

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA
7 11 22 27 31
Meganumber: 33
Jackpot: \$41M

Super LOTTO
7 12 21 43 46
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: \$19M

Fantasy 5 6 18 31 33 37

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 6 3 8
EVENING: 4 3 4

DAILY DERRY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:45.46

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

Convicted drunk driver Joshua Campbell, 23, filed a lawsuit in April against the driver he hit, Bloomfield Township, Mich., police officer Gary Davis, asking the police department to pay him for the "humiliation," "embarrassment" and physical injuries he received. Campbell claims that Davis unsafely turned around on Interstate 75 after a traffic stop and that the turn-around was the cause of the collision. Bloomfield police say that Campbell, in addition to having a 0.17 blood alcohol reading, was going 90 mph and that three patrol cars on the scene with flashing lights should have been a signal to Campbell to slow down.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 123rd day of 2006.
There are 242 days left in the year.

On May 3, 1945, during World War II, Japanese forces on Okinawa launched their only major counteroffensive, but failed to break the American lines.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A man can become so accustomed to the thought of his own faults that he will begin to cherish them as charming little 'personal characteristics.'"

HELEN ROWLAND
AMERICAN WRITER

INDEX

Horoscopes

Choose an escape, Sag 2

Snow & Surf Report

Water temperature: 60° 3

Opinion

God help us 4

Commentary

Bent over a barrel 5

State

Driving Miss Daisy Chain 6

Real Estate

Give them some credit 10

People in the News

Paris shipping out 15

Comics

Laugh it up 16

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 17-19

Food for thought on Third St.

New law puts diners in middle of things, but some get bad taste in mouths

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE

Looking to add a little spice to the dining experience here, elected leaders have approved a law allowing restaurants to set up seating in the middle of the promenade.

Under the new measure, outdoor dining would be confined to areas immediately adjacent to the north and south pavilions — the small commercial spaces located in the middle of the promenade that currently house a clothing boutique, juice bar and chocolate shop.

At present, outdoor dining occurs informally at the end of the north pavilion where owners of the juice bar have set out plastic chairs. Formalizing the area for outdoor dining, city staff said, would make it possible for restaurants to serve alcohol and give the area a more unified look.



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

LAISSEZ-FAIRE: This north pavilion seating area will soon be fit for fancy dining.

"We are very happy with the council's decision," said Miriam

Mack, director of economic development and resource management, which has been working with a French restaurant owner

At present, outdoor dining occurs informally at the end of the north pavilion where owners of the juice bar have set out plastic chairs.

looking to set up shop at the north pavilion. "We've been trying to add more outdoor dining seats for some time now ... There is no other way to look at it, outdoor dining is clearly a benefit and an important element of the Third Street Promenade."

The law, approved last week by the City Council in a 4-2 vote, is

See **PROMENADE**, page 6

LOCAL

Fetus murder trial set to get underway

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN LA — A Santa Monica woman is expected to stand trial beginning today for allegedly killing a 23-week-old fetus.

Victoria Nadine Caldwell-Later, 35, was charged in December with one count of murder and one count of attempted murder. If convicted, she faces between 25 years and life in prison, officials said.

Caldwell-Later was arrested Dec. 1 at a home on the 1800 block of 18th Street, where she had been living for several weeks, said P.J. Morris, homicide coordinator for LAPD's northeast division.

Caldwell-Later allegedly stabbed a 32-year-old pregnant woman outside of her home in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles on Oct. 13, 2005. The woman survived, but her unborn daughter did not, Det. Morris said.

See **TRIAL**, page 6

Samohi still among cream of crop

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD — In a survey measuring how more than 27,000 public high schools in the country prepare their students for college, Santa Monica High ranks 256, putting it in the top 1 percent of the all schools.

Samohi also ranks 30th in the state in the number of students taking advanced placement courses, and is one of only three schools in Los Angeles County to have more than 3,000 students and place in the top 300 on the annual "Challenge Index," published in the May 8 issue of Newsweek magazine.

While some would see these rankings as cause to celebrate, last year Newsweek had the Vikings ranked higher on the index at 199. This drop was noted in an e-mail blast to parents earlier this week, who offered different takes on what the new ranking says about student achievement at the campus. While some may see the drop in ranking as a sign that Samohi is falling behind, others preferred to look at the brighter side.

The author of the ranking sys-

tem and school board members quickly responded to e-mails from parents about the index. The rankings, they said, are just one measurement of Samohi's success and other factors need to be considered before jumping to any conclusions.

They pointed out that Samohi is still among the top 300 public high schools in the country in terms of challenging students to take college-level courses, and the school

See **SAMOH**, page 6

He blew it



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Balloon artist Stuart Chandler, 62, aka 'Mr. Balloons', entertains children with his hot-air creations on the Third Street Promenade. Chandler has been working on the Promenade for the past 11 years.

