

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

13, 15, 22, 27, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 8, 8

Evening picks: 7, 9, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 05, California Classic

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race time: 1:43.03



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A jury awarded \$51.1 million from the New York City budget in March to Darryl Barnes, who was paralyzed by an off-duty police officer's gunshot after he refused to drop his gun. (Barnes, a member of the "Five-Percenters" anti-police group, claimed he was shot in cold blood.)

■ BBC News reported that officials at a prison in Sombor, Serbia, shot to death two guard dogs, execution style, in February after concluding that they had been lax recently in failing to bark when five inmates were escaping.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One man's folly is another man's wife."

— Helen Rowland

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Mall: Out with the in and in with the out

As sales fall, SM Place sets out to mimic the Third Street Promenade

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The fortress at the end of the Third Street Promenade is letting down its drawbridge.

Santa Monica Place plans to tear down the glass wall on its Broadway entrance and move its food court to the third floor as the first step in a long-term plan to turn itself into an outward-facing mall, said Henry Lichtman, a property manager for Macerich Company, which owns the building.

When the mall was built in

1980, enclosed malls were popping up all over the nation and interest in outdoor malls was slumping.

But since the Promenade's massive 1989 makeover, sales at Santa Monica Place have fallen behind its popular outdoor neighbor.

Last year, shops and restaurants along the Promenade grossed more than \$200 million in sales, while Santa Monica Place took in \$120 million, according to tax figures from the city. The Santa Monica Place figure is down 11 percent from 2001, while the Promenade sales grew by 2 percent during the same period.

The changes are an intermediate step in a 10- or 15-year plan for

See MALL, page 7

Justice moves slowly for Johnson's family

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The mother of a slain Santa Monica woman is waiting patiently for authorities to charge the man suspected of killing her only daughter in February.

Terry Wark, who lives in Los Gatos, Calif., said this week that although the process is taking longer than expected, she is confident that justice will be brought to her and her family.

Kristi Johnson, a 21-year-old Santa Monica College student, was found dead on March 3, her body partially clothed, wrists bound and covered in a sleeping bag at the bottom of a steep hillside in the Hollywood Hills. It appeared the body had been there

for about two weeks.

The investigation, which began as a missing person's case, quickly accelerated when police recovered Johnson's car about a week after she disappeared on Feb. 15. Authorities were able to identify a suspect within a matter of days after finding Johnson's vehicle and receiving hundreds of tips.

Wark was caught in a media frenzy after she pleaded publicly for Johnson's safe return through dozens of media outlets across the country. When Johnson's body turned up, Wark was inundated with media inquiries, which made it difficult for her to focus on the murder investigation and grieve privately, she said. Now, Wark said she is relieved that the pace of the

See JOHNSON, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Top: LAPD officers on Thursday morning ready themselves to jump into the Pacific Ocean while a detective looks on.

Below: LAPD officers stand by in a boat just west of the Santa Monica Pier for divers to come to the surface early Thursday.

LAPD searches water below pier for weapon

By Daily Press staff

Members of the Los Angeles Police Department's dive team and LAPD detectives searched the murky bottom of the Pacific Ocean early Thursday morning for a gun reportedly used in a murder in the mid-city area of L.A. earlier this year.

The suspect told detectives that he dropped the murder weapon into the water from the fishing deck of the Santa Monica Pier

about a month ago, police said.

Dive teams searched for hours before ending the mission. No weapon was found.

The ocean floor, which is about 25 feet below the pier, is littered with debris and remnants of the old pier. Because visibility is only about two feet, divers had to rope off sections to search by using weighted down lines as guides.

Details of the investigation aren't being released because it's ongoing, police said.

Cashing in on war: 'Bomb Saddam' hot sauce

BY HANS GREIMEL

Associated Press Writer

DOHA, Qatar — From "Wipe Out Saddam" toilet paper to "Bomb Saddam Mad Blast" hot sauce, businesses across America have started

rolling out the war-related collectibles.

"Everybody wants a piece of history," said Mike Mitchell of GourmetMike.com, which sells 5-ounce bottles of Bomb Saddam habanero chile sauce for \$7.50 apiece. "Get revenge and turn up the heat," the Web site says.

Mitchell acknowledged he just slapped a new label — a cartoon drawing of a pucker-up Saddam Hussein — on his usual hot sauce formula.

See HOT SAUCE, page 10



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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Do as much as you can in the a.m. You could find others to be somewhat unpredictable. You gain a new perspective that stuns you. Pull back and be an observer right now, as hard as that might be. Let information come to you. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Stay on top of work. Realize more of what you want. Where your friends are is where you want to be. If you can, leave the office early and start your weekend. A meeting proves to be beneficial. Keep reaching out for others. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Make calls in the morning, when you'll find others more easily. You need to handle your work with a strong hand. Focus on getting the job done. Your intuition helps you with someone in charge. Clear off your desk and finish any other work. Tonight: Touch base with an older relative.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Learn to detach rather than get involved in an unanticipated happening. Schedule a meeting or make plans that could take you in a new direction. Seek out experts, whether planning a trip or discussing a business option. The more you know, the better the choice. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Listen to an associate, knowing what it is you want from a situation. Together you make a strong team, even if you have to deal with this person's unpredictability. Use another's ideas to maximize a professional situation. You could work later than you need to. Tonight: Become a team.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Others run with the ball. You have a strange sense of feeling off-kilter, as your ruler Mercury goes retrograde tomorrow. Defer to others, allowing someone else to make the first move. Be willing to step back. Clear your desk before you leave work. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Flirting comes naturally to the Libra, especially this morning. Try focusing some of this libido energy into your work. Sooner or later the issue of work highlights your day. Dig in and get the job done. Mobilize another's help. You work better as a team. Tonight: Buy a favorite munchie on the way home.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Deal with the basics. You see someone in a different light. Your humor helps a loved one, child and/or associate loosen up. You head out the door in a great mood, ready to do your thing. Make plans with a special friend or loved one. Tonight: Start the weekend right.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Make calls and clear out work early in the day. You experience an energy sag as you attempt to head out the door. You might want to go home or change gears. If you can, leave work early. You flourish with a change in pace. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Deal with money matters first. Your perspective will change considerably after you relax and hear someone else's message. Use your creativity and high energy when returning messages and dealing with those in your immediate circle. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Use the a.m. to clear out whatever you feel is important. Something could jolt you financially if you're not careful. Build on established groundwork. Do not take an unneeded risk. Laugh and relax with a loved one or friend. Tonight: Your treat.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Take your time making a decision. You might want to step back, especially with oncoming excitement. Use your personality to communicate. You want things a certain way. You will do whatever you need to do in order to have it just so. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

CORRECTION — In the April 24 edition, the funding for Santa Monica College's Madison Theater project was inaccurately reported. No money from Measure U, SMC's \$160 million bond measure, which was passed in March of 2002, will be used to fund the new theater.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Janitors and their supporters march down the Third Street Promenade on Thursday between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Janitors sweep through Santa Monica in protest

By Daily Press staff

More than 600 janitors protested in Santa Monica on Thursday, calling for health insurance for all working families in Los Angeles.

They accuse the Mani Brothers, the building owners of 1401 Ocean Blvd., of replacing union janitors who had employer-paid family health insurance with janitors who have no insurance and are paid minimum wage.

Mani Brothers representatives declined to comment.

Janitors Union #8217 went on strike in 2000 to secure their benefits but the contract expires on May 1. Janitors throughout L.A. are currently negotiating a new union contract to win decent wages and maintain their health insurance.



Photo courtesy of Peter Tigler

Residents of a Santa Monica eastside neighborhood clean graffiti off a wall last weekend.

Gang tags gone

By Daily Press staff

Frustrated and tired of seeing gang graffiti littering their neighborhood, a group of Santa Monica residents took it upon themselves to clean it up.

Pico Neighborhood Association volunteers gathered last weekend at Eddie's Market at the corner of Pico Boulevard and 20th Street to fix a parking lot wall, noted for its graffiti tags and patched paint.

In an hour and a half, the 50-foot-long wall went from three shades of yellow and gray to a brick red-brown with creeping fig vines planted in wells cut into the asphalt. The vines will cling to the wall deterring graffiti and provide a landscape element.

Plants were purchased with money PNA received from the City of Santa Monica Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant. City Maintenance Manager Kim Braun supplied the paint.

The PNA has an on-going program available to members for matching paint, plants and vines and other design modifications for walls and areas that are often defaced by graffiti.



