

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

7 31 32 36 41

Meganumber: 18

Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

1 2 11 24 25

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 3 9

Evening: 8 3 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 10 Solid Gold

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:49.49

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

■ A 27-year-old woman was arrested in League City, Texas, in February after police discovered her 6-year-old daughter wandering around her empty school yard on a Saturday morning. The woman said she dropped the kid off, as usual, but that she was distracted and didn't realize it was Saturday.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 104th day of 2006.
There are 261 days left in the year.

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington. (Lincoln died the following morning.)

In 1775, the first American society for the abolition of slavery was organized by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush.

In 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" was published.

In 1902, James Cash Penney opened his first store, called "The Golden Rule," in Kemmerer, Wyo.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865)

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Financial forecast is mostly cloudy

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — While City Hall's coffers are healthy as of late — with \$2.5 million in additional, unexpected revenue realized this year — elected leaders have many under-funded priorities that need to be addressed before they set next year's budget, according to an economic forecast prepared by City Manager Lamont Ewell.

In his first assessment of the city's fiscal health, Ewell, who has been on

the job for nearly three months, said City Hall's finances are "quite stable," as there is a reserve of \$21 million. The city also has a triple-A bond rating — the highest available.

However, before councilmembers start celebrating, Ewell said members must contemplate concerns for the future, such as potential deficits, under-funded capital replacement and improvement projects, as well as increasing subsidies to enterprise funds that are supposed to be self-sufficient.

"I don't want to be an alarmist,

but what I suggest is we need to step back and re-think some of our expenditures," Ewell said.

The report comes as the council and city staff get ready to draft a budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1. The council will hold a trio of budget hearings — May 25, 26 and 27 — in which staff from each department in City Hall will declare their needs and requests for funding. The public also will have an opportunity to address

See BUDGET, page 4

City taking requests to fine tune budget

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — For those looking to dip their hands in City Hall's cookie jar, there are several ways to go about it, including the traditional methods of writing a letter to elected officials or making a few phone calls.

But to make sure requests for funding get the most mileage, residents and others are encouraged to use the city's Web site (www.santa-monica.org), which contains a special page specifically designed for community members to make budget suggestions. Each request is forwarded to the City Manager and all members of the City Council.

The issue of how budget requests should be made surfaced earlier this week during a council meeting in which City Manager Lamont Ewell gave a report on the fiscal health of the city (See related story).

Councilman Kevin McKeown asked Ewell what the best method was for councilmembers to forward requests they receive from commissions, committees and community members.

Ewell suggested councilmembers e-mail him with the requests and he would forward them to all the other members, as well as compile them and present a list to the council periodically. Ewell said it was important that all members were informed of the requests since the council as a

See TAKING REQUESTS, page 4

Kerouac out of whack



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Juan Franco, of Woods Maintenance Service Inc., on Thursday paints over graffiti that was tagged on the public sculpture 'Untitled, Homage to Jack Kerouac,' by Mauro Staccioli.

Schwarzenegger looks to turn tide, shore up state's levees

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

FIREBAUGH, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited a vulnerable levee by the San Joaquin river on Thursday and warned that the state needed to shore up its levees to prevent a catastrophe similar to the one that struck Louisiana following

Hurricane Katrina.

"We've seen one big disaster in New Orleans, and we want to make sure we don't go through something like that," Schwarzenegger said.

Repairing the state's fragile levee system has been a priority for Schwarzenegger, who is seeking \$6 billion in state money for levee repair projects. He wanted

\$3 billion from the federal government but has received no assurances that the Bush administration will give the state the money.

On a rare dry day in the region, Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in nine additional counties damaged by more than two weeks of severe rainstorms and flooding.

Meanwhile in Marin County,

authorities recovered the body of 73-year-old Walter Guthrie, who was buried in the rear of his home in a mudslide early Wednesday, Mill Valley Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Moore said.

California Conservation Corps crews in Firebaugh spent Thursday protecting nearby houses with lay-

See LEVEES, page 8

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your ability to work as a team comes to the forefront. What occurs today is a strong readout about how much give-and-take you have. You are coming from a strong sense of what is right for you. Rethink, taking in the big picture. Tonight: As you like.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others will want you to defer to them. You could be as stubborn as a Bull, or easy-going. It's your call. You might want to just not get involved, and let others not only have their way, but see the ramifications of their actions. Tonight: Say yes.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Emphasize what you can do, and don't get caught up in a roadblock or a need to change someone's mind. If you really let go and let others be, your sense of well-being will be enhanced. Whiz through your work. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your perverse sense of humor and unusual creativity just might save the day when dealing with a tough situation. Don't say yes to anything you aren't comfortable with. Loosen up and let your mind wander. Tonight: Start your weekend right.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Knowing when to vanish can make a considerable difference in what goes down. You might be overwhelmed; honor those feelings. You might be able to call it an early day, or better yet, start the weekend early. Tonight: Happy as can be.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, and others will hear you. Don't automatically assume the worst. Go the other way; assume the best. Positive thinking will pay off. Make calls of importance later in the day. Tonight: Others delight in hearing from you.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Strap in your wallet and think positively. What you feel might be going on could be very different from reality. Someone is tough and inordinately demanding. You can and will say no. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision more carefully at this point. You might not always be as in control as you would like. Understand what is going on with those around you, lighten up and live for the moment. Tonight: As you like.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Maintain a low profile and/or take the day off if you can. You need and deserve some personal time away from the rat race. You will return much better for the time off. Do whatever you can to clear out of and away from the daily grind. Tonight: Mysterious works.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your intentions might be excellent, but you will have to wade through others' stuff to get your message heard. You will be greeted by success, and as a result, you and others will be happy. You just need to use your stick-to-itiveness. Tonight: Kick up a storm.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter or be more careful with someone you care about. You could be a bit off or making a bigger story out of a situation than you need to. Lighten up. Tonight: In the limelight.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your vision of what might be workable could be a lot different from someone else's. Do some information-gathering, and you will come up with good solutions. Others will naturally bend for you if you don your pleasant manner. Tonight: Away you go.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Get up close and personal with ‘Extremely Loud’ author

By Daily Press staff

Jonathan Safran Foer, the award-winning author of “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close,” will speak at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, in the Santa Monica College Pavilion, located at 17th and Pearl streets in Santa Monica.

Admission and parking are free. Froer’s novel, written from the perspective of a young boy who loses his father in the 9/11 Twin Towers attack, has been chosen for the 2006 “Santa Monica Citywide Reads” program.

Citywide Reads encourages people who live or work in Santa Monica to read the same book, and the program also schedules forums for discussions at locations throughout the city. This year’s Citywide Reads program began on April 3 and ends May 6.

Foer’s earlier novel, “Everything is Illuminated,” was named Book of the Year by the Los Angeles Times and received the National Jewish Book Award, the New York Public Library Young Lions Prize and the Guardian First Book Prize. It was also made into a film starring Elijah Woods.

Foer’s talk at SMC is part of the college’s Literary Series and is cosponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library, the SMC English Department and the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and other special programs on campus.

Voting opens for Twilight poster contest

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans are invited through April 28 to participate in an online vote to choose the winner of the Twilight Dance Series Poster Contest.

The works of the 21 finalists are posted at www.twilightdance.org, where viewers can see thumbnails, high-resolution images of each option, and vote for their favorite.

Voting is easy and requires just an e-mail address, city officials said. Visitors to the site will only be able to vote one time, for one poster.

More than 100 people responded to the call for entries for the 2006 Twilight Dance Series poster. Artists at all levels, from high school students to professional studio designers, submitted entries.

“I was truly honored to be chosen,” said Jeff Verges, last year’s winner. “It was not only cool to see my work bigger than life up there on stage, but the exposure I received was priceless in promoting myself as a graphic artist in the community.”

After voting closes on April 28, the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. will announce the winner at a reception at the Santa Monica Place Mall during the first week of May, where all of the entries will be displayed for several weeks.

The selected design becomes the primary communications piece for the ten-week concert series, used in display advertising, posters, flyers, banners and more.

Voters who are unable to participate online may call (310) 458-8900 and leave contact information and their choice of poster, or mail their selection to Poster Contest Voting, Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite A, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

CLARIFICATION — In the April 12 edition, there was an error in the article regarding the new debit cards for parking meters. Hybrid vehicles can park for free at metered spaces within the city if they have a clean air decal issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and meet state requirements.



Photo Courtesy

Jonathan Safran Foer, scheduled to speak at SMC, is the award-winning author of “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.”

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

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

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring, Variable

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
4"	216" - 240"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	50	6/6

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
5"	144" - 168"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	150	24/28

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12" - 36"	8:30 am - 10:00 pm	27	8/16

CONDITIONS: Spring

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	18" - 36"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	26	4/4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Spring

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	36" - 72"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	26	10/14

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring, Variable

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	24" - 60"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	24	5/11

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring, Frozen Granular

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Today the NW should subside, leaving only knee to waist high surf around west facing breaks. Southern hemi SW sticks around for waist high + sets at south facing spots.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW to affect NCal this weekend, SoCal sees some...

Tracking NW for 21st...

