



Santa Monica Daily Press

April 8-9, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 126

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

11 27 34 39 43
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$48 Million

FANTASY 5

1 2 4 14 17

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 4 9
Evening: 4 9 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:42:30
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

In March, students at Mount Saint Vincent University in Bedford, Nova Scotia, persuaded the administration to prohibit professors from using any plagiarism-detecting aid, to avoid (said the student union president) a "culture of mistrust."

Students at Banja Luka University in Bosnia-Herzegovina protested in February the economics faculty's decision to install surveillance cameras during exams. "Cheating in exams," said one student, "is a part of our Balkan mentality, and it will take years to change students' (attitudes)."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 98th day of 2006.
There are 267 days left in the year.

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record. The round-tripper was off pitcher Al Downing.

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By leaps and hounds



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Antonio Martinez Garcia leads Louie, a French bulldog, through an obstacle course at Lincoln Middle School on Friday, as part of graduation ceremonies for K9 Connection Class #7. The K9 Connection is a project bringing together dogs and at-risk teens, encouraging the youths to apply lessons learned in training homeless sheltered dogs to their own lives.

City councilman's new gig helps bring it all together

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

Councilman Richard Bloom's worlds are about to collide — and he couldn't be happier.

As an attorney practicing family law, Bloom enjoys the interaction he has with his clients, as well as the ability to help resolve complex and often highly emotional conflicts within families that may have otherwise caused them to disintegrate if left untreated.

As a representative of Friends of Sunset Park and as a member of the Santa Monica City Council,

Bloom has been able to solve conflicts on a much larger scale, and in turn make the lives of the community better, much like he has done with his private practice.



RICHARD BLOOM

With his new job as executive director of the Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center, the 52-year-old Bloom now has the opportunity to practice law,

See BLOOM, page 12

Parents wait for healing to begin

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS. — Both black and Latino parents on Thursday expressed their continued frustration with school officials, who they feel have not adequately addressed institutionalized racism, leading to poor academic performance and youth violence.

In response, the Santa Monica-Malibu School Board instructed district staff to identify dates suitable for holding community forums to address the issue at length and in detail.

"We need to keep this dialogue going throughout the year ... and keep our kids from self-destructing on our streets," said school board member Oscar de la Torre. "We need to be proactive instead of reactive."

Members of the Unity Coalition — a group of minority parents, students and concerned residents — pointed to an increase in racial tension at Santa Monica High

School. Safety plans also show that more students at Samohi and others schools have been disciplined for fighting and drug possession in the last year. Coalition members use those increases as evidence that core problems have not been addressed.

While standardized test scores are up, coalition members drew attention to data showing more students of color are earning less than a 2.0 grade point average, which has raised many questions for parents and board members.

In spring of 2005, the coalition presented the board with a "Ten Point Plan for Student Success" to address the root causes of poor performance and youth violence among students of color. The plan was in response to a brawl that broke out between several African-American and Latino students, which the coalition said was caused by conditions on campus, such as overcrowding and a lack of

See SCHOOL RACISM, page 12

Raging for cajun



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Members of RatzClique, a fife-and-drum corps from Basel, Switzerland, raise awareness along the Third Street Promenade for this weekend's Carnaval UCLA, a world tribute to New Orleans.



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HOROSCOPES

Easy does it, Aquarius

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)

★★★★★ Others might not breeze through a problem as quickly as you, causing frustration. Adjust your plans to those in your life. Not everyone can keep up with the Ram's fast pace. Schedule a fun, relaxing barbecue or early get-together. Tonight: Unwind.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ The Bull needs to anchor in to get ahead. Taking an aggressive or assertive approach could easily backfire when you least expect it. Nurture, but also use charm. The combination is a sure winner. Tonight: Add in a flirtatious element.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You come off much more fiery than you realize, causing yourself a problem. Listen to feedback, especially if you want to get along with others. Add more fire and steam to your life. Listen to someone's frustration. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Being the sensitive Crab, someone's strong reaction might hurt your feelings. However, you could have provoked a change in attitude without realizing it. Start up talks, and you will feel better. Tonight: Easy does it.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might not realize that you are pushing someone as hard as you are. You will find out when you see his or her reaction up close and personal. Though he or she might be going to an extreme, there certainly is a problem. Tonight: Beam in what you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Sometimes you need to rethink a situation. What happens this morning should spell this out for you. You might find that intrigue surrounds a difficult situation. Step out of the shenanigans and look toward better results. Tonight: Happy as can be.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Plans will change rapidly, and you could be sorry if you get stuck in the same type of thinking. Loosen up and work with obstacles instead of trying to fight them. You will be happier as a result. Plan on taking some personal time. Tonight: Mystery adds to your image.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A problem could get the best of you if you allow it to. Take your time handling others and problems. You might regret a speedy or inappropriate reaction. The later the day gets, the better your choices will be. Tonight: Nap and then out.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Though you think you see the high road, you have difficulty understanding what works for you as well as others. A push-pull situation could be most unproductive and uncomfortable. Listen more fully. Tonight: Out late.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You could feel that someone is running over your boundaries. He or she is! Learning to calmly establish your limits takes talent. Late today, you might be better able to understand a partner, as difficult as he or she might be. Tonight: Relax your overactive mind.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You would be well advised not to get into a problem and simply relax. You could wonder about what works for you in the middle of this uproar. You might want to let others figure everything out. Tonight: Easy does it.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could wonder what needs to happen in order to help others relax. You also might need to help yourself relax here, as pressure is enormous. You could easily be fired up and upset. Solutions will come forward if you relax. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Samohi student goes where Eagles dare

By Daily Press staff

Adam Goodly was recognized in March for becoming an Eagle Scout, one of the highest ranks achievable within Boy Scouts of America.

Goodly, a Santa Monica High School senior, improved the play yard at First United Methodist Church in order to earn his Eagle Scout. He dismantled the play yard equipment and used part of its wood to design and build planters that border the new playground.

Goodly is the first member of his family to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. According to Boy Scouts of America, only one in four young men will join the Scouts. Of the 100 youth who become Scouts, 30 drop out in the first year. However, nearly half of those 100 Scouts will serve in the military and profit from their training. At least one will use their training to save another person's life.

Only two of those 100 Scouts will earn the rank of Eagle.

Principal becomes official at Cabrillo

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has announced that Barry Yates has been named principal at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School.

The district's board of education approved Yates' appointment in March.

Yates has served as interim principal at Cabrillo since January. Prior to his appointment, he held the position of assistant principal at Franklin Elementary.

"We are very pleased and fortunate to have Barry in this position," said Dr. Michael Mathews, interim superintendent.

With more than seven years experience as an administrator, and 28 years as a teacher at Cabrillo, Yates is popular in the community and has demonstrated a long-term commitment to quality education for all students within the district, officials said.

SMC to exhibit photography

By Daily Press staff

Art enthusiasts can get a snapshot of the work local college students are doing in an upcoming exhibit.

The Santa Monica College 25th Annual Photography Show, featuring the works of students and faculty, is scheduled April 17-May 12 in the campus' photography gallery.

An opening reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 22.

The SMC Photography Gallery is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Hours for the Photo Gallery are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For further information, call (310) 434-4289.

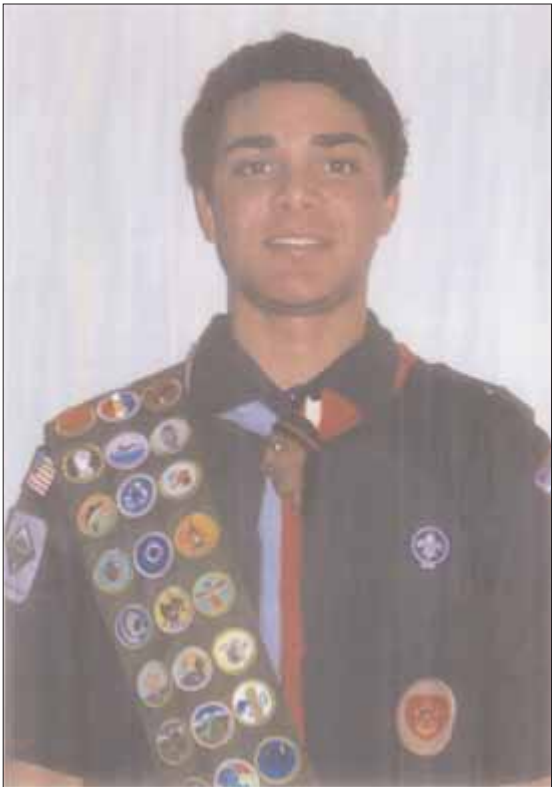


Photo Courtesy

Adam Goodly, a Santa Monica High School senior, became an Eagle Scout in March.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 11/12
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 240" - 264"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 6"	BASE DEPTH 144" - 168"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 100	LIFTS OPEN 20/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 30	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Spring				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 6"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 4/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Spring				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 42" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 22	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 56°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-7 FT)

This wweekend we are expecting a WNW system to move in that originated in the Western Pacific recently. This is angled at 270 and will likely hit with only 10-second periods. This is associated with a storm hitting Oregon this weekend. No rain is expected for SoCal, but winds could be an issue over the weekend with some light southerlies this weekend.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

South swell due 11th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:24AM	2.1FT	1:53PM	0.1FT
HIGH TIDE	7:03AM	4.5FT	8:25PM	4.2FT

SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:58AM	1.6FT	2:18PM	0.2FT
HIGH TIDE	7:45AM	4.6FT	8:41PM	4.4FT

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	11:40AM	0.2FT	11:29PM	3.1FT
HIGH TIDE	3:08AM	4.3FT	7:31PM	3.5FT

TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	12:40PM	0.1FT
HIGH TIDE	4:55AM	4.2FT	7:50PM	3.8FT

WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:41AM	2.6FT	1:21PM	0.0FT
HIGH TIDE	6:11AM	4.3FT	8:09PM	4.0FT

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



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The QLine

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

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

EST. 1934 The Galley

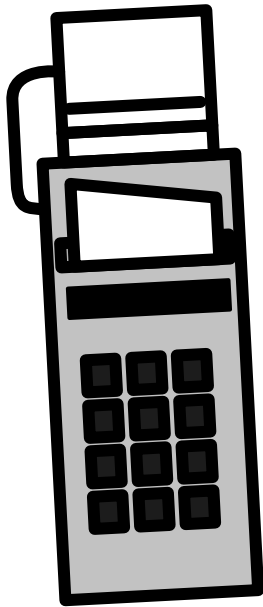
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The QLine

WORD ON THE STREET? STAY IN SCHOOL

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Should students be excused from school to exercise their freedoms of speech, or does this open the floodgates for all students to skip out on classes for any cause?"

Here are your responses:

© "I think that Santa Monica should lower all rents here and make it like \$200 for a two-bedroom apartment, so that all the illegal immigrants that are here and who are going to stay here and work toward citizenship, can at least afford to live in Santa Monica, too, because it's not fair that only the rich should live here."

© "You said it right in your question. It does open the floodgates for all students to skip class for any cause, and some of them need little incentive to be out of school. Most of them don't have a clue as to the real issues involved in this present crisis. We are already overwhelmed by too many illegal immigrants, some of whom at least work, most do not. They are criminals, gang members and loafers here to live off and exploit our already overwhelmed society. The borders need to be secured to prevent terrorists, drug dealers, criminals and gang dealers carrying all sorts of diseases from pouring into this country. It is a frightening nightmare at present. If the positions at the borders were reversed, do you think Vicente Fox would stand for it for one minute? Our quality of life in this country is deteriorating rapidly. We the people on the front lines know it. We live it 24/7. The ivory tower politicians who are corrupt, inept, and devoted to special interests, don't listen to us. They just go their merry, self-serving ways. That is, until we the people throw them out. It's time people. It's past time."

© "No, the students should not be excused from school, for any one of the 101 causes making the rounds. However, excused or not, the rabble rousers will exploit them to break the law and rules of common sense and good judgment."

© "It would be a sad day when students of any age could not express their views on the schoolyard in accordance to the first article of the Constitution of the United States of America, allowing free speech. I am totally against students of any age running out upon our free-ways and roadways to make a point. This form of action could be very dangerous. Students belong in school. Students should start a letter writing campaign addressed to those politicians who are in office to help them, letting those politicians know it's important for those students to live and love the American way of life. The pen is a very sharp weapon when used properly."