Jacquie Banks

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HOROSCOPES

Choose an escape, Sag

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ With Venus entering your sign today, others become far easier to deal with. The truth is, you have a softer, more appealing manner. However, your charm doesn't preclude confusion, as you will discover. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Don't brood about feelings or a situation; clear the air. You will find that confusion surrounds the base of this issue. Listen to the other side or opinion. Now you'll get results! Plan on waving goodbye early to your daily routine. Tonight: Chat up a storm.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Venus enters a segment of your chart that makes your wishes a strong possibility. Be careful with over-indulgence; you could easily walk down that path as a mental escape. Seize control of your life. Tonight: Find a friend.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You're still on a roll. A boss or supervisor establishes how pleased he or she is with your work and efforts. Think positively about what you can accomplish despite someone's lack of understanding. Tonight: Treat yourself.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be happy staying behind the scenes or contacting only those whose opinions or feedback you want. Lighten up about what is happening with a difficult or touchy associate. Your mood could swing if you don't detach. Tonight: You suddenly feel renewed.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work directly with another person. You'll find that this person is extremely amenable to others. Meetings and people in general do whatever they can to make events flow better. If there is a hassle, how much are you contributing to it? Tonight: Find your friends.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others suddenly change their attitude toward you. As you are in a position to instrument change, you will move ahead. Think positively about what can happen if you relax. Sometimes you put yourself in a tailspin. Tonight: As you like.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Investigate what works with your associates. Don't undermine yourself with a careless word or two. Communication takes on a sensitive overtone. Don't play into this trend. Be as clear as you can be. Tonight: Out late, working or with friends.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Closeness comes up naturally, as long as you don't sit on a dispute too long. You might want to lighten up regarding opinions or debating what happens. An agreement cannot be reached easily. Tune in to the feelings rather than the words. Tonight: Choose a mind escape.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others want to assume greater control of the immediate situation. What might be wise is to allow these people to see the end results of their actions. What might be important is gaining a better understanding. Flow with the moment. Tonight: Happiest with a dear friend, close to home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Charge into a project as if there is no tomorrow. This type of attitude will get you much further than stalling. You have a very special, unique style that encourages others to go along with you. Tonight: Don't buck the trend.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Listen to others and then work with the planets. Your creativity flourishes and helps you make money. You might be inclined to take some unusual risks or changes. Allow your imagination to flow. Tonight: Fun and games.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Community leaders to host national prayer

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans will have the opportunity to join their countrymen and women in prayer.

The city will hold its 16th Annual Observance of the National Day of Prayer at 7 a.m. Thursday, May 4, on the front lawn of City Hall, 1685 Main St.

This year's theme is "Those who honor me, I will honor," taken from I Samuel 2:30.

Pastors and community leaders, including members of area police and fire departments, will offer prayers for the president and other governmental leaders, the armed services, peace officers, legislators, judges, the community and nation, and on such topics as personal renewal and moral awakening, youths, the family, business, education, the sick, the imprisoned and persecuted, churches, missionaries and ministry organizations.

The Santa Monica National Day of Prayer Youth Choir will lead patriotic and worship songs. The Ronald Reagan Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps will present the colors.

An optional light breakfast (suggested donation \$5) will begin at 6:30 a.m. on the City Hall lawn. Free parking is available at the nearby Santa Monica Place parking structure.

Meet the city's new CEO

By Daily Press staff

Residents will have the opportunity to hear directly from Santa Monica's newly appointed city manager — P. Lamont Ewell — during a general membership meeting hosted by the Friends of Sunset Park.

The meeting will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, in the Fellowship Hall of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd.

Ewell will be the keynote speaker.

The meeting also will feature discussions about traffic, development, Santa Monica Airport, Santa Monica College, crime and safety.

Area residents will be able to join Friends of Sunset Park during the meeting at which Sunset Park residents will vote for their board of directors for 2006-07.

Friends of Sunset Park is a non-profit, city-recognized neighborhood group dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of life in Sunset Park. Sunset Park is bounded by Lincoln Boulevard to the west, Pico Boulevard to the north, and the city limits to the east and south.

Alternative building Expo coming to town

By Daily Press staff

How to build with cleaner, safer materials and designs will be the subject of an exposition in Santa Monica.

The Third Annual Alternative Building Materials and Design Expo will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4 at Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Ave., located at the Santa Monica Airport.

More than 100 exhibits will feature manufacturers of green building materials, landscape and water conservation products, interior design products and furnishings, utility companies, non-profit organizations and city and state agencies.

The expo is the largest and most extensive showcase of green building and design products and materials in the Los Angeles area which is significant because by 2010, green building will be worth a minimum of \$30 billion as it moves completely into the mainstream.

