into the new season with some simple tips

WINNING WAYS with wallcoverings

Sometimes, a cover-up is just what's called for. New wallcoverings take a room where faux paint techniques just won't go, providing intricate, sophisticated designs and textures that would tax the skill of a master painter.

BY CJ JAEGER
Special to the Daily Press

It conceals, it reveals. Nothing hides wall imperfections, blemishes and unwanted décor as well as wallcovering. And nothing flatters a room with texture, color, and pattern in quite the same way, either.

Paint has ruled in popularity for the past few years. But there's a lot to love about the new style and ease of wallcoverings.

BEYOND THE LURE OF LATEX

Wallcoverings add warmth, detail and design in a way no other decorating medium can fully match. Picture a welcoming entryway arched with gold and auburn botanicals, an inviting sunroom patterned with pastoral toile, or an intimate living room accented with elegant, contemporary grass cloth. The inspiration for the latest coverings is limitless: British Colonial, Tuscan reds and yellows, the forests of New England, geometry, modernism, patriotism, batik.

Maybe you swore you'd never "paper" again. After all, there are many charming things you can do with a brush, a sponge and a few cans of paint. Go ahead, faux away. But if you want to try and create some of the season's hottest wall styles you're going to need a very steady hand. Nothing can truly match paper's depth of texture and color, or offer the same array of pattern.

ART IN A ROLL

"Painting is beautiful," says Debbie Carducci, interior designer and owner of Design Blenders in Worcester, Mass. "But wallcovering is just a little warmer and has more depth." It transforms the feel of a room, sets the tone, and, according to Carducci, "gives it another dimension." "Hallways and foyers," for example, "have a very welcoming feel when they are covered with something warm, such as a tone-on-tone textured damask or a big leafy botanical."

The hottest colors right now, according to Carducci, include olive greens, gold and rich,

beautiful browns. Tuscan colors are also popular in warm oranges, reds and shades of persimmon.

"We are seeing a resurgence of the traditional, patriotic and, I think because of the times we live in, the whimsical," says Betty Lydon of York Wallcoverings, in York, Penn. "Texture is also very, very popular." York has recently unveiled a line of coverings called "Special Effects," which use sand, glass, and beads to add dimension to the surface.

Wallcovering can be as subtle or dramatic as you choose. Traditionally, kitchens and bathrooms are the spaces we choose to cover wall to wall, even though they are generally the trickiest to paper. Master bedrooms, says Carducci, are most likely to get the dramatic, single wall of covering. This is beautiful in contrast with a complementary color painted on the remaining walls, and certainly draws attention to the area of the room you want all eyes on. It will bring the covered wall forward and make the other walls recede and seem further apart.

Don't be afraid to follow your decorating muse, however. A soft, subtle print covering the entire wall surface will transform a space, making it warm, quaint, and intimate. Or, use wallcovering to add a little drama. Cheryl McCracken of Cheryl McCracken Interiors in Foxboro, Mass., recalls the prettiest room she's seen in recent memory as having walls covered completely in deep red with enormous ferns.

In the appropriate space, a pattern or color you would normally dismiss comes alive and creates a striking visual balance with the subtle décor around it.

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

If you are decorating a small room, keep in mind that light colors on walls and ceilings, or wallcoverings featuring small patterns on light colors set against light-colored backgrounds, will make a room appear larger than it really is. The reflective surfaces of some of the new foiled or metallic-like wallcoverings also will expand the visual size of a small room.

Large rooms, on the other hand, can be cozier up and reduced in apparent size if they are decorated in rich, intense colors, using



wallcoverings and window treatments with large patterns featuring warm colors. Similar to putting carpeting on the floor, rough textured wallcovering — now widely available and wildly popular — also will help to fill big empty spaces and bring them to life. Many of the textured coverings are grass or cloth-like and envelope the room in a soothing, luxurious warmth.

And yes, even ceilings are fair game. Covering the ceilings with wallcovering will, as you can probably imagine, dramatically change the look and scale of a room. If you have a room with very high ceilings, for example, wallcoverings in deep shades, such as brown or rich red, will bring them down.

PERFECT WALLS NOT REQUIRED

Though traditional patterns are in style, wallcoverings of ancient legend — unwieldy, pasty paper beasts, difficult to apply and more difficult still to remove — have changed. Manufacturers are continually striving to make application and removal easier and to dispel paper's less-than-user-friendly reputation. Eisenhart Wallcoverings, in Hanover, Penn., for example, recently introduced a product called Paperez, with a "paint-the-wall" application

method. The pigmented paste goes on blue and dries clear, making it easy to see where you have — or, more important, haven't — applied it. Most new coverings also are resistant to tearing, stretching and shrinking. Cellulose-based application pastes and sealers make removal fairly easy.