Some northwest swell is due Friday and Saturday from a system that formed near the Aleutians last week.

We should see the first hints of the new northwest today, with good west breaks hitting chest-to-shoulder-height on the sets. The southwest swell continues to decline, with south-facing spots seeing surf about waist-to-chest-high.

Saturday, northwest increases to shoulder-to-head-height at the best spots. The southwest backs down further to waist-high proportions.

Sunday, the northwest should back down, with size dropping to chest and occasionally shoulder-height. South is looking weaker again Sunday, probably at the knee to waist range.

Today's Tides:	
Low-	12:44 a.m. 2.09'
High-	6:09 a.m. 4.27'
Low-	1:08 p.m. -0.17'
High-	7:43 p.m. 4.30'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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Check out Q-Line responses on page 5

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OPINION

LETTERS

Angry at letter-writer

Editor:

William Hogan should be ashamed of himself (SMDP, April 22). His letter to the editor was idiotic and disrespectful.

Who's responsible for cutting \$160 million from the state community college system, or proposing \$400 million in cuts the following year? If you want to blatantly attack someone without any knowledge of the facts, then direct your attention to the one who made this possible: Gov. Gray Davis.

Santa Monica College has been working overtime to deal with this monumental crisis, which is more than I can say for William Hogan, who seems so enthusiastic on firing SMC personnel ... maybe we should start with him.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

'Throw the bums out!'

Editor:

Regarding your April 14 story headlined "Landlords look for rent control 'abuses'" — let me get this straight:

Seymour and Evelyn Waterman have been holding a rent-controlled apartment at the Shores, on the beach, for the last 23 years, but also own a home in Encino?

So this couple has the resources to:

A) Own a home

B) Rent a beach apartment (at the not insubstantial, albeit rent-controlled, rate of \$1,180 a month)

And, even as our city fathers (sorry Councilperson O'Connor, but it is and always has been mostly men running Santa Monica) cannot utter three sentences in a row without decrying the "emergency" of affordable housing, and the "plight" of the poor renter, this is OK?! Shame on all of you!

Obviously, Mr. Waterman himself has no shame. He is complaining that if he had to pay market rate for his weekend beach apartment, why, he probably couldn't afford it.

Gosh, how many of us can afford to spend \$1,200 on a weekend retreat?

Maybe the couple spends 3 or 4 days a week at the Shores, or perhaps this is a slight exaggeration, since I imagine it is downright exhausting to run back and forth each week.

Or perhaps that's an "average," and the couple comes in with family and friends to spend a week each month at the beach. What fun for them!

As for his stated desire to "retire" to his rent-controlled apartment at the Shores, I

wonder, at 85 years old, when DOES he plan to sell that home in Encino and retire?

Good God, it is one thing to have lived a long life in an apartment and have the right to stay there even into retirement — that is only fair and humane. That is what rent control (or Prop. 13 for that matter) was created for.

But the only word for this sort of arrangement is abuse. And it's shocking that this gentleman doesn't even "get it" well enough not to complain about being kicked out.

Should we presume the 10 to 15 percent of rent control tenants who rent control officials say are now in danger of being deprived of rent-controlled offices and weekend retreats (during our city's permanent housing crunch) also don't get it?

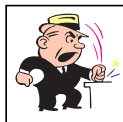
I'm only sorry that there's no way to take these apartments away from all of them and transfer them to folks who are really in need. But then I'm sure the cycle of abuse will begin again with THAT group. So forget it, just throw the bums out!

Beverly Johnson
Santa Monica



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Hypocritical actions by renters' rights group



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, the powerful political organization that controls the way the city and its schools are run, tries to convince renters, "We're for you."

The truth is we're being sold a bogus bill of goods.

In February, the SMRR-controlled Rent Control Board allowed landlords to raise rents to market rate on apartments not used as a primary residences. Tenants using their apartments for vacation homes, offices or storage will now face the possibility of dramatic rent increases.

The RCB claims it did this to avoid threats by landlords vowing to seek more Draconian legislation on the state level, similar to the Costa-Hawkins Bill that ushered in statewide vacancy decontrol in the late 1990s.

Mega-landlord Douglas Emmett was one of the first to take advantage of a new law that went into effect March 15. The

firm has issued notices to tenants at its 460-unit Santa Monica Shores apartment buildings, challenging claims that their apartments are their primary residences.

I mentioned in February that SMRR co-chair Denny Zane wrote a letter to the Planning Commission on behalf of the very same Douglas Emmett asking to set aside some conditions imposed on the firm's office building at 808 Wilshire.

Zane supported conditions that included an on-site gasoline station when he was on City Council in 1990. But apparently he has changed his mind.

Zane said he wrote the letter as a favor for Douglas Emmett. Coincidentally, Dan Emmett (the Emmett in Douglas Emmett) contributed \$5,000 to Measure EE — last fall's failed school tax measure, the campaign for which Zane was paid \$25,000 to manage.

I'm not saying Zane did anything wrong.

But doesn't it seem a wee bit hypocritical when a SMRR co-chair does favors for one of the city's largest landlords? Especially when it appears to be a landlord who is now conducting what some Shores tenants characterize as a witch hunt to ferret out non-primary residents so they can jack-up rents.

Local landlord Mat Millen said SMRR is not in the business of protecting renters no matter how much they say they are.

"They're in the business of creating housing," Millen said. "SMRR really wants all those offices and pied-à-terres occupied by full-time, registered voters who can be easily pressured to back SMRR causes and candidates."

Meanwhile, the City Council is ready to tax occupied, unregistered apartments. The city estimates there are approximately 1,000 bootlegged units on about 700 properties throughout Santa Monica. Most don't meet parking, density and setback requirements while others have been subdivided out of other apartments or cobbled out of garages and storage spaces.

Fearful of losing valuable housing (and renter's votes), the City Council voted this week to rewrite zoning codes to make these units eligible for inspection. Owners of bootlegged units would pay registration fees to become legal. A typical 800-square-foot single-bedroom unit would cost about \$7,840 to legalize.

The big question is whether the Rent Control Board will allow property owners to pass along this cost to tenants. If it does, hundreds of renters will surely be hit

with sizable rent increases.

All of the Rent Control Board members are members of SMRR, the political organization that "protects and looks out for renters." Just about everything that's come down the pike in the last decade has been passed along to renters by the Rent Control Board. Its excuse usually is that they had to do it to avoid the possibility of anti-renter legislation, legal action or some other vague landlord threat.

Repairs from the 1994 earthquake were passed on. Taxes such as the Santa Monica College school bond that was approved last year were passed along as was the first school parcel tax renewed in 2000.

Two years ago, the RCB approved the second-largest general rent increase in its history. Most likely, they will allow landlords to pass on the costs for the additional school parcel tax (Measure S) on the June ballot — if it passes. Keep in mind that with all the "pass alongs" renters pay, the property owner doesn't.

So next time someone says, "SMRR fights for renters." Tell them, "In a pig's eye."

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and freelance writer.)

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

OPINION

The Q Line

Readers sound off on city safety question

Last Sunday, Q-line asked: "Do you think Santa Monica is a safe place to live? Why or why not?" Here are your responses:

■ "Despite an enormous increase in police funding, crime is on the rise. Since we can no longer hear the scanner calls or access arrest records from the Web site, it is all together possible that reporting is down as well. We still don't have community policing. The Pico Neighborhood only gets response to gunfire. Chief Butts conveniently breaks his staff into small task forces, limiting responsibility to act on crime. Try to get something done about the homeless or graffiti and you will be referred to a series of recordings and voice mails that are never responded to. Personnel is never available when the crimes occur. Rather than attempting to prevent further acts public relations personnel are dispatched to lecture the victims and community about how they should get involved, rather than explain why police resources are not dispatched in the first place. The last two time I called for service, no one showed up for over an hour. The first time I called dispatch, they explained that the officers were unable to locate me, apparently, because they don't live in the city. They need to buy a Thomas Guide. The second time, the officer showed up after 90 minutes, looked at the vandalism, shrugged and drove off. But what would you expect from a city run by SMRR?"

■ "No I do not think Santa Monica is a safe place to live. There are a lot of bums in the street and the lighting is poor. I also don't think the Promenade has enough patrolling at night. I understand a group of girls got their throats slit a couple of years ago in the park

area. Rapes are up. People are afraid to go out of their houses."