Attendance to the expo is free and the public is invited as well as architects, builders, designers and landscape architects. The expo is sponsored by the city of Santa Monica and co-sponsored by the Green Building Council, ASID, Forest Stewardship Council, Building Green, Global Green, The Green Building Resource Center and AIA.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 168" - 192"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 7/28
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 18"	LIFT HOURS 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 8" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 6/14
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, HARD PACKED, SPRING, VARIABLE

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

TODAY THE NW WIND SWELL BACKS OFF AS MODERATE SOUTH-ERN HEMI SW SWELL REMAINS. SOUTH FACING BREAKS ARE LOOKING BEST.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SIGNIFICANT SW HITS FRIDAY INTO WEEKEND... NW BEING TRACKED FOR 10TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE	5:20AM	-1.17FT	4:27PM	1.87FT
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HIGH TIDE	11:49AM	3.67FT	10:46PM	6.18FT
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SUNDAY

LOW TIDE	6:10AM	-0.93FT	5:01PM	2.31FT
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HIGH TIDE	12:52PM	3.33FT	11:24PM	5.77FT
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MONDAY

LOW TIDE	7:06AM	-0.56FT	5:36PM	2.7FT
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HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	2:14PM	3.11FT
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TUESDAY

LOW TIDE	8:10AM	-0.17FT	6:24PM	3.05FT
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HIGH TIDE	12:07AM	5.26FT	4:09PM	3.14FT
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WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE	9:23AM	0.15FT	10:51PM	3.05FT
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HIGH TIDE	1:01AM	4.72FT	5:45PM	3.39FT
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THURSDAY

LOW TIDE	10:35AM	0.33FT	10:51PM	3.05FT
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HIGH TIDE	2:17AM	4.23FT	6:25PM	3.66FT
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FRIDAY

LOW TIDE	11:33AM	0.44FT	N/A	N/A
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HIGH TIDE	3:54AM	3.93FT	6:50PM	3.92FT
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The Q Line

Sponsored by...

With the fifth anniversary of 9-11 approaching, Hollywood is releasing a pair of prominent movies — including this week's "United 93" — that re-enact in harrowing detail the events that transpired on September 11, 2001. A recurring question being posed is whether or not America is ready to relive the tragedy of the terrorist attacks in an entertainment medium.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **Do you feel it's a good time for Hollywood to dramatize the attacks, still fresh in our collective memories? Do you plan on seeing "United 93"? Why or why not?**

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

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M-F LUNCH 11:30AM-2:00PM
DINNER 5:30PM-10:00PM
SAT DINNER 5:00PM-10:00PM

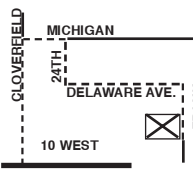


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deasy is dismissed

Editor:

I am an avid reader of the Santa Monica Daily Press. I enjoy your paper and I look to it for valuable information about our community. I must say that I am very concerned about your coverage of the outgoing district superintendent, John Deasy. I hoped that your paper would interview at least one parent about this matter.

I have two children in the SMMUSD. We've been part of this district for the last four years. My oldest daughter is a student with special needs. I have encountered nothing but problems in dealing with the individuals that are responsible for providing her services that the law provides for her. I've been lied to by the district coordinator for special education services for John Muir School. Members of the school and district staff have fraudulently altered my daughter's records. My daughter was counseled by a therapist from the Santa Monica Family Service Agency without a release from me and a false allegation was made against me to Child and Family Services. The services that were agreed to in my daughters IEP have yet to be enacted. The icing on the cake was an assault made on my daughter by a male student. He was sent to the "reflection room." This is the district in which we reside. I want to know if anyone, including this publication, has an interest in the rights of disabled individuals in this district?

I am available to be interviewed at any time, because unlike some people, I'm not afraid of John Deasy or any of his imps.

Debra Shepherd
Santa Monica

Neither through rain, nor shine, nor snow

Editor:

(Editor's note: This letter was originally addressed to Henry Waxman, United States Congress.)

Dear Representative Waxman:

I am writing and e-mailing you on behalf of the increasingly frustrated customers of Santa Monica Postal Route 90405-28. On Dec. 21, 2005, you addressed the problems that some of your constituents were having with the U.S. Postal Service in a letter to Postmaster General John Potter. While we appreciate your effort, and understand that many of the problems have been caused by the loss of a sorting facility, my neighbors and I need to let you know that our situation has degraded so badly that we must request your personal intervention. Every person I spoke with has a postal nightmare story to tell, and my plans to enlist your help have been met with unbridled enthusiasm and encouragement. We constantly experience late, misdirected and non-forwarded mail, and receive absolutely no mail delivery at all at least once every two or three weeks.

However, this past week, due to the gross negligence of the Santa Monica station manager, our neighborhood's mail delivery was completely stopped for two days, and non-resumption of service was wrongly threatened. No one ever notified us that our delivery had been intentionally stopped. Everyone figured it was just another day without mail. I only found out because I contacted the post office myself. The situation, concerning an alleged dog bite, clearly exposed the real problem: The people that run the Santa Monica Post Office. The extraordinary incompetence demonstrated at every level, from clerk to management, has been utterly maddening. Every person that I encountered at the newly-built postal facility seemed either incapable of or not particularly interested in providing any type of service whatsoever.

Straight answers were impossible to obtain. This episode was well-covered by the Santa Monica Lookout. It is also available at <http://www.surfsantamonica.com> under the April 19 headline "Mail Service Goes to the Dogs" should you prefer to view it online. I am also forwarding letters from some of my neighbors describing their ordeals with post office employees and with our route's mail service in general. After reading the article and these letters, I am sure you will feel compelled to take further action.