Tracking SW for 26th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY	LOW TIDE	2:29AM	1.2FT	2:39PM	0.3FT
HIGH TIDE	8:21AM	4.6FT	8:57PM	4.7FT	
TUESDAY	LOW TIDE	2:58AM	0.8FT	2:59PM	0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	8:55AM	4.5FT	9:13PM	5.0FT	
WEDNESDAY	LOW TIDE	3:29AM	0.4FT	3:18PM	0.7FT
HIGH TIDE	9:29AM	4.4FT	9:31PM	5.2FT	
THURSDAY	LOW TIDE	4:00AM	0.1FT	3:38PM	1.0FT
HIGH TIDE	10:04AM	4.2FT	9:51PM	5.4FT	
FRIDAY	LOW TIDE	4:33AM	-0.1FT	3:57PM	1.4FT
HIGH TIDE	10:41AM	3.9FT	10:13PM	5.5FT	

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



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The Q Line

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Despite threats of a lawsuit, the Planning Commission has approved plans for the creation of a public beach club at the old Marion Davies estate. While the decision was warmly received by supporters of the project, a handful of neighbors near the property are demanding that certain conditions, such as 24-hour security and a new traffic signal at the club's proposed entrance, be put in place before the project moves forward.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **“How should city officials weigh the opinions of residents in cases like this, in which the general public supports a project but a handful of residents closest to the issue does not?”**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to one minute.

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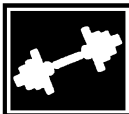
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Ewell wary of bumps in the road

BUDGET, from page 1

the council concerning budget priorities.

In his report to the council, Ewell identified several funding priorities, including the infusion of one-time funding to “catch-up” on street resurfacing and reconstruction needs that were delayed or reduced during a round of budget cuts following the recession in 2002-03.

Facility maintenance and routine building systems replacement also have been under-funded for many years, Ewell said.

“Currently, repairs are done on an as-needed basis, which is reactive, not proactive,” Ewell told the council.

Another area of concern is with the large number of capital improvement projects that have not been funded. Ewell identified nearly \$100 million in unfunded need, with significant gaps in funding.

General fund requests total \$30.5 million in capital funding for next year, but there are funding levels of only \$15 to \$18 million. Those numbers are virtually the same for 2007-08, according to the budget report. Those projects include restoring the breakwater just north of the pier, many Civic Center Specific Plan projects, Senior Recreation Center renovation, Crescent Bay Park renovation and two fire stations in need of structural evaluations that may need to be replaced.

Ewell also expressed concerns with City Hall’s enterprise funds, which in definition are supposed to be self-sufficient. Several funds — including those for the Woodlawn Cemetery, the pier and Civic Auditorium — are subsidized by City Hall’s General Fund. The cemetery is being subsidized at a tune of \$500,000 a year, as is the Civic Center, while the pier is subsidized at a cost of roughly \$2.5 million year, Ewell said.

“Every dollar you save with respect to the general fund, will give you flexibility in paving streets, taking care of sidewalks and other community needs,” he said.

City Hall’s cramped quarters should also prove to be an issue in the future, along with projected debt if expenditures continue at current levels, Ewell said.

Currently, City Hall is not big enough nor modern enough to adequately house staff, which has become a concern for councilmembers who are worried residents may not be served as efficiently as they could if staff was given more room to work with.

“City Hall space is critical,” said Councilman Ken Genser. “I think the public suffers to some extent because of inefficiency caused by a lack of space ... Certainly, I think the City Manager is correct. We have to start thinking about the long term, making sure that we are in a strong fiscal position. We’ve cut back on some maintenance and infrastructure issues, and while they’re not sexy, I think they are important to start talking about and catch up where we left off, and we are in the process of doing that.”

Thinking about the years ahead is crucial, Ewell said, because City Hall is facing a deficit by 2008-09 if officials continue to spend at the same rate they are today.

Steve Stark, City Hall’s finance director, said a projected deficit will not mean City Hall will operate at a loss, and characterized the projected deficit identified by Ewell as a conservative estimate.

City Hall is required every year to pass a budget that is balanced, Stark said. What the deficit projection really means is that the council will have to start thinking about curtailing some expenses or consider ways to raise revenues, such as

Council in good company

TAKING REQUESTS, from page 1

whole will determine how money is spent.

Councilman Bobby Shriver raised concerns with councilmembers filing individual requests with the city manager and not alerting others to those requests. He feared this would create competition amongst councilmembers to see who could get the most money for a particular group.

“We try to do things as a group,” Shriver said. “I don’t want to end up in a situation where everyone is monitoring the other’s requests and challenging each other, ‘Oh, my request is better than your request,’ and who got money for who. That could inevitably be an issue in a political campaign and affect the collegiality.”

Ewell said he is committed to making the budget process as “transparent” as possible.

increased fees or taxes.

“The forecast is really a conservative estimate to make sure that we will have enough moneys,” Stark said. “It will most likely change in the future, but it is helpful for the council to use as a guide when drafting the budget.”

Stark said, if necessary, city staff will try to identify cuts that have as little effect on the community as possible.

“We do everything we can to provide excellent services to the community,” Stark said. “If there is an area we need to toe the line on, they are typically areas that wouldn’t affect residents directly.”

Councilman Richard Bloom said a budget priority should be addressing funding levels for services that were reduced, such as police officers at Virginia Avenue Park, additional jail staff and custodial support. He also would like to see some money dedicated to gang intervention and in helping the homeless.

“Those things that we have cut back on need to be closely scrutinized,” he said. “It may be that some aren’t as crucial as we once thought they were. But it seems that those things we have cut back on that are most important to residents — such as tree trimming schedules, infrastructure improvements — I would think we would want to ramp them back up as soon as possible.”

In e-mails, letters and personal exchanges with councilmembers, residents have identified several priorities, including addressing the impacts of the homeless; enhancing safety and the quality of life in the Pico Neighborhood; ensuring the public receives timely and responsive services from all city departments; incorporating ways to achieve the goals of the sustainable city plan; and capitalizing on Santa Monica’s climate and community amenities that promote an active population.

Identifying which priorities should receive the most attention will be the job of the council.

“It’s no different than running a household,” Councilmember Pam O’Connor said. “You have to sit down and figure out what things you really need and make them a priority. We have a lot of under-funded capital projects that need to be addressed, but we have made some inroads with the new Main Library. So we are continuing to see improvements. The challenge every year is what tradeoffs do we make.”

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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Love for sale: Another masseuse busted for prostitution

On Saturday, April 8 at 4:40 p.m., Santa Monica police responded to the 1400 block of Lincoln Boulevard — Sun Massage — regarding complaints of prostitution at the business. An undercover vice officer went to the location and asked for a massage. The cost was \$50. After payment, the officer was taken to a room where he was given a massage. About five minutes into it, police said the masseuse asked the officer if he would like to have sex for an additional charge. At that point the officer gave a predetermined signal, and officers entered the business and placed the masseuse under arrest for prostitution. She was identified as Jun Sin Lee, 52, of Los Angeles. Bail was set at \$2,000.

On Thursday, April 6 at 4:35 a.m., Santa Monica Police Officers responded to the 400 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a commercial burglary that had just occurred. When officers arrived, they spoke with an employee of the business that made the call. While in the store, police said the employee heard noises. When she looked at the front door she saw a man standing in the doorway. Apparently, he entered the business without permission and somehow got locked inside. Fearing for her safety, the employee told police that she opened the door for the suspect, and notified police. The suspect, who did not take any items from the business, was later detained at the 1300 block of Third Street Promenade and later identified by the employee, police said. The suspect was booked for commercial burglary, with a bail set at \$20,000. He was identified as Marc J. Zell, 27, a transient.

On Thursday, April 6 at 8:05 p.m., police responded to the 1900 block of 19th Street regarding a report of assault and battery. When officers arrived, they spoke with a man who said he was assaulted by another while walking down a nearby alley. As he was walking, he passed a group of three men, one of whom began punching him in the back of the head and knocked him to the ground. While he was on the ground, the alleged victim said the man punching him continued to beat him until he eventually was able to run away, at which time he contacted police. The suspect was identified and arrested a short time after the alleged assault. He was transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for battery with serious injuries. He was identified as Jason Eddie Coleman, 23, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$50,634, part of which was for a misdemeanor traffic warrant.

On Thursday, April 6 at 6:41 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade — Urban Outfitters — regarding a theft at the store. When officers arrived, they spoke with security who said the subject in custody was seen walking through the security system near the entrance to the store and activated the alarm. Once outside the store, the suspect was confronted by security, who said they could see store merchandise in his bag and asked if he had a receipt. The suspect allegedly told security he did not. When police officers searched the suspect they found a credit card in his wallet that did not belong to him. The suspect told police that he tried to use the credit card at a gas station, but was denied. He was taken to jail and booked for petty theft and possession of a stolen credit card. He was identified as Deandre Johnson, 20, of North Hollywood. His bail was set at \$30,000. The merchandise found in his possession was valued at \$62.

On Tuesday, April 4 at 1:40 a.m., police responded to the 2200 block of Third Street regarding a burglary that just occurred. When officers arrived, they contacted the victim, who said her ex-boyfriend broke into her home and began verbally and physically abusing her and threatening her. When the victim called the police, the suspect fled. He turned himself in to police the next day, and he was booked for domestic violence. He was identified as David Alen Kaiser, 41, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$100,000.

On Tuesday, April 4 at 9:45 a.m., police responded to the 2200 block of Colorado Boulevard — Interscope Records — regarding a report of trespassing. When officers arrived, they spoke with security, who informed them that the suspect was in the building and refused to leave. Interscope had filed a restraining order against him, police said. The man was arrested a short time later at a business adjacent to Interscope. He was booked for trespassing and interfering with a business. He was identified as Mathew McKoy, 23, a transient. His bail was set at \$10,000.