■ "Santa Monica has become a crime-infested city. Thanks to our City Council for inviting the transients to harass and commit crimes against taxpayers. That and the fact that the police department could care less about our safety and more about their salaries. Santa Monica is a dangerous place to live. Get out before it is too late!"

■ "I think Santa Monica is one of the safest cities that I have lived in so far. I've been homeless for about a year now. I started in Salt Lake City and went to Vegas, San Bernardino and now here. This has been by far the safest and most courteous city ever."

■ "YES. Santa Monica is safe. Santa Monica has an excellent police department. In my opinion Santa Monica is safer than most cities considering the constant influx of visitors and traffic, especially on summer weekends. Still a person's safety depends on the prudence and practices of the individual and their capability of staying out of harm's way. Only fools rush into high crime areas. A person's motto should be, "Stay alert, stay alive."

■ "Santa Monica would be a safe place to live if it were not for the landlords constant threatening and harassment tactics for the rent-controlled units."

■ "I do not think Santa Monica is a safe place to live because the police have consistently hassled me and made my life miserable. See the press clippings for proof."

■ "Is Santa Monica safe? Relative to what? It is certainly not as safe as it was in 1950 and 1975. Since SMRR control of the city and the ongoing effort to make this the homeless capital of the United States it is not as safe as it once was."

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DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

the end of 2003 hovered about 16.5 percent, down from 18 percent when property prices were higher. As a point of reference, the average lease rates in the city of Los Angeles have risen from \$1.50 to \$2.19 since 1995, while vacancy rates have fallen from 16.5 to 13.3 percent.

Corporate high-rise office space continues to grow in Santa Monica, but occupants are in short supply. A recently-completed 64,000-square-foot retail and office building on Ocean Avenue designed to cater to large media and entertainment has a significant vacancy rate.

The rumor around the business community is that advertising firm, Rubin Postaer and Associates, is negotiating for 125,000 square feet at the old MGM Plaza, now to be called Colorado Center.

The dot-com demise, and the general poor state of the economy are partially to blame.

Local statistics show that in 2001, there was a gain of 1,560 jobs in Santa Monica. In 2002, 4,600 jobs were lost, 2,300 of which were in the information and professional fields, including legal and accounting services, publishing and motion pictures — businesses that need office space.

The entire westside commercial real estate has been struggling.

In March, there were 250 million square feet of office space available in western Los Angeles. Citywide, the commercial real estate seems to have reached saturation point. Last year, 1.6 million square feet of construction was created throughout Los Angeles. Today, statistics show 1.3 million square feet of office space is deserted.

(If you have comments or local real estate questions, please e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219.)

Sometime over the next couple months, Santa Monica will lose one of its prized industries and biggest tenants — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

After more than 20 years in Santa Monica, the entertainment company will move 260,000 of its 350,000-square-foot operation to Century City's Constellation Place — leaving only its home entertainment unit, not to mention lots of extra office space that needs to be filled.

MGM was the biggest public company in Santa Monica (followed by Activision, Inc., Macerich Co., and Entravision Communications Corp.). The entertainment company provided 1,050 local jobs in 2001.

MGM's move is no surprise to those who've been following the local real estate market. In 1999, in one of the biggest real estate sales in Los Angeles history, MGM sold MGM Plaza, located at Cloverfield and Colorado boulevards, for an estimated \$360 million to Tishman Speyer Properties of New York.

At the time, the 1.15-million-square-foot building was fully leased, the principal tenant being Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc.

"It will take some time, but it will be absorbed into the market place eventually," said Santa Monica commercial real estate broker Vince Muscelli. "They are asking \$3.20 a square foot for their space. Those buildings in the past have held up pretty well against the rest of the market, but they probably need to come down below \$3 a square foot to make deals. If you look around there just aren't that many buildings in Santa Monica with 100,000 square feet on one level."

The rumor around the business community is that advertising firm, Rubin Postaer and Associates, is negotiating for 125,000 square feet at the old MGM Plaza, now to be called Colorado Center.

The company will reportedly sign a 10-year deal valued at \$50 million, making it one of the largest deals in recent memory in terms of value and square footage.

In the meantime, the \$3.20 a square foot for office space is considerably lower than the hefty \$4.04 per square foot the local real estate market commanded in the second quarter of 2001. Vacancy rates at

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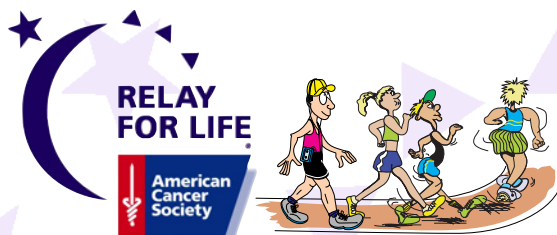
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LOCAL



Indoor mall to undergo outdoor remodeling

MALL, from page 1

changing Santa Monica Place, Lichtman said. Construction, which Lichtman said will begin as soon as plans are approved, is expected to take more than a year.

"It is a significant investment," said Lichtman, adding that the exact cost of the project is unknown.

Lichtman stressed that the plans are certain to change after the company takes input from the community and determines which vendors will have space in the refurbished mall.

"The one thing I know is that these plans we're talking about today will be tweaked," he said.

The goal is to create a seamless flow from the Promenade to the indoor mall,

Lichtman said. Some storefronts will be weatherproofed if the current plan goes through and the climate will be regulated with "air curtains" that divide the outdoors from the heart of the mall, he said.

The exterior of the mall's parking decks and department stores will be wrapped in the facade of individual buildings and the interior of the mall will likely be refurbished, Lichtman said.

The food court on the mall's top level will take advantage of panoramic ocean views and feature outdoor seating, he said.

"This is a niche we think we can do well with," said Lichtman, adding that affordable food downtown is increasingly scarce.

Macerich bought the mall in 1991. The company operates 56 malls and 21 com-

munity centers nationwide.

"Our goal at Macerich is to have our shopping centers or malls be the town center," Lichtman said.

City officials said they are pleased by the changes and that they haven't given up on including the indoor mall in the proposed Civic Redevelopment Plan.

The estimated \$121 million redevelopment plan, which is on hold because of the city's budget crisis, includes parks and an opportunity for the Promenade, Santa Monica Place and Main Street to be connected in a pedestrian environment.

"We're going to get the cash someday,"

said Councilman Herb Katz.

Lichtman said the proposed changes to Santa Monica Place don't preclude the mall from a future partnership with the city. The two groups seem to have the same goals in mind, he said, pointing to the mall's interest in opening up the Colorado Avenue entrance, the second heaviest access point to the mall.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director for Bayside Corporation, the non-profit that runs downtown with the city, applauded the mall's proposed changes.

"They need to inject a little momentum into that mall and get the bodies walking through there," she said. "Their success is our success."

Autopsy results for slain woman may take 2 months

JOHNSON, from page 1

investigation has slowed down.

"I'm dealing with things as they are presented," she said. "I appreciate the process and I'm confident in the process. I'm trying to catch my breath right now and reflect on what is actually happening ... I'm just starting to grieve."

Police have identified a suspect, who is in custody in the Los Angeles County Jail on an unrelated felony charge. He was arrested Feb. 17 — two days after Johnson disappeared — in Beverly Hills for grand theft auto and parole violation. He reportedly bought a car by using fake identification at a car dealership.

Santa Monica Police are awaiting the results of forensic and DNA evidence that the Los Angeles County Crime Lab has been analyzing for more than two months.

Authorities believe the evidence recovered from several locations searched by police shortly after Johnson disappeared will make the case against her suspected killer.

SMPD detectives and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office aren't rushing the case so they can gather enough evidence to ensure a conviction. Because the suspect already is in custody on \$1.5 million bail, there is no risk of the suspect fleeing, police said.

If the suspect wasn't in custody, authorities said they feel confident they could charge and successfully prosecute him because they have enough circumstantial evidence in the case.

"If this guy wasn't in custody, we would have charged him and prosecuted him with the DA's office," SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "We are confident that we could prosecute him today."

Wark, who said she is relying on her faith, family and friends to get through the ordeal, said she is confident in the SMPD's investigation.

"I'm convinced justice will be brought," she said, calling the suspected killer an experienced predator. "That guy isn't going anywhere."

Police won't release the name of the suspect because he hasn't been charged with a crime. The Daily Press' policy is to not name suspects until they have been charged.

It's known that the suspect has a long criminal history of luring and victimizing young, attractive women by claiming to be a

photographer in the entertainment industry.