We have received absolutely no assistance or satisfaction from anyone, and there's no end in sight to the unacceptable level of "service" that we are receiving. Employees act as if their salary is an entitlement because they know it is almost impossible to lose their jobs. We get nothing but excuses, lies and misinformation. When we are fortunate enough to have mail delivered, it is rarely before 6 p.m. and occasionally delivered by flashlight-bearing carriers as late as 10 p.m. We routinely get no delivery at all, or some mail the following morning from the previous day's load and a second-late delivery, rarely brought by the same carrier more than twice a week. On a daily basis, we receive mail for others, often with our number but the wrong street. We even received a greeting card addressed to someone in Illinois — yes, Illinois — that we marked "return to sender," but ended up back in our mailbox three times. Mail is never forwarded when someone moves, vacation holds don't happen and mail is often missing or stolen. It's time for someone to take action.

We are asking you to launch an investigation into the events of April 12-13, 2006, including a full review of all the policies and procedures that led to this unwarranted and unannounced two-day stoppage of our entire neighborhood's mail delivery, and a complete review of employees' training, attitude and conduct. We demand to be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity by competent clerks, carriers and supervisors who are willing to do their jobs, and we expect our mail to be delivered in a timely manner to the correct address each and every mailing day. We will not accept, and we do not deserve anything less. The Santa Monica Post Office is an embarrassment to the USPS, and they simply don't care. Will you please help us?

Marta Schwab
Santa Monica

God help us: Iranian president won't stand the test of time

THE
WITNESS
STAND

BY CLIFF NICHOLS

By now, we all know Iran's president is saying the Holocaust was a fabrication, that Israel not only should but will be "wiped off the map" and, at the same time, that the world should just leave him alone so he can develop the nuclear capability necessary to provide "energy" to his nation. As the saying goes, what's wrong with this picture? His name, of course, is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad but I wouldn't spend a lot of time trying to memorize how to spell it. My guess is that he'll not be around for very long, but perhaps not for any of the reasons you may think.

My suspicion that his departure from the stage of global political affairs is imminent and is not predicated on anything in particular that I anticipate the U.N., the U.S. or even the government of Israel might do. For sure, anyone or all may take some form of action in the near future that could result in deposing Ahmadinejad. In my mind, however, it is his behavior that already has all but sealed his fate, not their reaction to the behavior. Whatever role they may play will be only that of the instrumentality that will be used to bring about its fulfillment.

My reason for thinking about it in this way is really quite basic. You see, as you may have guessed by now, I happen to believe in God. It is the same God as was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I realize that I'm going to lose many of you at this point, but just bear with me for a moment. Yet again, I ask that you suspend your disbelief in my premise for a moment and assume, just for argument's sake, that I am right on this point.

If it is true that God exists, then that God would also be the same one that issued this promise about 3,000 years or so ago: "I will restore the captivity of my people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat fruit, and they will never again be rooted out from their land, says the Lord your God." Memo to Ahmadinejad: You may wish to read the last clause to yourself several times out loud and then get your speechwriter a copy for his consideration before your next press conference.

My next assumption is that the God I believe exists means what he says when he says it.

Of one thing we can be certain. God, assuming of course that he exists at all, rarely, if ever, quibbles about important matters. For example, consider what he had to say to the Ammonites, who you may wish to recall don't seem to exist anymore. "Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced

with all the scorn of your soul against the land of Israel, therefore, behold, I have stretched out my hand against you and I will give you for spoil to the nations. And I will cut you off from the peoples and make you perish from the lands; I will destroy you. Thus, you will know that I am God."

Now bear in mind that this is the same God, as we saw above, who indicated that once he resurrects Israel he would have a vested interest in seeing to it that it would never again be "rooted" out of existence. So, when a person like Ahmadinejad says to the world that he intends to accomplish exactly that — the exact thing that God said would never happen, my bet is that Ahmadinejad has most probably bitten off just a little bit more than he can chew. To appreciate this fact, it might be instructive for me to ask you if you can tell me where the following governments are today in terms of international stature? The Ammonites? The Moabites? The Edomites? And all of the other governments named in the Old Testament that rhyme with termites? For that matter, where is Tyre? Where are the Philistines? Where are the Pharaohs? Where is the Roman Empire? The Phoenician Empire? And, for that matter, where is the Third Reich and the British Empire, upon which the sun used to never set? And, these are just some of the ones that come to mind. You can't tell me where they are today, can you? That's largely because they are no more. What did they all share in common? All of them came up against, and at some point threatened, Israel's or its people's existence.