© "These troublemakers should be punished for walking out of class like that. If they want to do it after school or on weekends, fine, but during class time they are supposed to be there, and they should be punished for truancy. Although, considering most of these are

probably the troublemakers anyway, I'm sure a lot of the teachers will be glad to get rid of them. So if they should be punished for truancy and are illegal, they should ship them back to where they came from, because they don't belong in this country. Most of them were probably waving Mexican flags anyway, so it shows you where their loyalties lie, not in this country."

© "Test after test, study after study, demonstrates that Hispanic students perform the worst, have the highest truancy rate and the highest dropout numbers. Now there are those who want to excuse even more time out of the classroom. Fine with me. It's better for the smart kids who remain seated."

© "College students have the right to skip classes. However, high schoolers and younger kids legally are supposed to be in school unless they have a written excuse from the parents. If a young student leaves campus and is injured, the school can even be liable for not keeping a student on campus without notifying their parents."

© "You asked a simply ridiculously stupid question and I'm sure you'll get ridiculously stupid answers, but not here."

© "Why not? They can't be any less intelligent than the over-glorified teachers who confuse students' peanut-sized intellect with racial and social nonsense. These young people who skip classes are already failing. Their futures are Starbucks, McDonalds or selling dope. What does an 18-year-old really know about anything, especially as something as complex as illegal immigration? Teachers and La Raza leaders do a great disservice to these young adults by using emotional manipulation to distort the truth."

© "I think that the students are not losing a lot by going on a march, because this country is a country of immigrants, and let the kids learn some more. So I think it's a good idea to let them march, and I think they should give them credit for it."

© "I believe that the students should have the freedom of speech but they should do it on a Saturday or Sunday when there is no school. That is my belief and that is the way they should do it and be recognized as the right thing to do."

© "I agree with letting the kids out of school to fight for their rights. After all, they are all stuck in the ghetto with landlords charging them \$1,100 a month for a one-bedroom apartment and the politicians in this city don't do anything

See Q-LINE, page 5

Readers' sympathy can speak volumes



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

It's that time again for me to shut up and to allow the readers to talk. Below are some of the responses I've gotten to recent columns:

In my column on EAVESDROPPING, I discussed the administration's policy of wiretapping without getting the proper warrants:

TOM: I think you have the situation all wrong. I realize that many people hate the president, probably you included, but to be against the president who is doing a good job of protecting the people of the United States is ludicrous ... if an attack can be prevented by listening to my phone calls, then so be it."

LINDA: I am troubled by the fact that those who are defending the president's powers ... are OK with the fact of the law against domestic wiretapping without a warrant has been broken ... the U.S. public should not have to pay the price of having their privacy jeopardized or compromised because either the system is flawed or the thinking of those who support the system is flawed. Either way we deserve better than that."

BOB: "Your little make-believe scenario of the president talking to Harriet Miers, and then with Hillary was not all that cute."

In discussing HARRY POTTER, I confessed that I have never read a "Harry Potter" book and could never get into the fantasy genre or even cartoons:

FRANK: "Lloyd, your sentiments are more or less mine. I had the same reaction to cartoons as a kid as well ... at any rate, Harry Potter books have come under some attack from religious groups and that's ridiculous, too."

GORDON: "OK, Garver, I'm glad to know there are at least two of us heathens that don't give a rat's rump about Harry Potter."

DARON: "I feel sorry for you."

In a column about FAKE NEWS, I talked about the revelation that the Pentagon was feeding Iraqi newspapers erroneous stories:

MALCOM: "Bravo! What a wonderful column, and a wonderful departure from all the mendacity that has been foisted upon our citizens."

RICK AND AMANDA: "We feel as if we are being lied to or told twisted truths all the time by the media and certainly by this government. Are Americans waking up? I would like to think so especially about this war. Especially since our son decided to join the Army."

ROBERT: "Let Uncle Sam spread as much good news propaganda about the U.S. in the Middle East as they want. We have our own propaganda machine running in the US which does the opposite."

I talked about the brouhaha surrounding PRESIDENT BUSH'S CHRISTMAS card omitting the word, "Christmas:"

GLENDIA: "I appreciated the broader perspective you provided on the Christmas

card non-issue. Happy new year to you too."

AL: "If you don't think there is a war on Christmas you should talk with the people at the ACLU."

ROBIN: "I will continue to pray for you and all the other secular nonbelievers. I will pray for your deliverance and that one day the veil will be removed from your eyes and you will see what we see!"

In a column about KNITTING, I talked about how more and men are getting into knitting.

NICOLE: "It looks like someone has already started knitting in a maximum-security prison ... It would be great if you could publicize it so they could get more yarn."

I discussed the recent MISS AMERICA pageant:

CORAL: "Shame on you and your article. The Miss America pageant means a lot to many young ladies and you should not be the one handling the reporting if you had such feelings about pageantry to begin with."

WILLA: "The pageant is lame because judging a woman by her beauty is at its limit. There is nothing more contestants can do to their faces or figures to shine above the other contestants, let alone the rest of America ... I chuckle to think that perhaps you wouldn't be so bored if it were you up there on stage in a scanty swimsuit with pairs of eyes judging your chest to see if you measure up. I wonder if while you are standing there you would wish like many women do, that you could be judged on the internal character you developed yourself over a lifetime."

I came out against the recent proposals to demote PLUTO to a non-planet.

ANDREA: "I loved, loved, loved your column about keeping Pluto in the family. It's just wrong to take away its credentials just because it's made of ice. I mean, it's not Pluto's fault it's made of ice. It's all location, location, location, and Pluto just didn't get the luck of the draw like we did."

I described the difficulties I was having with the immersion method of LEARNING ITALIAN:

LUCA: "Don't worry, we are not like the French ... nobody but a small minority will see you as an ugly American, unless you are one."

So, I'm being told my writing isn't "all that cute," I should be ashamed of myself, readers feel sorry for me, and others are praying for me. I guess I must be doing something right.

(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 a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarver-moderntimes.com.)

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY JEFF SKLAR

You know, you might just be a Republican

Sixteen ideas in which you must believe to be a Republican today:

1. Jesus loves you, and shares your hatred of homosexuals, the homeless and Hillary Clinton.
2. Saddam was a good guy when Reagan, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz armed him; a bad guy when Bush Sr. made war on him; a good guy when Cheney did business with him; and a bad guy when Bush Jr. got elected and knew he needed a war to really cash in on his buddies, Scalia, Thomas, Rehnquist, Kennedy and O'Conner's, giving him his 14th Amendment civil rights in Bush vs. Gore, in 2000.
3. Trade with Cuba is wrong because Castro is a lousy Communist dictator who violates Cubans' civil rights, but trade with China, Turkey, and Vietnam is vital to a spirit of international harmony.
4. The United States should get out of the United Nations because its totally ineffective and our highest national priority is enforcing U.N. resolutions against Iraq and North Korea.
5. Abortion and personal drug use must be staunchly and strictly regulated, but free market principles should prevail regarding the conduct of transnational oil companies affecting the entire planet.
6. The best way to improve military morale is to praise the soldiers in speeches, while slashing veterans' benefits and combat pay, and mandating longer tours of duty after you get them in.
7. If condoms are kept out of schools, adolescents won't have sex. It's been proven.
8. A good way to fight terrorism is to insult, belittle, and demean our long-time allies, then demand their cooperation and money.
9. Health care for all Iraqis is sound

policy, but providing health care to all Americans is fiscally irresponsible socialism-no worries, HMO/insurance companies have the public's best interests at heart.

10. Global warming and tobacco's link to cancer are junk science, but creationism, with its sound rational logical foundation, should be taught in schools because: "you can't prove it's wrong."

11. The federal government should limit itself to the powers named in the Constitution, which of course, include banning gay marriages, censoring the Internet, and criminalizing hemp use.

12. The public has a right to know about Hillary's commodity cattle trades, but George Bush's military service, family affiliation with the Bin Ladens, and driving record are none of our business.

13. Being a drug addict is a moral failing and a crime, unless you're a blowhard conservative radio host; then it's an illness and you need our prayers for your recovery.

14. You support states' rights, but the Attorney General can tell states what local voter initiatives they have the right to adopt and marijuana medical use is a matter for the federal government.

15. Corporations are entitled to the same free speech civil liberties we all share, but since a corporation cannot read, there's no need monitor what they might have checked out of the local library.

16. A president lying about an affair is an impeachable offense, but a president who commits kids' lives and a nations' wealth to a war based on lies, fabrications, greed and stupidity is solid defense policy.

(Jeff Sklar is a Santa Monica resident and a member of the local rent control board.)

The Q Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

for the Hispanic people. Let them out of school, let them have a revolution. The whole infrastructure of this country is falling down the drain anyways. It's just a bunch of crooks in Washington, plus the crooks that are on this City Council.

Why don't you investigate them? Maybe they will do something for the kids because nobody else seems to want to."

© "Students should not be allowed to protest unless they are registered voters and I would ask for the evidence of their voter registration card."

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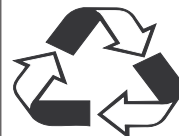
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2006-07 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2006-07 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed One-Year Action Plan.

Copies of the Proposed FY 2006-07 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending May 9, 2006. Copies are available at City Hall, the Santa Monica Public Library (main and branch libraries), and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by May 9, 2006, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division.



STATE

Forecasting earthquakes remains a shaky endeavor

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A century after a monster earthquake turned San Francisco into a smoky rubble, scientists still can't predict when the next Big One will pop.

And many experts believe a breakthrough won't come soon.

"We'd love to be able to predict earthquakes, but we still don't have the silver bullet," said Mary Lou Zoback of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park.

Several mysteries must be unraveled before seismologists can forecast a potential killer shock with the same precision that meteorologists have in pinpointing a hurricane's strength days beforehand.

At the heart of the problem are two fundamental questions: How does an earthquake begin? What causes it to stop?

"If we can find a magic signal, some telltale sign, then maybe we'll know when an earthquake is coming," said Tom Jordan, the director of the Southern California Earthquake Center in Los Angeles.

The catastrophe that flattened San Francisco on April 18, 1906, gave rise to modern earthquake science in the United States. Before that, scientists had only a faint idea about how quakes occurred.

Researchers now know that they are caused by the constant grinding of continental plates, which builds up strain in the Earth's crust. At some point, the plates can get stuck at a boundary called a fault and snap like a rubber band, unleashing the pent-up energy in sudden, earthshaking bursts.

Several million earthquakes occur worldwide each year, according to the USGS, but many go undetected because they either hit very remote areas or are too minor to be felt.

In 1906, a magnitude-7.8 temblor struck off the coast of San Francisco, decimating the city in less than five seconds. Anywhere from 500 to 6,000 residents were killed by the quake and resulting fires, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in U.S. history.

The powerful jolt tore open the Earth's surface along a 300-mile stretch of the 800-mile-long San Andreas fault, which cuts through the state like a scar. Armed with newfound knowledge about quake hazards, scientists set out to map the San Andreas just three days after the disaster.

In the 1970s, there was growing buzz that scientists were close to being able to predict quakes. Some believed the answer

lay in measuring the speed at which sound rippled through rocks, others in analyzing animals' reactions to sudden ground movement.

The excitement soon fizzled. Although several groups have publicly made earthquake predictions over the years, forecasts have never proven reliable.

Still, several studies are underway to determine whether earthquakes possess certain predictable behavior and characteristics.

Seismologists this year plan to install instruments into an active section of the San Andreas in central California to observe what happens during stress buildup in the ground. By monitoring the fault, scientists hope to catch a birthing quake.

Another project by the Southern California Earthquake Center, a consortium of research universities, will use a \$1.2 million grant to set strict standards for earthquake prediction experiments.

Scientists have been keeping a watchful eye on the southern segment of the San Andreas Fault near San Bernardino, which is overdue for a major temblor. The last time it snapped was in 1690, producing an estimated 7.7-magnitude quake.

Short of being able to foresee the next San Francisco-like calamity, scientists have focused on buffering the damaging effects of quakes and have made significant strides in taking the Earth's pulse.

Technology has revolutionized the way earthquake information is gathered and publicly disseminated. Within minutes of a temblor, the USGS posts maps on the Internet showing its epicenter and where the most severe shaking occurred.

With the aid of satellites and a network of Global Positioning System instruments, scientists constantly keep tabs on seismic strain near sections of faults that haven't ruptured in decades.

While scientists generally agree that hurricane-like forecasts for earthquakes are still over the horizon, they are working on long-term forecasts that calculate the likelihood of a quake based on historical geologic evidence.

While they don't predict the next Big One, the long-term forecasts are meant to give structural engineers and emergency planners a sense of how seismically active an area is — so they prioritize which buildings and freeways to reinforce.

No matter whether quakes can ever be predicted, scientists say, cities and residents need to be prepared.