When applied as a first layer, lining paper will smooth the wall surface and cover most imperfections, including minor damage, horsehair plaster — even old woodwork (think wainscoting) you don't want to spend the time or money to remove or refinish.

WHERE TO BEGIN

If you're ready to shop or just looking for some inspiration, you'll find that many of the large wallcovering manufacturers have helpful Web sites with tips, catalogs and even virtual rooms where you are able to see designs in action. It's a great place to get started. Among the leaders:

- York Wallcoverings: www.yorkwall.com
- Imperial Home Décor Group: www.ihdg.com
- Seabrook Wallcoverings: www.seabrook-wallcoverings.com
- F. Schumacher: www.fschumacher.com



Barbara Barry

close up:

Hollywood's glamour girl sports the common touch

Don't take decorating too seriously, says designer Barbara Barry. Anyone can achieve the spectacularly understated look that is her claim to fame, she says. It's all about editing.

BY MARY BETH KLATT
Special to the Daily Press

Designer Barbara Barry may make her home in Los Angeles, but she's constantly on the road working on projects worldwide. These days, she's even busier than usual. She's been putting the finishing touches on the Savoy Grill, a renowned eatery in London, England. While she's known for her

work with Baker Furniture, Barry is designing a new collection of products and upholstery for Henredon, the same company that manufactures Ralph Lauren products. She was leaving for Europe when she talked to HomeStyle about her latest endeavor.

What can you tell us about the line you're developing for Henredon?

Barbara Barry: It's more than a line really. Henredon is allowing me

a lifelong dream to become my own brand, and all that that means. So that means more than just of a line of furniture, because what I do is to make homes. I work with the home; my home is my muse, my center. We've touched all parts of the house from accessories to lighting and furnishings. This is allowing me to bring that vision and effort together in one place. This will be a chance to have more furniture,

lighting, accessories, a little artwork, potentially sheets, tabletop (china, crystal and silver) and all kinds of exciting things.

Will your new designs follow any particular style or feel?

Barry: I just bring my sensibility to whatever I do. I don't think in terms of a collection like Harrison or Safari. I just think how I want to continue to live. My look is defined as transitional — between contemporary and modern. It's warm; modern means everything goes together. It's not about one particular period. It's about forms that work well.



Barbara Barry

My look is more of a philosophy than a style.

I love colors in nature, a muted palette. For me, strong color is very activating, when I come home I really want calm. I love soft greens,

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celadon, all the taupes, silvers, ivory, hints of black and silver. I pretty much like to think in terms of paintings, since I come from a family of painters. There's something very emotional and evocative about paintings. For example, I'm in the bedroom right now, in front of a pale ivory desk, pale, sky-blue walls, white hyacinths somebody sent me for Valentine's day and white porcelain teacup green napkin, looking out the window at the greens outside. It's more of a feeling and mood than a thought process.

You're known for adding Hollywood glamour to your work. How can someone get the look without spending a lot of money?

Barry: Glamour is more of a quality and character instead of an exact style. It's not how much we have, it's about how we use what we have. Put simply it's about a teacup, white napkin, polished silver tray and fresh brewed tea or coffee. That little moment celebrates glamour. It's about how you edit things in a room, about the composition, keeping them fresh and clean. The composition that

we make, whether in our dresser drawer, closet even our refrigerator, is artfully arranged in a way that brings back glamour.

Even the refrigerator?

Barry: I just came back from New York. I stayed at my girlfriend's apartment, which is really gorgeous, very minimal. I took one look in her refrigerator, and told her, "Just give me five minutes." She had eggs and almonds in a package. I took eggs out of ugly carton, put them in a bowl, the almonds in a glass cup. I even put milk in a glass pitcher. I like groupings. You opened the refrigerator up and it looked like a painting. I've always said if I didn't make it as a decorator, I could do windows.

Do you have a signature style?

Barry: My signature style is a sensuality, corrected by geometry. In other words, masculine and feminine. If it's beautiful, the furniture says come and sit in me. I try to make forms that fit well with the body. The geometry is that they're well thought through. They

look good from different angles with nice tapered legs and simple veneer, not overly decorated.

Why do people hire you?