Of course, that's not to say that Ahmadinejad appreciates the dilemma he has put himself in. Unfortunately for all concerned, he probably does not. That would be indicated by the fact that he presently seems intent upon continuing with his bad habit of clapping his hands and stamping his feet and rejoicing with all the scorn of his soul against the land of Israel, wouldn't you say? I, for one, have little doubt that he may still fully intend to try to carry out his murderous agenda. As were his predecessors named above, he probably is too blinded by his hatred of Jews to know he has put himself and his nation at odds with God himself — to say the least, what would be a daunting challenge for most mortals. And, that is why I believe he has all but sealed his fate. In my opinion, I think it will not be dissimilar to the fates of the others who have tried to do likewise in the past. For me, the only real question that remains is if he does not recant his current position, by what instrumentality, whether it is by the U.N., the U.S., Israel or otherwise, will his fate be delivered?

Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at either (310) 917-1083, cliff@cliffnicholslaw.com or www.cliffnicholslaw.com and you may join his blog at www.thedailystand.com.

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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ROGER SWANSON

What a difference a year, or two, makes

Editor's note: This guest commentary originally appeared in the Aug. 7-8, 2004 edition. Now, oil is about \$72, or 180 percent higher.

Why are oil prices so high? Based on historical data, prices today are relatively low at \$40 per barrel of crude oil and more than \$2 per gallon of gasoline compared with other periods. Today's price equates to the 1991 high of \$60 in current dollars. Here are some reasons for high prices today.

OIL DEMAND

China's rapid economic growth has exerted significant pressure on oil producers. Further, the U.S. economic recovery — driven by both fiscal and monetary policies — exerts significant pressure on world supplies. The U.S., with 5 percent of the world population, consumes 25 percent of all oil produced.

That pressure would have been even greater if the U.S. had not improved its energy efficiency since the early 1980s, driven by a shift from a manufacturing to a service economy and automotive efficiency standards imposed after the oil shocks of the 1970s.

CONSERVATION, OR THE LACK THEREOF

Rather than focus on conservation, George W. Bush looked at the supply side only. Bush refused to consider any change in fuel economy standards for the auto industry, any application of passenger car standards to SUVs which are classified as trucks, or any change in truck standards. To address the demand side would have taken political courage.

U.S. STRATEGIC RESERVES

Because of potential supply problems, the U.S. Energy Department is adding to the already high demand by continuing to purchase crude oil to fill the strategic petroleum reserves. That action tends to bolster the arguments of the oil traders, who are bidding up future price contracts.

OIL SUPPLY: OPEC AND MAJOR OIL PRODUCERS

With the exception of Saudi Arabia, other producing countries have a limited ability to increase production. Iraq is not yet stable enough to make a difference in the short-term and Russia is proving to be a less than reliable source of oil.

Further, major oil companies have not increased exploration and development of existing reserves as a result of the current spike in prices. Even if they did, a significant increase would not come to market for at least 12 to 18 months.

CURRENT SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Recent violent incidents in Saudi Arabia are no mere coincidence. Terrorists now realize that they can inflict major damage on the world, and particularly the U.S., by damaging the oil supply lines. Oil traders are betting on higher future prices and are buying future contracts — one of the primary reasons for the increase in prices. Oil trading defines spot market pricing (i.e., oil not fixed by long-term contracts), which ripples through the sys-

tem to the pump.

AIR QUALITY RULES

The U.S. has incredibly complex air quality rules. This means that gas produced for one market may not be usable in another. The logistics of both transport and storage create local shortages that drive prices up in some areas, and cause storage problems and lost production in other areas. This situation exists because the EPA has standards that are less stringent than state and local standards.

DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR

Since the end of 2001, the dollar has declined 27 percent against the euro. As a result, the European buying power of OPEC producers, for example, is 27 percent less today. So, Saudi princes need more dollars to pay for the same new European Mercedes than they did before. The recent decline in the dollar's value has occurred primarily because of monetary and fiscal policies, as well as the trade deficit.

MONETARY POLICY

The Federal Reserve governs monetary policy in the U.S. The policy can be expansionary, like low interest rates, or restrictive, like high interest rates.

With low interest rates in the U.S., investors buy non-dollar denominated securities from countries paying higher rates. As a result, the demand for U.S. Treasuries declines and the demand for euro-based assets increases. That shift in demand means that dollars are sold, thereby lowering the value of the dollar relative to other currencies.

FISCAL POLICY

Fiscal policy can increase the national debt or decrease the debt. The recent federal income tax cuts were expansionary. More importantly, the lack of a corresponding cut in government spending was expansionary, as was spending on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Bush fiscal policy means that the U.S. will have to borrow heavily in the future, which is viewed unfavorably by monetary markets: Fewer investors want to buy or hold dollars, thereby driving the dollar down relative to other currencies.

TRADE DEFICIT

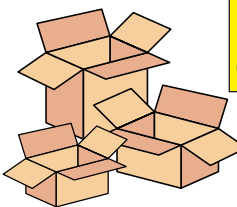
Trade deficits, which also impact currency valuation, similarly exert psychological pressure on others to sell and avoid dollar-denominated securities.

BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is that oil producers would like to see prices increase, including Bush's friends in the Midland and Saudi Arabia. The net effect: American taxpayers spend more dollars for gasoline with the difference flowing to the friends of the president. This is classic wealth redistribution.

Roger Swanson lives in Ocean Park. Reach him at rswanson@compdynamics.com.