He was reportedly released from state prison on Jan. 20, just days before he tried to lure a woman into his clutches in West Hollywood by posing as a publicity photographer for a specific film title that he's used as his ruse multiple times. The woman in the West Hollywood incident, suspicious of his behavior and aggressiveness, was able to escape.

Johnson didn't return to her 29th Street apartment in Santa Monica after she told her roommates she was going to Beverly Hills to audition for a photographer she met while shopping at the Century City Mall earlier.

Police then learned more than a week later that Johnson's white 1996 Mazda Miata had been valet parked Feb. 16 — the day after she disappeared — at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City. The suspect was identified as the person who dropped off the vehicle, based on a composite sketch released by police.

At about the same time, police served 10 search warrants at various locations throughout Los Angeles. Authorities have only confirmed searches of the suspect's West Hollywood residence and a home on Skyline Drive — two properties away from where Johnson's body was found dumped in a ravine in Laurel Canyon.

Police reportedly searched several vacant homes in the Hollywood Hills that the suspect may have toured with a realtor shortly before Johnson disappeared, said a source familiar with the properties.

The crime lab is analyzing evidence recovered from those properties, as well as evidence recovered from Johnson's car.

The two-story Spanish style home on Skyline Drive, most recently occupied by actor Laurence Fishburne, could be of interest since it is so close to where Johnson's body was found.

The neighborhood is remote and the location of where her body was dumped can't be accessed without entering private property. An access road at the top of the canyon is blocked with a 10-foot-tall fence and private homes are at the bottom of the ravine. Her body was found in the brush abutting people's backyards.

How Johnson died has yet to be determined by the Los Angeles County Coroner, which has deferred Johnson's autopsy for toxicology testing. Results are expected in eight to 12 weeks.



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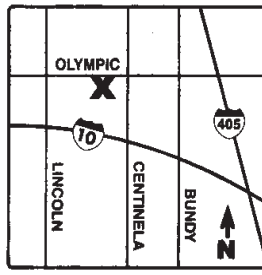
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STATE

Four charged in L.A. with Internet advertising fraud

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former executives of an Internet advertising firm have agreed to plead guilty to civil and criminal charges that they inflated revenues by engaging in barter deals with other Internet companies in a scheme to meet stock analysts' expectations, federal prosecutors said.

Four former officers of L90 Inc., based in Marina del Rey, were named in civil charges brought Wednesday by the Securities and Exchange Commission and three of them were named in criminal charges filed by the U.S. attorney's office.

Prosecutors said the company, through its subsidiary webMillion.com, engaged in a number of barter transactions for advertising with other companies, then swapped checks for the supposed value of the ads. The incoming checks were booked as revenue without disclosing that they were from barter transactions.

Prosecutors said the company often channeled the checks through a third party to hide the sham from auditors and investors.

Federal officials said the ruse resulted in L90 inflating revenues by \$4.9 million from the third quarter of 2000 through the third quarter of 2001.

Former L90 officers charged by the SEC were: John Bohan, 38, of Manhattan beach, who was CEO, president and a member of the board; Mark Roah, 34, of Manhattan Beach, who was senior vice

president of business development and a board member; Lucrezia Bickerton, 31, of Hermosa Beach, who was vice president of finance and Chantel Loo, 30, of Beverly Hills, who was controller and director of finance.

The four were charged with securities fraud for their alleged role in lying to L90's auditors and falsifying the company's books.

Roah was charged separately with conspiracy for allegedly aiding a scheme that allowed Homestore.com Inc. to move some of its money out to co-conspirators, then back in, booking the money as new revenue. In the process, a company controlled by Roah received \$650,000 in cash, the SEC charged.

All four agreed to settle the charges without admitting or denying guilt and will be fined and required to repay bonuses, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Bohan also agreed to plead guilty to a charge of criminal securities fraud. Bickerton and Roah agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud. Roah also agreed to plead guilty to charges stemming from the Homestore conspiracy. The three face possible prison terms and fines. They will be arraigned on May 19.

Loo was not charged in the criminal case.

L90 is now known as MaxWorldwide and is headquartered in New York. As part of the settlement, the company was ordered to cease and desist from violating securities laws.

Charges dropped against man who barked at dog

By The Associated Press

PALO ALTO — Richard "Tyson" Dillon got away with barking.

Until Thursday, the 25-year-old Menlo Park man was facing possible jail time and a hefty fine for barking at a Palo Alto police dog. Prosecutors, however, decided to drop the case.

"Even though what the suspect did here was stupid, reckless and irresponsible, I don't think it warranted criminal prosecution, or the necessary expenditure of community resources," said Jay Boyarsky, supervising deputy district attorney for Santa Clara County.

Palo Alto police cited Dillon on March 5, Mardi Gras night, after he barked at one of their dogs sitting inside a patrol car. Dillon maintained he simply returned a single "friendly bark" but police said he harassed the animal by barking multiple times and raising his fist in a threatening manner.

Dillon subsequently was charged with a rarely used misdemeanor that makes it a crime to willfully and maliciously interfere with a police officer's duty by teasing and agitating the officer's dog.

Outside the Palo Alto courthouse Thursday, a relieved Dillon said he had no hard feelings against the police. "But I really didn't think I should face a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for barking at his dog," he said.



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Civilian-run office says SFPD slows investigations

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Police Department impedes investigations into complaints from the public and fails to discipline officers in sustained cases of misconduct, according to a report from a civilian-run watchdog agency.

The Office of Citizen Complaints reported that the department has withheld requested documents such as incident reports and use of force logs for a year or more, even in serious cases involving the deaths of suspects in custody and shootings by police.

The City Charter and the police department's own rules require that officers promptly and fully cooperate with the OCC's investigations.

"Despite this unequivocal mandate, the department has hampered OCC's investigations in significant ways," stated the report, which was requested by Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Jake McGoldrick.

Assistant Chief Alex Fagan, who is

serving as acting chief, said addressing the problems highlighted in the report would be a top priority.

"There are issues that need to be resolved," Fagan said Thursday. "A lot of these issues are policy issues that could involve the union, but the majority are things I and the new head of OCC can sit down and resolve."

The request for a full accounting of how the city handles alleged cases of police misconduct came in the wake of a street fight last November involving three off-duty officers, including Fagan's son.

The case led to indictments against the elder Fagan, police chief Earl Sanders and other top brass for allegedly conspiring to cover up the incident. The district attorney eventually dropped the indictments against Fagan and Sanders; Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin later tossed out the charges against the other top officers for lack of evidence.

But the OCC highlighted the case as an example of the "daily and often significant obstacles" it faces in getting police to

cooperate with investigations. The OCC said it spent over four months seeking information on the department's handling of the case, only to be rebuffed.

The OCC, which was created through a 1983 city ballot measure, also reported that some officers fail to show up for investigative interviews, while the department has increasingly been unwilling to act on "sustained cases warranting significant discipline and/or public scrutiny."

The agency concluded its report with 14 recommendations, such as requiring the chief to notify the OCC when the discipline he plans to impose differs from the action recommended by the agency, and providing consequences for department personnel who fail to respond to agency requests in a timely manner.

Kevin Allen, a former deputy public defender whom Mayor Willie Brown appointed last week as the OCC's interim director, said he thinks the problems stem more from turnover within the police divisions responsible for working with the OCC than deliberate attempts to obstruct

the agency's work.

"I don't want to say the police were thumbing their noses at OCC," Allen said. "At times, people felt they were protecting themselves, and the police were doing what they thought was necessary, and they may have disagreed with the charter."

At Ammiano and McGoldrick's request, the police department has filed a separate accountability report — one that supports many of the OCC's findings. Two other reports on police accountability — one from the city attorney's office and one from the city controller — are due in Ammiano and McGoldrick's offices on Friday. Ammiano said a supervisor's committee would convene to review the results from all four studies and make its own recommendations.

"The tremendous public exposure and disclosure of a relatively small incident has probably made the police department a lot more aware that it needs to maintain the public's trust," Ammiano said, "and it certainly gave entities like OCC the entry to say, 'This has been going on for a while.'"

Administration ponders how to punish anti-war France

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — Bush administration officials are reviewing U.S. relations with France with an eye to punishing the nation for opposing the war with Iraq.

The United States is considering excluding France from some NATO decisions as well as other U.S. meetings with allies.