Barry: What they need help with is access to good design and how things go together. It's more of an emotional response; people see something that resonates with them. I had a couple come up to me and say, "We couldn't agree on a bed until we saw yours." I think she wanted something feminine; he, masculine. My style is accessible; it's not too serious.

Tell us about your own home.

Barry: It's my own good hotel, since I spend so much time traveling. It's a small house in the Hollywood Hills, built in 1947 designed by architect Paul Williams. It's very traditional in sense of scale, with a simple plan and colors: coffee, chocolate brown, celadon, greens and white. I've got a small garden in the back, a mishmash collection of furniture, a few modern pieces, a lot of vin-

tage, including an 18th century Italian armoire and a sofa I designed and an old chair. They all work together. My home feels very gracious.

What questions do you ask your clients to better understand their lifestyle and needs?

Barry: What are your favorite hotels? What do you want to feel on the floor when you get out of bed in the morning? It is a stone floor or carpeting? Your favorite car? Movie? Fantasy vacation?

How do you keep up with what's hot in decorating?

Barry: That's a question I'm frequently asked, but I work in a sort of a bubble of my own appreciation, I don't follow what's going on. I'm never oblivious, because my gift as a designer is my ability to see. I travel to Bangkok and Singapore, so I'm always looking, always aware. For example, I hated blues all my life, but now I'm getting into blues. It's kind of like a composer who's into classical and finally going atonal.

Barbara Barry's breathtaking designs bear equally breathtaking prices: an armoire for \$10,8500, a sofa for \$5,631, a sleigh bed for – well, you get the picture. It's possible to work a bit of the Barry attitude into your environment for a lot less, though.

HOW YOU CAN LIVE LIKE BARBARA BARRY

Here are easy ideas from the designer on how to enrich your environment, and keep it feeling fresh and alive:

* Move the sofa from one side of the room to another

* Eat in different rooms, especially as seasons change. Take a smaller table, put it in your living window.

* Swap your pillows. Take the velvet ones, put them in a closet, and put out linen versions.

* Change your lampshades if the shapes look dated.

* Clean out your closet.

* Paint a room. Just changing the background color can be so enlivening. You don't have to change everything. Just pushing around furniture can make a difference.

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TRY THESE BRIGHT IDEAS

Pick a shade and go for it. A quart of Raspberry Jazz interior latex certainly won't save the world but it may be just the ticket to refresh your home and lift your spirits. Try these bright ideas.

BY CHUCK ROSS
Special to the Daily Press

Using the praises of paint. Cave-dwelling ancestor who first mashed berry and root to match that season's new shade of mauve, I bow to you! As a homeowner drawn to residences with "potential," I have long understood paint's transformative powers.

During those times when I've felt the wind whistling through the gaps around 90-year-old windows and waited in vain for hot water to flow from clogged, galvanized steel shower pipes, I've turned to paint to regain a semblance of control.

Rolling on that first broad stroke of color never fails to invest me with a new spirit of confidence and capability. (OK, there was that debacle with "raspberry sorbet," but it was easily made right with a quick trip back to the paint store).

"Interior painting is the No. 1 do-it-yourself job," says Debbie

Zimmer, resident paint expert at the Rohm & Haas Paint Quality Institute, Spring House, Penn. "Paint can absolutely transform a living space. It can make the space appear larger or smaller, it can warm a room up and completely change the feeling a homeowner gets."

For example, she notes, warm yellows and reds in a north facing room can help remove some of winter's cold bite. Similarly, cool blues and greens can help create a relaxing respite in south-facing rooms in the summer.

But the sheer range of options paint offers can be overwhelming. Today, when just selecting a shade of white can help remove some of winter's cold bite. Similarly, cool blues and greens can help create a relaxing respite in south-facing rooms in the summer.

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swatches is a well-established process for helping your final decision making. However, Richardson suggests using a couple of poster boards instead of your wall when testing colors in your room. You can move the boards around your room, place them perpendicular to each other on inside corners and rest them above baseboard or next to other trim, to be truly sure the color is right for your room and furnishings.

Today, many homeowners aren't stopping with just one color. In addition to the common strategy of using white to highlight floor or ceiling trim, some are picking complementary or contrasting shades to add some extra visual punch.

Richardson recommends a color wheel, available at most craft stores, as the first resource for someone considering a two-color design. This tool can help you determine what color pairing is best for your space, whether it matches different shades of the same basic hue (a "monochromatic approach,") or brings together shades from opposite sides of the wheel in a "complementary" alternative.

