

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

13-22-23-29-47

Megamatch: 11

Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

5, 13, 22, 33, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 2, 4

Evening picks: 7, 2, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shots

2nd Place: 05, California Classic

3rd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:41.75



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ As the Romanian government hurries to improve law-enforcement sophistication in its campaign for European Union membership, villagers in the Transylvania region are resisting police crackdowns on their traditional practice of vampire killings, according to a March Knight Ridder News Service report. Vampires (unlike Hollywood conventions using crosses and garlic) are just people who go bad upon death and cause continuing grief to family members unless they are re-killed. The body is dug up; the heart is removed with a curved sickle and burned (but it will likely squeak like a mouse and try to escape unless held down); and the ashes are mixed with water and drunk. Villagers are outraged that some may face criminal charges for disturbing the dead, which carries a three-year prison sentence.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Injured a stone, murdered a brick, I'm so mean I make medicine sick"

— Muhammad Ali

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SM man withholds nation's allowance



BY LAUREN BONIFACIO
Special to the Daily Press

Some people light candles, and some people carry signs. Some might even write their congressman. But one Santa Monica resident is showing his disgust with the Bush administration in a different way: He's not paying his taxes.

As the income tax deadline approaches, Chris Toussaint has it easy. Unlike the rest of Americans, the 50-year-old producer and director isn't rushing to put together his yearly donation to the Internal Revenue Service because his 1040 will not be including a check.

Higher-ups in Washington, Toussaint said, "don't get the message through the vote ... letters or protests. It's time for patriotic Americans to withhold the money until they get the message."

Estimating that he will owe the IRS about \$1,000 this year, Toussaint said he is not willing to fund a country with international and domestic policies with which he does not agree.

See TAXES, page 6

'Tiny Hawk'



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press
Lin Siv of South Los Angeles shows off a skateboard stunt to his friends. The boys spent part of their sunny Easter afternoon practicing tricks on their boards in front of this office building on Broadway between Ocean and Second.

Sign permission: Compliance or consequences

(This is the third installment of an ongoing series about City Hall's sign ordinance).

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

With City Hall now heavily scrutinizing signs that hang in front of area businesses, merchants who don't have a permit for them better get one.

If a business owner fails to apply for a permit, he or she should take them down, or face fines as much as \$25,000 a day, said Tim McCormick, the head of City Hall's building and planning department.

"Every sign requires a

permit," he said. "The goal is to get people to understand the process, and if they are entitled to a sign, we are going to give them a chance to comply."

Applying for a permit requires a business owner to submit drawings, a site and elevation plan, as well as the dimensions of the sign, which should all conform to City Hall's code, which is available on the city's Web site, pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us.

"If they have an illegal sign, they should take a picture of it so it's really clear what we are talking about," McCormick said, adding the fee for a permit application is less than

See SIGNS, page 5

Several factors put state schools in crisis

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — California's enormous K-12 public school system is mired in the worst funding crisis in its history, forcing districts throughout the state to impose cuts so deep that academic achievement

likely will suffer.

Practically every state faces daunting school funding challenges, but the situation is particularly severe in California, which has the nation's largest public school system, educating one of every eight students in the country.

Educators point to a

confluence of economic and political constraints at the federal and state level that have forced schools from tiny rural communities to the sprawling Los Angeles Unified School District to slash school programs, lay off staff and increase class size. These include a struggling state

economy and state budget deficit, projected to be \$14 billion next year; declining student enrollment in some places and explosive growth in others; spiraling health care and workers' compensation costs; and intractable state and feder-

See SCHOOLS, page 6

Paul Grymkowski: From the board room to the soup line

Community profiles is a weekly series that appears each Monday and delves into the people who live, work and play in Santa Monica.

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

After building Gold's Gym into an international empire with more than 2 million members, Paul Grymkowski retired to a life of community service.

The 55-year-old native of New York can be found each week in Palisades Park, where he feeds more

than 100 homeless people meals of pasta, shredded chicken, chili, muffins and other protein-rich foods.

To Grymkowski, who lives in Topanga Canyon, it's not just about hunger. It's about joining together what he calls his "friends and family" in a community setting, where

See PROFILES, page 7

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Eddie Guerboian



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You are still working under the haze of confusion and are not exactly sure what will work. The good news is that late today, Mercury, the thinking planet, moves into your sign. You will get new ideas, solutions and communication. Tonight: With friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You take a stand because you see a situation differently. Be prepared to prove your facts and figures, even if you are in charge. Not everything goes as you would like it to. Laugh away and be more open. Tonight: Quit worrying so much.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A discussion with a partner or associate first thing this morning might not be satisfying, but it is important. You will gain tremendous insight and know which way to go. Aim for more of what you want, and you will get it sooner than you think. Tonight: Be the mental Twin.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Carefully investigate other possibilities that involve finances and an important relationship. Others seek you out for answers and leadership, which you might not be in a position to give. Beg off nicely. Tonight: A heart-to-heart talk.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others hold the cards. Keep your opinions to yourself; don't even shake your head at what someone else says. Detachment will work, and with it you will get answers. Timing is everything right now. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Be where the crowds are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You actually enjoy work, as long as you can escape some of the innate confusion. Still, double-check facts and figures, because mistakes that could be costly might be made. Take time to check your insurance policies and other such documents. Tonight: Please relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might be in the mood to take a flying leap or risk. If you can hold back, do so. At least make sure that you can afford to lose what you invest. Be a little sensible, please. A flirtation could be building. Check this person out. Tonight: Be as mischievous as you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Understanding what is going on could be of no help right now, as others can't or don't want to listen. Let go of an immediate problem, and understand that you can only do so much. Pace yourself. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ People surround you at work and at home. Others tap into your creativity, which grows as the day gets older. Be willing to ask frank questions, and you will get strong answers — though they might not be 100 percent accurate. Tonight: Out at a favorite spot.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with finances, and others will give you many solutions. Be sensitive to a family member who might not be as together as you think. Be good-natured and indulge this special person in a meaningful way. Tonight: Pay bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You are sunny, though possibly a victim or participant in a misunderstanding. Do your best to clear up the problem with a question. Communication flourishes later in the day. In fact, you might be laughing at what just went down. Tonight: Check in on a neighbor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Listen and don't talk. You will gain some strong opinions about what is really going on. Others are not as clear as they could be. Confirm all meetings and appointments, please. Discuss a money matter later in the day. Tonight: Vanish.

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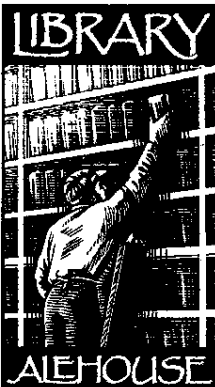
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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Students beat out thousands in essay contest

By Daily Press staff

Don't write off Santa Monica High School junior Ryan Rodriguez just yet. Rodriguez recently beat out more than 10,000 competitors in a county-wide "write off." The fifth-annual AVID Los Angeles County "Write Off" was held last month for high school and middle school students at California State University, Long Beach. This year's essay winners were all part of a program called "Advancement Via Individual Determination." The program targets and pushes students with college potential to succeed in school and enter college.

Erin Gruwell, author of "The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them", and LeAndré Turner, secretary to the associate dean at California State University, recognized the students with a certificate of achievement.

Each student's essay commented on an excerpt from "The Freedom Writers Diary."

The day-long celebration of good writing, organized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education AVID Program, included an opportunity to meet the guest authors and attend workshops designed to promote tolerance awareness through discussion and writing activities.

The students asked Gruwell to talk about the ways writing helped to change the perspectives of themselves and the world around them. The students then attended a workshop led by one of the freedom writers that allowed students to spend a day in a college classroom.

Most AVID students are often the first people in their family to go to college, and many are from lower income families or from groups underrepresented in California's universities.

Ninety-five percent of AVID students enter college, officials said, and statistics also show that AVID students are successful while in college.

"Write Off" challenges high school and middle school students to practice their writing skills. Writing is one of the three AVID program strategies that enable students to excel at difficult course work, while learning the importance of clear communication.

While Rodriguez won the bronze medal in his age group, Lauren Sanchez of Malibu Middle School won the silver medal in her category.

Volunteer for battered women

By Daily Press staff

Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children will begin their volunteer training on Tuesday. The trainings are held twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and run through June 10. The training is mandatory for anyone who would like to volunteer. Sojourn has been a sanctuary for women and children since 1977 and works to empower them to regain their dignity and make choices to stop the cycle of violence in families. Upon completion of training, volunteers staff the 24-hour hotline, work in the children's program, with support groups and administrative assistance. To enroll, call (310) 264-6646, ext. 221.