Warned by Secretary of State Colin Powell that France faced consequences for its stand on Iraq, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin vowed his country would stick to its principles.

"It will continue to do so in all circumstances," de Villepin said.

At the same time, the White House on Thursday quashed speculation that President Bush would not stay overnight in France during his trip in early June to the Group of Eight economic summit.

"The president will be overnighing in France. There were never plans for him to overnight anywhere else," presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The annual meeting of the world's seven wealthiest democracies and Russia will be held in Evian in the French Alps, near the border with Switzerland. Tensions between the United States and France had given rise to rumors that Bush might spend the nights in Geneva.

France opposed the war with Iraq and blocked a U.N. resolution sanctioning the war sought by the United States and Britain. France, along with Russia, took the position that there should be more U.N. searches for illegal weapons before considering the use of force.

Germany, which opposed war with Iraq under all conditions, is not targeted for punitive measures, a senior U.S. official told The Associated Press.

Every country has the right to its own opinions, the official said. The difference between France and Germany is that France energetically tried to organize other countries against the United States, the official said on condition of anonymity.

For the most part, much that the United

States does with France works well, the official said. For instance, cooperation in countering terrorism and on law enforcement is very good, he said.

"No one in the administration is saying stop all things with France," the official said. "People are saying if there are places where we give special deference to France that we should review that."

Potential punishment was discussed Monday at a meeting of top assistants to Powell, Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Condoleezza Rice, the president's national security adviser.

Actions could include excluding France from some meetings with U.S. allies and bypassing the North Atlantic Council, of which France is a member.

Bypassing the council, NATO's governing body, could mean excluding France from U.S. deliberations with European and Canadian allies because France is not a member of NATO's Defense Planning Committee, where the talks would be shifted.

To avert potential French opposition to using NATO peacekeepers in Iraq and having them search for hidden weapons of mass destruction, deliberations may be turned over to the defense group, said a State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Powell, in a PBS interview Tuesday night, said there would be consequences for France's opposing the United States in the United Nations. He described it as "a very difficult period," but did not say what the administration had in mind.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday: "It's more than philosophical. Potentially, it will affect how some decisions are made in the future."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said France's opposition to the war "has put a strain on the relationship and that's a consequence that was paid."

In the end, Bush believes the two countries and two people have common values and that the alliance will continue, Fleischer said.

De Villepin telephoned Powell

Wednesday while traveling in the Middle East, Boucher said. Among the issues they discussed were sanctions against Iraq.

The United States proposes eliminating them as an unnecessary burden on Iraq's people now that Saddam Hussein and his government have been toppled. France favors suspending the sanctions, which Boucher said implies the possibility of their return.

"Sanctions should be lifted," Boucher said. "The president said that. It should be ended. And we need to get together and

talk about how to do that."

On the overall relationship, Boucher said, "Having had disagreements like this in our relationship doesn't change the fact that we are allies."

De Villepin, en route to Iran, said France would continue to uphold its principles. "Throughout the Iraq crisis, France, along with a very large majority of the international community, acted in conformity with its convictions and its principles to defend international law," he said.

Gov: Nevada pays more to feed horses than inmates

BY BRENDAN RILEY
Associated Press Writer

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A legislative move to cut the food budget for Nevada prisons was criticized Thursday by Gov. Kenny Guinn — who said the state pays more to feed a wild horse than it does to feed a prisoner.

Guinn, targeting a budget cut sought by Assembly Speaker Richard Perkins, said the prison system's food budget assumes a per-inmate cost of \$2.29 a day — and the budgeted sum for feeding wild horses under state control is \$2.50 per horse.

"They don't run the prison," Guinn said of Assembly Ways and Means Committee members who on Wednesday joined Perkins in opposing an increase in prison food funding.

"I trust the people who are (working) there," the governor said, adding that prison officials thought the food funds important enough for security purposes that they were willing to give up a request for 14 new staffers in exchange.

"I think they'll come around ... I do believe they'll reconsider," Guinn said when asked about the Ways and Means action, adding that he expected a compromise would be reached.

Perkins, D-Henderson, and Senate

Majority Leader Bill Raggio, R-Reno, both were critical of a deputy prisons director's comment about a "retaliatory attitude" of legislative staffers in dealing with the inmate food budget for the next two years.

After criticizing Glen Whorton, Perkins then moved to cut a 5 percent inflation increase for prison food out of the budget.

The prison system spends about \$17 million a year on food. Officials said the cut would take about \$750,000 out of the food budget.

Whorton wasn't alone in raising concerns about security and safety when convicts are upset about their food.

Deputy Prisons Director Darrel Rexwinkel noted the Nevada prison system's average cost of \$2.29 a day for feeding inmates compares with an average of \$4.41 for most other Western states.

Rexwinkel also said the prison cost for food is substantially less than what the Division of Child and Family Services pays for food service in its juvenile detention facilities, about \$5.25 a day per youth.

Rexwinkel added that the cost of prison food is rising — more than 2 percent in the first two months of this year.

DID YOU KNOW?: U.S. citizens watch the most TV. By age 65, an American would have watched the equivalent of 9 years uninterrupted screening, viewing more than 20,000 TV commercials per year.



INTERNATIONAL

OPEC agrees to raise production but cut output

BY BRUCE STANLEY
AP Business Writer

VIENNA, Austria — OPEC members agreed Thursday to cut their current oil output by 2 million barrels a day, or 7 percent, in an effort to head off more declines in oil prices.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries temporarily raised its official output target to 25.4 million barrels, up 900,000 barrels a day from its existing ceiling.

The new quota would take effect June 1, OPEC President Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah told a news conference.

OPEC representatives called Thursday's meeting in Vienna to reassess the group's output levels as oil began flowing again in Iraq for the first time since the war.

OPEC is ready to welcome Iraq back as a participating member, Al-Attiah said.

"I hope Iraq comes back tomorrow," he said, adding later: "We will accommodate Iraq at the right time."

Several OPEC members had boosted their production before the war, hoping to head off a supply shortage. The rapid end of the conflict left them facing what they see as a surplus of 2 million barrels a day.

Crude prices have tumbled in recent weeks, and OPEC feared a further decline as crude demand reached a seasonal low exacerbated by the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, which has affected many airlines.

OPEC plans to review its decision when it meets again June 11 in Qatar.

In the days leading up to hostilities in Iraq, U.S. crude prices peaked at almost \$40 a barrel. On Thursday, contracts of U.S. light, sweet crude for June delivery were trading in New York at \$26.05 a barrel, down 60 cents from Wednesday's close. In London, June contracts of North

Sea Brent crude were trading at \$23.62, off 6 cents a barrel.

Many energy analysts had expected OPEC to agree to curb production. The question was whether OPEC would try to do so by lowering its official output target or by taking the much less drastic step of rein-

ing in the amount of oil its members were pumping above their respective quotas.

It took the unusual decision of slashing its actual production while also raising the nominal ceiling for OPEC's 10 members excluding Iraq. OPEC's current target is 24.5 million barrels a day.

Tariq Aziz apparently in U.S. hands, Pentagon officials say

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq apparently have taken custody of Tariq Aziz, the former Iraqi deputy prime minister, Pentagon officials said Thursday.

No details on the capture or surrender were immediately available.

Aziz has been one of the best-known members of the Iraqi leadership. On the U.S. list of the 55 most-wanted members of the former government, he was No. 43.

Two Pentagon officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed Aziz was in U.S. custody. Both said they were awaiting confirmation from U.S. Central Command headquarters in Qatar.

Aziz was perhaps the most-recognized public face of the Iraqi govern-

ment, other than President Saddam Hussein. He sometimes presented the Iraqi case against accusations by the United States and United Nations.

Aziz, the eight of spades in the military's card deck of top Iraqi leaders, was the only Christian in Saddam's inner circle. He served as foreign minister during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and was a frequent spokesman at that time.

Although he was one of Saddam's most loyal aides, Aziz, like most non-Tikritis, had virtually no power, U.S. officials say.

Born in 1936 in the northern city of Mosul, Aziz studied English literature at Baghdad College of Fine Arts and became a teacher and journalist. He joined the Baath Party in 1957, working closely with Saddam to overthrow British-imposed monarchy.

Iraq T-shirts, video games and more are popular items

HOT SAUCE, from page 1

"Sales are up about 50 percent just because of current events," he said.

Other items hawked on the Internet include the Scud Attack video game — an update of the 1980s classic Missile Command; Saddam shooting targets; and "Iraq War Veteran" bumper stickers for the soldiers coming home.