"Most of the time, it's best to use color schemes that suit what you want to accomplish in that space," Richardson says. "Let's say it's a den, and you want it to be calm — use a monochromatic approach." She suggests a complementary scheme for an active kitchen. Just about any complementary combo will play warm colors off cool ones, creating a lively, engaging environment.

Of course, your choices don't end with color selection. Your favorite hue, or something close to it, may well be available at a range of price points, and it may be tempting to save a few dollars on a less-expensive version.

Understand, though, that cheaper paint may result in more work in the end, because lower-quality ingredients can affect coverage and durability.

"In a can of paint, you truly get what you pay for," Zimmer says. "A quality paint is going to give you better application properties and it's going to give you a smooth, even finish. By paying a few more dollars, you're going to get a better paint"

Paint is composed of four basic ingredients, Zimmer says, including binders, additives, a carrier (either water or solvent) and pigment. Binders — the best being 100 percent acrylic —



have the biggest impact on durability, she says. Additives can include things like "mildewcide," which retards mildew growth both in the can and on the wall, and rheology modifiers, which help paint flow evenly when brushed or rolled.

Regardless of ingredient quality, however, Zimmer suggests that claims of single-coat coverage may not hold true for every homeowner's project. Such assertions assume walls are well primed with a color that won't compete with the top coat's hue. Painting beige over deep red, for example, may well require a second trip around the room with brush and roller. And the

hard-to-blend nature of some pigments, such as those used to create yellows and reds, makes covering walls adequately with a single coat especially difficult, she says.

But don't be put off by the need to make one more round. The second coat generally goes on more quickly than the first application, and the difference in the finished product will more than compensate for the added labor. Even with a single-coat product, a second coat brings added depth for a professional appearance that will help you look past your own leaky windows and prehistoric plumbing.

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Spring Fling

Quick ideas to lighten and brighten your home in a snap, leaving winter behind and setting the scene for warmer days ahead.

By CJ JAEGER

Special to the Daily Press

Ah, spring! The beauty of budding trees, the smell of rain, longer, brighter days. And always, the sudden realization that we've been stuck inside looking at the same walls, the same clutter, and the same dingy corners since Halloween.

It's no wonder spring often prompts us to eagerly throw open windows, clean and organize, in an attempt to move forward and celebrate the new, the clean, the bright.

While a desire for renewal is healthy, it's not always practical to spend a lot of time or money refurbishing or remodeling.



Fear not. There are a few simple, inexpensive solutions to keep alive your new-found fervor.

ADD AND SUBTRACT

A generous budget will no doubt allow for some radical changes, like remodeling, appliance replacement, new floors or window treatments. But even a modest budget will allow for a significant home refresh and help to brighten a dim corner, replace worn everyday items, or introduce a novel addition or two.

Begin by giving your space a long, critical look with the idea of adding and subtracting. Is there something blocking a good view from a window? Tired of that worn and stained rug in the hallway? The bare wall staring at you in the living room? Do you really have any hope of reviving your dead ficus? Funny how we train our eyes to look past the clutter, the worn, the dull and out-

dated. This is the perfect time to assess likes, dislikes and needs. To ditch, organize and add a few elements of style.

To begin, make a list from room to room beginning with the big stuff: walls, ceilings, floors and windows. Assess need with means in mind, making two lists: "do now" and "do later." There's no sense considering re-covering your bathroom walls if you have neither the time nor the money to do it this month. But, maybe a fresh coat of bright paint on the ceiling, uncovered walls and doors, new window coverings, or an attractive area rug would do the trick, and help to compensate for that wall-covering you've disliked for years.

IF THEY COULD SPEAK...

It doesn't matter what you put in the room, new furniture, exciting artwork — the walls must look good for the rest of the room to shine. If paint is old or coverings need updating, maybe



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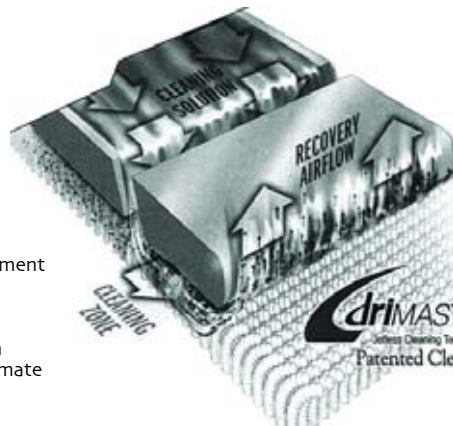
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it's time to consider a complete overhaul. But for a quick, inexpensive refresh, consider touching up nicks, marks and other wall and blemishes first. Small holes in painted walls can be patched up easily with a small amount of patching compound and a putty knife. When the compound is dry, simply sand it and retouch with paint. A fresh coat of paint on banisters, doors and window ledges provides an immediate refresh to "touchpoints," where hands leave soil marks over time. Use paint to repair unwashable black marks and other spots on painted walls, as well.