Free shots for tots

By Daily Press staff

Since its inauguration more than 10 years ago, Shots for Tots & Teens has immunized more than 2,000 children, free of charge. Immunizations and TB skin tests are offered to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under 18 years old. California law requires that all children must have up-to-date shot records to attend school or child care centers. The immunizations will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, polio, tetanus and whooping cough. The event, which will be held in the hospital's cafeteria, is sponsored by Saint John's Health Center and the Santa Monica Rotary Club. Free valet parking is available off of Santa Monica Boulevard. The free shots will be offered on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to noon. Call (310) 829-8234.

surf report

Today look for leftover WNW swell and new SW swell that will slowly start to fill in later in the afternoon. For average spots look for mostly below waist high waves. New NW wind and ground swell will arrive through mid week. We'll also see a succession of SW to SSW swells arriving through much of next week as well.

Today the water is:

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:45	-0.3	7:04	2.8	12:45	5.4	4:22	3.0
SUNDAY	10:16	-0.3	9:28	3.1	1:57	5.0	6:09	3.4
MONDAY	11:34	-0.4	11:30	2.7	3:36	4.8	6:55	3.8
TUESDAY	NA	NA	12:33	-0.5	5:11	4.8	7:27	4.2
WEDNESDAY	12:41	2.1	1:18	-0.5	6:24	4.9	7:56	4.6
THURSDAY	1:32	1.4	1:55	-0.4	7:21	5.0	8:22	4.9
FRIDAY	2:15	0.9	2:27	-0.2	8:09	4.9	8:47	5.2

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The Q Line

City Hall has recently started enforcing a set of codes regarding what type and size of signs businesses are allowed to have in front of their stores. Many business owners argue that enforcement of these codes is trivial and the city should focus on more important issues, such as vagrancy. The city says enforcement is important not only for aesthetic reasons but for safety reasons as well.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"Are city officials justified in cracking down on businesses with illegal signs or are they diverting valuable resources away from the city's bigger problems?"

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



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LETTERS

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"MY BONNIE LIES UNDER THE SEA"

ANALYSIS BY THE
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City Hall sign law is about money

Editor:

Being the owner of Castle Signs for the last 13 years, I have been following your articles on the sign ordinance with great interest. In Carolyn Sackariason's April 8 article, Tim McCormick states "It's not about the money" and "The sign ordinance has been in place for 18 years." I believe both statements to be false. Business owners have always been required to pull a permit for store front signage. In most cases, the square footage of your sign is equal to the lineal footage of your storefront. The ordinance that has been on the books for the last 18 years has to do with pole signs, roof top signs and blade signs (signs that protrude away from the wall). The reason this law was not enforced until three years ago had everything to do about money. In order for the city not to be liable for compensating the business owners for the removal of those signs and then the replacement of said signs, three things had to be in order. One, the signs had to be located in a redevelopment zone. Two, be located in a residential area (apartment signs hanging from posts). Three, the law had to be on the books for 15 years. This law was written in 1986. Not about the money? You say you still see pole signs in Santa Monica? They're not in a redevelopment or residential area. The city could require those signs to come down, but they won't because of the cost. Believe me, the city tried to have those signs removed without compensation. On the eve of this ordinance, the city sent out letters to all business owners who had poles signs and such, telling them they would be cited and fined if they did not comply. The problem is they sent them to businesses not in redevelopment or residential areas. My phone rang off the hook for a week. That's just one of Santa Monica's little tricks. When I first took over Castle Signs in 1991, a sign permit cost \$130. Today it costs \$636. I recently asked the city why such a drastic jump. I was told cost of living. Boy, am I in the wrong business. Businesses are being targeted because they want your permit fees, plain and simple. If we want to beautify Santa Monica, we all know where to start, um, what is that "H" word? It's not going to happen by picking on the small business owners of this city. Oh, and while you're at it Santa Monica, let's open another Staples. Three in a six-mile radius seems a little low, don't you think?

Kyle Scott
Santa Monica

Samohi music to the ears

Editor:

If it hadn't been for an announcement in the SMDP regarding Santa Monica High School's Vienna and Prague send-off concert on April 2, I would have missed this splendid musical experience. Bravo! Brava! Astonishing that such exceptional youthful talent exists within my own community, and for nearly 10 years I hadn't a clue. Sadly, the lovely newly refurbished Barnum Hall seemed a little less than half-full with what appeared to be mostly family and friends of the performers. What a shame.

It's rather late for New Year's resolutions, but I resolve to enjoy as many Samohi musical events as possible from now on. Why miss out on such a treat?

Terry Schiller
Santa MonicaAmerican appeasement
in Iraq will surely fail

As U.S. soldiers respond to attacks in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq, many commentators warn that a forceful, self-assertive campaign to wipe out the militant resistance would be disastrous. Disaster might indeed be looming — but only because of a lack of self-assertiveness by the United States. We are inviting failure in Iraq, and in our overall war on terrorism, by conducting a campaign that is hopelessly apologetic and appeasing.

The Iraqis have long produced despotism. But instead of being morally confident in our right to establish a government that is no longer a threat to anyone — Iraqi or American — we are deferentially asking the Iraqis for permission to proceed. Afraid to offend them, we are reluctant to defend our interests and to uphold our values.

For example, we did not appoint the members of Iraq's Governing Council based on their commitment to freedom. Instead, we sought ethnic and religious "diversity" in order to placate the tribal and political factions that dominate Iraq. The 25 members include: The secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party; the founder of the Kurdish Socialist Party; a member of Iraq's Hezbollah; and a leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution — a group, funded by and partly founded by Iran, advocating an Islamic theocracy.

Is this an assemblage that is going to create a free Iraq?

To assuage the United Nations, we are asking for its aid in postwar Iraq. Is it conceivable that this organization — which helped keep Saddam Hussein in power and whose membership includes the world's bloodiest tyrants — could lead Iraq to freedom?

On the military front, our soldiers face continuing attacks, but political considerations prevent us from disarming the populace.

Attendees at funerals and weddings regularly fire automatic weapons, as their means of "emotional expression." We are at war, but our military planners apparently believe that a methodical, house-to-house search for guns — let alone a disarming of private "militias" in Fallujah and elsewhere — would be too "intrusive." Iraqis — again, brandishing automatic weapons — stage public demonstrations designed to incite violence against us. Yet none are arrested, presumably because we don't want to be regarded as overly assertive.

This same, self-effacing policy is being practiced in Afghanistan, where the problem of "offended local sensibilities" — as a recent New York Times article describes it — has led our policy makers to transform our soldiers into goodwill ambassadors, "whose focus is

less on capturing terrorists than on winning public support."

Is it surprising that the Taliban appears to be successfully regrouping?

In logic and in justice, there is only one means of "winning public support," in Afghanistan or Iraq: Eradicating every trace of the former enslavers. If that is not sufficient, then the support is not worth gaining. Our only concern should be toward those who value freedom enough to recognize the inestimable benefit our troops have given them. As to all the others — they need not like us, only fear us.

In Iraq we started by apologizing for our presence, when our invading soldiers were ordered to jeopardize their lives rather than risk harming civilians or damaging mosques. We have deposed Hussein — but we are still apologizing. We are unwilling to ask Iraqis to bear the costs of their liberation. We are endorsing the very statism we are supposed to be overthrowing as we permit the Iraqi government to own the oil supplies and to remain in the coercive OPEC cartel. We are appeasing the Shiite clerics who regard us as the infidel enemy. This conciliatory attitude only emboldens the enemy, thereby encouraging resistance and inviting disaster.

Upon ousting the governments of Germany and Japan in World War II, we did not proceed on tiptoe. We did not express regret at having to stop traffic, search homes and shoot fleeing suspects. We were morally certain — certain that their system was wrong and ours right, certain that their system threatened us and needed to be eliminated. As a result, the enemy was eventually demoralized, allowing freedom to take root. The identical approach should be adopted now.

In postwar Japan, it was Gen. Douglas MacArthur who unilaterally drafted a new constitution — over the objections of many Japanese — and paved the way for a radical shift from tyranny to liberty. Emulating MacArthur by imposing upon Iraq a U.S.-written constitution that champions the principle of individual rights, including the separation of mosque and state, would be an ideal means of asserting our interests — along with the interests of those Iraqis who genuinely value freedom.