Demand is so high for anything Iraq-related that even the nearly worthless Iraqi dinar is a hot item. SilverGreetings.com offers a mint-condition 10,000-dinar note — with its Saddam portrait — for \$79. On the Baghdad black market right now, it is worth about \$2.85.

"People want something with Saddam's face," owner Abraham Merchant said.

Saddam is not the only big draw. His missing information minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, has developed a cult following for his litany of claimed victories over coalition troops and his inexhaustible dictionary of insults.

Entrepreneurs are offering Sahhaf T-shirts, a deck of Sahhaf joker cards, even a Sahhaf action figure.

The 12-inch doll comes in two talking versions that utter such quotables as "There are no American infidels in Baghdad. Never!"

HeroBuilders.com sells the "Iraqi Disinformation Minister" for \$35.95.

Among the items offered by GreatUSAFlags.com, a company that specializes in patriotic paraphernalia, is its \$5.95 "Most Wanted" deck of cards issued by the U.S. military.

"Now you can own the one true collector's item from Operation Iraqi Freedom," the sale pitch reads. "Don't be fooled by imitations!"

Retail analysts say businesses hoping to get rich quick could be let down. It is difficult to ramp up volume fast enough to catch a fad before it wanes, they say. And with the war in Iraq won so fast, plenty of companies could be left holding unsold stock.

Businesses could also face a backlash from consumers who say it smacks of war-profiteering.

"Ahhhhh making money off tragedy!" reads one piece of hate-mail posted on HeroBuilders.com. "Are you educated at all about the war you're cashing in on?"

HeroBuilders.com owner Emil Vicalè called such complaints hilarious.

"We're not doing this for any deep meaning," he said. "We're just poking fun."



Saurabh Das/Associated Press

Chaplain Thomas Brooks of the U.S. Army buys bottled drinks from a local store in Mosul, Iraq on Thursday.

SARS closes hospital as panicky residents empty stores

BY AUDRA ANG
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Authorities closed two hospitals and put patients and 2,000 workers under observation for the SARS virus, while across the city Thursday, anxious residents emptied grocery stores of rice, oil and frozen food in a bout of panic-buying.

The closures were the latest action this week — along with the closing of public schools and plans for a quarantine — to try to contain severe acute respiratory syndrome, which killed four more people, raising Beijing's death toll to 39.

Nationwide, 110 people have died from the disease, the Health Ministry said.

On Friday, Beijing's Ditan Hospital was sealed off, with no visitors allowed in, said an official in the hospital's admin-

istrative office who declined to give her name. Medical workers were allowed to leave the building.

Also closed, on Thursday, was the People's Hospital of Peking University. The hospital was being disinfected, and a university official said an unknown number of patients and 2,262 employees were moved for observation to another hospital, one of six designated to handle SARS.

However, a sign outside the building, which was cordoned off with police tape, said everything inside — from patients to equipment — was being kept there to stem the spread of the SARS virus.

The university official, who would only give his surname, Sun, said he didn't know how many patients were in the hospital; the hospital Web site says it has 1,020 beds. It was also unclear how many

hospital staff might still be inside.

The spread of SARS has touched on virtually every aspect of society in China, from tourism to business — even sports, as the nation's soccer association postponed the start of the professional season.

The effects of the disease were also being felt — though less profoundly — in Canada. Both Toronto and Beijing were added Wednesday to a list of other Chinese cities as places travelers should avoid.

Toronto has far fewer cases than China and only 16 deaths, but the World Health Organization said it had exported SARS cases to other countries. Canadian officials, fearing a continued decline in business, asked WHO to reconsider, but noted that was unlikely.

In Beijing, airport and train station were packed this week with people trying to flee.

Shoppers worried that officials might close stores as a preventive measure, or worse, quarantine all of Beijing, which would cut off food supplies. They have been rushing to clear the shelves of eggs, dumplings, soy sauce, rice and instant noodles.

At the Ito Yokado, an upscale grocery, a store clerk stacking towers of instant noodles apologized to shoppers seeking 22-pound bags of rice.

They were sold out of that size bag. "I'm sure more will be coming," said the clerk, Zhao Shuli.

On Wednesday, the city government announced it would invoke emergency measures to have people who were exposed to SARS quarantined at home and to restrict access to buildings and areas of possible infection. No other details were provided.

SPORTS



Dodgers lose to Reds despite Brown's performance

BY JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Kevin Brown struck out 11 in seven dominating innings Thursday night, but Reggie Taylor's RBI single in the 11th gave the Cincinnati Reds a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Reds have won consecutive games for only the second time this season, taking advantage of a struggling offense that managed only four runs in the three-game series.

Brown, who had back surgery last season, gave his most dominating performance in nearly a year. He gave up four hits and two runs — one on a disputed call — in seven innings.

It was his first 10-strikeout game since last May 11 and the 25th of his career. Hitters flailed at his 92 mph fastball, which darted down and out of the strike zone.

The weak-hitting Dodgers couldn't

turn Brown's dominance into a win. They stranded nine runners in scoring position, had one thrown out at the plate and left the bases loaded in the seventh.

All the scoring came late, with the decisive run off a bullpen that has allowed only four runs in the last 44 innings. Felipe Lopez drew a leadoff walk in the 11th from Guillermo Mota (1-1), advanced on a sacrifice and scored easily on Taylor's single to right.

Felix Heredia (1-0) escaped a threat in the top of the 11th to get the victory.

The score went back-and-forth as neither offense could scratch out more than a run at a time.

Lopez had an RBI single in the sixth off Brown, but Ryan Dempster walked Brian Jordan with the bases loaded to tie it in the top of the seventh. Dempster gave up five hits and six walks in 6 2-3 innings.

The Reds regained the lead in the bottom of the seventh after loading the bases on a single and Brown's two walks. The Dodgers tried to turn an inning-ending double play on Juan Castro's grounder, but umpire Larry Poncino ruled him safe at first.

Poncino hesitated after watching first baseman Fred McGriff dig Cesar Izturis' relay out of the dirt while trying to keep his toe on the base. Brown dropped his head, several Dodgers swung their gloves and manager Jim Tracy argued the call.

Alex Cora's single and Mike Kinkade's pinch-hit double tied it at 2 in the eighth off reliever Kent Mercker.

The Dodgers' hitting troubles were magnified during the three-game series. They have scored two or fewer runs in 10 of their 22 games, winning only one of those.

Cora had three of the Dodgers' eight hits. Dave Roberts was 0-for-4, ending his

career-best hitting streak at 10 games.

The lack of offense prevented Brown from improving his stellar career record against the Reds. He's 7-2 in 11 starts, holding Cincinnati to one earned run in seven of those games.

Notes: Dodgers LHP Odislis Perez will start Friday at Pittsburgh, his first appearance since April 11, when he sprained his right ankle in the sixth inning of a 3-2 loss at San Francisco. ... RHP Jeff Austin, obtained by the Reds from Kansas City as part of a minor league deal in March, will make his first major league start Friday against the Padres. Austin, 26, made 31 relief appearances for the Royals from 2001-02. ... Cincinnati RHP Seth Etherton went on Triple-A Louisville's disabled list with a strained muscle in his right arm. He has spent most of the last two years recovering from shoulder surgery.

Carson Palmer signs on for Bengals' reconstruction

BY JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Carson Palmer has signed on for the Cincinnati Bengals' reconstruction.

The Heisman Trophy winner agreed to a contract Thursday with the NFL's worst team, which has the draft's top pick and a history of ruining young quarterbacks.

Intrigued by the way first-year head coach Marvin Lewis has changed the aura around the NFL's worst team, Palmer decided to sign on.

"I'm proud to be part of a new era of Bengals football," he said at a news conference, shortly after he signed a seven-year deal. "I've been following them for the past couple of months and seen the changes he's made. I'm excited to be part of this thing."

The Bengals narrowed their candidates for the No. 1 pick to Palmer, quarterback Byron Leftwich and cornerback Terence Newman, then targeted the passer from Southern California this week.

Palmer's agent, David Dunn, agreed on contract parameters late Wednesday, and in the rest of the details Thursday on a contract that includes \$14 million in bonuses.

Palmer got a \$10.01 million signing bonus, and will get another \$4.01 million roster bonus in 22 months. The contract will turn into a six-year deal if he's in for 35 percent of the plays in any season.