On Sunday, April 2 at 6:45 p.m., police responded to the 1900 block of 20th Street, a private residence, regarding a report of vandalism. When officers arrived at the location, they spoke with a woman who said the suspect, her son, kicked and broke her sliding door and was refusing to leave. The suspect allegedly verbally threatened his mother. He was arrested and booked for vandalism and a probation violation. He was identified as Robert Mandel, 26, of Santa Monica. No bail was set.

On Monday, April 3 at 11 a.m., a police officer spotted a man sitting in an alley. When officers stopped to check his status, they noticed drug paraphernalia next to him. The officer asked if the man was using narcotics. The man allegedly said "yes". He was arrested and booked for possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine. He was identified as Timothy Ade, 33, a transient. His bail was set at \$10,500, with a portion of that for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.



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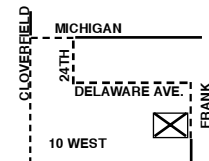


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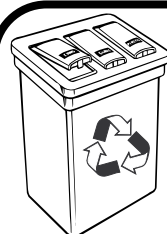
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EDITORIAL

Brush up on classics

If first impressions are everything, then downtown Santa Monica is in big trouble as a tourist and shopping destination. Judging from the conditions of the “passageway” to the Third Street Promenade from parking structures between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard, one would think we were in the middle of the ghetto.

Officials from the Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown area, must be up in arms with the appearance of the “passageway” adjacent to Borders Books. The bright yellow paint on its floor is wearing thin, exposing the dirty concrete beneath. Garbage, including rotten food, is constantly strewn along the path. Graffiti on the walls has been in place for weeks. The dumpster directly next to the tunnel, at the alley’s edge behind the Promenade, is consistently overflowing and smelling of urine.

Borders Books is responsible for the upkeep of that area, according to Bayside officials. Put the books down, people, and have some pride. Clean up your corporate act.



Transit mall a lemon

Finally, city leaders have publicly acknowledged that the Transit Mall turned out to be a failure, or at least not all that they envisioned. Call it a \$15 million mistake since it is no more pedestrian friendly than when downtown streets were wider and didn’t have dedicated bus lanes. In fact, it has actually clogged traffic in some areas, especially on weekends, when cars are forced to sit in one lane of traffic.

Apparently, some elected leaders have come to grips with that reality.

When considering the same consulting firm responsible for the Transit Mall for another “pedestrian-oriented” redesign on Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street, two councilmembers — Ken Genser and Kevin McKeown — convinced their colleagues to put the contract on hold so they can consider a different company.

The City Council made the right decision on Tuesday by putting off a decision to hire Amphion Environmental Inc. to be the consultant in redesigning the areas along Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street, from Pico Boulevard to Interstate 10. Improvements there will include wider streets, new sidewalks and more lighting in an area that is heavily traveled by pedestrians and vehicles.

The Transit Mall took a year to build and cost taxpayers \$15 million when it was “unveiled” in 2002. The project — which encompasses a six-square-block area bounded by Ocean Avenue, Broadway, Seventh Street and Santa Monica Boulevard — created dedicated lanes for the Big Blue Bus in hopes that it would be convenient for workers, visitors and shoppers who take the bus around Santa Monica.

We agree with councilmembers that the Transit Mall does little to serve pedestrians and the concrete job was poorly done, as they pointed out on Tuesday. We would go further by saying that many of the improvements meant to encourage more people to walk, bike or take the bus downtown have failed.

In fact, the mall has created deadly scenarios for bicyclists who could easily be struck if they even attempt to ride their bikes downtown. There is nowhere for bicyclists to go — the designers of the Transit Mall failed to create dedicated bicycle lanes, forcing bicyclists into the bus lane because riding on the sidewalk is illegal. So the result is bus drivers — who only drive faster now that they have their own lane — tail dangerously close to bicyclists who dare to ride in the “bus only” lane. And it’s not uncommon for bus drivers to pass bicyclists in the lane.

The Transit Mall was more of an attempt at revitalizing the area than an effective traffic solution. Parisian-inspired benches, bronzed origami figures, art tiles and granite map tiles in the new sidewalks, and new bus shelters and arbors outfitted with art glass don’t improve traffic or the pedestrian experience. But the homeless sure like them.

The City Council needs to proceed with caution when “redesigning” the Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street areas. This is one time when city leaders can learn from their mistakes.

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN WHITEHEAD

Sex trafficking is real immigration problem

While debates concerning immigration rage over economics and labor, little has been said about the Mexican women and children being bought and sold as sex slaves. The third largest crime scheme after drug and weapons trafficking, sex traffickers transport at least 18,000 captives into the United States each year.

In fact, the U.S. is one of the top destinations for sex traffickers. And trafficking rings have become adept at penetrating U.S. suburban areas. High rates of trafficking are found in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Texas and Washington, as well as other areas.

The southern border of the U.S. is the main thoroughfare for sex trafficking. Girls are smuggled into the U.S. from all over the world through this gateway. But trafficking along this route is not limited to rings based only in Mexico.

“Tijuana is a good crossing point because it’s a prostitution zone,” said Melissa Ugarte, a sociologist for EYE, an agency aiding children in crisis in San Diego. “It’s easy to get from Tijuana into Arizona, California, Texas, to New York. It’s simple.”

Tijuana, a border town, is a short drive from San Diego. It provides a daily flood of sex-hungry tourists and a police department that looks the other way. Each trafficking ring uses its own route from Tijuana into the U.S. Some drive girls into the U.S. by flashing counterfeit documents at the California border. Other sex slaves are slipped across the border on foot and then shuttled by van to brothels through a network of covert “safehouses” spread across the country.

Officials have been shocked to the core. The first thing they saw was a girl no older than 14, dressed in provocative clothing. What moved them was not the girl’s appearance, but the look of sheer terror in her eyes. The girl, whose name is Paola, had been kidnapped from her home in Oaxaca, Mexico, and smuggled into the U.S. as part of an extensive prostitution ring. During her first days in America, Paola had been passed through multiple exploitation camps. Because of her beauty, she became preferred merchandise and day and night had to service long lines of men, both indoors and out. But of the \$20 that each “client” paid, Paola received nothing.

Housed in squalid conditions, hidden away from the public in innocent-looking neighborhoods, girls like Paola are suffering the darkest form of abuse and exploitation. The girls are bound to their captors by both emotional and physical bonds and are often told that the pimps will marry them. Desperate to escape from their destitute lives in Mexico, they unknowingly walk into a life of exploitation and terror.

Ugarte was first introduced to sex trafficking when she met Reyna, a victim of the sex traffickers. When Reyna was rescued, she had a split lip and was covered in bruises. At age 11, Reyna had been given to a local police chief in Puebla, Mexico, by her desperate father. She was raped often and bore a child that she could not support. So when she was offered a job as a servant in the U.S., she had no choice but to leave her child. After being forced to prostitute herself for a week in Tijuana, she was moved to San Diego and into the farm workers’ exploitation camps. Now participating in a program for child victims of exploitation, Reyna has been reunited with her child. She was one of the lucky ones.

In the nearby neighborhood of Carlsbad, New Mexico, the tortured bodies of young Mexican girls have begun to appear. Abandoned by their clients and dons, the bodies remain unclaimed because they are presumed to be undocumented. Since they are not reported missing from their hometowns, they remain the nameless victims of abuse.

American and Mexican officials are fighting the heartbreaking problem from both ends. However, both supply and demand must be addressed in order for a solution to be reached. Dr. Janice Crouse explains the evil nature of the business:

“The demand fuels the industry,” she said. “Unlike drugs which are only usable once, a human being may be sold over and over again, sometimes 30 times a day, to make money. When a victim is used up in one market, he or she can be sold to another pimp, transferred into another area or moved into another aspect of the criminal activity.”

Unfortunately, much of the demand comes from within the U.S. Most people who pay for sexual acts are men seeking to “own” a human being, even for just a short while. And while the demand is great, the supply is ever-expanding and always getting younger. Children as young as 11 are forced into the slavery that will break their spirits and, for many, result in death.

What can be done? The Bush Administration has acknowledged the human trafficking problem, and President Bush has mentioned the problem in several major speeches, but more has to be done than mere talk.

Federal trafficking legislation has only been in place since 2000. It provides stricter penalties for trafficking and gives victims a variety of benefits, including a special temporary visa for three years. The victim can get medical counseling, psychological counseling and emergency shelter. However, the catch is that the victim must testify against her traffickers — something that most girls, out of fear, will not do.

Stricter control of the Mexican-American border would reduce the volume of human cargo. Raising awareness of the issue at the local and federal government levels could result in a reduction of the facelessness of the crime, as well as encourage local law enforcement to take on the issue. Moreover, pressure must be placed on the federal government to protect and aid the victims of trafficking without penalty. These women and children are not prostitutes. They are victims of human rights abuses and must be treated as such. Otherwise, all of the clamor over illegal immigration in the U.S. is nothing more than political hot air.

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You might just be uninformed

Editor:

This is in response to a guest commentary by Jeff Sklar (SMDP, April 8, page 5). Sklar, pull your uninformed head out of the sand! Your Republican-bashing guest commentary is both offensive and insulting to all Americans. What made you such a hateful, angry mixed up person and so confused on the issues?