Don't want to commit to paper or paint? Sass up your space with a classic look from the '70s. Classic Unikko poppies from Marimekko come in peel-and-stick panels and brighten any room, anywhere.

UNDER FOOT

It's tough to overlook carpet stains: they make a clean room look dirty and detract from the beauty of the floor covering. But sometimes it's even tougher to remove them. Professional cleaning is an option, but if you decide to do it yourself refer to your manufacturer's suggested method or look online for helpful stain treatment resources; www.fabriclink.com is a great example.

A new area rug will brighten and pull together the look of any room instantly. It's also a perfect solution for covering worn flooring. Take advantage of spring sales when last season's hottest sellers are sold at a discount and there's an opportunity to preview new products, as well.

Are you ready to replace worn linoleum or vinyl flooring? Spring is the ideal time for this task because open windows and cool breezes provide superb ventilation while using adhesives and solvents. Vinyl flooring is available in sheet or tile form and you can usually cover old vinyl or linoleum flooring rather than remove it. Large suppliers are an excellent resource for buying and online installation guides provide a good starting point for the do-it-yourselfer.

Consider covering worn flooring with new, modular flooring: surprisingly inexpensive, attractive and traffic-friendly. Available from InterfaceFLOR, the interchangeable, high-style tiles are designed for any room of the house — even the kitchen.

IN A NEW LIGHT

Whether artificial or natural, lighting really makes a difference, setting the mood for a room or making it more functional. While most rooms serve multiple purposes, consider the pri-



mary use: productive, relaxing, social, festive?

You can make a change in the lighting by merely switching bulbs: halogen for brighter light, incandescent pastel or "soft"

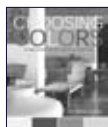
bulbs for dim light. Maybe it's time to replace a few outdated fixtures, add lights under workspace counters, update shades, or to just reconsider and rearrange to maximize or highlight a room's best feature.

A FRESH START

There's a reason why whites go on sale every spring. From sun and sand, to holiday guests, your sheets, towels, and even blankets have worked hard all year and are probably ready for retirement. Nothing makes a bathroom or bedroom feel fresh and clean like new linens. It's also a great way to add style and color, and pull the look of a room together without much expense.

An appliquéd quilt in the bright colors of the season will refresh any bedroom and still keep you warm on cool spring evenings.

New books for homeowners: Authors offer fresh ways to see four walls, a floor and a ceiling



Choosing Colors: An Expert Choice of the Best Colors to Use in Your Home
by Kevin McCloud
(Watson-Guip Publications, 2004) \$35



Mary Emmerling's Romantic Country: Style That's Straight from the Heart
by Mary Emmerling
(Clarkson Potter, 2004) \$30

Trading Spaces 48-Hour Makeovers: Get a New Look in a Weekend!
by Brian Kramer
(Trading Spaces, 2004) \$19.95



Popular Mechanics Complete Home How-To
by Albert Jackson and David Day
(Hearst Books, 2004) \$24.95

The Flooring Handbook: The Complete Guide to Choosing and Installing Floors
by Dennis Jeffries
(Firefly Books, 2004) \$24.95



The Life Laundry: How to De-Junk Your Life
by Dawna Walter, Mark Franks
(BBC Worldwide, 2004) \$13.95

Home by Design: Transforming Your House Into Home
by Sarah Susanka
(Taunton Press, 2004) \$35

Storage Solutions
by Taunton Press
(Taunton Press, 2004) \$14.95

Best Buys for Your Home 2004
by Editors of Consumer Reports
(Consumer Reports, 2004) \$9.99



Annie Sloan's Painted Kitchen: Paint Effect Transformations for Walls, Cupboards, and Furniture
by Annie Sloan
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It's Time to Come Clean

Soap, bucket and elbow grease can take you only so far. To clean a home — and keep it that way — calls for dirt-fighting furnishings and a room-by-room war on clutter.