(Peter Schwartz, editor and contributing author of "Return of the Primitive: The Anti-Industrial Revolution" by Ayn Rand, is chairman of the board of directors of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead").

Guest
Commentary

By Peter Schwartz

LOCAL



Inspectors trying to be better communicators

SIGNS, from page 1

\$100. Applicants must submit their information to the staff working behind the planning department counter in City Hall. Either staffers will approve the permit based on criteria already set forth by one of City Hall's review commissions, the Architectural Review Board, or the applicant will have to physically present their case in front of the board for approval, depending on the scope and size of the sign.

The code, which is based on a complex set of criteria that includes the amount of square footage in the storefront, prohibits certain types of signs like those hanging from rooftops, those on free-standing poles and sandwich boards, among others.

City Hall has beefed up its enforcement of illegal signs as part of an overall effort to have Santa Monica in compliance with all of the city's codes, including zoning issues and noise, McCormick said. Ten new code compliance officers have been hired, and one is dedicated solely to sign enforcement.

Businesses who don't have City Hall's stamp of approval were notified via letter in November of their non-compliance. Since then, building inspectors have been checking local businesses and officially citing them if their signs have been deemed illegal.

Several businesses already have been forced to take down their signs, or face stiff penalties. Those who choose not to comply will be contacted by the City Attorney's office and ordered to attend an administrative hearing held by an independent judge, McCormick said.

But business owners usually end up complying before it gets to the hearing stage, when a conference between building and safety officials and the merchant is held. About 85 percent of violators end up complying when they are notified of the potential fines.

"It's kind of their last call," McCormick said. "We're not out to get them to take down their signs ... the city recognizes their legitimate right to have a sign, but they need to remove it if they don't have a permit."

McCormick said the law, which was passed 18 years ago but just recently

became a priority for the City Council, is intended to make all of the signs in Santa Monica more uniform and aesthetically in control.

"It just becomes too much sometimes," he said.

For those who fail to comply, which so far only one business has done, they could face criminal charges, McCormick said. The same goes for repeat offenders.

"For the ones that don't want to pay, we will criminally prosecute," he said. "For repeat offenders, the fines go higher, and it turns into a criminal matter. The courts have been very supportive of our law."

"But for most of them, it's not worth going to jail," he added.

McCormick said only one code compliance officer is officially charged with enforcing the sign code to regulate the amount of cases going through City Hall so staff can handle the workload. Asked whether City Hall will be able to handle the expected influx of permit applications, McCormick said getting approval should only take a day or two. But if a merchant has to get approval from the Architectural Review Board, it could take up to two months.

"It's already affecting more people at the counter," McCormick said. "(The enforcement) could affect (the workload)."

But with tens of thousands of signs hung throughout Santa Monica at more than 6,000 businesses, it's going to take a long time for everyone to be found in compliance.

McCormick said City Hall is currently working on an information packet to be distributed to all businesses to help them understand the law and how to comply with it.

"It helps people to know what's required of them," he said. "We are trying to be better communicators about the code."

Better communication might help ease the animosity many merchants have toward City Hall. Merchants who have been cited feel singled out and think the policy makers in City Hall should focus on what they feel are real issues, like vagrants sleeping on the streets and disrupting their businesses.

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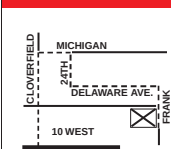
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LOCAL

SM resident might pay up if Bush is removed

TAXES, from page 1

"I'm just totally opposed to the course that this president has taken this country," said Toussaint, who has recently joined several political groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

Not paying the income tax, however, would merit certain penalties. The IRS, a division of the Department of Treasury, is a government body that collects more than \$2 trillion in revenue a year.

"If someone does not pay, they face the full weight of the civil collections process, regardless of the reason they're not paying," said Victor Omelczenko, an IRS spokesman for the Los Angeles area. "There's no law that allows a person to refuse to pay their taxes based on moral or ethical causes."

By filing tax forms but not including a check, Toussaint's forms would be considered a "frivolous return" and be subject

to penalties, Omelczenko said.

But Toussaint said his conscience, as well as his research into historical Americans such as Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson, directed him toward this form of protest. "The founding fathers of this country rebelled against King George, and they were taking a big risk."

"I certainly don't look forward to any hassles the IRS may give me, but at the same time I want it to be known that I'm doing this because of my convictions and my principles," Toussaint said.

Nor is Toussaint shying away from making his planned non-payment status known. He has informed state senators and congressmembers of his plan and said he hopes to encourage others to join with him.

"Coming out (about not paying) is a political and a moral statement," Toussaint said. "It's a nonviolent way of

protesting."

The small business owner is relatively new to Santa Monica — he moved just a year and a half ago from the San Fernando Valley — but his progressive politics seem to fit right in.

Still, Toussaint was not always an IRS target.

He had always paid his taxes. Working at the Democratic National Convention in 2000, though, was a turning point.

Toussaint helped create a short film detailing the different political protests going on at the time, and soon politics became a constant theme in both his work and his life, he said.

Toussaint has recently worked on projects, such as one on the homeless crisis in L.A. that have shown him that many local problems start with problems in Washington, Toussaint said.

Add to that the current administration's support for the war in Iraq, which was

"the straw that broke the camel's back," and Toussaint said he could no longer condone the government's actions.

"I can't partake of that anymore," he said.

Because of high expenses and lower profits from his business, Toussaint received tax refunds from the IRS the last two years — which he conscientiously cashed, he said. But profitable projects this year have earned him a tax liability.

It will take a drastic reversal of policy or a change in the presidential administration for Toussaint to start paying again by April 15 next year, he said.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry might not have been Toussaint's first choice, Toussaint said, but having the Massachusetts senator take Bush's place might just encourage him to pay the IRS.

"I can't imagine that he could be worse," Toussaint said.

Educators: Schwarzenegger should consider tax increases

SCHOOLS, from page 1

al spending mandates.

The problems have led to student walk-outs and mass protests, including a 70-mile march to the state capital by parents and teachers pleading for more money for the troubled West Contra Costa school district.

In Santa Monica, where the school district faces multi-million dollar shortfalls, teachers and staff have marched in response to lay-offs and have pleaded

with local politicians to buck up more cash to help them financially.

A large group of school boosters, called "Community For Excellent Public Schools," is proposing to change the city charter so City Hall is forced to give at least \$6 million a year to the school district. The City Council has for years given a standard \$3 million to the district, but in the past few years, has given an extra \$2.25 million in one-time funds. The group is collecting signatures to force the measure

on the ballot for this November's election.

California's public schools were among the nation's best funded before voters in 1978 approved Proposition 13, slashing the property taxes that provided key revenues. Today, California ranks about 44th in average per pupil spending.

A voter backlash led to Proposition 98 in 1988, which guaranteed minimum funds for K-12 schools. But California's school spending has declined in recent years to about \$6,500 per pupil per year, while states like New York and New Jersey spend close to \$11,000.

The biggest problem, many say, is a political environment that pays lip service to the importance of education but doesn't deliver the resources needed for even basic services.

"There's never been a time that I've been more concerned, more worried, and more fearful of the impact of budget cuts," said Brett McFadden of the Association of California School Administrators. "We have a situation in California where there's a huge disconnect between what the electorate wants and what the electorate is willing to pay for, and Republicans and Democrats alike need to admit it."

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger campaigned on a promise to protect public education. He negotiated a deal in December to delay \$2 billion in payments to public schools in exchange for no further cuts, and has proposed freeing \$2 billion in mandated programs so that schools can spend it as they see fit.

"He definitely followed through on the promises he made in the campaign, and the proof is in his budget," said state finance spokesman H.D. Palmer.

But escalating costs are forcing drastic choices.

One extreme example is the West Contra Costa Unified School District, which eliminated all sports, closed its libraries and laid off more than 200 employees last month, largely due to the costs of a decades-old deal to provide health insurance to employees and their spouses for the rest of their lives. That agreement will cost the district \$9.5 million this year, rising 15 percent to 20 percent next year.

A growing number of districts now say they are in full-blown crisis mode. Seven have warned the state they can't pay their bills this year; 55 others say they may fall short of cash in the next three years.

The districts in crisis are as diverse as

the Vallejo City Unified School District, with a \$131 million budget, and the West Fresno Elementary School District, with an \$8 million budget.

"We are getting a call or an e-mail a day from districts asking for management assistance," said Tom Henry, whose Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team offers state management help to struggling schools.