Republicans and all Americans come in many varieties and religions. We are not a hateful nation or political party. Jesus loves us all including homosexuals, the homeless and yes, even Hillary Clinton. Maybe it's Buddha, Mohammed or Krishna who loves us. Perhaps no one loves us. Whatever the case, America is a republic with ideals of liberty and justice for all, not forced beliefs.

Saddam Hussein was never a good guy. He was a despot who slaughtered over 400,000 of his own people. Iraq's first major attack on Americans in the 1980's was in the Persian Gulf with the unprovoked bombing of the USS Stark killing 37 Americans.

Have any idea who initiated the Cuba Trade ban Mr. Sklar? It was President Kennedy in 1962. Was this Commander-in-Chief a Republican? I think not. Kennedy had the support of the American public. Republicans and Democrats alike. Cuba's economic woes are the result of Castro's command economy regime that prohibits private enterprise and ownership of property, not the result of the ongoing U.S. trade embargo.

Our highest national priority is not enforcing UN sanctions, Sklar. Every year billions and billions of dollars in foreign aid is given to dozens of countries that hate and vote against the United States 75 percent of the time. Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate our UN position and give the billions in tax savings back to the American workers.

OK, Sklar, in the interest of freedom, let's not regulate abortion. Leave it to back room coat-hanger wielding medical quacks in the interest of free market conduct. Furthermore, let's not regulate personal drug use, striving to gain better parenting skills and motivate youth achievement through their use. A brilliant idea for our future.

Military morale? In the years since 9-11, President Bush has liberated two countries, crushed the Taliban, crippled al-Qaida, put nuclear inspectors in hostile countries and captured terrorists. Our Commander-in-Chief is doing a great job and military morale is high.

Exactly what branch of the armed services did you defend our freedoms with?

We are fighting a war with Muslim terrorists. If we can't stop them, how could anyone else? If we lose this war, our production, income, exports and way of life will vanish. Who would trade with us if Muslim extremists threatened them? The extremists know what is riding on this war and therefore are completely committed to winning at any cost. We better know it too and be likewise committed.

Remember, the Muslim terrorists stated goal is to kill all infidels. That translates to all non-Muslims, not just in the United States. The seriousness of this enemy we are fighting can never be taken lightly. They're an enemy who cut off hands, cut out tongues and murdered their own people for opposing Hussein. They're an enemy who burned our citizens, dragging American charred corpses through the streets of Iraq and beheading hostages.

Civil rights have to be given up temporarily, or we face the prospect of losing all of them permanently. We gave up plenty of them in World War II and restored them after victory, adding many more. Blame yourself for blithely assuming we can maintain our political correctness and civil rights during this conflict. Clean, lawful and honorable are words that do not apply to war. Get them out of your head.

Yes, Sklar, we have committed lives and wealth to this war. Tell FDNY and WTC survivors how our war is based on lies, greed and stupidity. More importantly, tell me exactly how the most horrific attack on America by Muslim extremists committed to killing all infidels will lead to peaceful resolution if left unanswered.

FDR led us into World War II, yet Germany never attacked us. Japan did. 450,000 Americans died. Truman finished that war and started the one in Korea. 55,000 Americans died. North Korea never attacked us. John F. Kennedy started the Vietnam conflict and Johnson turned it into a disaster with 58,000 American lives lost. Clinton involved the US with Bosnia. Were these Commander-in-Chiefs Republican? I think not.

Whether Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal, the factions in our great nation will unite. It is our future at stake and ours to preserve. We must do this for ourselves, our children, our country and the world. God bless America and bless our servicemen and women fighting to protect our freedoms and the right to pray and worship God and believe whatever we want. Sklar, God bless you too.

David MacCormick
Santa Monica

We are all immigrants

Editor:

Thank you for the guest commentary by Thomas M. Sipos (SMDP, April 12, page 5). It was most welcome. I agree with about 98 percent of what Mr. Sipos asserts at a time where there is so much divisiveness being expressed in the country, and by the protesters who have brazenly raised the Mexican flag and waved it in the faces of Americans.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ELAN JOURNO

Successful CEOs get what they deserve

The Coca Cola Co. has instituted a significant new plan for compensating its directors: They will not receive payment unless the company meets its financial targets. But even if other corporations adopted similar arrangements, it would do nothing to dispel the rampant suspicion that successful directors and managers are overpaid.

That suspicion is reinforced anew every spring, when public companies file their financial statements and we learn how much their CEOs were paid the previous year.

In 2005 the average pay for CEOs of 500 of the largest U.S. companies was \$11.75 million. Some CEOs collected pay packages worth upwards of \$200 million a year and enjoy perks like corporate jets for personal use. Astonished to learn that what an average worker earns in a year, some CEOs earn in less than a week — people ask themselves: "How can the work of a corporate paper-pusher be worth so many millions of dollars?"

The answer is that successful CEOs are indispensable to their companies. They earn their rewards.

How big an influence can one man have on the fortunes of the entire corporation? Consider the impact of Jack Welch on General Electric. Before his tenure as CEO, the company was a bloated giant, floundering under its own weight. Splintered into dozens of distinct and inefficient business units, GE was scarcely making a profit. Welch turned it around. He streamlined and reorganized the company's operations and implemented a sound business strategy yielding more than \$400 billion worth of shareholder wealth.

In business, success requires long-range thinking. But CEOs must project a strategic game plan in terms not merely of a month or two, but of years and decades. A biotechnology company, for example, may spend 15 years and billions of dollars developing a new cancer-fighting medicine. Success is impossible without the business acumen of its CEO. For years before a marketable product exists, he must raise sufficient capital to sustain the research. What long-term business model will attract venture capital? Should the company accept partial short-term sponsorship from a large drug manufacturer in exchange for a modest royalty on the drug in the future — or risk going it alone and possibly running out of funds? It is on such decisions that a company's success is made — and lives of cancer patients may depend.

In order to be successful in the long range, the CEO's strategy must encompass countless factors. He must devise a plan to grow the business in the face of competitors, not only from within the United States, but from any and every region of today's global economy. The CEO calls the plays for a team of tens (and sometimes hundreds) of thousands of workers. All of the actions of every employee and every aspect of the business must be coordinated and integrated to produce the cars, computers or CAT scanners that yield profits to the company. It is the CEO who is responsible for that integration.

To successfully steer a corporation across the span of years by integrating its strengths toward the goal of creating wealth requires from the CEO exceptional thought and judgment. Excellent CEOs are as rare as MLB-caliber pitchers or NFL-caliber quarterbacks. And in the business world, every day is the Super Bowl. There is no off-season or respite from the need to perform at one's peak.

Given the effect a CEO can have on a company's success, we can understand why their compensation packages can be so high. One way employers reward excellence is through bonuses. For many CEOs, bonuses amount to a large portion of their earnings. Some CEOs are paid a token salary, but are rewarded with large parcels of company stock. As is the case with athletes and other individuals whose talents are rare and much prized, the CEO's pay package is calculated with an eye on the competition. Companies pay millions of dollars to a valuable CEO, one who they judge will produce wealth for the shareholders, in part so he will not be hired away by a competitor.

On the gridiron, the baseball diamond and the basketball court, we see and admire the physical prowess of a superlative athlete — one who earns the title of MVP — and we understand that it is morally proper to reward him accordingly. Though the efforts of CEOs are not televised on Monday Night Football, their achievements are real and have a profound benefit to all our lives. It is time that we learned to appreciate the work of successful CEOs and recognize that they deserve every penny of their salaries.

(Elan Jurno is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute, which promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged".)

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Klamath River farmers find they will just have to take hike

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — State utility regulators voted Thursday to phase out electricity subsidies for California farmers along the Klamath River, a move fishermen and environmentalists hope will help save struggling salmon.

The five-member Public Utility Commission voted unanimously to raise electricity rates over the next four years for farmers who pump irrigation water out of the Upper Klamath Lake, the reservoir that feeds the river.

The commission's vote follows the Oregon Public Utility Commission's decision on Wednesday to implement a state law spreading the rate increase for farmers on the Oregon side of the river over the next seven years.

By making irrigation more expensive, fishermen and conservationists hope farmers will use less water, leading to higher flows. In recent years, low flows have resulted in dwindling stocks of chinook salmon.

Last week, federal regulators voted to practically shut down about 700 miles of the West Coast to commercial salmon fishing this season to spare fish that return annually to the Klamath to spawn.

"The return to a level playing field for irrigation in the basin will encourage more efficient water use, and that will have a positive effects on flows in the river and help salmon," said Jim McCarthy of the Oregon Natural Resources Defense Council. "The subsidized rates basically encouraged waste and allowed irrigation on marginal land."

Klamath farmers still hope to persuade regulators they should qualify for below-market rates, but they are generally satisfied with the decisions in California and

Oregon, said Greg Addington, who heads the Klamath Water Users Association, which represents about 1,400 farmers in both states.

"We're not going to have guys go out of business this irrigation season because their rates are going through the roof," Addington said. "If we didn't have this transition plan in place, some guys would be paying up to 2,600 percent more next week."

Salmon fishermen and environmentalists have been fighting with farmers for years over water allocations in the Klamath, and the bargain-basement rates farmers paid for electricity to pump that water have been a long-standing issue.

Authorized in 1905, the Klamath Reclamation Project provides water for about 1,000 farms on about 180,000 acres straddling the border, where farmers have received subsidized electricity rates since 1917.