Palmer can make roughly \$40 million in bonuses and base salary over six years, with escalators that could take it to \$49 million. He'll get \$18.25 million in the first three years through bonuses and salary.

Getting a pre-draft deal with Palmer was a priority for Lewis, who is trying to change the Bengals' reputation for bungling away chances to improve through the draft.

The Bengals have been the NFL's worst team over the past 12 years, in part because they've mishandled their

quarterbacks. They moved up to take David Klingler with the sixth overall pick in 1992, and chose Akili Smith with the third overall pick in 1999.

Neither one had much of a chance on a team that hasn't had a winning record since 1990. Both missed training camp in contract disputes, then got thrown into the lineup as unprepared rookies.

If Lewis gets his way, the same thing won't happen with Palmer. The plan is for him to sit for at least one year and learn behind starter Jon Kitna. Palmer is convinced he'll be handled properly under Lewis.

"There are times in every organization's life when you hit a crossroads, you hit a key juncture," Dunn said. "This organization is clearly wandering down a different road than they've wandered down before. And it's nice to be at the beginning of the fork in that road."

Klingler, who came from a run-and-shoot offense at Houston, and Smith, a mobile passer from Oregon, both were confined by the Bengals' passing philosophy. They tried to turn both of them into Ken Anderson clones — stand in the pocket until the last second, then dump it off if necessary.

Klingler lasted only four years with a weak offensive line and an unimpressive receiving corps.

The Bengals did even worse with Smith, who got less than one full season as a starter before he was discarded. The Bengals teamed him with rookie receivers Peter Warrick and Ron Dugans in 2000, when head coach Bruce Coslet quit three games into the season.

Coslet was in charge of developing Smith, who got little guidance and wound up relegated to third string for the past two seasons. He's still on the roster.

Palmer has one thing in his favor: Lewis understands the importance of bringing a young quarterback along slowly. Plus, Lewis needs to win right away, so he'll let Kitna run the offense this season, with Smith currently in

line as the backup.

The Bengals were willing to trade down with the first pick, but found no suitable partner. They brought in Palmer, Leftwich and Newman for interviews with the staff and front office this month before finally deciding to go with the more acclaimed quarterback.

Palmer is 6-foot-4 and more of a pocket passer than either Klingler or Smith. After going 16-16 in his first three seasons, he got the Trojans into the top 10 and led them to the Orange Bowl last season.

Palmer was the first of Southern Cal's five Heisman winners to play quarterback, and the first Heisman winner chosen No. 1 in the draft since Tampa Bay took Vinny Testaverde in 1987.

Cincinnati's hopes of a turnaround will rest on Palmer, a California native who is going to have to learn to adjust to the Midwest and its climate.

Robert Horry fined for shoving a cameraman

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Robert Horry of the Los Angeles Lakers was fined \$10,000 by the NBA on Thursday for shoving a cameraman in Minneapolis Tuesday night.

The shove occurred at halftime of the Minnesota Timberwolves' 119-91 victory over the Lakers that ended their first-round playoff series at 1-1.

Lennox Lewis fight set as Tyson balks at contract

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Lennox Lewis will fight for the first time in a year, with or without Mike Tyson on the undercard.

Tyson may not be the only thing missing. Though most in boxing recognize Lewis as the heavyweight champion, his World Boxing Council title will not be at stake in the scheduled 12-round fight with Kirk Johnson.

"My linear championship is at stake. That's greater than any of the other championship belts out there," Lewis said. "There is no higher title."

Lewis will face Johnson on June 21 in a match of Canadian heavyweights. Promoters and Staples Center officials also hoped to match Tyson against Oleg Maskaev, but

Tyson has balked at signing a contract.

Tyson was noticeably absent at Thursday's news conference. He was in New York, where promoter Don King reportedly was trying to woo him back into the fold as part of an attempt to settle a \$100 million suit Tyson has pending against King.

"It's going to be a very successful show," promoter Gary Shaw said. "The only thing that actually changes with Mike Tyson not on the card is the price of the tickets."

Staples Center president Tim Leiweke said he had been trying for two years to get Lewis to fight in Los Angeles.

"Never mind about the other fight," Leiweke said. "This is a really big fight."

Staples plans to hold an online auction for 200 of the best seats for the bout, with bidding beginning at \$3,000 for a package that would include two seats and a post-

fight reception, among other perks.

But ticket prices were deliberately not announced Thursday because they would be higher with Tyson on the card. Staples reportedly paid more than \$7 million to host the card, but that price included a Tyson fight.

Lewis, who retained his WBC title with an eighth-round knockout of Tyson last June, would like Tyson to join him at Staples.

"With Tyson on the card, it's definitely an added bonus," Lewis said.

The WBC isn't sanctioning Lewis' bout against Johnson because it wants him to fight Vitali Klitschko, the No. 1 contender. But the WBC says it won't strip Lewis of the title if he agrees to fight Klitschko after he fights Johnson.

There still was a possibility that Tyson, who would receive some \$7 million for a

undercard bout, will agree to a contract.

But the mercurial Tyson — who claims King stole tens of millions from him — is also listening to offers to go back to the frizzy-haired promoter, which would keep him off the card. Tyson's suit against King is scheduled for trial in New York in September.

Questioned about Tyson, Leiweke said, "No boxers are locked in or out yet."

Lewis, who hasn't fought since stopping Tyson in Memphis, has a 40-2-1 record. Johnson is 34-1-1, with the loss coming on a disqualification for low blows in an ugly loss to then World Boxing Association champion John Ruiz last July in Las Vegas.

Explaining his long layoff, Lewis said, "After the Tyson fight, there was really nobody out there to fight, so I took a little rest."

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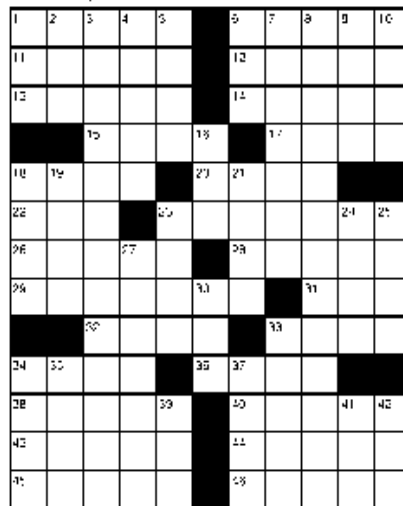
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933 3rd St. \$1650

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1229 Princeton \$1895

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CLASSIFIEDS

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SANTA MONICA \$2150 3bdrm/2ba. Apt. parking, laundry. Water. Close to SMC, Euclid, N. of Pico. No smoking, no pets. 1 year lease. Tel (310)319-1947 or (310)394-2324.

SANTA MONICA \$2650.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, new carpet, laundry, utilities incld.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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SANTA MONICA \$763.00 Studio, r/s, laundry, great location.

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SANTA MONICA \$895 1bdrm/1ba, appliances, no pets, gas paid. 2535 Kansas Ave. #211, Santa Monica, CA. Manager in #101.

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, charming, r/s, part util incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, r/s, laundry, gated parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA CANYO \$1700 Large single w/ocean views, 1 block from beach, just renovated, full kitchen, walk-in-closet, bathroom. Parking & utilities incld. (310)714-1609

For Rent

SANTA MONICA, N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 1,2,&3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00 Reduced rents. By appointment only. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468. Open House Sunday April 241pm-4pm.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VENICE \$1095 1bdrm/1ba Cottage type. Appliances, hardwood floors, bright. 2236 Penmar Ave. (310)399-1506

VENICE \$1095.00 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba w/large courtyard. 4 blocks to beach. Swimming pool, gated parking, new paint, new carpet, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$1150.00 Charming 1bdrm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach. New paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$1995.00 1BDRM/1BA + loft and private 2 car garage. Stunning ocean view, new carpet, paint and stove. 1 property from the beach. 1 year lease, no pets.

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VENICE BEACH \$695.00 Very nice, studio w/fresh paint & carpet. 1/2 block from beach. First showing is 4-29-03 at 1:00pm. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4437

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VENICE BEACH Single \$850 Great location, very sunny, 1 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets.(310)396-4443

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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For Rent

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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WLA \$1350 On Barrington near National. Very spacious, 2bdrm upper. Large closets, closed garage. New carpet, crown molding, appliances. Charming older building in attractive WLA area. Info/Owner (310)828-4481.

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SANTA MONICA \$695.00 Triplex, walk to beach, yard.