Vallejo, a San Francisco Bay area suburb that has lost students because of soaring housing costs, has applied for an emergency \$20 million state loan after cutting personnel, eliminating elementary music programs and raising class size in some elementary grades from 20 to 30 students. But by accepting the bailout, the district will have to surrender its management to a state administrator until the loan is repaid.

Small towns aren't immune — the rural district of Corning in Northern California has cut teachers and raised some class sizes to 38 students — and still may not pay this year's bills.

"This has been the most contentious, awful year I have spent as a school administrator," said Corning superintendent Richard Jukes. "We have been focused on money issues, not learning, and that's not where we want to be."

Solutions remain elusive and controversial. Voters approved a \$12.3 billion school construction bond in March, but the California Teachers Association dropped their plans Thursday for an initiative to raise commercial property taxes to pay for education.

"We waste so much money in this state on administration and bureaucracy," said Jon Coupal, the association's president. "We'd love to see more money go down to the classrooms and we'd love to see merit pay, but the whole educational establishment is run by unions."

Ultimately, Schwarzenegger and the legislature should consider tax increases, many educators say.

"Arnold was going to come in and make it all right — you say what you say to get yourself elected," said Bob Bronzan, deputy superintendent of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. "Now, do something about it."

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LOCAL



Community Profiles

PROFILES, from page 1

the people around the table feel dignified as they break their bread.

He knows many of the people he serves suffer from mental illness or addiction, and can't hold down a normal job. But he doesn't care.

In an interview last week, Grymkowski steered the conversation away from individuals, but he did mention one who stuck out in his mind. It was a college professor. The professor watched his wife and daughter die as they collided with a bus, as they were turning the car around to pick him up. The professor has been homeless ever since.

Grymkowski moved to Santa Monica in 1980 to help his brother draft a business plan for the very first Gold's Gym, on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Second Street. His brother bought the place from Joe Gold in 1979 but quickly found there was a lien against the property. He called upon Grymkowski's business sense in the hope that he could keep him from being run out of business.

It worked. Grymkowski drafted a business plan and got to work franchising. Before retiring in 1999, he oversaw the expansion of the little gym that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger used to work out in to an international powerhouse with 535 gyms in 23 countries.

In retirement, Grymkowski focuses mostly on volunteer activities — for his church, his chamber of commerce, a local theatrical group. And every week he can be found in Santa Monica, where he feeds a group of thankful homeless people.

Grymkowski said he'd be glad to move his picnics inside — City Hall officials are trying to discourage public feedings at area parks by requiring health permits for larger gatherings — but said a suitable, dignified place needs to be set aside.

The Daily Press caught up with the entrepreneur-turned-humanitarian and asked him about his "picnics," and about Helping Other People Eat, the nonprofit organization he directs.

How did you first get started with your picnics in Palisades Park?

"Actually, I was walking through the park and I saw some people feeding some of the homeless there, and you know, it was very kind of crude the way it was set

up, and I thought to myself, 'Maybe they could use a hand.' I saw that they needed some pots and pans. It was just a couple of ladies with chili and paper bowls ... and I thought, 'These people need better meals than that' — and that's when I started to put together the meals, with pasta, chili and shredded chicken, and noodles and soups — things with proteins, so they have a good nutritious meal."

Why do you do it? Why spend the time and money?

"I think it's important ... Personally, it's important for me to be able to live my faith, to be able to share love, and to be able to share the blessings that I've had through my life — the blessing that I've had with my business, the blessing that I've had with my friendships and my relationships, and I'd like to celebrate that.

"Some people do it in different ways. Some people go on expensive vacations to Hawaii and spend thousands of dollars. I'd rather spend thousands of dollars with my family and friends, being with them, breaking bread with them ... That's the way I'd like to live my life. I can't think of a better way to spend my life."

Many of the people that you help feed have been homeless in Santa Monica for years. Are you ever discouraged?

"I'm never discouraged. I look at people as being individuals and not everyone

is perfect. I'm not perfect. Everyone has their challenges in life, and I always give people the benefit of the doubt, no matter what challenges they have — and if I can help them with the challenges they have, then I'm blessed to do that.

"Because down deep everyone is a human being no matter what type of addictions they have, no matter what types of fears they have, no matter what kind of damages they've sustained throughout their life, they are still children of our maker. We all should still be brothers and sisters no matter how far apart we may seem to be."

Speaking of that, have you ever encountered rudeness or received complaints from people in the park who may not approve of your picnics?

"No, not at all. I've not had anyone express any negativity about our picnics. I've had a lot of people stop and give us some positive compliments, and people who've wanted to volunteer and help, people who've wanted to donate money — which I don't take — people who've wanted to bring food and clothing, things like that.

"Because I think most people are good and they feel compassionate towards people with a lot of pain and suffering. There are some other people who have political or business agendas who are not as kind, but we really don't hear from them."

City Hall recently passed an ordinance aimed at making large, regular feedings in the parks illegal. Have you

ever considered moving the picnics inside?

"Bring them inside where? I've been asking the city a long time, where do they want to bring them inside? They don't have a soup kitchen. If they had a soup kitchen, we'd bring them inside ... We'd be glad to go inside if they would give these organizations a reasonable place to go.

"Now, I've heard of (Ocean Park Community Center) opening their place up to these organizations. But they don't have any good space for people to sit and eat. There, the people sit in a parking lot, on the asphalt, under the sun ...

"People sit underneath nice trees in the park, with a breeze, overlooking the ocean. It gives these people some dignity. I think this is the issue. Bring these food programs together and still give people some dignity. Let them sit down at a table to eat, so they don't have to be digging through Dumpsters or begging or panhandling ...

"I think the city's done a great job of funding programs, but I don't think they've come to the plate as far as offering a soup kitchen, as many other cities have ... It wouldn't cost the city a dime. We would get people to do the plumbing, do the renovations, everything to (run) the soup kitchen, and that would solve the feeding issues. I don't know why they don't do it."

What about enforcement of the ordinance, how has it changed the feeding programs?

"We haven't experienced any enforcement. They've been monitoring us, but I don't think any more than other groups."

In general, though — has it changed the atmosphere in the park?

"The ordinance is not being enforced at this point, so there hasn't really been any big change. There are some groups — from what I hear, there are some groups that have changed their location. Some of them have gone to OPCC ... some of them have gone to Venice. The park rangers and the police have been very courteous and very upfront with me, they've been great.

"We aren't causing a disturbance ... In about an hour and half, we serve these people a good, nutritious meal."

Paul Grymkowski

As one of five children, Grymkowski, who has a twin sister, started his career as an entrepreneur in the first grade. He was held back by his Catholic grammar school teachers after falling behind because he often ditched class, rode to the nearby bay, caught carp, got ice from a local bar and peddled the fish for 50 cents a piece.

Born: March 5, 1949, in Rochester, N.Y.

Family: Engaged to Joanna Gunst. Mother was a homemaker. Father owned a window-cleaning company.

Education: Grymkowski studied at a Catholic grammar school before going on to public high school in Rochester. He later attended the Rochester Business Institute, the Monroe Community College and the University of Rochester.

Background: Before building Gold's Gym into an international powerhouse, Grymkowski put himself through college running maintenance and catering businesses, as well as his dad's window-cleaning operation.

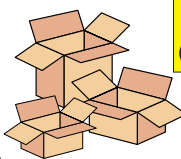
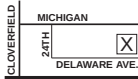
Hobbies: Cooking, weight lifting and community service.

Residence: Horseshoe Drive in the Fernwood area of Topanga Canyon.

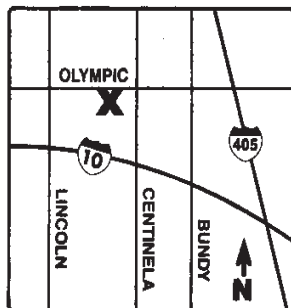
Organizations: Grymkowski is head usher at Corpus Christi Parish; chancellor and council director of Santa Monica Bay Council No. 920, Knights of Columbus; member of the board of directors and vice president of the Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum, a nonprofit theater and academy; advisory board member of the Topanga Chamber of Commerce; and co-director of HOPE.

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pioneer still left his mark****BY BRIAN MELLEY**
Associated Press Writer**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** — Having escaped avalanches, endured blizzards and survived an entire winter skiing the rugged Sierra crest, Orland Bartholomew headed down to Yosemite Valley as anonymously as he began his improbable trek in 1928.