While most western water projects created by the federal government provide cheap electricity with their own dams, the Klamath Reclamation Project turned that responsibility over to the California & Oregon Power Co., which has been taken over by PacifiCorp.

As part of the deal, the utility gave farmers a cut rate. The latest contract expires Sunday, and PacifiCorp declined to renew it, arguing they were losing millions of dollars a year.

Klamath farmers in Oregon and California have been paying rates that are less than one-tenth of what other irrigation customers pay, said Dave Kvamme, a spokesman for Portland-based PacifiCorp.

PacifiCorp worked with the utility commissions and farmers to develop transition plans so that the farmers would not suffer "rate shock" when the contract expired, Kvamme said.

State of emergency declared

LEVEES, from page 1

ers of sandbags, while residents were still braced for possible flooding.

The biggest danger for this area has passed, but there was still some concern that as excess water released by dams in the Sierra Nevada winds its way to the narrow river channel that borders this small rural town, it would push through the earthen berms along the banks and reach homes a few hundred yards away, state water officials said.

On Thursday, the governor declared a state of emergency in Alameda, El Dorado, Kings, Marin, Placer, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Tulare and Tuolumne counties. Earlier this week, he declared a state of emergency in Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin, San Mateo and Stanislaus counties.

The declaration helps accelerate the flow of state dollars to local and county response agencies that have been straining to cope with the flooding and storms.

As the weather cleared, people around the state who had been affected by the storms began to return to their routines, although more rain is on its way.

In Merced County, residents who were evacuated last week were finally allowed to return to their homes. In Santa Cruz County, roads shuttered by slip outs began to reopen Thursday afternoon, though

mudslides were still a concern.

Authorities said a massive slide was threatening eight to 10 houses in a remote part of the Santa Cruz mountains, and one of the homes was red-tagged.

"They've notified the other folks that there is potential danger," county spokeswoman Dinah Phillips said, although she said the homes haven't been evacuated. Fifteen homes in the county have been damaged and nine have been tagged.

Gary Bardini, Department of Water Resources chief of hydrology and flood operations, said river levels remain high across the state, although lower than feared last week after rains moved to the coast.

"This is very unique to have high stages throughout the water project," Bardini said. "Things are certainly within manageable levels right now."

The top concern of water officials are projected high winds in the Delta, which could pack 30 miles per hour gusts all day Friday, according to the National Weather Service. High winds can cause levee erosion.

The rain storm that dampened Northern California earlier this week is headed south along the coast. Elizabeth Morse, chief meteorologist of the National Weather Service in Sacramento, projected it would move into Southern California on Friday.

A third storm system is on track to pour another half of inch of rain in Northern California beginning Sunday, Morse said.

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Entertainment

‘Kinky Boots’ start to fray

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Kinky Boots

THE DIRECTOR: Julian Jarrold

THE STARS: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Joel Edgerton, Sarah-Jane Potts, Nick Frost

Proving yet again that he is one of the most versatile actors working in film today, Chiwetel Ejiofor (“Inside Man,” “Dirty Pretty Things”) is ab-so-fab as a lounge-singing drag queen named Lola that helps save the day at a floundering British shoe factory in this kitschy feature film debut from veteran TV director Julian Jarrold. “Kinky Boots” was a hit at Sundance in January and had audience members stomping their feet at last weekend’s Sonoma Valley Film Festival.

Filmmakers ply precisely the sort of breezy, non-threatening humor and colorful characters we’ve come to expect from popular British comedies such as “The Full Monty” (scribe Tim Firth also penned “Calendar Girls”). Film never realizes its full potential, however, as Jarrold hardly even winks at provocative issues that beg to be examined more closely (Lola’s sexuality, for instance), no doubt the result of a misguided fear of offending straight audiences. In the end, things just never get kinky enough, though Ejiofor deserves major props for flaunting all the bad-self he/she’s got.

Inspired by stuff that really happened — and isn’t virtually every film these days? — “Kinky Boots” begins just as 20-something Charlie Price’s (a pasty Joel Edgerton) plans to begin a new life in London are derailed by the death of his beloved father, leaving Charlie little choice but to return to the moldering industrial town of Northampton to tend to the family shoe business. Price & Sons is a ven-



erable purveyor of sensible, quality footwear that can no longer survive in a world of cheap knock-offs and haute couture heels. The employees are treated like family, making Charlie’s decision to shut down the operation all the more agonizing. Ah, but a chance (er, contrived) encounter with Lola gives Charlie an idea for saving the business: Price & Sons will manufacture thigh-high leather stilettos strong enough to support men who dress like women. Fashion Week, here we come! Lola is brought in as a consultant at the fusty factory, and predictable fish-out-water gags ensue. “Kinky Boots” shows signs of fatigue as it sashays on overly familiar turf, possessing just enough pizzazz to hold our attention. But the day is fast approaching when well worn becomes completely worn-out.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME 106 MINUTES)



Where ‘Wild’ things lack real bite

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: The Wild

THE DIRECTOR: Steve “Spaz” Williams

THE STARS: Kiefer Sutherland, Eddie Izzard, James Belushi, Janeane Garofalo

“From the people who brought you ‘Madagascar’ ...” OK, not exactly. Dreamworks did “Madagascar,” and “The Wild” is a Disney flick, but the similarities are so remarkable it’s hard to believe they weren’t in cahoots. Both films feature anthropomorphic New York zoo creatures whose domesticated lives are turned upside down when they venture, via boat no less, to a real jungle to rescue one of their own. The major difference between “Madagascar” and “The Wild” is that the latter is conspicuously devoid of any rascally, show-stealing penguins. And if you’re reading this, you almost certainly know about those penguins, because you are almost certainly a parent of a small child or children. Your tykes are the target audience for these sorts of movies.

“The Wild” isn’t going to make anyone forget “Finding Nemo” or “Toy Story” (or, for that matter, “Madagascar”), but it ain’t bad either. The CGI animation is impressive, though there’s something a bit off with the way the animals mouths move. The plot is silly, but then again, so was the story in “Fantasia.” The cast does a good job bringing characters to life, particularly Kiefer Sutherland playing against type as a kind-hearted lion named Samson. Eddie Izzard is a hoot as an acerbic koala bear.

(RATED G. RUNNING TIME: 94 MINUTES)



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Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for the weekend of April 14. The goal of the Art Palette, created by City Hall's cultural affairs division, is to showcase the many eclectic arts and cultural opportunities available in Santa Monica every week, highlighting one or more of the many happenings within our borders.



ArtNight at 18th Street

This free mini-festival is sponsored by the city of Santa Monica's Community Arts Grants Program and features the opening of the center's latest art exhibition, photo essays by students from Crossroads School, an outdoor concert featuring some of Crossroads hottest young musicians, and open studios by local and international artists-in-residence. Imaging LA: International photographers and the Great Western Metropolis. This group exhibition features landscapes and portraits on film and digital media by five photographers from different countries: Olivier Cullman (France); John Mullin (USA); Eva Castringius (Germany); Mare Milin (Croatia); and Heidi Wood (Australia/France). Each artist attempts to peel away at the visual and physical layers of this most virtual of urban sprawls.



Saturday, April 15
5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
See www.18thstreet.org for more details.

Imaging LA will be on view from April 15 to June 23. General hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.



You can seek redemption on Sunday at the LA Gospel Jubilee hosted by the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. Hosted by international gospel star Jean Shy, this free concert series takes place on the third Sunday of every month. Sunday's concert will feature a special Easter theme, "From the Grave to Glory" featuring the New Hope Catholic Mass choir.

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info@smmoa.org
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GUEST COMMENTARY BY CHARLOTTE LAWS

Trump plays the age card

It helps to be thin, young and hot looking. Middle-aged, plump and plain are not on the top 10 list of attributes "The Apprentice" casting directors seek in a contestant. Brainpower comes into play, but only after you pass the physical appearance test. After all, this is TV, folks. On March 9, 2006 at 4 a.m., a blonde Trump Corporation wannabe named Farrah Evagues stole through the dark with her blanket, mittens and foldable lounge chair, staking out a first-in-line position at the Globe Theatre inside Los Angeles, Universal Studios.

Los Angeles provided the backdrop for the first casting call. The show would be recruiting candidates in 16 other cities, including Chicago, New York, Honolulu and Phoenix. I arrived at 6:45 a.m. with my resume, prepared to undertake two roles: as an applicant and undercover reporter.

I weaved through the long line of freezing people, inquiring about jobs, qualifications and reasons for wanting to work for "The Donald." Few applicants wore winter coats, yet many were cloaked with paranoia.

"What do you do for a living?" Most people were tight-lipped. "I'm not going to tell you. I might get disqualified," said one.

A woman, whom I later learned was the former Miss Yugoslavia, gave me an impolite, cold stare. No words. Maybe she feared I'd steal her identity and blurt out, "Great idea. I'll be the former Miss Yugoslavia, too."

Perhaps "The Apprentice" hopefuls thought I had the power to vote them off the island. They were clearly "island", reality show experts.

The only seemingly honest answers I got were:

"I'm a demolition derby manager."

"I'm a professional reality show contestant."

"I'm a teacher."

In fact, three applicants told me they were teachers, including 58-year-old Lancaster resident Bill Newyear who appeared to be the oldest in line. He told me how his generation comprises 25 percent of the population.

"It makes good TV to have an older everyman," Bill said. "If I get selected, it would show Trump's commitment to people like me, that we are not ready to go out to pasture yet."