BY BEV BENNETT
Special to the Daily Press

The acrid smell of vinegar churns up unlikely memories of springs past, when I was given rags and bottles of vinegar and enlisted in my mother's battle against germs and grime.

I take a pass on the vinegar these days, but a thorough cleaning is still an annual rite in my household, as it is in many.

Ridding your home of its film of dust and eliminating sources of bacterial contamination doesn't have to be as odious — or odiferous — a task as it once was. The key is to become more efficient. Streamline your rooms to avoid clutter build-up in the first place, and take advantage of products that keep your house tidy.

If that sounds as if it's easier said than done, here's a room-by-room strategy. Follow these steps this year and you may have your weekends free next spring.

LIVING ROOM

The hermetically sealed living room of the '50s certainly was miss-named considering that no one was allowed to step foot into the space. Thankfully, those days are gone. These days, though, the living room is more likely home to guilty piles of newspapers, clothing and toys.

Purchase furniture and accessories that double as storage space to hold things. For example, buy an ottoman or bench that opens to a storage compartment for afghans or heavy socks. Arrange baskets under the coffee table to stash magazines. Either discard older publications or store them in upright Lucite organizers in your home office.

Install blinds or washable cotton curtains instead. Slipcovers are an attractive cover-up for upholstered sofas. Buy loose-fitting slipcovers and zippered pillow covers that can be tossed in the washing machine. To vary the look with the seasons, buy both a winter and summer set



of slipcovers and pillow covers. Instead of wool, use a natural fiber rug available in lifestyle stores. Clean with a hose and air dry outdoors.

Although it's expensive and so luxurious, leather is easier to care for than many fabrics. Spills wipe up quickly on a leather surface and are less likely to stain than they are with chenille or linen.

Be stingy with your collectibles. Put at least half in storage boxes in the attic. You'll cut down on dusting and your room will look more spacious.

Arrange your possessions to keep them clean. Don't put the glass coffee table near the room entrance where it can be a dumping spot. Place a basket there instead.

KITCHEN

"Lurking under the sink" sounds like the title of a horror movie, and it may be your personal nightmare. You're risking a combustible or toxic mess if you shove cleaning supplies, flammable lighting fluid for the grill and recyclable paper bags into the cupboard.

For a household with young children, remove all products to a high shelf. Discard any bottle that's a quarter-full or less, or any product that hasn't proven effective to give yourself more space.

Install roll-out shelves so you can see what you've got. Place a hanging wire basket on the cupboard door to hold recyclable grocery bags.

Unstuff your cupboards. You'll have less clutter and reduce the chance of glasses or pots toppling out. Strip down your cookware to those items you regularly use and organize for efficiency.

"Place cupboards close to the dishwasher. Keep only enough table settings for two days. The rest of the dishes should go into a resealable bag so you have clean tableware for company," says Aronson, whose family, including three children, lives in Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Grease, scuff marks and splatters from spills make kitchen walls grungy. Get a big sponge and wash down with a mild liquid soap cleanser.

If you're redecorating and deciding between wallpaper and paint, the latter is easier to keep clean. Choose latex-based paint in a semi-gloss finish.

You have more options for floors. Hardwood, tile and stone surfaces require the most effort. Concrete, though definitely not stylish, is a snap to maintain, according to Aronson.



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NATIONAL



Wildfire grows, officials place hopes on cooler weather

BY CATHERINE TSAI
Associated Press Writer

LAPORTE, Colo. — A wildfire that has burned a home and forced dozens of people to flee the northern Colorado foothills grew to 6,000 acres early Friday, despite cooler temperatures and higher humidity.

More than 200 firefighters worked through the night trying to contain the blaze, which began Tuesday when a yard fire got out of control about 70 miles northwest of Denver.

The fire was 15 percent contained by Friday, but officials were not relieved. An evacuation warning was issued for 140 homes in two subdivisions and the hamlet of Livermore, on the fire's northern edge, was placed on alert.

Frank Auer, 55, and one of his dogs stood at the entrance to the Bonner Peak subdivision in chilly weather, watching the smoke. He said he was optimistic that the flames spared his \$300,000 home and plot — a place he's lived full-time for only a few days.

"A week after I decide to move here and this happens," he said. "I'm just eager to get back up there."

On Thursday, firefighting efforts were hampered by gray smoke, which billowed thousands of feet into the sky and grounded air tankers. Sheriff Jim Alderden said he saw 100-foot flames as the fire raced through heavy timber.

Andy Martinez and his family were awakened before dawn by a warning call from authorities. Five hours later, they left, bringing a few possessions and the dog. Left behind were a horse and two cats.