"Even if we can predict earthquakes," Zoback of the USGS said, "that won't prevent buildings from falling down."



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STATE



Silicon Valley capitalist sees nothing but 'green'

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr made his name and fortune with early investments in pioneering tech firms like Netscape, Amazon and Google that went from scrappy start-ups to household names.

Now Doerr and his firm, Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Beyers, are placing big bets on an emerging sector he calls "green technology," which he believes could one day be at least as big as information technology or biotechnology.

Menlo Park-based Kleiner Perkins plans to set aside \$100 million of its latest \$600 million fund to technologies that help provide cleaner energy, transportation, air and water.

"This field of green-tech could be the largest economic opportunity of the 21st century," Doerr said. "There's never been a better time than now to start or accelerate a greentech venture."

As one of Silicon Valley's most respected investors, Doerr's decision to champion green technology as the next big thing is generating buzz in the venture capital community.

"When John Doerr talks, people listen," said Mark Heesen, president of the National Venture Capital Association. "John appears to have an innate ability to spot trends and execute a business plan that is actually able to take advantage of those trends."

Kleiner Perkins' plan to ramp up investment in green technology is just the latest sign of the sector's growth. Also known as clean technology, the field includes technologies related to water purification, air quality, nanotechnology, alternative fuels, manufacturing, recycling and renewable energy.

North American venture capitalists invested more than \$1.6 billion in cleantech companies last year, a 35 percent increase over 2004, according to a report by the Cleantech Venture Network.

"It's a strong area for venture capital," said Craig Cuddeback, the network's senior vice president, whose group expects venture capital investment in the sector to double over the next three years. "It's no longer a choice between whether you will be clean or profitable."

As prices of more traditional energy sources continue to rise, the global market for clean energy sources such as biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells and solar and wind energy rose to \$40 billion last year, and is expected to increase to \$167 billion by 2015, according to a report released last month by Clean Edge Inc., a Bay Area marketing firm.

Past investments in renewable energy and other clean technologies often led to disappointing returns, largely because the technologies and market demand weren't strong enough, Heesen said. Alternative energy firms must fight for their share of a market that's tightly regulated and dominated by the oil, coal and natural gas industries.

"There are a lot of obstacles that stand in the way of creating a new way of creating energy," Heesen said.

But investors are seeing better prospects as technologies advance, more seasoned entrepreneurs enter the field and clean-tech companies generate higher revenue. Successful initial public offerings by cleantech companies, such as Sunnyvale, Calif.-based SunPower Corp. and China's SunTech Power, have also stoked investor interest.

Venture capitalists point to the global forces driving green-tech investment: the rising cost of fuel; the economic expansion of China, India and other Asian nations; and growing worries over global warming.

"It's one of the most pressing global challenges we face," Doerr said. "It's causing the nations of the world to put an even higher priority than we have now on innovation."

Doerr sees another major trend: billions of people moving to cities in developing countries. Experts predict the number of people living in "megacities" with more than 10 million people will triple from 2 billion to 6 billion over the next 50 years, he said.

"This is the mother of all markets," Doerr said. "As those Asian economies rise, people will move from rural to urban settings. All those people will want the same things that you and I want — clean water, power and transportation."

In addition to investing in green-tech ventures, Doerr said he and Kleiner Perkins plan to "advocate for policies that reduce the climate crisis and increase energy innovation."

Vinod Khosla, a Kleiner Perkins associate who recently started his own venture capital firm, is financing a California ballot initiative that would increase taxes on oil companies to fund alternative energy.

Before it announced its latest \$100 million investment, Kleiner Perkins had invested more than \$50 million in seven green-tech ventures. Now the firm plans to step up the pace of investments in bio-fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

"We plan to encourage green entrepreneurs and work with other venture firms to support them," Doerr said. "I think this is one of those areas where we can do good and do well."

THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4-5.





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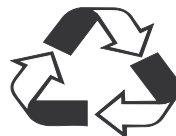
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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Steelhead trout in need of some clout

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A vital habitat for an endangered trout species went dry for the third time in three years after vandals cut off water flow into the Ventura River, officials said.

Environmentalists said the repeated incidents below the Robles Diversion Dam show a lack of concern and protective measures by the region's water district regarding the health of the steelhead trout.

"Everyone is entitled to a mistake, but this is not the first time this happened," said Jim Edmondson, director of California Trout, an environmental organization. "There is an issue of confidence here."

There are now about 100 of the fish in the river, which is seen as one of the last potential sites in Southern California for returning the species to its original population.

Dozens of fish were killed more than a week ago when a vandal pulled levers and cut water flow into the river. Environmental officials are investigating whether any of the fish were members of the endangered species.

The previous incidents were caused by an equipment malfunction and an employee error, Casitas Municipal Water District officials said.

Water district officials previously filed a lawsuit against the federal government seeking reimbursement for water it's mandated to send down-river to support the fish population.

But officials insist they support efforts to save the steelhead.

"We were very negative about the whole project, but once we saw the writing on the wall, we all got on board 200 percent," Casitas board member Chuck Bennett said.

Safety problems addressed in wake of suicide

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — State health regulators have approved a plan by the University of California, Irvine to address safety problems following the death of a psychiatric patient in December.

Psychiatric ward staff will remove bathroom locks, check in on patients more frequently and replace shower heads and grab bars with breakaway models, according to a report released Thursday.

The Department of Health Services found in an investigation that UCI staff did not adequately monitor the suicidal 18-year-old man who locked himself in a bathroom and hanged himself with a bed sheet tied to a handle on the wall.

State regulators required the hospital to devise a plan to correct safety violations after the incident.

Officials at UCI declined to comment beyond what was stated in the report.

It came as federal inspectors looked into problems that led to the shutdown of the hospital's liver-transplant program in November.

Federal reports said more than 30 patients died while listed on the program's waiting list in 2004 and 2005, even as the hospital turned down organs.

Daredevil goes down in Long Beach

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — A daredevil motorcycle rider landed in a hospital after performing a high-flying backflip on his bike during the opening festivities for the city's annual Grand Prix auto race.

Andy "Backstreet" Jones, 21, was taken to a hospital Thursday where he was treated for minor head and neck injuries, authorities said.

Jones' bike landed awkwardly on its front tire after he completed the flip during a 76-foot-long jump, pitching him over his handlebars and face-first onto the asphalt street as fans looked on, the Long Beach Press-Telegram reported.

It was the first such accident to occur during the motocross aerial stunts demonstration that became part of the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach race events last year.

Jones is known in the sport for his backflips and X Games competitor.

Mayor tells city workers to stay put

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced new restrictions on travel by city workers that are meant to save money.

The new regulations require city staff to seek approval from the mayor's office for trips outside the city, except for emergencies, the mayor said Thursday in a memo to city managers.

The order requires departments to list all planned overnight trips and air travel in advance through the end of fiscal year 2007.

Villaraigosa said he wants his office to have at least six weeks notice on all other trips.

"This is not going to be one of the larger areas where money can be saved, but we think it can be significant," spokesman Joe Ramallo said.

Exempt from the new rules are police officers pursuing criminal investigations, staff taking previously approved trips for training, and intergovernmental trips to Sacramento or Washington, D.C.

Also exempt are trips made by the independent departments of airports, harbor, and water and power.

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STATE

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Family-run operation is last of kind in L.A.

BY RONALD D. WHITE

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — At the nation's largest port, few things have weathered the sea longer than Al Larson Boat Shop.

It was opened by a Swedish boat-making clan in 1903, four years before the official founding of the Port of Los Angeles. The San Pedro operation earned its own exhibit at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, which christened it the oldest shipyard in Southern California.

Whether it was Larson at the helm or the family of the retired Los Angeles cop who bought it in 1959, the shipyard navigated every turn in the modern history of the harbor.

As dozens of West Coast competitors foundered and sank, the yard thrived in part because of a decades-old decision to give up shipbuilding.

"We are the last man left standing," said President Jack Wall, who runs the outfit with his brother George and their 85-year-old mother Gloria, a shipbuilder's daughter who is chairwoman of the board.

It made the best of whatever Southern California had to offer it — building wooden vessels for the fishing industry in the early 1900s, minesweepers and patrol boats for the Navy during World War II and better living quarters aboard battleships that were brought out of mothballs and recommissioned during the Reagan administration.

Now, the company repairs almost anything that floats through the nation's busiest seaport complex: barges, tugboats, fireboats, ferryboats, research vessels and even the occasional tall ship.

The company managed this as the West Coast shipyard industry endured a sharp decline. Dozens of yards once plied the trade. Now, only one of the eight U.S. yards still capable of building large oceangoing vessels is on the West Coast, according to the Shipbuilders Council of America.

Leaving construction behind was too difficult for most, as yearslong Navy contracts gave way to short-term civilian work.

"Over the years, we have mostly seen many shipyards try to shift to repairs and then go out of business," said Cynthia Brown, president of the American Shipbuilding Association. "It puts much more pressure on you to find the next order. They did not see enough repair work to sustain themselves."

Al Larson Boat Shop built its last boat, an 80-foot purse seiner, in the late 1940s. Today, many customers are dependent on it as the only convenient option for large repair and overhaul jobs between San Diego and San Francisco.

"There are a bunch of smaller yacht yards out there, but no one else here has the capacity to take our 250-foot derrick barges," said Greg "Rocky" Bolin, Southern California equipment manager for Manson Construction Co., which specializes in marine building projects. "I only wish they were bigger and could handle more of our equipment."

Jack Wall, whose lease with the port also requires him to run a small marina next to the yard, wants to expand. He met recently with port officials to discuss options but said he had made little progress in winning more space in a harbor where cargo is king.

Still, business has been good. The com-

pany's dry dock is booked through June and the shipyard, Jack Wall said, cleared \$12.4 million in sales last year, enough to reward its 75 employees with bonuses of \$800 to \$1,000 at the end of June and at the end of the year.

It wasn't always smooth sailing. Gloria Wall remembers that the shipyard was "run down to nothing" and had few clients and just five employees when Andy Wall Sr., her husband, bought it.

"It took many years to build it back up. We put every penny that we made back into the yard. That's how it started to grow," she said.

That wasn't surprising, given the family's history. Jack Wall's grandfather was a ship's captain from Denmark. The framed captain and pilot licenses still line Wall's office. Wall's late father was a police officer for nine years, before he too came back.

"We've got water in our blood. We can't get it out," Jack Wall, 59, said.

The tradition may be continuing. Jack Wall's 28-year-old son Jeff works at the company as a troubleshooter on customer orders and environmental compliance and 27-year-old daughter Heather tends to clerical duties part time.

"Family members down here don't stray too far from the harbor," Jack said.

The shipyard has its problems.

It sits in cramped surroundings in the polluted Fish Harbor section of Terminal Island — pollution that Wall acknowledges the yard helped create over the years, in part because it is unable to haul ships completely away from the water to work on them.

As a result, the finely ground copper slag it uses to blast away old paint and rust on the hulls of vessels, which are suspended partly over water, ends up fouling that section of the harbor.

That keeps it constantly in the crosshairs of Santa Monica Baykeeper, an environmental group.

"There is a huge problem at the site. Fish Harbor is very polluted directly from the (shipyard) site, among others," said Tracy Egoscue, the organization's executive director.

Egoscue said that the copper and other pollution at the site must be cleaned up. But she said that her group supported Wall's efforts to get more land that would allow him to haul vessels farther out of the water.

"It makes sense if you have someone who wants to stay to help them clean it up and keep them rather than lose the last boat shop in the harbor," Egoscue said.

Ralph Appy, director of environmental management for the Port of Los Angeles, said that officials were looking at both short- and long-term solutions for contaminated sediment removal from Fish Harbor and for getting the repair yard the space it needed to be able to remove vessels completely from the water.

Al Larson Boat Shop is vital to the port's operations, he said. "Having the ability to fix boats is something we need to maintain here in the harbor, but we need to make sure that it is done correctly."

The shipyard's gray corrugated steel buildings sit on two acres in San Pedro. Out in the yard where the work takes place, rusted rows of railroad tracks extend into the water. There is a series of steel cables and powerful winches that can haul vessels as big as 900 tons from the water.

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Tin man takes up dream of father along aqueduct

BY JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press Writer

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Most people see water — billions of gallons of it — when they look out across Lake Mathews. Not Jim Holmes. He envisions tin — tons of it.

If things go as planned, the 76-year-old retired theatrical producer intends to start digging it up right on the edge of an aqueduct that supplies water to an estimated 18 million Californians, in an area where hundreds of expensive new homes seem to be sprouting almost overnight on surrounding ridge tops.