My second question: "Why do you want to be the Apprentice?"

Again, most applicants were not forthcoming, but two answered, "I love golf" and "I need formal grooming to make me into the perfect candidate for the workplace."

As an employment recruiter, Orange County resident Diana London didn't care if she was chosen. She was there to pick up clients from what she deemed an educated pool of candidates and to sneak a manila envelope to Trump, which revealed details about an invention she hoped would prove profitable for them both.

At 8 a.m., an Apprentice staff member began affixing plastic identification bracelets to the applicants' wrists. I acted bent out of shape.

"Bracelets without diamonds? I certainly expected more from Mr. Trump." The staff member was not amused.

Then a Universal Studios employee announced, "Anyone who moves outside the rope can be arrested for trespassing. We can't have people visiting a theme park without paying for a ticket." I was finally permitted to enter the audition room and noticed Jay Leno taping a "Jaywalking" segment for The Tonight Show. Inside Edition, TV Guide and other members of the press were positioning their cameras and microphones.

Two representatives from the casting company interviewed the eight applicants at each table. There were five tables in the room. We were asked our age. The casting reps seemed displeased with my answer, "45, yet thrilled with the answer given by the 24-year-old to my left."

We were asked to debate whether a company should have a policy against dating in the workplace, then whether bosses should dictate the smoking habits of employees outside of business hours. No one looked at my resume. All attention was on the youngsters at the table. I felt like I had wandered into a casting call for an ingenue. I figured the everyman curtain had fallen on the 58-year-old teacher from Lancaster and the other "over-40s" in the room.

My group interview ended. I left the table to find 32-year-old Australian business analyst Gavin Hadwen who claimed he too was trampled by the Trump cattle call.

He said, "It seemed to me that if you were over 30, you had less of a shot."

Trump randomly wandered from table to table, observing interviews. Periodically he would whisper to a casting rep, who then discreetly initialed a particular applicant's paperwork. This surely meant the individual had advanced past the first hurdle and would be asked to return for the second round.

The show's casting producer Scott Salyers says his primary job is to find someone who can run Trump's business. On the other hand, the show survives from ratings, which arguably increase when the young and beautiful are cast.

The morning was successful for some. Diana handed Trump her "invention" envelope, and the former Miss Yugoslavia received the all-important tiny initial on her application. Maybe we will see her next season.

As I prepared to leave, I overheard Trump say, "I am looking for smart people. I am always looking for smart people." He mentioned two applicants he had met that day with more than one academic degree.

It was my chance to reveal something about my severely neglected resume. I marched over to the billionaire and stated, "Mr. Trump, I have five degrees."

Without missing a beat, he countered, "You're over-qualified" — a perplexing statement considering last season's winner also had five degrees.

I like Trump because he is down to earth with a keen business sense and a sane perspective of the world, but I have one question for him: Am I really over-qualified? Or is it that I'm 45?

(Charlotte Laws, Ph.D. is an author and a member of the Greater Valley Glen Council. Her Web site is www.CharlotteLaws.org.)



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NATIONAL

Outlook: Above-normal fire potential across West

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — Forecasters say there's a normal or above-normal potential for wildfires across much of the West this summer, with dry winter conditions in the Southwest fueling concerns about higher-intensity blazes in that region, according to a new report.

The seasonal wildfire outlook through August, released by the National Interagency Fire Center, also predicts higher-than-normal fire potential in the Southern Plains, East and Southeast, including along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

Already this year, wildfires have burned on more than 2 million acres, according to agency statistics. Much of that has been in Texas.

The outlook forecasts above-normal fire potential across nearly all of New Mexico and Arizona, southern and eastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming and parts of Utah, Idaho and Nevada. The western edges of Nebraska and Kansas, as well as parts of western and southwestern Alaska, also show the potential for higher-than-normal fire activity.

"It looks about what we expected," said Rose Davis, a NIFC spokeswoman in Boise, Idaho.

More intense fires are possible in May and June in parts of the Southwest, she said. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows varying degrees of drought across most of New Mexico and Arizona, including a zigzagging band of extreme drought.

But the length of the fire season in that region could be shortened by monsoons that are expected to be heavier and arrive earlier than usual, she said.

Officials were worried earlier this year about the fire potential in other parts of the West, she said, though wet conditions in California and regular storms across the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies have tempered worries there somewhat, she said.

The outlook, prepared by the Predictive Services group at NIFC, predicts a generally normal fire season in the Northwest and Northern Rockies.

**"Sometimes we end up
with a normal to below-
normal fire year that
doesn't affect people's
lives a whole lot."**

BOB HARRINGTON
Montana state forester

State foresters in Montana and Wyoming say it's too early to tell just how the fire season will shape up and that conditions in June and July, particularly, will be most telling. Both states are coming off what the foresters consider below-normal fire years.

"We have been here before, with these types of conditions. Sometimes we end up with a normal to below-normal fire year that doesn't affect people's lives a whole lot. Other times, we have extreme fire seasons," Montana state forester Bob Harrington said. "It's too early to call."

In any event, both Harrington and Davis expressed confidence in the availability of firefighting resources for this season.

Air Force to scale back its fighter jet training area

By The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — The Air Force has scaled back its plans for a fighter jet training area in eastern Nevada's Elko and White Pine counties because of concerns local communities and political leaders have cited.

Officials feared the original proposal would interfere with an expansion of the Ely airport and energy development, including a wind farm, two coal-fired power plants and a new electric transmission line.

In January, Hill Air Force Base in Utah released a tentative proposal to establish controls on airspace over a 2,400-square-mile area where commercial flights would be limited during training missions about eight weeks each year.

Under the new proposal, the southern stretch of the training area would be moved farther north away from Ely, providing flight corridors for commercial

traffic, said Jerry Angus, the base's airspace manager who is developing the plan.

The proposal also would raise the altitude of the training zone to prevent interference with power projects, he said.

The exact boundaries won't be released until the project is completed.

Aides to U.S. Sens. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and John Ensign, R-Nev., have been meeting with military officials about concerns.

Last month, Gov. Kenny Guinn sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressing concern about the proposal.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., urged the military to consider establishing the training area wholly within Utah.

But Hill officials have said their existing training area is confined by military operations areas and that eastern Nevada is the only place to go.



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Billions sought for Katrina-struck fishers

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The shrimpers, fishing captains and oystermen along the Gulf Coast seem like the forgotten ones as the government funnels aid to a region devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Even their own governors have higher priorities.

Very little of the \$68 billion appropriated has found its way to the watermen of the Gulf or to rebuild onshore facilities. Massive amounts of debris make shrimping dangerous in many areas. Oysterbeds are ruined by silt.

As the Senate prepares to debate the latest Katrina aid bill, the watermen of Louisiana and Mississippi are pinning their hopes on an ambitious \$1.1 billion aid plan by Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The measure includes:
■ \$300 million to rebuild destroyed marinas, piers, docks, wharves and warehouses that support the commercial and recreational fishing industry.

■ \$300 million to help replace fishing equipment and infrastructure, including icehouses and processing facilities.

■ \$100 million to help fishermen and seafood workers clean up and repair damaged facilities.

■ \$100 million to pay for the rehabilitation of oyster beds and shrimp grounds.

Govs. Haley Barbour, R-Miss., and Kathleen Blanco, D-La., have focused on getting money for housing, levees and rebuilding facilities such as shipyards, military facilities and Coast Guard bases.

Alabama had significantly less damage from last year's storms than did those two states. But Bayou La Batre, which bills itself as the seafood capital of Alabama, did suffer a big blow.

That may explain Shelby's focus on fisheries. The Senate committee this month approved a \$106.5 billion measure that combines \$27.1 billion in aid for hurricane victims with \$72.4 billion for the war in Iraq and other terrorism-fighting efforts.

Shelby's plan won approval by the committee with a voice vote and minimal debate, but faces an uncertain future. The White House did not request the fisheries money when submitting its \$19.8 billion relief plan in February.

The administration will make its views known when the bill reaches the full Senate on April 25. The White House is more likely to take aim at \$4 billion in emergency aid to farmers that the committee added to Bush's request than it is to the fisheries provision.

Conservatives in the House are pushing to keep the bill's total cost to Bush's request; few, if any, believe Shelby will emerge from House-Senate negotiations with the full \$1.1 billion.

"If it's half that it's still a heck of a lot of money," said Bill Walker, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The fisheries aid is competing with add-ons such as money for education and port security, as well as the disaster aid for farmers. All were added to a measure drafted by the committee chairman, Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.

Cochran had included \$30 million for mapping the extent of underwater debris as a step toward making fishing grounds safe. An additional \$15 million would go to rehabilitating oyster beds, most of which were destroyed by Katrina.

Katrina "covered the reef up (with silt) on the way in and gouged it out on the way out," Walker said.

Even before the hurricane, the industry hardly was thriving. Imports of shrimp from Asia had lowered prices to the point where most shrimpers were just getting by, said Karen Foote, administrator of the Fisheries Division at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The value of commercial harvest upon first sale — what is paid to watermen for their catch — in the areas hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita was about \$600 million. The total impact on the economy is much greater.

Infrastructure such as icehouses, processing plants, wharves and marinas took a devastating blow. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration esti-

mates losses of \$330 million in capital infrastructure throughout the Gulf.

It is not known how many boats were sunk or destroyed; the Coast Guard puts it at as many as 5,000.