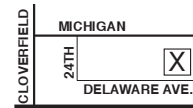
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Driving Miss Daisy Chain

Pentagon puts up \$2M for obedient, driverless vehicles

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Seven months after an unmanned Volkswagen successfully drove itself over the rugged Mojave Desert, the Pentagon is sponsoring another challenge for self-driving vehicles that can weave through congested city traffic without causing an accident.

The contest, to be held in November 2007, will test the vehicles’ ability to independently carry out a simulated military supply mission in an urban setting in less than six hours.

The Pentagon’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, created the latest challenge to spur development of vehicles that could be used in the battlefield without any sort of remote control.

Participants will have to navigate a complex 60-mile test course in a yet-to-be-determined city filled with moving vehicles — both manned and unmanned. The test course will be designed like a real city street where vehicles will have to make sharp turns, navigate intersections and avoid crashing into obstacles such as utility poles, trees and parked cars.

Equipped only with a computer brain and sensors, the participants will be graded on how well they can obey traffic laws, change lanes, merge with moving cars and pull into a parking lot.

The first vehicle that successfully completes the mission will win \$2 million. Unlike previous DARPA contests, in which the winner takes all, second-place finishers will get \$500,000 while third place will receive \$250,000.

Last October, the agency awarded \$2 million to a driverless Volkswagen SUV, which beat out a field of 23 vehicles by traversing 132 miles of twisting desert and mountain terrain. While the vehicles had to drive on rough road and dodge man-made obstacles, they didn’t have to drive in traffic.

“We believe the robotics community is ready to tackle vehicle operation inside city limits,” DARPA Director Tony Tether said in a statement.

Stanford University computer scientist Sebastian Thrun, who won last year’s race, said he was excited to see the agency take the challenge to the next level. Thrun said the artificial intelligence knowledge gained from the contest could also benefit society by pushing the development of “smart cars” that can self-navigate on highways and potentially reduce accidents.

The agency can choose to fund certain teams to build their vehicles. In turn, the agency will receive some licensing rights to the technology that’s developed. Or teams can raise their own money to build their vehicles. Either way, teams will face off in a semifinal match and the field will be winnowed down to compete in the final round.

The agency — faced with a congressional mandate to have a third of all military ground vehicles unmanned by 2015 — created its first challenge in 2004 in the Mojave Desert. But the race ended without a winner when all the entrants broke down before the finish line.

City leaders are striving for balance on Third St.

PROMENADE, from page 1

one of three elected leaders are considering over the next few months that are intended to preserve and increase the number of seats available for outdoor dining.

The council has tried for decades to strike a proper balance between retail, restaurants and street performers, all of which officials say contribute equally to the unique spirit of the promenade.

This desire led to the formation of a Promenade Use Task Force in 2002, which was comprised of current and former councilmembers, business leaders and city staff. The task force recommended changes to current zoning to allow for outdoor dining at the pavilions, the center courts between the promenade’s dinosaur fountains, and extending dining to the edge of the sidewalk in front of a given restaurant.

ON THE JUICE

Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser said they are in favor of increasing outdoor dining where appropriate, but did not vote for the pavilion option out of fear that the law would dramatically change the face of the promenade and erode the level of affordability for hungry visitors.

Upon learning that a French restaurant offering fine wine and cheese would most likely be the first businesses to operate at the north pavilion under the law, Genser and McKeown questioned whether or not the expansion was going to be a benefit if it meant losing more affordable restaurants like the juice bar and chocolate shop, both of which have leases that expire this year.

“I’m reacting somewhat to what seems to me to be a very unclear process on how we selected, and under what criteria we selected,” Genser said prior to voting against the pavilion expansion. “I’m concerned we are moving more towards the promenade serving a less diverse population and more of an upscale, more exclusive dining population. For those of us who go back a way, we remember the old food court that had really affordable food. Now it seems the only thing affordable left is McDonalds.”

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Free speech activist Jerry Rubin, who spends nearly every day on the promenade, said allowing pavilion dining would erode informal outdoor seating at the north pavilion, where people can sit for free.

“We are about to lose dozens of public seating where people would have a cup of coffee, sit and people watch or just enjoy the breeze,” Rubin said. “This is just going to be a public extension of a private space, and I don’t think that’s right.”

If restaurants at the pavilions plan to sell alcohol, they would be required to build some form of barrier to prevent patrons’ tables or chairs from slipping off the raised sidewalks on which the pavilions are situated.

This troubled McKeown, who felt the barriers would disrupt the flow of traffic through the promenade.

“You’d essentially have a fence in the middle of a public street,” he said.

The majority of councilmembers viewed the situation differently, saying Monsieur Marcel and other restaurants like it would add a new dimension to the promenade, without adding a significant cost to visitors.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us to bring in something unique, something different, and I think we ought to give it a shot,” Holbrook said. “Restaurants have a tough time affording rents along the promenade and outdoor dining is a way for them to maximize their space and stay in business, which is important to the survival of the promenade, because people don’t just come here to shop. They come here to eat too.”