On the journey that ended 75 years ago Saturday, Bartholomew made history — scoring the first winter ascent of Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the United States at the time — and blazed a trail for generations of backcountry skiers.

But hardly anyone noticed. The closest thing to a welcome he got was from a boot-legger who gave him a lift to the ranger's station, trying unsuccessfully to peddle some moonshine. No record was kept at the park of his arrival, and his 300-mile adventure remains nearly as little-known today as it was when he finished in 1929.

Now Bartholomew's son, a group of avid skiers and some history buffs are working to resurrect the memory of his trek by naming a peak for him in the mountains that were his home until he died in 1957.

"There's so many other people who were never in the Sierra, others who did next to nothing to get their names on a peak," said Gene Rose, author of "High Odyssey," a book chronicling the 14-week trip. "It's really almost tragic that history has almost bypassed this great Sierra icon."

The extraordinary journey was an early feat of ski mountaineering at a time when skiing was in its infancy in North America and climbing in the Sierra Nevada was a warm weather pursuit.

Bartholomew became a proficient skier as one of the early mountain men who measured the snowpack and stream levels in winter to gauge how much hydroelectric power Southern California Edison could wring from the Sierra. As he pushed deeper into the backcountry, the idea was born for an extensive tour.

"Bart," as he was known, recruited his friend and colleague, Ed Steen, for the trip and lined up \$1,000 from an organization promoting travel in the Fresno area. The two men spent the summer of 1928 storing provisions throughout the high country, using pack horses to haul 30-gallon garbage cans of food they hung from trees.

After returning from placing their food caches, they learned the San Joaquin Travel and Tourist Association had backed out of the plan. With their sponsor gone, Steen withdrew from the trip; Bart decided to go it alone.

The route would roughly follow the yet-to-be-completed John Muir Trail — named for another Sierra trailblazer — covering remote and spectacular terrain from Yosemite to the 14,495-foot top of Whitney.

The Sierra's prominent peaks had been mapped, climbed and named, but the most rugged section was a forbidden and forbidding territory in winter.

Stories of struggle and survival, including the infamous Donner Party's plunge into horror in tamer environs, fill Sierra history books. California snows claim lives every year in avalanches and tumbles.

To take a spill alone would spell doom. Even today, standing atop the passes and peaks Bartholomew scaled gives the sensation of an endless labyrinth of soaring mountains and plummeting canyons.

To meander up the spine of the range on skis with a 70-pound backpack was considered by many to be a foolhardy proposition. Even Bart had second thoughts, contemplating in his journal that he might "break my fool neck."

In persevering, and making first winter ascents on Mount Langley and Mount Tyndall, both over 14,000 feet, he opened the Sierra Nevada — Spanish for "snowy mountains" — to winter recreation.

Bill Tweed, chief naturalist for Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, views Bartholomew as a forefather of those who embrace nature's challenges.

"He was the last of the pioneers and the first of a generation of recreational explorers," Tweed said. "In a way, he's the direct precursor to modern day extreme mountain sports. He wasn't doing this to map anything; he was doing this for adventure."

On Christmas Day 1928, Bartholomew, who would turn 30 that winter, got a lift up the road leading from Lone Pine to Cottonwood Pass on the Sierra's steep east side. He hiked until the snow got deep around 8,000 feet and strapped on his new custom-built hickory skis and pushed off with poles fashioned from rake handles. The adventure was underway.

Five years ago, Art Baggett stood in the same place with the goal of following those long-vanished tracks. With his 17-year-old son and two other expert skiers, the four were the first to trace Bartholomew's course.

Skiing with lighter, modern equipment and using techniques much evolved — opening up new terrain and making steeper pitches skiable — the group covered the same distance in less than a month.

But their journey still posed many challenges.

It snowed eight of their first 11 days. Like Bartholomew, the report of avalanches echoed off the mountainsides and the going was arduous and menacing at times.

Despite having the latest gear, they were ill-equipped for whiteouts that blinded their way. Early one afternoon near Bullfrog Lake in Kings Canyon, about a mile from a cabin where they had stashed food, they had to pitch camp after becoming so disoriented they started traveling backward.

"That gives you an idea of what this guy faced," said Baggett, chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board. "It puts in perspective how gutsy he was. It was an amazing, amazing feat he pulled off."

While the expedition renewed their respect for a man who single-handedly took on the mountains, it didn't achieve their goal of getting a peak named for him.

An 11,099-foot mountain near the Minarets, a section of soaring spires in the Ansel Adams Wilderness of Sierra National Forest where Bartholomew later worked as a ranger, remains unnamed.

Efforts are underway to renew the bid to put Bartholomew's name on the summit.

U.S. Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., wrote the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in support of a Mount Bartholomew after recording a tribute to the skier and his latter-day followers in the congressional record five years ago.

But a required two-page application was never submitted, said Roger Payne, the board's executive secretary. About 90 percent of the 400 naming requests are approved each year after a four- to six-month review process that requires approval from county supervisors and the state.

NATIONAL



Many Hanford workers fear vapors at nuclear site

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

RICHLAND, Wash. — Steve and Virginia Wallace know the symptoms of exposure to chemical vapors: headaches, nosebleeds, a metallic taste.

With a combined 30 years working at the Hanford nuclear site, the two respiratory equipment specialists believe workers there aren't being adequately protected.

The state and federal governments are investigating procedures at Hanford's so-called tank farms amid allegations that corners are being cut — and workers endangered — to speed cleanup of the nation's most contaminated nuclear site.

More than 90 workers have sought medical care for exposure at the tank farms in the past two years, according to data gathered by the Government Accountability Project, a nonprofit watchdog group. Few workers will speak publicly.

A 1997 draft report by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory concluded that the risk of contracting cancer from exposure to the vapors could be as high as 1.6 in 10.

In the industrial world, normal risk is for one worker in 10,000 to contract cancer from exposures in the workplace, according to Tim Jarvis, a former researcher at the laboratory and peer reviewer of the report. Jarvis now is a private consultant often contracted by the

"My own personal opinion is I'm not being protected. People are afraid to seek medical attention. I've been scared."

— VIRGINIA WALLACE
Employee

Government Accountability Project.

"The report shows that exposure to tank vapors is extremely hazardous and will most likely lead to fatal cancers in the workers if exposure is continued," he said.

"My own personal opinion is I'm not being protected," said Virginia Wallace, who takes samples inside the tanks. Her husband is an instrument technician. "People are afraid to seek medical attention. I've been scared."

For 40 years, the Hanford reservation made plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal. Today, work there centers on a \$50 billion to \$60 billion cleanup to be finished by 2035 under an accelerated schedule pushed by the Bush administration.

The most deadly waste, about 53 million gallons of radioactive liquid, sludge and saltcake, sits in 177 underground tanks less than 10 miles from the Columbia River. Plans call for turning much of that waste into glass logs and burying it at a nuclear waste repository.

Experts have identified as many as 1,200 chemicals, including some known cancer-causing agents, in the tanks.

CH2M Hill, the Colorado-based contractor hired to handle cleanup, and the Energy Department, which manages the cleanup, say most of the chemicals are diluted and pose no danger to workers. Only three — ammonia, nitrous oxide and butanol — have been found in the tanks' air cavities at levels exceeding occupation exposure limits, CH2M Hill said.

"No one has received a toxic dose of these chemicals," said Rob Barr, director of environmental safety and quality for the Energy Department's Office of River Protection.

"We are concerned and they should be concerned," Barr said. But, he added, "We have a very high assurance that there are no long-term effects of the chemicals that are out there, because they are at such a low level."

CH2M Hill says the rising number of exposures are, in part, a result of educat-

ing workers about vapors and encouraging them to report unusual smells.

More than 800 people work in the tank farms for CH2M Hill. The total work force at Hanford is about 11,000 people.

Following four vapor incidents in two weeks last month — which sent nine workers for medical evaluations — CH2M Hill halted routine work in the tank farms. The company has restarted some work since, but employees who enter the tank farms must wear respirators.

Critics argue that respirators can't protect against all 1,200 chemicals.

Last month, the Energy Department began formally investigating the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, the private contractor that monitors and provides health care to Hanford workers. The contractor has denied allegations that include fraud and medical-records mismanagement. Officials there did not return telephone messages seeking comment Friday.

A report CH2M Hill commissioned last fall by four independent experts cited failures to communicate procedural changes or safety issues about vapors.

Susan Eberlein, vice president of safety for CH2M Hill, said the company is continuing to educate employees about vapors and improve communications.