Foote said most shrimpers could not afford insurance for their boats and that many processors and other onshore facilities were underinsured.

"Nothing's been done on the federal level to address the loss of "infrastructure," Foote said.

Ironically, the fishery — save for oyster beds — is thriving. Since fewer boats are on the water, the Gulf is teeming with fish and shrimp.

"If we can get the infrastructure up and running, there's stuff to catch," said Steve Murawski, chief fisheries scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

County commissioner calls for expulsion of any student who ditched class to protest

By The Associated Press

CALDWELL, Idaho — A county commissioner here says school officials should expel about 350 students, most of them Hispanic, who left their classrooms to demonstrate for immigrant rights at the county courthouse.

"I understand the exuberance of youth," Canyon County Commissioner Robert Vasquez told the Idaho Press Tribune. "But I think it's deplorable that they're out here waving the Mexican flag and demanding rights for people who came into our country illegally. If every one of these kids isn't expelled, it's a tacit approval of their activity."

Tuesday's protest by students from Caldwell and Vallivue high schools, and Vallivue Middle School, followed similar rallies Sunday in Boise and by Nampa students on Monday. The Idaho Press Tribune reported that about 90 percent of the Caldwell marchers were Hispanic. They left classes at about 10 a.m.

Vasquez, a vocal critic of immigration policy who is seeking the Republican nomination in the 1st Congressional District race, left a luncheon Tuesday to watch the Caldwell marchers.

Some of them recognized him and started chanting

"Vote no for Vasquez."

Vallivue allowed students back into class, Caldwell declared the students truant and the middle school said those involved had to make up the time they missed.

Officials at both the Caldwell and Vallivue school districts said they had no plans to expel any of the students.

"As far as I know there will be no students expelled from Caldwell High School for participating in that march," said Roger Quarles, assistant superintendent for the Caldwell School District.

Marches took place across the country on Monday after weeks of mounting pressure from immigrant rights supporters for federal overhaul of America's immigration policies.

The protesters have been urging federal lawmakers to help an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants settle legally in the United States. A bill passed by the U.S. House would crack down on illegal immigrants and strengthen the nation's border with Mexico. A broader overhaul of immigration law stalled in the Senate last week.

Last year, Vasquez championed a federal lawsuit brought by Canyon County against several local businesses the county contended had hired illegal aliens. A federal judge threw out the suit.

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Iran’s president standing firm

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed Thursday that Iran won’t back away from uranium enrichment and said the world must treat Iran as a nuclear power.

The comments were made as Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, arrived in Tehran for talks aimed at defusing tensions over Iran’s nuclear program.

“We know they (the U.S. and its allies) are waiting for us to retreat an inch so that they use that (against us),” the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

Ahmadinejad declared on Tuesday that Iran “has joined the club of nuclear countries” by successfully producing enriched uranium for the first time, a key process in what Iran maintains is a peaceful energy program.

Western diplomats and experts familiar with the program, however, say Iran still is far from producing any weapons-grade material needed for bombs and may be

exaggerating its own progress.

“Today, our situation has changed completely. We are a nuclear country and speak to others from the position of a nuclear country,” IRNA quoted the president as saying Thursday.

“We won’t hold talks with anyone about the right of the Iranian nation (to enrich uranium) and no one has the right to retreat, even one iota,” Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying.

The United States accuses Tehran of using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to produce nuclear weapons but Tehran says its nuclear program is merely to generate electricity.

Iran’s deputy nuclear chief, Mohammad Saeedi, said Wednesday that Iran intends to move toward large-scale uranium enrichment involving 54,000 centrifuges, signaling the country’s resolve to expand a program the United Nations has demanded it halt.

The U.N. Security Council has insisted that Iran stop all enrichment activity by April 28.

On Tuesday, Iran announced it had produced enriched uranium on a small scale for the first time, using 164 centrifuges, at a facility in the central town of Natanz.

Canadians are testing for mad cow

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN
Associated Press Writer

TORONTO — Federal officials Thursday tested a British Columbia dairy cow suspected of contracting mad cow disease, potentially bad news for Canadian cattle ranchers still recovering from a two-year ban on their beef in the United States.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said it was trying to confirm whether it is a new case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

In humans, eating meat products contaminated with BSE has been linked to more than 150 deaths, mostly in Britain, from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a rare and fatal nerve disease.

The cow was identified on a Fraser Valley farm through the national BSE surveillance program. It would be the fifth case in Canada since May 2003, when the U.S. border was closed to Canadian beef after the sick cows were detected in Canada.

In a written statement, the inspection agency said the case would have no bearing on the safety of Canadian beef if the cow is found to be positive for BSE, as no part of the animal entered the human food or animal feed systems.

Inspectors have tested roughly 100,000 animals since Canada’s first case was detected in Alberta and have said they expect to find isolated cases of the disease.

“Canada has a suite of internationally recognized safeguards that work together to provide high levels of human and animal health protection,” the statement said.

But if the sic-year-old cow tests positive, it would be the second animal born after a ban on cattle feed went into effect in 1997 in an effort to prevent the disease from spreading.

A cow from an Alberta farm tested positive for the disease in January.

A cow from an Alberta farm tested positive for the disease in January.

Preliminary results of the cow were positive for BSE. Final testing is under way and was expected to be completed over the holiday weekend.

Trade in cows younger than 30 months, as well as meat, resumed last July with the United States because they are believed to be at lower risk for the disease.

U.S. meatpacking firms would also be disappointed by the news, as the industry is eager to start allowing older Canadian cattle to be shipped to the United States.

The Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, which represents some 90,000 beef producers, estimated they lost more than \$5.7 billion during the two-year ban.

Government troops put down rebel attack on capital in Chad

BY MADJIASRO NAKO
Associated Press Writer

N'DJAMENA, Chad — Government troops repelled a rebel attack on the Chadian capital on Thursday and the country’s president went on state-run radio to assure residents he remains in control of the impoverished African country.

Following three hours of fighting, which included attack helicopters, tanks and artillery, President Idriss Deby said his troops had defeated the rebels after they attempted to infiltrate N’Djamena before dawn.

“The situation is under control,” Deby said on the radio.

An Associated Press reporter could only hear sporadic gunfire around the capital following the announcement. Residents in the eastern part of the city said fighting there had completely stopped, while in the northeast, residents said government troops were conducting mop-up operations, pursuing suspected rebels.

Deby also reiterated his claim that the rebels, known as the United Force for Change, are actually mercenaries hired by Sudan to overthrow him, a charge the Sudanese have denied.

“In the hours to come we will gather all of the evidence that the Sudanese government is behind the rebels,” Deby said, who added he would appear at an election rally later in the day.

A presidential election is scheduled for May 3.

The fighting began before dawn, when residents of eastern neighborhoods awoke to heavy gunfire. The sounds appeared to be coming from a defensive position constructed Wednesday on the road leading into N’Djamena (pronounced IN-jah-MEEN-ah) from the east.

Later, Chadian attack helicopters fired rockets at rebel positions around the capital and tank fire and mortar rounds echoed through the city as government troops attempted to hold off the rebels. Columns of thick black smoke could be seen rising from the center of the city.

French fighter jets based in N’Djamena could also be heard, but it was unclear if they were overhead or just revving their engines at the airfield, an Associated Press reporter said. The sounds of fighting could be heard coming from the north, south and southeast of the city.

The French government has said in the past it will not directly intervene in internal politics, but would provide logistical support to the government. France sent 150 troops Wednesday to bolster its contingent of about 1,200 already in Chad to protect hundreds of French citizens living there, the French Defense Ministry said in a statement in Paris.

The French Defense Ministry said fighter jets carried out reconnaissance and intelligence missions on Wednesday to evaluate the threat, but could not immediately say whether they did the same Thursday. Such flights are part of France’s overall mission to protect its citizens.

French troops based in Chad had also taken up positions around government office buildings late Wednesday in anticipation of a potential rebel attack. Chadian troops had begun constructing defenses around the city and residents stocked up on food and water.

The rebels’ first attack deep inside Chad came Tuesday in the central town of Mongo.

Scores of defectors from the Chadian army have joined rebel groups in their bid to overthrow Deby, who himself seized power in a 1990 coup and has seen his authority undermined by violence in neighboring Sudan and an apparent struggle for control of newly discovered oil reserves.

This week’s fighting in Chad has revived fears that the Darfur conflict in neighboring Sudan has the potential to undermine the region where Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic meet.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Alicia Keys lands another film role

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Alicia Keys is adding another note to her acting resume.

The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter has been cast in the big-screen adaptation of the best-selling book, “The Nanny Diaries,” Keys’ spokeswoman, Kelly Bush, said Thursday.

The film features Scarlett Johansson as a nanny for a wealthy Manhattan family. Paul Giamatti, Laura Linney and Chris Evans also star. Keys will play the nanny’s best friend, Bush said.

The character is a far cry from the assassin she plays in the upcoming action flick “Smokin’ Aces,” which features Ben Affleck, Andy Garcia, Jeremy Piven and Ray Liotta.

Keys, 24, and longtime manager Jeff Robinson formed a production company, Big Pita, Lil’ Pita, in January that will create original television and movie projects — and even more acting opportunities for Keys.

NEW YORK — David Blaine intends to sleep with the fishes — but only for a week, and in full public view.

The 33-year-old magician will perform his latest stunt by living underwater for seven days and nights in a “human aquarium” in front of New York’s Lincoln Center.