Stephane Strouk, the owner of Monsieur Marcel, was “delighted” to learn of the council’s decision. His application to operate at the north pavilion is scheduled to go before the Architectural Review Board within the coming weeks for review.

“This will be a great addition to the promenade, not only visually but qualitatively,” said Strouk, who currently operates out of the Fairfax Farmer’s Market in Los Angeles, offering wine and cheese tastings. “Visually, you won’t have to see those plastic chairs out there anymore. It will look like a little cafe in Paris. It is my hope that we can add some more culture to the promenade and give people something different, help them discover their palette.”

LOCAL

Some concern over slip in rankings

SAMOHI, from page 1

is also above the national average when it comes to students passing those courses.

“I always tell people not to look at the rankings because almost all schools will drop from year to year as more schools are added,” said Jay Mathews, a contributing editor with Newsweek who developed the index that measures the number of students who take advanced placement tests during their senior year. “Santa Monica still has an extraordinary score that puts it in the top 1 percent of all schools. That is something to be proud of.”

Some board members called into question the validity of the ranking system and its methodology because it failed to take into account Samohi’s demographics in comparison to other schools, as well as the number of students who passed advanced placement tests.

“The (ranking system) captures the extent of advanced placement courses and exam-taking, but says nothing about the performance on the exams,” school board member Jose Escarce wrote in an e-mail addressed to Samohi parents.

Samohi offers 16 advanced placement courses, and in the last three years, students’ passing rates on advanced placement tests hovered around 73 percent. This is in comparison to a national passing rate of 50 percent for the 16 exams offered at Samohi, Escarce wrote.

“It is worth adding that these performance measures are especially impressive given the dramatic increase during the past few years in the number of Samohi students taking advanced placement courses and exams,” Escarce wrote. “Despite more students taking the exams, the passing rate has risen by 10 percentage points.”

Escarce said Samohi’s ranking “is one piece of good news that should be disseminated by Samohi parents to our entire school community.”

Mathews said he only measures the number of advanced placement tests taken because some schools only allow certain students to take the tests so that they can artificially inflate the passing rates. Mathews said the best way to determine which schools are preparing their students for college is to look at which schools offer the most challenging courses to the most students.

“Studies by U.S. Department of Education senior researcher Clifford Adelman in 1999 and 2005 showed that the best predictor of college graduation was not good high-school grades or test scores, but whether or not a student had an

“I always tell people not to look at the rankings because almost all schools will drop from year to year as more schools are added.”

JAY MATHEWS
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, NEWSWEEK

intense academic experience in high school,” Mathews said.

School board member Oscar de la Torre said any drop in the ranking could be seen as a negative, but since researchers from Newsweek only looked at advanced placement scores, and not the wealth of the district or the number of minority students enrolled, he isn’t ready to call a state of emergency. Instead, he believes the debate over the Challenge Index is reason enough for the district to begin collecting results of college entrance exams by former students to see if they are prepared for higher education.

“I think that’s really the only way you are going to be able to make an accurate comparison to other schools,” de la Torre said. “Entrance exams are the true measurement of where students are at in terms of what they need to know to excel at that higher level.”

Defendant allegedly stabbed mother-to-be

TRIAL, from page 1

The victim was leaving her home to go to work when Caldwell-Later allegedly approached her and stabbed her, Morris said. The two women reportedly knew each other.

LAPD detectives also served a search warrant at a home in the 1100 block of Ozone Street, where several items were seized as evidence. Morris declined to discuss the nature of the evidence seized or if the murder weapon was recovered.

The trial is expected to last 10 days in front of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Curtis B. Rappe, according to court clerk Porfirio Rodriguez.

STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Coroner looking for some cooler digs

By The Associated Press

VICTORVILLE — After operating for nine years from a shopping center store front, a satellite facility of the San Bernardino County coroner’s office is looking for a new site.

“As most of you know, we’re in a strip center up there, unloading bodies in the back parking lot,” Sheriff Gary Penrod told the Board of Supervisors last week.

The coroner installed an eight-corpse cooler for emergency purposes years ago. But crowding at the county’s main morgue is forcing the satellite office to take over-flow bodies.

The decision to move the facility came after supervisors learned of inadequate parking and the lack of a backup generator for the body coolers.

Deputy Coroner Jon Kroeker said the location next to a kung-fu studio sometimes made it difficult to protect the dignity of the deceased.

“We have to bring in a family for a counseling session, and there’s this exercise music coming through the walls,” Kroeker said, “it makes for a difficult counseling session.”

Judge denies police personnel request

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A judge rejected a request for the personnel files of officers who arrested an American Indian man on peyote and marijuana charges.

Lawyers for Paul Skyhorse Durant, a member of the Ojibwe tribe in Minnesota who says he is an elder and religious leader of the Native American Church, requested the files Monday to determine whether there was police misconduct.

Durant claimed he was carrying peyote for religious reasons and marijuana for medicinal use. In 1994, Congress allowed American Indians to use, transport and possess peyote for religious purposes.