"There's evidence that this is one of the largest tin deposits in North America," said Holmes, standing on a wind-blown, brush-covered hill just steps from a noisy drill burrowing hundreds of feet into the soil.

But there's more than ore at stake in these hills 70 miles east of Los Angeles. Holmes is also trying to right what he believes was a wrong perpetrated against his family more than 70 years ago when the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California seized the ranch where he was born to build Lake Mathews.

"Injustice is a terrible thing," said Holmes, who can look out across the water from his drilling site and see where his home used to be.

History seems to be on his side in the search for tin. The British hauled tons of tin ore out of the nearby Cajalco mine in the early 1890s until rising tariffs made the operation unprofitable.

Steven C. Suitt, the geologist overseeing Holmes' exploratory drilling project, says studies from the 1970s and '80s indicate the area "has similar appearances to the Cornish tin mines of England," which are among the richest in the world.

Whether it would be profitable to resume mining here is still unknown. But Holmes, a spry, white-haired septuagenarian, makes it clear that at this point in his life he is more interested in realizing his late father's dream than in becoming a minerals magnate.

He is the youngest and last surviving child of Lawrence Holmes, a Norwegian immigrant, actor and inventor who made a small fortune inventing and marketing an early version of the rollaway bed.

In 1918, Holmes' father put his money into 3,000 acres on the edge of Riverside which, in those days, was in the middle of nowhere.

There, he built 69 homes, planted 50,000 carob trees and constructed two dams partly out of salvaged automobile frames. Decades before Lake Mathews was created, he had plans to build five lakes and connect them by locks, part of what would be a futuristic, self-sufficient community.

Those plans were dashed when the Metropolitan Water District decided it needed the property for the lake that forms the 60 billion-gallon reservoir at the end of California's 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct and took it through eminent

domain.

"I was 5, but it's a very vivid memory," Holmes said of the sheriff's arrival six months after the family was ordered off the property and his father had put up a sign in front of the house proclaiming, "No man should be deprived of due process."

So many people stopped by to inquire about the sign, he recalled with a laugh, that his older sister set up a stand and sold lemonade.

Holmes' father went to court demanding \$4 million for his property. The water district settled the case two years later by giving him \$575,000 and 63 nearby acres, as well as the mineral rights to the land next to and beneath the lake.

His dream of a self-sufficient community dashed, Holmes' father began toying with ways to resurrect the mining operation. He was still working on his plans when he was killed in a traffic accident in 1950, at age 84.

When Jim Holmes and his crews started digging holes near the lake last month, water district officials expressed concerns they might damage the dam or the quality of the water.

Those concerns appear to have been put to rest, at least for the time being, after officials studied Holmes' drilling plans and concluded he isn't endangering the reservoir, said water district operations manager Eddie Rigdon.

"Clearly, they have some property rights there, mineral rights there. That's not so much of an issue," Rigdon said. "It's just the matter of the scope of the project and how that would impact us."

The water district has indicated it might be more concerned if Holmes actually started mining tin. But Rigdon noted that before he could do that an environmental impact report on the area would have to be completed — a process that typically takes two years.

Meanwhile, geologist Suitt says he hopes to begin getting results of tests on the quality of the core samples his crew is digging up by the end of April.

Holmes, who lives in the tony Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles, has hauled about \$1 million worth of drilling equipment out to his dust-swept, rock-hewn property. He says he spent the better part of 10 years raising the money and attracting a few investors to fund the project.

"It's something I've always wanted to do, and it just so happens I have the time now," he remarks as he navigates his late-model car over rocky, rutted unpaved roads for a quick look at the few concrete slabs and twisted hunks of metal that are all that remain of the old British mining operations.

He speculates briefly about whether his father might be aware of what he's doing.

"I think maybe you have some realization of what goes on after you're gone," he says.

Then he waves his hand and adds quickly, "Who knows? Maybe that's all imagination. But I think he'd be very proud. I know he'd be very proud."

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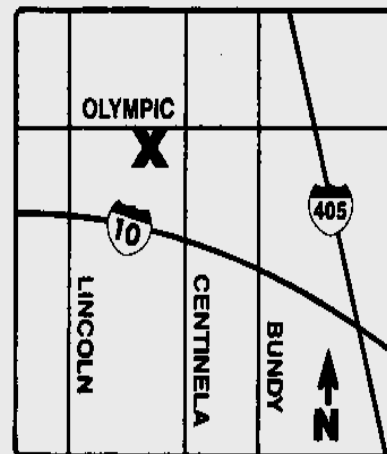
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Schools tout better scores

SCHOOL RACISM, from page 1

intercultural relations.

"I have mixed emotions," Jules Bagneris, moderator for the coalition, told the board about its efforts in implementing the plan. "It's like a man who watches his mother-in-law drive off a cliff in his brand new Mercedes Benz. On one hand, I'm pleased there is this effort to have accountability on whether (district policies are) having an impact on reducing racial tension and violence ... but you still have not addressed that ... The increase in drugs, graffiti and fighting all indicate problems that are related to violence."

The plan called for new protocols for school staff that would address intercultural conflict with peer mediation so that students can help lead the effort. The plan also included diversity in hiring, more community involvement on campus, and developing a culturally-relevant curriculum to make learning more accessible and engaging.

SMMUSD officials have worked for the last year on implementing aspects of the plan and reported to the board on their efforts.

Interim Superintendent Mike Matthews said the achievement gap still exists for students of color and those who are economically disadvantaged, however, a new focus on instruction has helped raise standardized tests scores significantly in the last three years — 52 points for Latinos, 46 for blacks, and 56 points for economically-disadvantaged students.

"Certainly, there are issues of racism in our society, issues of inequality, violence — all of which affect our students' ability to learn," Matthews said. "That is why we have focused on closing the achievement gap."

Matthews said the district is a leader in breaking down all of its data by race, income and other characteristics to better identify which students are in need of tutoring or other support services.

District staff is constantly developing new outreach strategies and intervention plans, including AVID and Xinachtli tutoring programs, which help students of color get into college, Matthews said.

The plan also called for new approaches to student discipline which would focus less on punishment and more on transformation, with a recommendation for in-house instead of at-home suspensions so that students do not fall behind in their classes.

Matthews said Samohi has instituted in-house suspensions, serving three to 10 students a day. The classes provide academic support and some counseling to identify

What, no piccolo?



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

RatzClique, a 30-person fife-and-drum corps from Basel, Switzerland, did their thing on the Third Street Promenade on Thursday. The band was promoting Carnaval UCLA, a world tribute to New Orleans set for Saturday.

why the student is suspended and how they can prevent it from occurring again.

De la Torre said one Samohi student told him that the in-house suspensions consist of being shut in a room and forced to face the wall and do homework, much like detention. No counseling was provided, de la Torre said.

That prompted school board member Shane McLoud to direct staff to come back with more detailed information on in-school suspensions, including whether or not curriculum could be designed specifically for students on in-house suspension.

"I don't want this to go untouched," McLoud said.

In the area of cultural celebration, Matthews said the district has responded to the Ten Point Plan's demands by hosting world music week at Samohi, a peace rally last year, and continually supporting the Black Student Union and MeCha, the Chicano Student Organization.

The district also has created a freshman seminar called "Facing History," which forces students to confront the complexities of history by analyzing the Holocaust, the American eugenics movement, and race relations in Los Angeles. That analysis is used as a lens for exploring student's own identity and sense of community.

On the issue of a diverse faculty, Matthews said the district saw "a significant" increase in the percentage of black and Latino teachers hired last year.

"We cannot say we are only going to hire minority candidates, but we will get the best pool of applicants out there, and we think the best pool is a diverse pool," Matthews said.

All of those things are great, parents said, but they still don't make up for the fact that a hate crime was committed at Samohi earlier this year as someone spray-painted graffiti targeting blacks. The district's efforts also don't explain why Samohi does not have a black person in a certificated position of authority, according to the coalition.

"It's frustrating because we've been asking the district for more than 15 years to address these same issues, and they still haven't done so fully," said Ana Marie Jara, a member of the coalition. "We came to the board in 1990, and several times after that, not as the coalition, but as other groups still concerned about the same issues. It feels as if by addressing some of the items, the district hopes we'll be happy and just fade away. But as you can see, we're still here."

For Bloom, it's all in the family as he takes on new challenges

BLOOM, from page 1

while at the same time serve the public by providing low-cost legal advice to families in need.

"What is remarkable about family law is that we see families in crisis, and my focus has always been on trying to find the best way to relieve that crisis and find a way to make families function better," Bloom said. "Having been elected to Friends of Sunset Park and the City Council, I have developed a love for public service."

"Levitt & Quinn is really an opportunity to combine the love of my profession with a newfound love for serving the public."

His various lives — private, public and professional — will finally intersect Saturday at the Santa Monica Art Studios, where Levitt & Quinn is holding a reception in Bloom's honor. Colleagues from the legal field, councilmembers and Bloom's family are expected to be on hand to celebrate his "new gig."

"There is a certain amount of stress associated with practicing family law while running your own business and being on the

council too, so in the long term, yes, stress could be an issue, but that's not why I took the job," said Bloom, a graduate of Loyola Law School, who opened his own practice right after graduation in 1978.

The councilman opted to dissolve his private practice in order to accept the Levitt & Quinn post.

"I think I was just ready for something new in my life, with the most important factor being the ability to serve," explained Bloom. "I was in private practice for 27 years and I guess it was just time for a new challenge."

Levitt & Quinn was formed in 1980 after government funding for family law services was withdrawn from Legal Aid, a service providing legal services for those in need. Volunteer attorney Ethel Levitt and paralegal Ziva Naumann assumed responsibility for hundreds of family law files that otherwise wouldn't have been completed. The two opened and financed a modest storefront office to provide low-cost family law services to the community.

Attorney Grace Quinn joined the pair and they developed a delivery model of legal service that continues today. In 1988, the law

firm was incorporated as a charitable organization. To date, the center has brought more than 30,000 cases to completion, with roughly 800 new clients every year.

As executive director, Bloom is responsible for continuing that legacy, which includes ensuring that services are delivered and that funding levels increase so more can be served.

"Richard is the right person for the job," said Dinah Ruch, president of the board of directors for the center. "He has the right combination of talent and experience. Not only has he served in family law, he is highly visible in the community and is able to elicit support for our organization."

"Above all else, he has the public's best interests in mind and has proven himself in terms of working for the underprivileged of the community," Ruch added.

Now 30 days into the job, Bloom said he has adjusted well and is looking forward to instituting some of the initiatives he has designed to increase the center's reach.

"We currently have four attorneys on staff, but I'm confident that we will be bringing on more in the future because

there is such a need," Bloom said. "Over half of the family law cases are not represented by attorneys. For many of those families, this is their first experience with the legal system, and it can be daunting, especially when you are dealing with life and death situations, as many of our clients are. There is extraordinary emotion and pressure, and they need someone there to help."

Bloom said he has other ideas that "are not yet ready for prime time, but I will say that there are opportunities for us to expand into the community and into the courthouse."

With the new job comes new responsibilities, but Bloom said he will not let these conflict with responsibilities associated with his seat on the council.

"I'm very fortunate because the board of directors are very supportive of my work and are very interested in what we are doing," Bloom said. "There is this great cross-pollination, if you will. They always want to know what we're up to ... I think everyone realized very early on that like the line in 'Casablanca,' 'this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.'"

NATIONAL



Montana insurrection recalled 10 years later

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

JORDAN, Mont. — People here are friendly enough until a stranger brings up the Freemen. Then the smile disappears, the eyes roll, the chill sets in.

What happened along the gravel roads on the countryside northwest of here 10 years ago remains an embarrassment to the locals: There, for 81 days in the spring of 1996, the separatist group that called itself the Freemen was locked in a tense — at times tedious — standoff with the FBI that thrust Jordan into the media spotlight and, in the eyes of many, forever linked this flag-waving, farm-and-ranch town with the fringe element.

"It makes us look like hicks," the local sheriff, Kelly Pierson, offers. "I'd rather my hometown be remembered for something more prestigious."

In this close-knit community, the Freemen are known mainly for their divisive, two-year reign of bullying and aggression — anti-government rhetoric, threats against public officials who dared question them, bounty offers for people who'd crossed them, quick-money scams and tax dodges.

Elsewhere, observers say, the Freemen — if they're remembered at all — may well be counted as just one of the right-wing groups that gained notoriety during the '90s but seemed to wither away.

"I often give talks to college groups

about this thing. It's ancient history to them," said Karl Ohs, who acted as an intermediary for the FBI during the standoff.