"We're trying to minimize exposures as much as possible," she said.

Document talks of al-Qaida's determination to launch attacks

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush was told more than a month before the Sept. 11 attacks that al-Qaida had reached America's shores, had a support system in place for its operatives and that the FBI had detected suspicious activity that might involve a hijacking plot.

Since 1998, the FBI had observed "patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks," according to a memo prepared for Bush and declassified Saturday. They included evidence of buildings in New York possibly being cased by terrorists.

The document also said the CIA and FBI were investigating a call to the U.S. embassy in the United Arab Emirates in May "saying that a group of (Osama) bin Laden supporters was in the U.S. planning attacks with explosives."

Senior administration officials said Bush had requested the memo after seeing more than 40 mentions of al-Qaida in his daily intelligence updates during the first eight months of his presidency.

The commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks asked the White House to declassify the document at its meeting Thursday. It is significant because Bush read it, and it thus offers a window on what Bush and his top aides knew about the threat of a terrorist strike.

The Aug. 6, 2001, memo made plain that bin Laden had been scheming to strike the United States for at least six years. It warned of indications from a broad array of sources, spanning several years.

"Clandestine, foreign government, and media reports indicate bin Laden since 1997 has wanted to conduct terrorist attacks in the US," the memo to Bush stated. Bin Laden implied in U.S. television

interviews in 1997 and 1998 that his followers would follow the example of World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef and "bring the fighting to America."

The "presidential daily brief" said that after President Clinton launched missile strikes on his base in Afghanistan in 1998, "bin Laden told followers he wanted to retaliate in Washington."

The memo cited intelligence from another country, but the White House blacked out the name of the nation. It was the first time a presidential daily brief has ever been released publicly.

Efforts to launch an attack from Canada around the time of "Y2K" "may have been part of bin Laden's first serious attempt to implement a terrorist strike in the U.S.," the document states.

Convicted plotter Ahmed Ressam, who was caught trying to cross the Canadian border with explosives about 60 miles north of Seattle in late 1999, told the FBI that he alone conceived a planned attack on Los Angeles International Airport, but that bin Laden lieutenant Abu Zubaydah "encouraged him and helped facilitate the operation," the document said.

Al-Qaida members, some of them American citizens, had lived in or traveled to the United States for years, the memo said.

"The group apparently maintains a support structure that could aid attacks," it warned.

The document said that "some of the more sensational threat reporting" — such as warnings that bin Laden wanted to hijack aircraft to win the release of fellow extremists — could not be corroborated.

One item in the memo referred to "recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York." A White House official speaking on condition of anonymity that that was a reference to two Yemeni men the FBI interviewed and concluded were

simply tourists taking photographs.

On May 15, 2001, a caller to the U.S. embassy in the United Arab Emirates warned of planned bin Laden attacks with explosives in the United States, but did not say where or when.

The CIA reported the incident to other government officials the next day, and a dozen or more steps were taken by the CIA and other agencies "to run down" the information from the phone call, senior administration officials said Saturday evening.

One official said references to al-Qaida in prior presidential briefings "would indicate 'they are here, they are there' in other countries and the CIA director would tell the president what was being done to address 'these different operations.'"

The official said those types of references prompted the president to ask for a

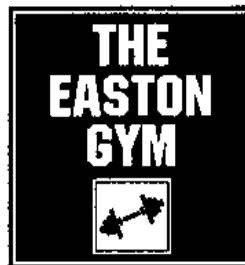
report on domestic activity.

The senior administration officials refused to say what Bush's response to the memo was, or precisely what government action it had triggered.

Richard Ben-Veniste, a Democratic commissioner and former Watergate prosecutor, said Saturday the details in the memo call into question Rice's assertion last week that the memo was purely a "historical" document.

"This is a provocative piece of information and warrants further exploration as to what was done following the receipt of this information to enhance our domestic security," he said. In particular, he said he wanted to know what Bush's reaction to the memo was.

"It appears to bring the president up to date with respect to the potential for this spectacular attack the intelligence communities are anticipating," he said.



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NATIONAL

High food equals high prices at Colorado ski resorts

BY JASON BLEVINS

Associated Press Writer

KEYSTONE, Colo. — The Mishler family members cast a few sidelong glances as they huddled over a homemade picnic in the Summit House cafeteria atop Keystone ski area.

The day before, the vacationers from Lawrence, Kan., spent more than \$60 on lunch. Today it's sandwiches from the knapsack.

"We have to brown-bag it some days," says Ken Mishler, who hauls his five-member family up to Colorado ski areas once a year. "Sure it's about the same price as eating at a sporting event. But you don't usually go to baseball games five days in a row, right?"

Dining now accounts for as much revenue as ski schools generate at most resorts. That means the industry toils to discourage cooler-toting and brown-bagging as it boosts the bottom line with \$30 pizzas and sodas tipping toward \$5.

"How do you think we achieve a return on a \$10 million building that operates only 125 days a year?" says Bill Jensen, head of operations for Vail Resorts' five ski areas. "The return on investment cannot be achieved solely through increases in lift ticket pricing and skier volume."

Vail Resorts, the country's largest

"We have to brown-bag it some days. Sure it's about the same price as eating at a sporting event. But you don't usually go to baseball games five days in a row, right?"

— KEN MISHLER

Colorado ski slope visitor

resort developer, has logged strong dining revenues in recent years. Still, food- and beverage-service revenues are a third or less of those generated by lift-ticket sales at the company's resorts: Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado, and Heavenly, which borders California and Nevada on the south shore of Lake Tahoe.

The same story is true for Intrawest, the Canadian resort developer that owns Copper Mountain and runs Winter Park in Colorado. Intrawest has 110 eateries with room for 28,000 diners in its international resort empire, and dining revenue has nearly doubled since 1997.

Operating mountaintop restaurants is not cheap.

Food is hauled up and trash is hauled

down 24 hours a day on specialized snow machines with hydraulic decks that run a cool \$250,000. Snowmobiles ferry employees at all hours. And dining halls, such as Vail's Two Elk atop the back bowls, cost tens of millions to build and maintain.

Toss in high-speed lifts that conspire to exhaust skiers in record time, and the search for ways to pluck more dollars from ski-pants pockets ends in a dining room with a view.

The typical skier today spends 4.5 hours riding up and down the mountain. Ski hills are typically open for about seven hours, which leaves plenty of time for a leisurely feed.

Resorts have labored to persuade skiers to stay on the hill and eat from their trough. But today, the feed trough is gilded. While the foil-wrapped burgers and

chili dogs can still be found, many resorts have pumped up their food to five-star levels with five-star prices to match.

"We have to look for opportunities out there to make money from skiers when numbers are declining or flat," said Peter King, head of Aspen Skiing Co.'s food operations at its four ski areas. "I think many ski areas are paying closer attention to the business of eating than they were a few years ago."

At Colorado's smaller ski areas, popular with budget-minded vacationers, corralling families into the cafeteria line is even more of a challenge.

"Our philosophy is to keep it cheap to keep everyone from brown-bagging," says Kevin Wright, spokesman for Loveland ski area, where veal is never on the menu, but made-to-order sandwiches are.

Frugal vacationers at Monarch, near Salida, have traditionally swarmed the base lodge around noon, establishing cooler fortresses protected by armies of kids noshing on Mom's PB&Js. This year, the ski area's new owners tried herding brown-baggers into designated areas in an effort to gently cajole vacationers into the renovated cafe.

It was a decision that took a while to implement, but it seems to be working, says Monarch spokeswoman Carrie Locke.

A decade later, Northwest Forest Plan still stirs debate

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Ten years after it was adopted to cool the timber wars, the Northwest Forest Plan still stokes raging debate.

The Clinton administration signed the landmark plan on April 13, 1994, to settle lawsuits brought by environmentalists and bring a level of peace to a region rocked by conflict over logging of old-growth trees.

The plan sharply reduced logging on 24 million acres of federal land in Washington, Oregon and northern California to protect the northern spotted owl, salmon and other threatened species.

At the same time, it promised a sustainable supply of timber — including some from older, more commercially valuable trees — to boost an industry crippled by a ban on logging in millions of acres of national forests where spotted owls live.

Critics howled from the start.

"Everybody hated it. Nobody liked it, because nobody got all they wanted," said Jerry Franklin, a University of Washington forest ecology professor who helped write the plan. "And that's been one of the problems, (the two sides) have continued to battle ever since it was adopted."