"As long as we had our kids, that's all that mattered," said Martinez, 38. "It's kind of surreal. You wish it wasn't happening to you."

Shelters were set up at a church and junior high school for evacuees, who were asked to leave a towel on the door knob to show their home was empty. Firefighting costs reached at least \$220,000. The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved federal aid to help fight the fire.

Jo Ann Grant and her husband, John, were still in their home, fielding calls from their worried son in New York.

"We're in an underground home with 10-inch concrete walls and an earth-sheltered roof," she said. "We've taken all our valuables and have them in one of those trucks at the front of the ranch. So the only thing we have to grab is our dog."

Colorado, like much of the West, remains stuck in a

drought with little sign of relief. In central Arizona, officials hoped to have full containment of a 3,000-acre wildfire by Friday. The fire was not threatening any homes. A 5,700-acre fire southwest of Phoenix was about half contained.

In Colorado, Judy Schalles, said she and her husband, Bud, built their home in the foothills 21 years ago. She said the couple knows fire is a perennial danger and they even keep a box of key paperwork near the door in case they have to leave in a hurry.

This evacuation was their first. The couple packed

possessions into a car, truck and trailer — checkbook and bills "because those won't wait," she said — and headed away from the flames.

"We've lived here all these years, maybe it's a wake-up call," Schalles said as she watched the smoke near her yellow Labrador retriever, Jake. "What's really important? Nothing but your life and pets."

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Israeli police, Muslim worshippers clash

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Hundreds of Israeli police in riot gear stormed a disputed holy site Friday, firing tear gas, stun grenades and plastic bullets to disperse Muslim worshippers throwing stones and shoes at them.

After the initial clashes, thousands of Palestinians barricaded themselves in two mosques in the walled compound for about two hours, before police agreed to let them leave without threat of arrest.

More than 20 Palestinians were hurt and at least nine arrested in the most violent confrontations at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in September 2000.

Hours earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in published interviews that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Lebanese guerrilla chief Hassan Nasrallah could become targets for assassination. Sharon's threats were the most explicit yet against his arch foes.

Sharon said he would withdraw from all of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank settlements of Ganim, Kadim, Homesh and Sanur, for the first time revealing the scope of his unilateral "disengagement" plan. His spokesman confirmed the remarks. Sharon also said the withdrawal would be under way within a year.

Sharon's interviews with the Maariv, Yediot Ahronot and Haaretz dailies, given ahead of next week's Passover holiday, were seen as the opening of his campaign for the withdrawal plan.

Unflagging support for new NATO allies

By The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Soldiers from seven Eastern European countries raised their national flags outside NATO headquarters Friday in a ceremony marking the biggest expansion of the alliance in its 55-year history.

Foreign ministers from Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia joined their colleagues from the other 19 allies as a NATO honor guard played the newcomers' national anthems.

"From now on, 26 allies will be joined in a commitment to defend each other's security and territorial integrity," said NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. "This is the strongest, most solemn commitment nations can undertake."

NATO's expansion will be followed in a month by the European Union's absorption of 10 new members — twin moves seen as representing an end to decades of Cold War division in Europe.

Kidnapped girl rescued and returned

By The Associated Press

MERCER ISLAND, Wash. — A 9-year-old girl who was snatched from a school bus stop was rescued about six hours later following a high-speed chase, and a man was taken into custody, police said.

The child was reunited with her family late Thursday night, Mercer Island Police spokeswoman Jennifer Franklin said.

The girl was grabbed in an upscale Seattle suburb after she returned from school Thursday afternoon. About an hour and a half later, her father got a phone call asking for a ransom. He called police.

A ransom drop-off was arranged at a mall in the suburb of Bellevue, where law enforcement agents were waiting. They followed the abductor's Ford Explorer to Seattle, and eventually realized the girl was in the vehicle.

The Ford Explorer then sped off, leading police on a half-hour chase across Lake Washington and north on Interstate 405 to Monroe, where the chase ended.

Authorities did not identify the man who was arrested.

FBI spokeswoman Robbie Burroughs said the ransom money was recovered.

Officials forge ahead on transit bill

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers lined up behind a widely popular \$275 billion bill to finance highway and transit projects, in direct challenge to the White House, which says the legislation would swell the deficit and deserves to be vetoed.

"Failure to address our transportation needs will leave our country behind," said Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, who has confronted the administration veto threat by saying the House bill, rather than being too costly, doesn't go far enough in meeting the nation's infrastructure needs.