The Freemen espoused an alternate reality of sorts, with their own laws, courts, and banking. But they went beyond a kooky weirdness when they attempted to pass their "notes" and "liens" in the legitimate system, taking thousands of dollars from people who accepted their gobbledygook legal papers. In the real world, it was called bank fraud. And when the Freemen waved their guns in response, the FBI came in.

A decade after the standoff, four people who were there in different roles reveal insights into the group, the stakes and strategy at play to reach a peaceful end and what — if anything — the Freemen accomplished.

There's the reporter, whose chance encounter with the Freemen brought him face to face with the group's reputed leader; the Freeman wife, forced to start over after losing her home and livelihood; the veteran negotiator, criticized by some as moving too slow but who considers the success of the operation one of his proudest moments; and Ohs, who met repeatedly with the Freemen and saw how the lives of desperate people can take bad — potentially dangerous — turns.

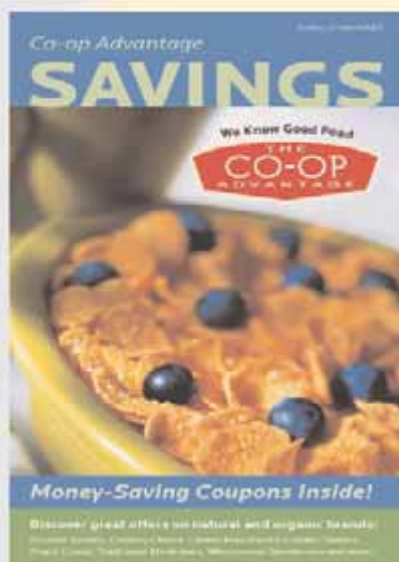
It seemed a reporters' dream, covering one of the biggest stories in the nation at

See FREEMEN, page 14



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NATIONAL

Town grapples with reputation as being on fringe after standoff

FREEMEN, from page 13

the time. And it was, Tom Laceky said — some days.

But Laceky, a now-retired Associated Press reporter, said the moments of high drama were scattered among days spent watching through binoculars from afar for any signs of movement at the so-called Freeman compound. Reporters also tried their luck, with limited success, at squeezing news out of the tight-lipped FBI.

"I remember being perpetually terrified I was going to miss something important," said Laceky of Helena, who usually left his post a half-mile or more away just long enough to file stories from a nearby ranch house. "You had to see it, or you probably wouldn't know about it."

Perhaps the most dramatic moment for Laceky came a month before the standoff even began, in an unnerving roadside encounter with Freeman leader LeRoy Schweitzer and eight gun-toting cohorts.

Freemen had noticed Laceky and an AP photographer near the road leading to the ranch where the group was based. They tracked the newsmen down, boxed them in with their vehicles — and demanded the film, which the photographer eventually turned over. Laceky said that while the Freeman never pointed their guns, there were threats, and Laceky was frisked.

"Yeah, we were scared. Eight guys with guns, we were 20 miles from town," Laceky said.

Laceky's next trip came weeks later, and he was joined by a crush of reporters covering the standoff sparked by the FBI's arrest of Schweitzer and two other men March 25. "That was my introduction to what I considered pack journalism," he said.

When Aggie Stanton heard about the arrests March 25, her first instinct was to drive to her neighbor's, the Clarks. It was from their property that the standoff ensued.

Stanton, who was married to a Freeman arrested in late 1994, was with members of the group at the Clark property for a couple weeks. When she decided to leave, she was arrested and charged with bank fraud. She's never returned to her home in Jordan.

"I feel I'm a victim of circumstances," said Stanton, who now lives in Billings. "I was married to a man who really believed what he was doing."

Stanton eventually was convicted of two counts of bank fraud but never required to do any jail time. She said she shared a bank account with her husband but was never involved in any of the Freeman schemes. They are now divorced.

She said she did not understand a lot of what the Freeman were involved in and always feared things would end violently.

"I'm surprised there wasn't more that happened out there," she said. "It's a wonder somebody wasn't killed."

For the man who led the FBI's crisis negotiation team, that was the fear all along. Gary Noesner said the goal was to go slow, keep a distance and reach a peaceful conclusion. The violent, bloody ends to FBI standoffs at Ruby Ridge and Waco just a few years earlier certainly were a factor, he said.

"In Montana, there was this perception of, what's taking so long? The FBI is scared to move," said Noesner,

Not so free after all

By The Associated Press

Ten years after the standoff, seven Freeman remain in federal custody. Their names and projected release dates, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons:

- Richard E. Clark, Sept. 12
- Dale M. Jacobi, June 30, 2008
- Russell Landers, May 20, 2032
- John P. McGuire, Dec. 28, 2010
- Daniel E. Petersen; April 19, 2009
- LeRoy Schweitzer; Aug. 7, 2018
- Rodney Skurdal, July 8, 2009

who retired from the FBI and now works for a private security firm. "I'd like to think we were smart."

There were several complicating factors: One was the lack of a clear leader at the compound because of Schweitzer's arrest. Another was the Freeman's refusal to deal directly with the FBI for much of the standoff, Noesner said. That required the liberal use of family, friends and political figures as intermediaries. As an intermediary, Ohs, then a lawmaker with a friend who had a daughter inside the compound, was effective, Noesner said.

But building trust took time. Fortunately, Noesner said, there was no political pressure from on high to move swiftly on the armed Freeman.

Ohs said he made 19 trips to the ranch and fell into an easy relationship with Edwin Clark, a fellow rancher who would eventually emerge as the group's leader and voice of reason.

Ohs said the Freeman included criminals, adventure seekers and struggling farmers and ranchers who had a "convoluted view" of government. He blames Schweitzer for the entire ordeal.

"In a certain way they were brainwashed; they were only talking to each other, so their sense of reality was skewed," Ohs said. "They didn't want to be called kooks; they wanted to be respected."

In the end, a number of the Freeman, including key figures, were sentenced to prison; seven remain in federal custody.

Stanton's words are measured; she doesn't want to name names or reopen old wounds. But she resents the whole group being painted as anti-government or threatening. She said that doesn't describe the people she knows.

She said she's worked hard to put the past behind and when the anniversary of the standoff rolls around, it just opens old wounds.

"All I want to do is go on with my life, and have some good years," she said.

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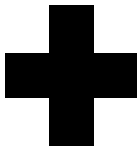
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GOP hitting new lows in public opinion

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's approval ratings hit a series of new lows in an AP-Ipsos poll that also shows Republicans surrendering their advantage on national security — grim election-year news for a party struggling to stay in power.

Democratic leaders predicted they will seize control of one or both chambers of Congress in November. Republicans said they feared the worst unless the political landscape quickly changes.

"These numbers are scary. We've lost every advantage we've ever had," GOP pollster Tony Fabrizio said. "The good news is Democrats don't have much of a plan. The bad news is they may not need one."

There is more at stake than the careers of GOP lawmakers. A Democratic-led Congress could bury the last vestiges of Bush's legislative agenda and subject the administration to high-profile investigations of the Iraq war, the CIA leak case, warrantless eavesdropping and other matters.

In the past two congressional elections, Republicans gained seats on the strength of Bush's popularity and a perception among voters that the GOP was stronger on national security than Democrats.

Those advantages are gone, according to a survey of 1,003 adults conducted this week for The Associated Press by Ipsos, an international polling firm.

— Just 36 percent of the public approves of Bush's job performance, his lowest-ever rating in AP-Ipsos polling. By contrast, the president's job approval rating was 47 percent among likely voters just before Election Day 2004 and a whopping 64 percent among registered voters in October 2002.

■ Only 40 percent of the public approves of Bush's performance on foreign policy and the war on terror, another low-water mark for his presidency. That's down 9 points from a year ago. Just before the 2002 election, 64 percent of registered voters backed Bush on terror and foreign policy.

■ Just 35 percent of the public approves of Bush's handling of Iraq, his lowest in AP-Ipsos polling.

"He's in over his head," said Diane Heller, 65, a Pleasant Valley, N.Y., real estate broker and independent voter.

As bad as Bush's numbers may be, Congress' are worse.

Just 30 percent of the public approves of the GOP-led Congress' job performance, and Republicans seem to be shouldering the blame.

By a 49-33 margin, the public favors Democrats over

Republicans when asked which party should control Congress.

That 16-point Democratic advantage is the largest the party has enjoyed in AP-Ipsos polling.

On an issue the GOP has dominated for decades, Republicans are now locked in a tie with Democrats — 41 percent each — on the question of which party people trust to protect the country. Democrats made their biggest national security gains among young men, according to the AP-Ipsos poll, which had a 3 percentage point margin of error.

The public gives Democrats a slight edge on what party would best handle Iraq, a reversal from Election Day 2004.

"We're in an exceptionally challenging electoral environment," said Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, a former GOP strategist. "We start off on a battlefield today that is tilted in their direction, and that's when you have to use the advantages you have."

Those include the presidential "bully pulpit" and the "structural, tactical advantages" built into the system, Cole said.

One of those advantages is a political map that is gerrymandered to put House incumbents in relatively safe districts, meaning Democrats have relatively few opportunities to pick up the 15 seats they need to gain control.

In the Senate, the Democrats need to pick up six seats.

"I think we will win the Congress," Democratic Party chairman Howard Dean said, breaking the unwritten rule against raising expectations.

"Everything is moving in our direction. If it keeps moving in our direction, it's very reasonable to say there will be a Democratic Senate and House," said Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Strategists in both parties say it would take an extraordinary set of circumstances for Democrats to seize control of Congress.

First, the elections would need to be nationalized. Democrats hope to do that with a burgeoning ethics scandal focused on relationships between GOP lobbyists and lawmakers.

Secondly, the public would need to be in a throw-the-bums-out mood. It's unclear whether that is the case, but 69 percent of Americans believes the nation is headed in the wrong direction — the largest percentage during the Bush presidency and up 13 points from a year ago.

Third, staunch GOP voters would need to stay home. Nobody can predict whether that will happen, but a growing number of Republicans disagree with their leaders in Washington about immigration, federal spending and other issues.

Bush's approval rating is down 12 points among Republicans since a year ago. Six-in-10 Republicans said they disapproved of the GOP-led Congress.

"I'd just as soon they shut (Congress) down for a few years," said Robert Hirsch, 72, a Republican-leaning voter in Chicago. "All they do is keep passing laws and figuring out ways to spend our money."

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The cost of expelling 12 million illegals estimated at \$215B

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

As Congress debates immigration reforms, some experts say the most extreme proposal — deporting millions of illegal immigrants — would be a huge legal and logistical morass, and ruinously expensive, too.

Officials at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which would be responsible for deportations, said they have no projections on what it would take to rid the United States of an estimated 12 million people. But the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank in Washington, has put the cost at \$215 billion over five years.

The study assumed that a crackdown would prompt a quarter of the nation’s illegal immigrants to leave voluntarily, leaving 9 million men, women and children to deport.

“I think a lot of people are making emotional calls on this issue without thinking through the cost to taxpayers,” said study author Rajeev Goyle, a lecturer at Wichita State University. “It would be an unbearable cost that would bankrupt the treasury. It would cost more annually than the entire budget of the Department of Homeland Security, twice that of the annual cost of the war in Iraq.”

Finding and catching people would be the most expensive part, about \$158 billion, Goyle said. The study calculated it would cost an additional \$34 billion to detain them, \$3 billion for extra beds, \$11 billion for legal processing and \$9 billion to put them on buses or airplanes.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., author of a get-tough immigration bill, said the government has no intention of trying to deport 12 million people.

“Nobody is seriously proposing that, because that will require a massive infiltration of law enforcement officials and will disrupt the economy,” said Sensenbrenner told CBS’ “Face the Nation” this week.

But his bill and several others would make living in the United States illegally a felony. And felons without legal immigration status are subject to deportation.

In 2004, the Department of Homeland Security deported about 200,000 people; an additional 1 million returned to their countries of origin when caught by federal authorities, according to the Office of Immigration Statistics. Ira Mehlman of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates limits on immigration, said he does not believe a mass deportation “has ever been seriously suggested. It’s the straw man that proponents of amnesty set out there so they can set it on fire.”

FAIR’s projection is that if current laws protecting the borders and penalizing employers who hire illegal workers are enforced, many illegal immigrants will leave the country.

“Once we get their numbers down, cut in half say, or three quarters, what you do with those that remain, that’s something we can figure out,” he said. “It becomes a more manageable problem. Three million is obviously better than 12 million.”

Mehlman said military bases could be converted to detention centers, buses and airplanes could be arranged to take people back to the country of their birth, and legal processes could be streamlined.