Whatever its shortcomings, the forest plan "accomplished a tremendous amount of good and created a tremendous amount of change," Franklin said.

"I think what the Northwest Forest Plan symbolized was a major sea change in our attitude — how we are going to manage the federal forest stands, and what our priorities were going to be," he said. "And clearly it reversed almost a half century of focus on commodity extraction."

Former Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas, credited by many as the plan's principal author, offers a less sweeping appraisal.

"I guess what it achieved is, it complied with the law," he said.

Thomas, now a professor of conservation at the University of Montana School of Forestry, is one of several scheduled speakers at a forum marking the plan's anniversary Tuesday in Portland, Ore.

While critics on both sides attribute all sorts of motives to the plan and its authors, Thomas said the driving factor was compliance with the numerous laws governing federal forests.

The National Forest Management Act and the

Endangered Species Act, among others, forced officials to act to preserve the old-growth trees that serve as habitat for the spotted owl and other threatened species.

The forest plan was approved by the late U.S. District Judge William Dwyer in 1994 and has withstood repeated legal challenges.

Even as they mark the plan's anniversary, some environmentalists say the Bush administration is quietly dismantling it.

"There's not much to celebrate 10 years later, because if the Bush administration has its way, the Northwest Forest Plan will die on their watch. And they hope nobody sees them doing it," said Andy Kerr, an environmental consultant and former executive director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council.

Administration officials dispute that. They say they are merely trying to correct the plan's shortcomings, while preserving its framework and approach.

While the forest plan has largely succeeded in protecting threatened species, it has not ensured anywhere near the supply of timber promised a decade ago, said Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who directs U.S. forest policy.

Current logging rates in the region are about one-third of the forest plan's stated goal of 1 billion board feet per year. A board foot is one foot square by one inch thick. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a modest single-family home.

Chris West, vice president of the American Forest Resource Council, an industry group, said the plan's impact on logging was even worse than the industry had feared.

"To see an 80 to 90 percent reduction in timber production from Northern California, Oregon and Washington is devastating," West said, noting that timber volume in the region has declined from more than 4 billion board feet a year in the 1980s to less than 400 million board feet now.

While other changes, such as the collapse of the Asian economy, an increase in imports and a decline in demand for large, older trees are contributing factors, the Northwest Forest Plan played a major role in the decline of the forest products industry and the loss of thousands of jobs, West said.

Bitterness remains over those lost jobs, but the timber industry argues that the plan harmed forest health by making it harder to clear trees from fire-prone areas.

"It made us realize you can't draw lines on a map and

zone the forest in a hard and fast way, because these ecosystems are dynamic," West said. "You can't just lock up" a whole swath of the forest.

Thomas, the plan's chief author, agreed, calling flexibility crucial to proper forest management. Thomas said he realized the Forest Service would have a hard time meeting timber production goals after the Clinton administration modified his team's work, limiting forest managers' flexibility by adding more regulations to protect salmon habitat and old growth forests.

"What had been anticipated under the forest plan has not occurred, for a variety of reasons," he said.

Rey and other critics blame the discrepancy in large part on so-called "survey and manage" rules, a late addition to the plan that requires detailed study of the potential effects of logging on about 300 obscure plant and animal species. The studies can take years to complete and have brought logging of old-growth forests to a virtual halt.

In a major shift announced just last month, the Bush administration moved to ease the survey-and-manage rules and boost logging of public lands — including some with older, more commercially valuable trees.

Environmentalists decried the change, saying it could double logging on federal land in the region and have disastrous consequences for owls and other species.

Rey, a former timber industry lobbyist, called those fears overstated, noting that 86 percent of the old-growth forest in the region remains protected.

As a vice president of the American Forest and Paper Association, Rey sharply criticized the forest plan a decade ago, denouncing it as "neither a plan nor a solution." Yet a decade later, he finds himself trying to implement the plan and vowing to fulfill commitments made by the previous administration.

Rey concedes the irony, but said there's "a simple reason" why the Bush administration is moving forward on the Clinton-era plan, rather than devising a new strategy.

"The Clinton plan has the advantage of having been sustained by the courts," he said. A complete rewrite of the forest plan would require court review, with an uncertain outcome and lengthy delay.

Thomas called that approach wise.

"Everybody asks the question, if we were to do it all over again, could you come up with another plan that is less onerous to timber and still comply with the law?" Thomas said. "The odds are no, you probably couldn't."

INTERNATIONAL



U.S. asks insurgents to join cease-fire in Fallujah

BY LOURDES NAVARRO

Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Hundreds of reinforcements joined Marines besieging Fallujah on Saturday, and the U.S. military said it would move to take the city if cease-fire talks fail. Fighting raged through the center of the country, killing 40 Iraqis and an American airman.

Militants threatened to kill and mutilate an American civilian they captured Friday if U.S. troops in Fallujah don't withdraw.

Gunfire crackled in the city, even as Iraqi government negotiators met with Fallujah leaders to persuade them to hand over militants who killed and mutilated four Americans in here on March 31. Insurgents offered to call a truce if U.S. troops leave Fallujah — a condition the Americans appeared unlikely to accept.

Nearly 60,000 Fallujah residents, about a third of the population, have fled over the past two days, a Marine commander said.

Elsewhere, militants hit a U.S. air base with mortars in Balad, north of Baghdad, killing an airman. Other fighters attacked government buildings and police stations in Baqouba, setting off firefights in which about 40 Iraqis were killed. Several U.S. troops were wounded, said Capt. Issam Bornaes, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade.

Insurgents also fought U.S. troops in Baghdad's northern, mainly Sunni neighborhood of al-Azamiyah.

Masked gunmen caused havoc on the road between Baghdad and Fallujah, a key supply route, rocketing a second fuel convoy in the area in as many days. Nearby, guerrillas hit a U.S. tank with an rocket-propelled grenade, setting it ablaze.

Militants threatened to kill American hostage Thomas Hamill, whose capture Friday during another convoy ambush in area was the latest in a series of kidnappings in Iraq.

"Our only demand is to remove the siege from the city of mosques," a spokesman said in a videotape given to the Al-Jazeera television network that shows footage of Hamill.

"If you don't respond within 12 hours ... he will be treated worse than those who were killed and burned in Fallujah" — referring to the Americans whose bodies were mutilated and two of them hanged from a Euphrates River bridge.

On the tape, Hamill gives his name and says he is 43 and from Mississippi. Part the footage has no audio but shows him standing in front of an Iraqi flag emblazoned with the words "Allahu Akbar," or God is great. A TV announcer quotes him as saying his captors were not mistreating him.

"I am in good shape. I work for a private company that supports the military action," the voice-over says, a likely reference to private U.S. firms that provide security in Iraq.

"I want my family to know that these people are taking care of me, and provide me with food, water and a place to sleep."

Two U.S. servicemembers and several contract employees were still unaccounted for from attacks on

Friday, a Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Commander Dan Hetlage, said Saturday.

Militants also continued to hold hostage two aid workers — a Canadian and an Arab from Jerusalem — but announced they would free three Japanese civilians.

The kidnappers of the Japanese, identifying themselves as the "Muhadeen Squadron," said they made the decision after mediation by the Islamic Clerics Committee, a Sunni organization, Al-Jazeera reported.

In a statement, the kidnappers urged the Japanese public to press their government to withdraw its troops from Iraq, the station said.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt called on Fallujah's insurgents to join a bilateral cease-fire. But he said a third battalion of Marines had moved to the city — joining two battalions totaling 1,200 troops and a battalion of nearly 900 Iraqi security forces.

Kimmitt warned that if talks between city leaders and members of the Iraqi Governing Council failed, the military would consider renewing its assault on Fallujah. Marine commanders were skeptical negotiations would succeed.

"The prospect of some city father walking in and making 'Joe Jihadi' give himself up are pretty slim," said Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne, commander of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

"What is coming is the destruction of anti-coalition forces in Fallujah ... they have two choices: Submit or die," he told reporters.

During negotiations, insurgents agreed through representatives to call a cease-fire starting Sunday morning if U.S. troops withdraw outside city limits, said council member Mahmoud Othman.

Kimmitt said Marines were respecting a unilateral halt in offensive operations called Friday but said gunmen continued to fire on troops, who were responding.

"We were not at this point observing suspension of offensive operations ... it could well have been that we would have had the entire the city by this point," Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

Asked what he hoped from the negotiations — in which U.S. officials were not taking part — Kimmitt said: "We would like to hear that they will lay down their arms ... (and) are prepared to turn over the perpetrators of the attacks on the Americans."