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Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1490.00 House, 2+1, hardwood floors, w/d, quiet prking.

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SANTA MONICA \$780.00 Guest House, pool, bright, yard, utilities incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$450.00 Apt., prvt rm, bright, month to month, utilities incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$495.00 Duplex, prvt rm, pet ok, laundry, near SMC.

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WLA 1000sq/ft store front creative offices at 3347 Motor Ave., w/kitchen, bathroom, parking & patio. \$2750.00/mo (310)826-2100 x292 Jeff.

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LOST SMALL dark blue backpack/diaper bag. Lost Monday, April 21. Either in Douglas Park or on Idaho between 22nd & 15th. Around 3pm. REWARD! Call Nina (310)395-7321.

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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003

°EVENTS
SENSA (5 dolla' Fridays) at Sugar! Resident DJs Liza Richardson, Raul Campos, Valida, and Kasey Goto throwin' down it's-all-about-the-music-booby-shakin'-deep-bangin'-house-grooves. 10pm to 2am, 814 Broadway, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Only \$5. (310)899-1989.
SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.
"WOMEN IN TRANSITION" weekly support group forming for women 55 and older. Fridays, 2pm to 3:30pm. Learn to cope with life transitions and develop skills for living with change. Pre-registration required. Call (310)576-2550, ext. 217. Center for Healthy Aging, 1527 4th Street, Santa Monica.
SENIOR SUPPERS - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.
RUSTY'S SURF RANCH, 256 Santa Monica pier. Walls and ceiling are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970s surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386, Saturday - Billy Vera & the Beaters, Pure.

°DINING
PATRICK ROADHOUSE - A fixture in Santa Monica Canyon for over 30 years, is now open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday (until 9pm) serving comfort food and a selection of low-carbohydrate baked goods, alongside the French toast and Boston Cream pie. Patrick's Roadhouse recently reopened after a fire that damaged the downstairs eating area in early December.
EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106
LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855
THE LOBSTER - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294
OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in LA. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892
PANINI GARDEN - "The Locals Favorite" for gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads. dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939
THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA
 1441 Third St. at Broadway
Phone Booth (R) 12:00pm | 2:10pm | 4:20pm | 6:40pm | 9:00pm | 11:15pm. **A Mighty Wind (PG-13)** 11:30am | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 3:40pm | 4:30pm | 5:20pm | 6:10pm | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 8:40pm | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | 11:10pm.

MANN CRITERION
 1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30am | 2:05pm | 4:50pm | 7:35pm | 10:20pm. **Basic (R)** 1:50pm | 7:10pm. **Chasing Papi (PG)** 11:45am | 2:10pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm. **Old School (R)** 11:20am | 4:40pm | 9:40pm. **A Man Apart (R)** 11:35am | 2:15pm | 5:05pm | 7:50pm | 10:30pm. **House of 1,000 Corpses (R)** 12:00pm | 2:30pm | 5:00pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)** 11:15am | 1:45pm | 4:15pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm.

AMC THEATRE SM 7
 1310 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 11:45am | 2:15pm | 4:45pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)** 2:30pm | 5:15pm | 8:00pm | 10:30pm. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 1:00pm | 4:00pm | 7:00pm. **The Pianist (R)** 12:15pm | 3:35pm | 7:05pm | 10:20pm. **Holes (PG)** 11:50am | 1:10pm | 4:20pm | 7:35pm | 9:30pm. **Identity (R)** 12:00pm | 2:15pm | 4:35pm | 7:10pm | 9:40pm | 10:25pm. **It Runs In The Family (PG-13)** 11:45am | 2:20pm | 5:05pm | 7:50pm | 10:35pm.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
 1314 Wilshire Blvd.
 Laurel Canyon (R) 2:15pm | 4:45pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm. **The Good Thief (R)** 2:00pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm.

LAEMMLE MONICA
 1332 2nd St.
Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00pm | 2:35pm | 5:10pm | 7:45pm | 10:20pm. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30pm | 4:15pm | 7:00pm | 9:45pm. **City of Ghosts (R)** 1:45pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 10:00pm.



BACK PAGE

World's first hydrogen service station opens in Iceland

BY RICHARD MIDDLETON
Associated Press Writer

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Iceland opened what is believed to be the world's first filling station for hydrogen-powered vehicles on Thursday — the next step toward its dream of giving up fossil fuels completely.

The first car in line was a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van, a prototype provided under a European Union-backed program to use Iceland as a test for hydrogen power.

There weren't any other customers Thursday: None of Iceland's 280,000 people are known to drive cars powered by hydrogen.

The new station will be used by three DaimlerChrysler hydrogen-powered buses being introduced into the Reykjavik fleet for two years, starting in August. Each bus can go about 125 miles before it needs refueling.

"In time, what is happening in Iceland will show to the rest of the world that hydrogen fuel is a real, commercial possibility that will lead to a cleaner, pollution-free environment," Industry Minister Valgerdur Sverrisdottir said at an opening ceremony.

The major partners in the venture are Icelandic New Energy, DaimlerChrysler, Norsk Hydro and Royal Dutch Shell. The European Union contributed \$3.1 million of the \$7.7 million cost of the project.

From the outside, the hydrogen station looks like a normal gas station — complete with the distinctive yellow Shell logo — except that one wall facing the street is emblazoned with an enormous light-blue sign that reads, "the ultimate fuel." The hydrogen, in gas form, is dispensed via a thin tube.

Iceland was chosen for the project in part because of its history of using alternative fuel, and 90 percent of its electricity is from geothermal springs or hydropower. That means the electricity needed to make the hydrogen can be produced cleanly and in Iceland.

Norway's Norsk Hydro developed the hydrogen electrolyzers that use electricity to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen atoms. When used in a fuel cell,

hydrogen and oxygen again combine, and water is the only exhaust product.

Another hydrogen station is to open in Hamburg, Germany, in May and others will follow in major cities in the Netherlands, Spain, Britain, Belgium and Sweden.

"We are confident that in time, hydrogen can make a significant contribution to the global energy mix," said Jeroen van der Veer, vice president of the committee of managing directors of Royal Dutch Shell.

"But none of us expect overnight success. Despite the years of hard work, and the existence of hydrogen fuel

cell technology for decades, we are in a real sense at the very beginning of the hydrogen economy story."

Iceland is a leading advocate of hydrogen power and has said it wants eventually to stop using the fossil fuels that power its fishing fleet and cars.

Around the world, auto companies have several models on the road as demonstration vehicles and plan to have more by the end of the decade. In the United States, President Bush requested \$1.2 billion in federal money over five years to fund hydrogen fuel cell research.

Run over, shot in the head and nearly frozen to death, dog is doing better

By The Associated Press

CLEARLAKE — Veterinarians plan to use X-rays Friday to determine whether further treatment is necessary for a dog that survived being hit by a car, shot in the head and kept in a freezer.

"We will spay her and while she is under anesthesia we will do follow-up X-rays," said Kristin Wescott, a veterinary technician at the Clearlake Veterinary Clinic where Dosha, the dog, is recuperating. "Once we evaluate those X-rays we will see if she needs special care and, if so, we will refer her to a specialist."

The initial prognosis for the 10-month-old mixed breed did not include any long-term health effects, other than trouble with her right ear because of damage by a policeman's bullet.

Wescott said Dosha is expected to fully recover from her injuries next week and will either be released to her owners or to a specialist.

Dosha's ordeal started April 15, when she escaped from her owner's backyard and got hit by a car. The Clearlake police officer who reported to the scene shot the collarless dog when no one could tell him who owned her.

The dog was taken to the local animal shelter, where she was put in a freezer for disposal. After about two hours, the center's interim director opened the freezer door and found Dosha standing upright in a plastic orange bag.

When Dosha arrived at the vet's office, the hypothermia was acute.

"The gunshot was, of course, no good. The hypothermia was more life threatening when she arrived here," said Yvonne Scott, the clinic's office manager. "The car accident was the least of her problems."

Local animal groups and the Humane Society of the United States have begun fund-raising efforts to pay for her care.

Dosha's owner, Louetta Mallard, told the Lake County Record-Bee she had not been able to get a dog license yet and was now considering implanting Dosha with an identification chip.

An investigation is pending on whether to cite Dosha's owner for allowing her to run free. Clearlake's police chief has defended the officer's decision to shoot the dog. The officer said Dosha appeared to be in extreme pain and he wanted to end her suffering.

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