Peter Schey, president and executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law Foundation, said it would be “absolutely absurd, impossible” to protect the legal rights of millions of people facing deportation.

“Unless you want to schedule deportation hearings 20 or 30 years into the future, there’s no way it could be done,” he said.

Carlos Portillo, who owns La Fuente Restaurant, one of the most popular restaurants in Tucson, Ariz., said the sudden loss of workers from mass deportations would be economically devastating for this country.

Did CIA leak come from top?

BY PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby apparently had serious qualms about leaking classified intelligence to the press, but he was quickly persuaded to drop them. There was pressure from his boss, Vice President Dick Cheney, who advised him that the president had authorized Libby to do so. End of discussion.

That’s the picture that emerges from court papers filed by the prosecutor in the CIA leak case against Libby, who is depicted as doing the bidding of President Bush and Cheney in striking back at administration critic Joseph Wilson.

On Thursday, disclosure of official authorization for Libby’s leaks to reporters brought strong criticism from administration political foes, but little likelihood that their demands for explanations will be met.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., citing Bush’s call two years ago to find the person who leaked the CIA identity of Wilson’s wife, Valerie Plame, said the latest disclosures means the president needs to go no further than a mirror.

In his court filing, Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald asserted that “the president was unaware of the role” that Libby “had in fact played in disclosing” Plame’s CIA status. The prosecutor gave no such assurance, though, regarding Cheney.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said that “in light of today’s shocking revelation, President Bush must fully disclose his participation in the selective leaking of classified information. The American people must know the truth.”

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the president has the “inherent authority to decide who should have classified information.” The White House declined to comment, citing the ongoing criminal probe into the leak of Plame’s identity.

In July 2003, Wilson’s accusation that the Bush administration had twisted prewar intelligence to exaggerate the Iraqi threat “was viewed in the office of vice president as a direct attack on the credibility of the vice president, and the president,” Fitzgerald’s court papers stated.

Part of the counterattack was a July 8, 2003, meeting with New York Times reporter Judith Miller at which Libby discussed the contents of a then-classified CIA report that seemed to undercut what Wilson was saying in public.

Separately, Libby said he understood he also was to tell Miller that prewar intelligence assessments had been that Iraq was “vigorously trying to procure” uranium, the

OKANOGAN, Wash. — With few residents or roads, numerous lakes and a sprawling, loosely patrolled border with Canada, Okanogan County has become prime territory for pot smuggling via float plane, law enforcement officials say.

Reports of low-flying float planes and helicopters have become increasingly frequent in the county, the third largest in the contiguous 48 states at 5,281 square miles, and there’s more to be concerned about than marijuana, say Sheriff Frank T. Rogers and James A. McDevitt, the U.S. attorney in Spokane.

“A person that will smuggle drugs, guns, meth(amphetamine), Ecstasy and cash will also be the kind of person who would smuggle a special-interest alien or a terrorist,” McDevitt told The Wenatchee World.

“You’re not going to put 20 people in a float plane, but if you were a terrorist and really wanted to get something into this country, it’s easy. They’re proving it with the drugs.”

Some pot has been recovered, arrests have been made and a float plane was seized after Colville tribal police officers prevented it from taking off by hurling rocks at the propeller, but it’s usually just about impossible to catch aircraft used in suspected smuggling runs before they take off again and fly north, authorities said.

Drug running also has been accomplished or attempted by canoe across Lake Osoyoos, rubber rafts on the Kettle River, boats on Lake Roosevelt, the

prosecutor stated. In the run-up to the war, Cheney had insisted Iraq was trying to build a nuclear bomb.

The conclusion on uranium was contained in a National Intelligence Estimate, a consensus document of the U.S. intelligence community. Libby’s statements came in grand jury testimony before he was charged with five counts of perjury, obstruction and lying to the FBI in the Plame probe.

Libby at first told the vice president that he could not have the July 8, 2003, conversation with Miller because of the classified nature of the National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, Fitzgerald said. Libby testified to the grand jury “that the vice president later advised him that the president had authorized defendant to disclose the relevant portions” of the NIE.

Libby testified that he also spoke to David Addington, then counsel to the vice president, “whom defendant considered to be an expert in national security law, and Mr. Addington opined that presidential authorization to publicly disclose a document amounted to a declassification of the document.”

Libby testified that he was specifically authorized to disclose the key judgments of the classified intelligence document because it was thought that its conclusions were “fairly definitive” against what Wilson had said and the vice president thought that it was “very important” for those key judgments to come out, the court papers stated.

After Wilson began attacking the administration, Cheney had a conversation with Libby, expressing concerns on whether a CIA-sponsored trip to the African nation of Niger by Wilson “was legitimate or whether it was in effect a junket set up by Mr. Wilson’s wife,” Fitzgerald wrote. The suggestion that Plame sent her husband on the Africa trip has gotten widespread circulation among White House loyalists.

Wilson said he had concluded on his trip that it was highly doubtful Niger had sold uranium yellowcake to Iraq.

The prosecutor’s court papers offer a glimpse inside the White House when the Justice Department launched a criminal investigation of the Plame leak in September 2003. Libby “implored White House officials” to issue a statement saying he had not been involved in revealing Plame’s identity, and that when his initial efforts met with no success, he “sought the assistance of the vice president in having his name cleared,” the prosecutor stated.

The White House eventually said neither Libby nor Karl Rove had been involved in the leak. Rove remains under criminal investigation.

County grapples with aerial pot smuggling

Columbia River reservoir impounded by Grand Coulee Dam, as well as by snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, backpacking and in campers, tractor-trailers and snowmobiles.

“It seems now that the latest fad is airborne smuggling,” McDevitt said, adding that he briefed Attorney General Alberto Gonzales last week in Yakima “about the increased incidence of this kind of smuggling and our response to it.”

He said technology should provide a solution, aided by local citizens who learn what to look for and report suspicious activity quickly.

Along the Mexican border, authorities have tethered blimps that use radar to detect low-flying aircraft, but that is ill-suited to the northern border because steep canyons and soaring mountains block radar signals.

Lonnie Moore, a Border Patrol spokesman, would not say how many aircraft and pilots are available to monitor the agency’s Spokane sector, which covers a 350-mile stretch of border between the crest of the Cascade Range and the Continental Divide in Montana. Okanogan County, population about 36,000, accounts for about 90 miles of that.

Since December authorities have managed to intercept four airborne smuggling operations that used aircraft, including three in which people were caught with marijuana at or near remote lakes.

On a fourth occasion, after tribal police disabled and seized a float plane March 14 on the Columbia River, the pilot made it to the other side and eluded sheriff’s deputies. A man believed to be the pilot was later spotted and arrested on the Colville reservation.



Spanish-language telenovelas to spice up the waiting room

BY SUE MAJOR HOLMES
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A man, beaten by his girlfriend, shows up at the hospital. Doctors treat him, then offer help for his obesity. That leads to another discovery: He has diabetes.

And then there's the domestic violence counseling he and his girlfriend need.

This will soon be the world of health care — telenovela style.

With the wait to see a doctor averaging an hour at one University of New Mexico health clinic in southeast Albuquerque, the school decided to spice up the waiting-room experience. The idea: Marry soap-opera style entertainment with health care information for its mostly Hispanic clientele.

"We wanted to capture people's imaginations while teaching them," said the project's executive producer, Ella Sitkin, executive director of information technology at UNM Hospital.

Last fall, Sitkin's group brainstormed about how to educate waiting patients, but the thought of filming someone talking about health concerns seemed boring. Then a co-worker came up with the idea of a telenovela — a Spanish-language soap opera.

Since the format is more sophisticated than an educational video, the project put out a request for pitches, asking writers to summarize a story and what health issues it would tackle. UNM's suggested list included prenatal care, diabetes, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, nutrition or immunization awareness.

Telenovela health videos have been done before, but they're not common. The federal Office of Minority Health Resource Center had none in its library, but the Texas Department of Health's video library lists one from California about smoking when pregnant. The Washington, D.C.-based National Alliance for Hispanic Health said different groups have used entertainment to drive home health messages.

"The key thing is to be creative and find various types of formats that people find engaging," said the alliance's Adolph Falcon.

UNM's project is collaborating with Albuquerque's community college, the Technical-Vocational Institute, and the nonprofit Albuquerque-based Digital Filmmaking Institute for the production, and with the National Hispanic Cultural

Center, which offered its studio for the filming.

TVI's 1 1/2-year-old film technicians training program prepares students for jobs in New Mexico's growing film industry. Jim Graebner, who runs it, suggested shooting the telenovela using his students and equipment, thus keeping costs down.

The 2006 Legislature approved \$45,000 for the project in February, but Gov. Bill Richardson later vetoed it. The project's backers then turned for help to the Digital Filmmaking Institute, which includes Graebner.

That institute offered to produce the telenovela, "so we are still on track and we will continue," Sitkin said.

Some 50 to 60 of Graebner's students will be involved in everything from purchasing, transportation, wardrobe and sets to lighting, camera work, directing and editing.

"It's going to be a real experience for the students to see how fast the process works" in television, he said.

Sitkin said the project also will get advice from doctors and behavioral health care specialists so the video is not only entertaining, but also accurate.

The video could end up as an hour-long story broken into four segments or as four separate 13-minute telenovelas. The hospital plans commercial breaks between each segment — public service announcements touting its health programs, such as the availability of interpreters.

A small committee was choosing the final idea for a script, Graebner said.

Graebner expects a script in April. Filming could begin in May and the finished version could debut as early as August.

"More than anything else, I want really good characters," Graebner said. "I don't care where you put them, a hospital, a house, a parking lot."

Although the original idea was to show the telenovela in one waiting room, Sitkin now envisions it being shown in waiting rooms across New Mexico, at health fairs and even on local access television.

"I think it would be really helpful to this community," she said. "I think it could bring a lot of people together and help them with their health care."

She hopes the project does well enough that the university gets money for more. She eventually would like to do similar education for the Navajo and Vietnamese communities, although she's not yet sure what format those might use.

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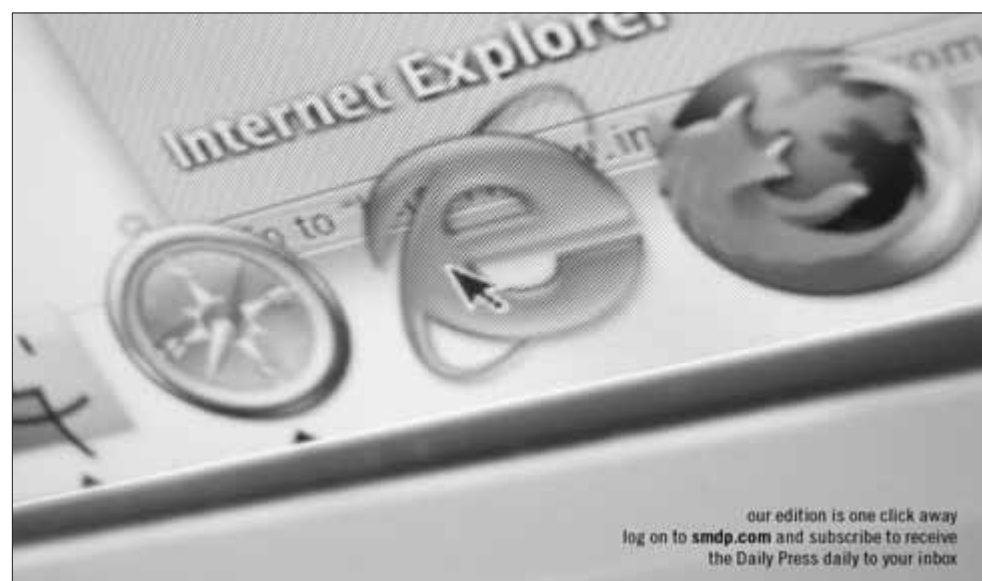
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Haniyeh: Hamas will control security

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas declined to recognize Israel, appealed for understanding from the United States and insisted that his Cabinet, not Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, will have control over security forces.

But as Haniyeh was talking Thursday in his Gaza City office, Abbas took his latest step to clip his wings, naming a longtime Fatah ally to supervise the security forces.

Abbas' actions appeared aimed at convincing the international community that he, not Hamas, is in charge. Western donors have threatened to cut off desperately needed aid if Hamas does not renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist, conditions the group has rejected.

Abbas and Haniyeh were to meet in Gaza on Friday night.

Sitting beneath a picture of Abbas and

the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Haniyeh said he rejected any attempts to undercut Hamas, which won Jan. 25 parliamentary elections. His Cabinet was sworn in last week.