The House is to vote on the legislation Friday, setting up negotiations with the Senate, which in February approved a larger, \$318 billion bill for the next six years. The administration said that bill too would be subject to what could be the first veto of President Bush's presidency.

While some fiscal conservatives sided with the administration on the need to rein in spending, the legislation enjoyed popular support among lawmakers eager to reduce congestion and improve safety on their local roads and bring home construction jobs.

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Obituaries

NASHNER-LOIS ODLE, age 84, died on January 14 in Portland, Oregon. She was born in Pittsburgh on March 4, 1919. She received a B.A. in Music from Carnegie Mellon University when she was 19. Her husband Sydney Nashner died in 1955, and she raised her three children Marjorie, Lewis, and Robert. At the age of 50 she earned a Master's degree in Public Administration at UCLA and worked as a Human Relations Management Consultant. She was an accomplished concert pianist and performed at

Obituaries

chamber music and other recitals in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, where she lived for 30 years with her partner Karl Kreuter. She leaves her three children, her sisters Sylvia Lilley and Jeanne Perlman, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Virgin territory: Branson looks to trump competitors

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — As Donald Trump basks in the popularity of his NBC reality show, "The Apprentice," the Fox network has announced that Virgin Group's Richard Branson will be leading a group of young entrepreneurs on a global journey.

"Branson's Big Adventure," the working title of the show, will air later this year, Fox Broadcasting Co. said Thursday.

The show will feature "a select group of America's best and brightest," who will fly to international destinations and relive some of Branson's personal experiences. Each week, one candidate will be left on the tarmac as the rest of the group jets off to the next adventure.

Mike Darnell, executive vice president of specials and alternative programming for the network, said in a statement, "It's not about business acumen; for Branson, it's about finding that one extraordinary individual who has the right stuff to follow in his footsteps."

"This isn't about selling a glass of lemonade."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Matthew Lillard compares reprising his role as Shaggy in the new "Scooby-Do" film to running a marathon.

"It was definitely easier because I knew I could handle the process," Lillard told reporters recently, according to AP Radio. "It's like training for a marathon. You run a marathon once, and then going back to run it again, you know what to expect."

Lillard and his castmates teamed up for "Scooby-

Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed," the sequel to 2002's "Scooby-Do."

"I watched a lot of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin (films) before working on the project," he said. "We felt like the physical comedy of Shaggy worked real well the first time around, so the second time around we really tried to build some of those feats in even more so."

■ **NEW YORK** — A large-scale waterlilies oil by Claude Monet from the collection of producer Ray Stark will be auctioned in May.

"Le Bassin aux Nymphéas" is one of many Impressionist and modern works in the collection to be auctioned at Sotheby's on May 6, the auction house said. It is expected to fetch \$9 million to \$12 million.

Other paintings from the collection include works by Georges Braque, Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore and Fernand Leger.

■ **SEATTLE** — British author Ian McEwan nearly missed giving a lecture after U.S. immigration officers at the Vancouver, British Columbia, airport refused to let him board a flight to the United States.

McEwan, winner of the prestigious Booker Prize, was on his way to a West Coast lecture tour Tuesday morning when he failed to get through the U.S. immigration checkpoint.

After much diplomatic discussion over his visa status, McEwan got approval to board a flight at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. He arrived in Seattle an hour and 25 min-

utes before lecture was to begin.

"It was like a bad dream for a bit there," he said from Portland, Ore., shortly before giving another lecture Thursday. "But far worse things happen to travelers and it ended very well, so I think it will fade into a traveler's tale."

The problem, according to spokesman Jim Michie of U.S. Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection in Bethesda, Md., was that McEwan told inspectors he planned to give lectures for pay but he lacked the proper B-1 visa for business visitors.

McEwan said he believes he was caught in a "turf war" between Homeland Security and the State Department. He said the people untangling the situation told him the State Department wanted to permit him to enter but the Homeland Security Department did not.

■ **PITTSBURGH** — Ellsworth Brown, president of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, has resigned.

Brown, who began working for both organizations in 1993, said Thursday he's leaving to pursue other interests.

"As Carnegie Museums embarks on an institutional planning process that will set its course for the next decade and beyond, I believe it's time for a new leader to see this great institution through its next period of change and growth," he said in a statement. "It is also time for me to realize new challenges, which is always important to me."

Suzi Broadhurst, chairwoman of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees, will serve as interim president.

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