He said 60 insurgents have been captured in the Fallujah campaign so far, including five foreign Arabs.

In the north, the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent's Irbil office, Barzan Umer Mantik, and his wife were attacked and killed Saturday in their car in the nearby city of Mosul, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Also, the German Foreign Ministry said two security agents from its embassy in Baghdad have been missing for several days. It gave no details, but German TV stations reported that the missing were ambushed Wednesday while on a routine trip from Amman, Jordan, to Baghdad. Station ARD said the two were agents with GSG-9, a counterterrorism unit trained in freeing hostages and other commando missions.

In the south, the militia of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr remained in control of Karbala and nearby Najaf and Kufa. Braced for an American assault, hundreds of militiamen with assault rifles roamed the streets and guarded makeshift checkpoints.

In anticipation of violence and because of a major religious occasion this weekend, most stores in Najaf and Kufa were closed. Some owners emptied shops of goods, storing them at home for fear of looting.

Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims are in Karbala and other Shiite cities to mark al-Arbacen, the end of the mourning period for a 7th-century martyred Shiite saint. Ceremonies last until Sunday night.

U.S. forces continued to fight gunmen in Kut, where hundreds of troops moved in Friday to wrest the city from the control of al-Sadr's militia. An AC-130 gunship and helicopters blasted militia positions as the Americans seized police stations and government buildings, Kimmitt said.

Kimmitt said seven militiamen were killed and 74 captured. Hospital officials in Kut said 23 Iraqis have been killed in clashes between al-Sadr supporters and U.S. forces since the incursion began.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, meanwhile, made a surprise visit to Italian troops in the southern city of Nasiriyah, which saw fighting with al-Sadr followers earlier in the week but has largely become quiet in the meantime.

"I bring you the embrace of the Italians," he told the troops. "Your actions are in support of peace, for the fight against terrorism, and in defense of democracy."

The U.S. military's death toll from the week of fighting across the country stood at 47. The fighting has killed more than 500 Iraqis — including more than 280 in Fallujah, a hospital official said. At least 648 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.

(AP correspondent Abdul-Qader Saadi in Fallujah and Daniel Cooney in Baghdad contributed to this report.)

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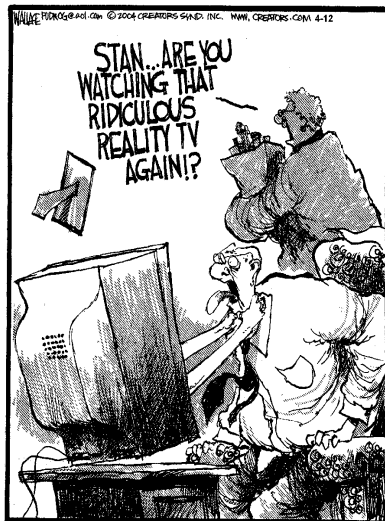
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13 Bicker

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18 Massage setting

19 Recorded novel, e.g.

22 Fishing aid

23 Hold power

24 Clark's partner

27 Carries

28 Oscar winner Guinness

29 Gangster's gun

30 TV anchor, e.g.

35 Comp. key

36 Bolt's partner

37 "— we there yet?"

38 Feed the furnace

40 Art stand

42 Kitchen device

DOWN

43 Spy

44 Minimal money

45 Buttes' kin

1 Mine section

2 Asian peninsula

3 TV vampire

4 Greek letter

5 Foes

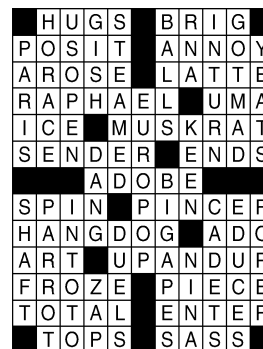
6 Informal language

7 Dawn goddess

8 Pantomimes

9 Aid on the slopes

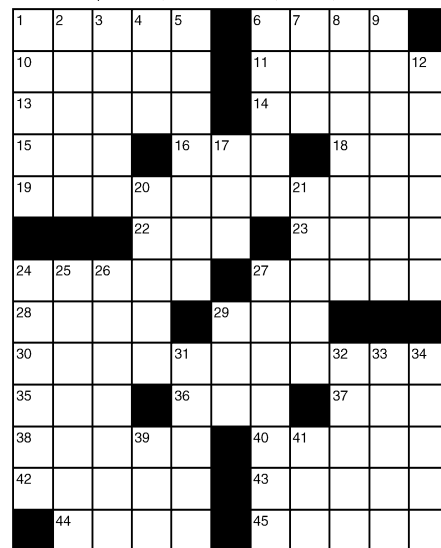
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Obituaries

WE HAVE learned that Leon Hyatt, a long time businessman of the Santa Monica West Side Area passed away, Monday April 5th from an un-named, unknown lung disease. Leon Hyatt opened the Arsenal Restaurant & Lounge in 1960. He added a successful Sports Bar in January 2000, just months before retiring to the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Hyatt was a veteran of WW II in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, where he served in the Army Occupation of Japan. Leon is survived by his wife Ginny, and daughters, Katrina Roberts, Cynthia Roberts, and Mona Bradley, as well as eight grandchildren.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Reinvented Chubby Checker twists for Guinness

By The Associated Press

■ **MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.** — Singer Chubby Checker wants a new record — a Guinness world record.

Checker, who now goes by "Chubby C" to reflect his reinvention as a rap artist, vied for the distinction in a dance event Saturday sponsored by Myrtle Beach radio station WXXM FM. Nearly 190 people took part as Checker played his 1960 hit "The Twist."

"It's so nice to be here," he said. "This old eagle is laying some new eggs."

As part of the event, at least 114 people did the electric slide and then 151 did the cha-cha. The crowd grew to 188 as dancers did the twist while Checker sang his famous song.

Guinness World Records currently does not list a record for the most people participating in a dance.

CHUBBY C

■ **LAPEER, Mich.** — Assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian, behind bars for the videotaped lethal injection of a man in 1998, says he expects to die in prison, but has few regrets.

In a telephone interview with The Daily Oakland Press of Pontiac published Sunday, the 75-year-old retired pathologist said he does not see his work as a failure.

"There's no doubt I expect to die in prison," said Kevorkian. "All the big powers, they've silenced me. ... So much for free speech and choice on this fundamental human right."

Kevorkian is serving 10 to 25 years for second-degree murder in the 1998 videotaped poisoning of Thomas Youk, who had Lou Gehrig's disease and was shown on CBS' "60 Minutes" receiving a lethal dose of potassium chloride.

Kevorkian said there has been no outcry over his imprisonment because his supporters are "frightened."

"The American people are sheep. They're comfortable, rich, working. It's like the Romans, they're happy with bread and their spectator sports," he said. "The Super Bowl means more to them than any right."

Kevorkian has said he assisted in at least 130 deaths, but has promised he will not assist in any more suicides if he is released from prison. He said in the interview that he stands by that promise.

■ **NEW YORK** — Music benefactor Avery Fisher didn't take quarters into consideration when he established the prestigious classical music prize in his name in 1974.

Recipients of the Avery Fisher Prize include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the violinist Midori and pianists Emanuel Ax and Andre Watts.

Now, for the first time in the history of the award presented by Lincoln Center, the winner is a chamber music ensemble. The Emerson String Quartet — violinists Philip Setzer and Eugene Drucker, violist Lawrence Dutton and cellist David Finckel — are getting it Monday.

But they will have to share the \$50,000 prize.

"When I found out we had to split the fees four ways, it was the first and only time I wished we had formed a string trio instead of a quartet," Setzer joked during an interview with The Associated Press.

■ **PHILADELPHIA** — Although only 12 years old, child prodigy Kit Armstrong has already been compared to Mozart for his piano and composition skills.

His teachers, however, think that may be an understatement.

"Mozart didn't do math and he didn't go to university when he was 9," said Eleanor Sokoloff, 89, Kit's piano instructor at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Kit, who is also studying chemistry and abstract algebra at the University of Pennsylvania, recently landed professional management from the same talent agency that represents Jennifer Lopez, Diane Keaton and Yo-Yo Ma.

Interview requests are streaming in and he already has been on David Letterman's show.

"My first compositions were really complete gibberish," Kit says. Then at the ripe age of 6, "Through some unclear transformation, I wrote my Chicken Sonata, and that was my first real piece of music."

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