"There are attempts to create parallel frameworks to some ministries in the Palestinian government," Haniyeh said in the interview with the AP at his Gaza City headquarters. "But I don't think (Abbas) can keep up this pressure and take away power from this government."

Haniyeh said Abbas had assured him the security forces would remain under the control of the Hamas-led Cabinet, which, he said, came to power not "on the back of a tank" but in "transparent and fair elections."

But hours later, Abbas appointed a longtime ally, Rashid Abu Shbak, to head the three security services that fall under new Interior Minister Said Siyam, in addition to agencies already under the president's aegis. Though Siyam would technically be Abu Shbak's boss, any dispute between the two would be resolved in the Abbas-headed National Security Council.

Abu Shbak said he was authorized to

hire and fire officers in the three security branches. "Any recruitment of directors or deputy directors for any of the three services will be made through me," he said. His appointment reduced Hamas' authority over the security apparatus to cutting checks for its 58,000 officers.

Abbas has said he wants to resume peace talks with Israel, which has shunned the Hamas government, and Haniyeh said he would not stand in the way of such efforts.

Abbas "can move on political fronts and negotiate with whomever he wants. What is important is what will be offered to the Palestinian people," Haniyeh said.

When asked if he was a pragmatic man and would recognize Israel, he switched to English: "That is a big question."

He said there was no change in Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel, renounce violence and respect all past accords signed by the Palestinian Authority — the three conditions Israel and the West have imposed for dealing with Hamas, which is listed as a terror group by the U.S. and European Union.

At the same time, he struck a concilia-

tory tone when speaking about the United States, saying, "we don't want feelings of animosity to remain in the region, not toward the U.S. administration and not toward the West."

He also denied reports that al-Qaida militants had infiltrated Palestinian territories.

Also Thursday, the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Abbas heads, ordered the Hamas-led Foreign Ministry to coordinate with it before making major pronouncements on diplomatic policy. The PLO is technically in charge of the Palestinians' foreign affairs.

Abbas is likely to continue amassing power to end Western sanctions, said Khalil Shahin, a political analyst with the Palestinian Al-Ayyam newspaper.

"I predict that he will keep stripping Hamas of more of its authorities, particularly on the financial ministries and other bodies responsible for infrastructure and the security," he said. "(Abbas) is trying with these measures to spare the Palestinian people more suffering and more sanctions."

China hopes Olympics can soothe foreign fears

BY JOHN RODERICK

AP Special Correspondent

In April, 1971, at the height of the Cold War, a bitterly anti-American communist China invited a lowly American table tennis team to visit Beijing.

The world was stunned and mystified: Why had implacably hostile China lifted its ban, in effect since the founding of the people's Republic in 1949, on visits by Americans?

Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai supplied the answer a few days after the Americans and other foreign table tennis teams arrived in the Chinese capital. Welcoming them over hot cups of tea, Zhou declared the era of U.S.-China enmity over.

The American team's visit — and that of three American reporters allowed to accompany it — opened the first crack in Mao Zedong's wall of hostility, setting the stage for President Richard Nixon's historic visit 10 months later and eventually for the "open door" policies that would spur China's economic miracle.

Dubbed "pingpong diplomacy" by an astonished world, the trip 35 years ago this weekend is a useful reminder of the role sports has played in helping foreigners to put a human face on China. As Beijing prepares to host the 2008 Olympics, it hopes the games will create a positive image in the minds of a world sometimes wary of China's rising power.

In early 1971, Mao's China was largely closed to the world and had no diplomatic ties with the United States. It routinely rejected offers of American help after natural disasters. Nor did the U.S. always extend a hand. In 1956, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles threatened to jail any American reporter who accepted an offer to visit China.

The surprise invitation to the U.S. table tennis team came from the victorious Chinese players at the end of the world championships in Nagoya, Japan. Reporters John Rich and Jack Reynolds of NBC and I received visas

The accepted wisdom at the time was

that the visit was engineered by the urbane, international-minded Zhou, who wanted to establish diplomatic ties with Washington as a hedge against Soviet expansionist plans.

Fearing a public rebuff from the notoriously anti-communist Nixon, the theory went, Zhou decided to test American public opinion. What better way than to display good will toward the 17th-ranked American players? If American reaction proved negative, China would not lose face.

But "Mao: The Unknown Story," a recent biography by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday, says it was Mao, not Zhou, who decided on an impulse to invite the Americans.

True or not, the fact remains that by the time of pingpong diplomacy, Mao was more powerful than most Chinese emperors dating back 2,500 years. His pictures and published works were the objects of veneration in what was then the midpoint of the blood-drenched Cultural Revolution, the radical movement he, his wife and their cohorts launched in 1966.

But the China we Americans saw in Beijing was one of smiling crowds waving the "little red book" of Mao's quotations.

From their arrival April 8 through their 10 days in China, the American pingpong players proved superb diplomats just by being themselves. Wherever they went — the Great Wall, the former imperial Summer Palace — they touched off spontaneous cheers and applause. "Meiguo ren hen hao" — Americans are great — the crowds shouted.

The cheers mounted as they played exhibition matches before 18,000 spectators, revealing a reservoir of good will among Chinese which no amount of anti-American propaganda had been able to suppress.

The widespread jubilation which greeted the Americans helped persuade Nixon to make his historic journey to Beijing in early 1972, radically altering the Cold War equation. It suited Nixon's plans for eventual military withdrawal from Vietnam and became among the most acclaimed decisions of his flawed presidency.

An upbeat economy spurs employers to keep hiring

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Employers feeling upbeat about the economy boosted hiring by 211,000 in a springtime burst that pushed the unemployment rate down to 4.7 percent, matching its lowest point in 4 1/2 years.

The employment picture for March, released by the Labor Department on Friday, suggested that a strengthening economic expansion is putting companies in the hiring mood and brightening prospects for job seekers.

Hiring gains were fairly widespread. Construction, retailers, financial activities, education and health care, and government were among the sectors posting payroll gains. That helped to blunt job losses in manufacturing and in the transportation industries.

"I think the job market is on a roll," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services. "Businesses are doing pretty well these days. Profits are growing nicely. I think businesses are at a point where they feel more comfortable adding people."

But on Wall Street, stocks sank as investors fretted that businesses' growing appetite for workers might drive up wages — and inflation — down the road. The Dow Jones industrials lost 96.46 points to close at 11,120.04.

President Bush, coping with low job-approval ratings in a congressional election year, said the job figures provided "evidence of an economic resurgence that is strong, broad and benefiting all Americans." The president said his tax cuts were central to this and called on Congress to make them permanent.

Democrats, however, countered that the tax cuts mainly helped the wealthy and helped plunge the nation's balance sheets into red ink. Rep. George Miller of California called Bush "completely out of touch with reality."

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., observed: "Mothers and fathers are working harder

and longer and struggling to keep up with the soaring costs of health insurance, gas and college tuition."

Some recent good news on the economy hasn't been helping Bush in the eyes of the public. Bush's job-approval rating of 36 percent is at its lowest level in an AP-Ipsos poll. When it comes to his handling of the economy, 59 percent said they disapproved.

The unemployment rate, which dropped from February's 4.8 percent, ended up matching January's jobless rate.

For blacks, though, the unemployment rate didn't budge; it held steady at 9.3 percent in March. The unemployment rate for Hispanics dipped to 5.4 percent last month and the jobless rate for whites edged down to 4 percent.

Overall employment was stronger in March than economists were expecting. They had forecast a gain of 190,000 jobs and believed the civilian jobless rate would hold steady.

The economy added 154,000 jobs in January and another 225,000 in February, according to revised figures released Friday. While job gains for each of those months turned out to be slightly less than previously reported, payroll growth for the January-to-March quarter as a whole was brisk. Job growth over the first three months of this year averaged 197,000.

Employees' average hourly earnings, meanwhile, were \$16.49 in March, a modest 0.2 percent increase from February — less than economists were expecting.

With the economy growing nicely and the job market blooming, the Federal Reserve and other economists are keeping a close eye on wage growth.

Wage improvement is good for workers, but a rapid, sustained acceleration would trigger inflation concerns.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues boosted interest rates on March 28 to a five-year high and hinted that additional increases were possible to keep inflation at bay.

Economists predict rates will go up again on May 10.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pitt, Jolie cause a stir in Africa

By The Associated Press

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are staying at a secluded Namibian beach resort, surrounded by tight security, prompting speculation their baby will be born in Africa.

Namibian media reported that immigration officials confirmed the stars and five other people, including two children, arrived in Walvis Bay Monday morning on a chartered jet from Paris.

Pitt's publicist, Cindy Guagenti, said on Jan. 11 that Jolie, 30, is pregnant with the actor's child. It was unclear when the baby will be born. A call to Guagenti's office by The Associated Press on Friday wasn't immediately returned.

A judge in California since granted a request to change the names of Jolie's two children to Zahara Marley Jolie-Pitt and Maddox Chivan Jolie-Pitt to reflect that Pitt intends to become their adoptive father.

Pitt, 42, and Jolie, who co-starred in the 2005 film "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," have rented all 14 rooms and suites at the Burning Shores resort, a luxury boutique hotel on Long Beach north of Walvis Bay and near the famous dunes of the Namibian desert.

A private security firm and local police officials cordoned off the area and threatened to confiscate any cameras, Namibian media reported Friday.

The actress has traveled to Africa frequently to shoot films and as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. She spent several weeks in Namibia in 2002 while shooting the film "Beyond Borders."

Jolie has called the continent one of hope and possibility, and she adopted her daughter, Zahara, from Ethiopia last year, accompanied by Pitt. She adopted 4-year-old Maddox in 2002 in Cambodia, where she filmed "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider."

Pitt and Jennifer Aniston divorced last fall. Jolie, who won an Oscar for her supporting role in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted," is divorced from Billy Bob Thornton and Jonny Lee Miller.

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Chad Michael Murray appeared at the 59th Azalea Festival with a high-school senior, who was wearing a diamond ring on her left ring finger, on his arm.

Murray, who stars in the WB's "One Tree Hill," filmed in Wilmington, was at Wilmington International Airport on Wednesday for the Azalea Festival queen's welcoming ceremony.

He was with Kenzie Dalton, who was a member of the princess' court and who has appeared on "One Tree Hill" in a minor role.

People magazine's Web site reported several days earlier that the two were engaged. A message left for Murray's publicist Thursday wasn't immediately returned.

Murray, 24, didn't accompany Dalton for the rest of the day's ceremonies, including the crowning of "All My Children" actress Tanisha

Lynn as queen. Lynn plays Danielle Frye on the ABC soap opera.

Dalton declined to answer questions. "I'm not allowed to answer personal questions," she said. "But I appreciate your interest."

Murray was married last year to "One Tree Hill" co-star Sophia Bush. They split up in September, and she filed to annul the marriage at the end of February.

Murray is basketball player Lucas Scott on "One Tree Hill" and Bush plays cheerleader Brooke Davis.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Teri Hatcher pressed her battle against violence toward women, delivering a tearful speech about being sexually molested by her uncle 35 years ago.

The 41-year-old star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives" spoke to reporters Thursday at a news conference to announce plans for the third annual Women's World Awards.

"Recently I had the honor, really, of being able to come forward and help raise awareness of some violence against women," she said.

Hatcher was referring to a recent Vanity Fair interview in which she revealed being molested by her uncle when she was 5 years old and living in Sunnyvale. When she learned in 2002 that a 14-year-old victim of her uncle had committed suicide, Hatcher approached Santa Clara County prosecutors.

After Hatcher came forward, her uncle, Richard Hayes Stone, pleaded guilty to four counts of child molestation in the case of the 14-year-old victim and received 14 years in prison.

"There are many women who suffer with these traumatic experiences their whole lives, and they keep those things a secret," Hatcher said.

Hatcher was seated next to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will present the 2006 Women's World Awards Oct. 14 in New York City. The event recognizes extraordinary women and their achievements in a variety of fields.

She won the World Actress award last year.

LOS ANGELES — Lou Adler, who launched the careers of Carole King and the Mamas and the Papas, has been honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"My friend called me yesterday and said to forget all the awards I've ever been given," the 72-year-old music producer said at Thursday's ceremony.

Guests included Jack Nicholson, Herb Alpert, Adler's sister-in-law Daryl Hannah and his son Cisco. Adler is married to Hannah's sister Page.

Adler has produced 33 top singles and 18 gold and platinum albums, including "California Dreamin'" by the Mamas and the Papas.