He will conclude by attempting to hold his breath underwater longer than the record of 8 minutes, 58 seconds. The finale of his latest stunt will air live in a two-hour ABC special on May 8 (8 p.m. EDT).

Blaine’s previous feats of endurance include balancing on a small platform for 35 hours and surviving inside a massive block of ice for 61 hours, both of which were performed in New York. In 2003, he fasted for 44 days in a suspended acrylic box over the Thames River in London.

The “human aquarium” in which Blaine will float is a specially built 8-foot acrylic sphere. He will receive liquid nutrition through a tube and the water will be kept at a balanced temperature to help keep his core temperature close to 98.6 degrees F.

Passers-by will be able to touch the aquarium, take pictures with Blaine and communicate

with him. He will enter the sphere on May 1.

To prepare for the challenge, Blaine trained with U.S. Navy SEALs and a world class free-diving team. An inside look at his training will be shown on the ABC special, which is titled, “David Blaine: Drowned Alive.”

LONDON — Kevin Spacey has defended his leadership of London’s Old Vic, acknowledging that the theater’s latest production had been a disappointment.

Spacey, who took over as artistic director in 2004, told British Broadcasting Corp. radio Thursday that he was “more determined than ever” to serve out his 10-year contract.

He acknowledged that the production of Arthur Miller’s “Resurrection Blues,” directed by filmmaker Robert Altman, had been “in trouble” before its opening night last month.

“Risible” and “incompetent” were among the adjectives used by newspaper critics to describe the production, which will close Saturday, a week earlier than planned. One of its stars, Jane Adams, has already quit.

“Everyone was completely open and honest about the fact the show wasn’t where it should have gotten, but I can tell you that after the critics’ night, that cast pulled themselves together,” Spacey said. “They started to deliver that play in a way that I think audiences saw a much better production than those critics saw.”

“Resurrection Blues” is one of several recent Old Vic productions panned by critics, although several shows, including a production of Shakespeare’s “Richard II” starring Spacey, have garnered good reviews and strong sales.

“I don’t think that, 18 months in, anyone needs to apologize for having done a program that has brought 425,000 people into the theater,” Spacey said. “We must be doing something right even though 11 or 12 people who write for newspapers don’t particularly like what we’ve done.”

The theater will be dark through the summer, with Spacey scheduled to star in a production of Eugene O’Neill’s “A Moon for the

Misbegotten” in September.

Spacey said the long summer break was “not ideal, but at the same time we’re trying to get a financially responsible situation.”

The 46-year-old actor has won Oscars for his roles in “The Usual Suspects” and “American Beauty.”

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Hilary Williams, daughter of country star Hank Williams Jr., has been transferred to a Nashville hospital for continued treatment of injuries suffered in a traffic accident last month.

Williams, 27, and her 25-year-old sister, Holly, were hurt in a one-vehicle wreck March 15 in northern Mississippi. Hilary was being treated in Memphis for leg, colon and hip injuries.

“She’s on the road to recovery,” Kirt Webster, publicist for Hank Williams Jr., said Wednesday. He said Williams will receive further treatment in Nashville for her leg injury.

Holly Williams was released from the Regional Medical Center in Memphis on March 17.

Both sisters are singers. Holly Williams released her debut album in 2004.

Hank Williams Jr., 56, has had a string of hits including “All My Rowdy Friends Are Coming Over Tonight” and “Family Tradition.” He has sung the theme for ABC’s “Monday Night Football” since 1989.

His father, a star in the late 1940s to early 1950s, had hits including “Your Cheatin’ Heart” and “Hey, Good Lookin’.”

NEW DELHI — Salman Khan, jailed since early this week after being convicted of killing an endangered animal, was freed on bail Thursday from a jail in the western city of Jodhpur.

Khan, who was sentenced Monday to five years in prison for poaching a rare buck in a desert wildlife preserve in 1998, could be seen on televised news reports coming out of the prison wearing a white sleeveless T-shirt and a baseball cap.

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 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
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
10:40
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

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1912, the British liner Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic and began sinking.

In 1931, King Alfonso XIII of Spain went into exile, and the Spanish Republic was proclaimed.

In 1956, 50 years ago, Ampex Corporation demonstrated the first successful commercial videotape recorder, the VRX-1000 (later renamed the Mark IV), at the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters Convention in Chicago.

In 1981, the first test flight of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.



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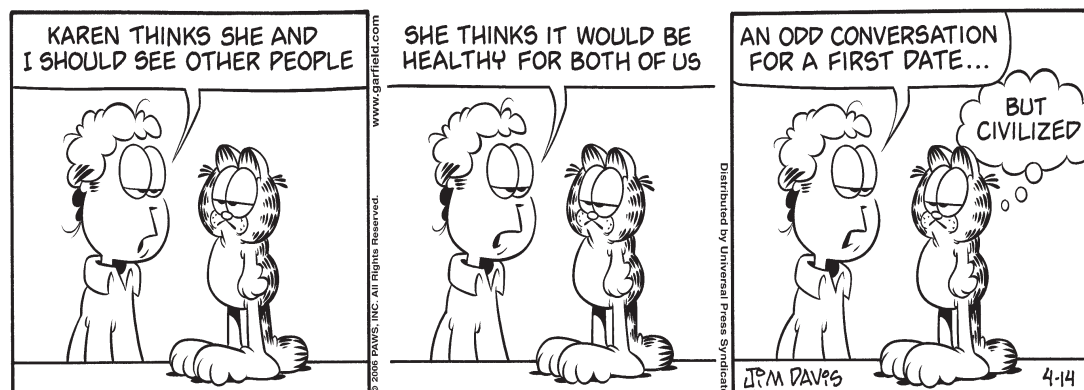
By Russ Wallace



edge City by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



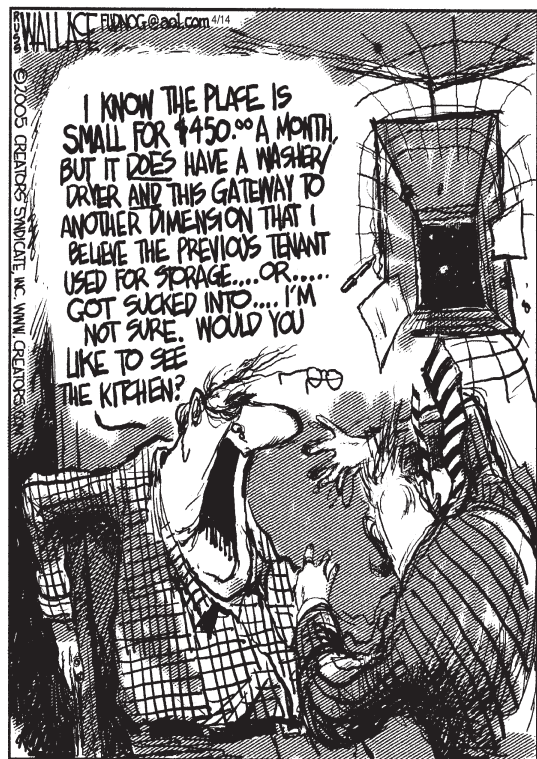
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1 Watch parts
6 Supports
11 Sight
12 Laugh-able
13 Mist
14 Blood bank worker
15 Tolkien tree herder
16 Cave dweller
18 Afternoon social
19 "Cold Mountain" heroine
20 College climber
21 Mont Blanc, for one
22 Rum cocktail
24 Chef's creation
25 Nine-sided figure
27 Fence part
29 Drinks to
32 Leaf lifter
33 Career campaigner
34 Swipe
35 Marlin's home
36 Jackie's second
37 Tend the garden

38 “In the Heat of the Night” role
40 Subside
42 Mete out
43 Had a go at
44 Passels
45 Robust

- 1 Early hour
- 2 Plummer of "Pulp Fiction"
- 3 Cruise dining spot
- 4 Sense of self
- 5 Milosevic, for one
- 6 Wee

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Yesterday's answer

7 Some	26 Loser to
8 It has a	David
saddle	27 Trattoria
seat	choices
9 Prepares	28 “The
to propose	Hairy
10 Six-	Ape”
winged	playwright
angel	30 Honked
17 Ace, e.g.	31 Swift
23 Nursery	33 Histories
occupant	39 Gift
24 Dennis	topper
Quaid	41 Two-piece
remake	piece

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HOWARD L. SHUKEN aka HOWARD LEONARD SHUKEN
Case No. SP006803
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of HOWARD L. SHUKEN aka HOWARD LEONARD SHUKEN
A PETITION FOR PRO-BATE has been filed by Nettie Shuken in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Nettie Shuken be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 9, 2006 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a per-son interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
PHILLIP L TANGALAKIS ESQ TANGALAKIS & TANGALAKIS
4264 OVERLAND AVE
CULVER CITY CA 90230
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN752197 SHUKEN Apr 14,15,21, 2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JOSE GAETA aka JOE GAETA PEREZ
Case No. SP006722
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOSE GAETA aka JOE

Notices
GAETA PEREZ
A PETITION FOR PRO-BATE has been filed by Mary Linda Gaeta and Graciela Gaeta in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Mary Linda Gaeta be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 28, 2006 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a per-son interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
JOHN J JAMGOTCHIAN ESQ
SBN102552
LAW OFFICES OF
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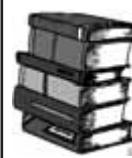
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