In 1967, he co-produced the Monterey International Pop Festival, which brought together Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Otis Redding

and Janis Joplin. He produced a film of the festival in 1968.

Adler, father to seven sons, grew up in East Los Angeles and went on to produce some of California's most iconic '60s pop and rock acts, including King and Jan & Dean.

His screen producer credits include 1975's "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

NEW YORK — Richard Goode, co-artistic director of the Marlboro Music School & Festival, is the inaugural winner of the \$50,000 Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance at Northwestern University School of Music.

The biennial award was established last year to honor pianists "who have achieved the highest levels of national and international recognition," the university said in a statement.

Goode, recognized as one of today's leading interpreters of Beethoven, will spend two to three nonconsecutive weeks in residency at the School of Music, lecturing, coaching chamber music and participating in master classes.

His first residency will take place March 6-9, 2007, with a March 9 recital at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the university's Evanston, Ill., campus.

"Richard Goode's impeccable and distinctive artistry is unrivaled, and his presence on campus will be a true inspiration to our students," Toni-Marie Montgomery, dean of the School of Music, said Wednesday in a statement.

Goode, 62, has appeared with major American and European orchestras and performs regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and BBC Proms, an annual music festival of promenade concerts in London.

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — James Brown and Etta James will join Woody Allen and 600 other jazz musicians and singers playing at this year's Rochester International Jazz Festival.

"We're cookin' up a musical storm in Rochester" that will include a healthy dash of traditional and modern jazz from hurricane-ravaged New Orleans, festival producer John Nugent said Thursday.

The fifth annual, nine-day festival opens June 9 with Allen and his New Orleans Jazz Band playing a benefit concert at the Eastman Theater for New Orleans' dislocated jazz community. The 70-year-old filmmaker and clarinet player rarely performs in large venues or outside New York City.

The festival will feature about 170 performances ranging from formal concerts to free street gigs. Brown, the 72-year-old Godfather of Soul, will be the top draw at the Eastman Theater on June 10. Etta James, best known for her 1960 version of "At Last," will take the stage June 16 with The Roots Band.

Jazz stalwarts and rising stars in the lineup include singers Sonya Kitchell and Karrin Allyson, saxophonist Phil Woods, violinist Billy Bang, groove-rock band Little Feat, Scandinavian trombonists Sliding Hammers and Rochester's own Gap Mangione Quintet.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR WEEKEND EDITION, APRIL 8-9, 2006

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

ATL (PG-13)
1:50 4:30 7:20 10:00
Basic Instinct 2 (R)
1:30 4:05 7:00 9:45
Hills Have Eyes The (R)
10:15
Phat Girlz (PG-13)
2:30 5:25 8:00 10:30
She's the Man (PG-13)
2:10 5:00 7:40

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

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
11:30am 12:00 1:40 2:30 4:00 4:50
6:30 7:20 9:00 9:40
Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:50am 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:30
Slither (R)
12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:10
Take the Lead (PG-13)
1:10 4:10 7:10 10:00
V for Vendetta (R)
1:20 4:20 7:30 10:20

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

16 Blocks (PG-13)
10:15
Benchwarmers The (PG-13)
12:00 12:50 2:10 3:10 4:30 5:30 7:00
8:00 9:20 10:30 11:30
Failure to Launch (PG-13)
12:10 2:30 5:00 7:20 10:00
Inside Man (R)
12:30 1:50 3:20 4:40 6:40 7:40 9:50
11:00
Shaggy Dog The (PG)
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:50
Stay Alive (PG-13)
12:20 2:40 4:50 7:10 9:10

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:50
Tsotsi (R)
1:30 4:00 7:30 9:55

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

Devil and Daniel Johnston The (PG-13)
9:30
Friends with Money (R)
12:45 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
Kinky Boots (PG-13)
7:00
L'Enfant (The Child) (R)
1:40 4:20 7:00
Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing & Charm School (PG-13)
1:20 4:10 7:10 9:45
Maxx (NR)
1:55 4:30 7:20 9:50

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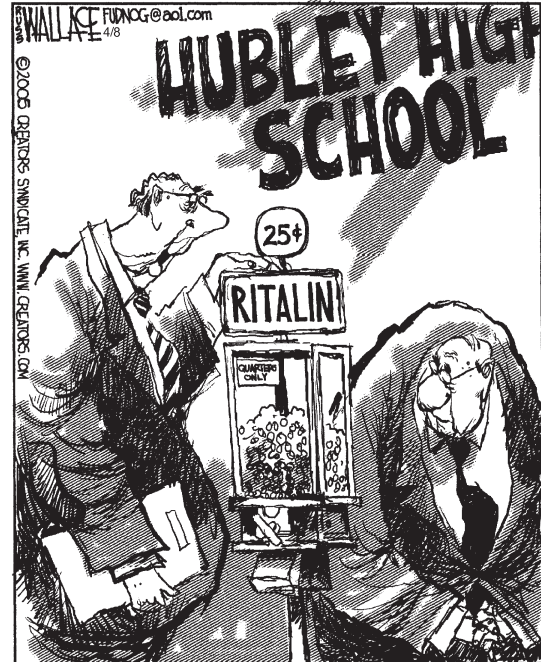


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

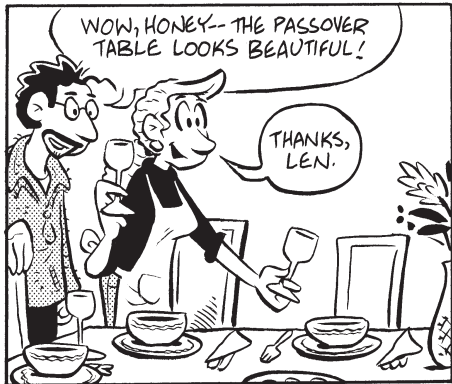


Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace

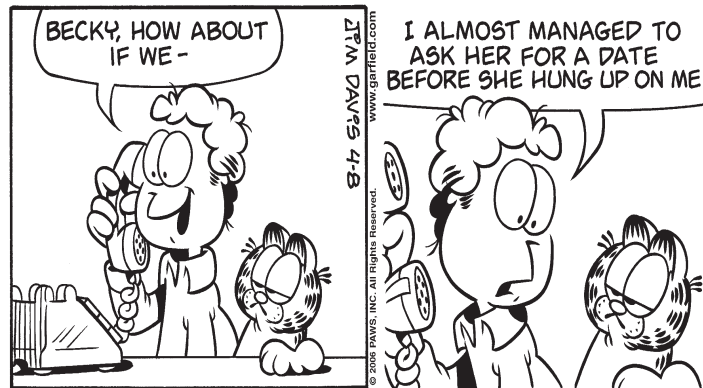


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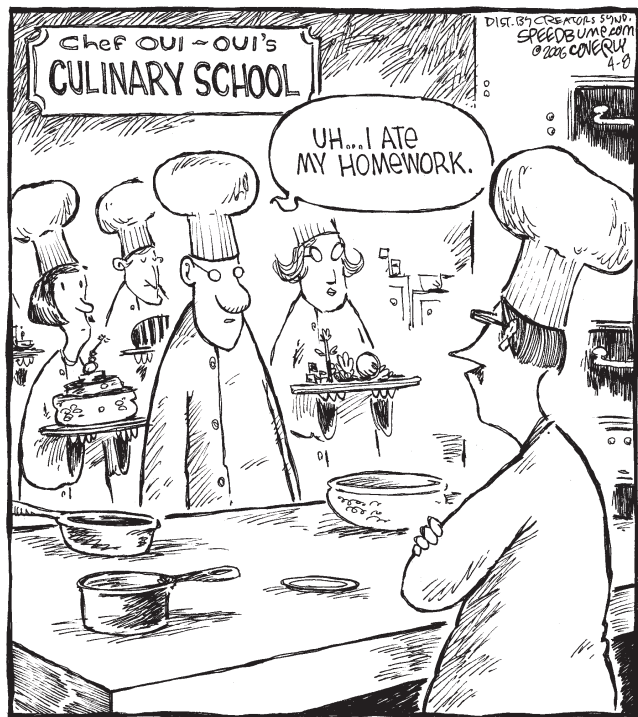
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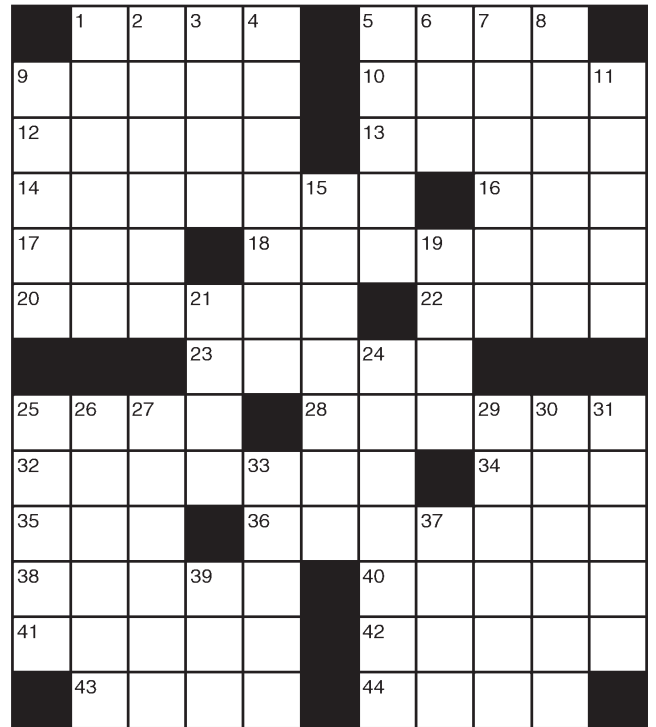
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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1 "Field of Dreams" setting
5 A bunch
9 Fashion worker
10 Fugard's "A Lesson From —"
12 Paragon
13 Street of mysteries
14 Strip
16 Yr. end
17 Spots
18 Flemish painter
20 Pitcher Tom
22 Alley prowlers
23 Linen type
25 Hamster holder
28 Milk-maids' aids
32 Broadcast time
34 Sassiness
35 Vitamin bottle abbr.

DOWN
1 Kelp component
2 Ukraine port
3 Put on
4 Wide-spread
5 Burdened
6 Flamenco call
7 "See!"
8 Choose
9 Gold-loving king
11 Gives the boot
15 Coffee-shop worker
19 Canyon sound
21 Contended
24 Lettering aid
25 No-no on some diets
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29 Relish-tray items
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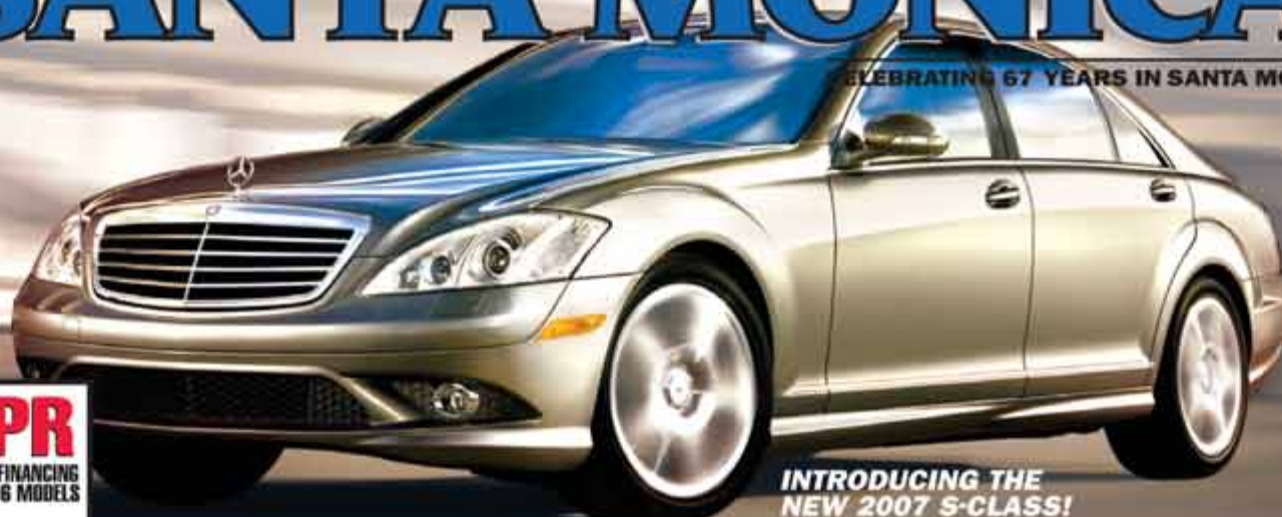
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