Durant contended that prosecutors and police were after him because he and another man were acquitted of a murder charges connected to the 1978 slaying of a cab driver in Simi Valley.

In denying the request for the personnel files, Superior Court Judge Charles McGrath said the officers arrested Durant after learning he had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for failing to appear in court on a charge of driving under the influence.

Durant is charged with five felonies: transportation of a controlled substance, transportation of marijuana, two counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of more than 28.5 grams of marijuana.

The judge set another hearing for June 9.

Veteran cop busted on molestation charges

By The Associated Press

POMONA — A police detective was arrested for investigation of child molestation, authorities said.

Donald Sevesind, 48, was taken into custody Friday and released later in the day on \$50,000 bail, according to the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department.

Prosecutors were reviewing the case to determine possible charges.

Sevesind has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press. His arraignment was scheduled for May 26, Riverside County district attorney’s spokeswoman Ingrid Wyatt said.

Transportation slams traffic impact report

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The city Department of Transportation has slammed a federal analysis of the traffic impact of a proposed 937,000-square-foot FBI headquarters and Federal Building renovation in West Los Angeles.

In an April 20 letter to the General Services Administration, city officials said the federal government failed to coordinate with local and state agencies and used incorrect data for traffic counts along Wilshire Boulevard.

The letter faulted the report for acknowledging traffic increases at 30 intersections but proposing mitigation at just four, and for ignoring the effects of the increased traffic on residential streets.

“With many of the area’s major arterials operating at gridlock conditions during peak commute hours, the potential for commuter cut-through traffic through neighborhood streets should be evaluated,” said the letter signed by James Okazaki, the department’s assistant general manager.

Okazaki called for the General Services Administration to work with the department to revise the study.

The General Services Administration confirmed that it received the letter and forwarded it to its traffic consultant.

New professorship prefers the Latter

By The Associated Press

CLAREMONT — Claremont Graduate University announced the addition of a Mormon-studies professorship that will become the first of its kind in the nation at a secular college.

The school kicked off a \$6 million fundraising campaign Friday for the Howard W. Hunter Chair for Mormon Studies, named after the only California-born president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

College officials said the push by the School of Religion to offer a comprehensive study of different faiths is important because of increasing religious diversity in the United States and violence over religious differences abroad.

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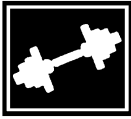
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Can you hear me now?

Popular camping destination preps for mass communication

BY RITA BEAMISH

Associated Press Writer

Yellowstone National Park officials, criticized for installing a cellular phone tower within sight of Old Faithful, are quietly preparing a plan that could expand wireless towers and antennas as well as TV and radio service in the park.

The officials met last year with telecommunications companies that currently operate inside Yellowstone or want to do so, asking their suggestions, according to documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

Wireless companies that attended the meeting told The Associated Press that park officials asked them to identify potential sites for future wireless towers or antennas that would have the least impact on parkgoers.

Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said Monday the park, under pressure from companies seeking an edge to serve its 2.8 million annual visitors, is developing "an environmental assessment for wireless communications."

He said there has been no decision yet to expand existing wireless services and that current planning is designed simply to set the stage for such decisions in the future. "The goal is to give us an appropriate framework and a plan on which we can make solid decisions," he said.

The environmental group blames cell phones for a "death of solitude," with tourists gabbing on the phone in some of the nation's most revered nature spots. It alleges the park's meeting with industry on March 31, 2005, was illegal because there was no public notification.

"Yellowstone belongs to the American people who ought to have some say before it is transformed into a giant cybercafe," PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch said.

Nash, the Yellowstone spokesman, said the public will get a chance to weigh in next month during a comment period before officials draft the plan and again when the draft circulates in late summer. A final decision is expected by year's end.

The released documents indicate the 2005 meeting participants, including Verizon Wireless, Qwest and five other communications companies, discussed several tower locations beyond the five that now provide limited park coverage.

"You had everything from people wanting to be given a construction permit in that meeting to people who were there to try and hear where Yellowstone was in their process," said Tony Hafila, president of Teton Communications, longtime provider of two-way radio service for the park. His company wants to enhance its service with more towers.

Park officials asked for an industry plan on selecting potential tower sites with the lowest impact on the park, Hafila said.

The Yellowstone plan will look at two-way radio, cellular communications, wireless Internet and research devices, Nash said.

There is one basic condition: If Yellowstone adds any new cell towers, they will be in "existing, disturbed, developed areas," where most people congregate and roads and power already exist, he said.

"The questions about backcountry and solitude are valuable and those are the kinds of things this plan will certainly delve into," he said.

Tourists don't always agree on the desirability of non-stop phone access, said Marysue Costello, executive director of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce.

"There are those who think this is where you come and get away from everything. On the other hand, it is now the expectation of a majority of people. People come in here and are surprised that they can't get cell coverage."

Cecil Pegram, who bicycles in the park, said he occasionally calls from Yellowstone to check with his family in Billings, Mont., and finds current service acceptable.

"It's kind of nice to be someplace where my cell phone doesn't ring 24/7," he said. "Would I want to see it expanded? Not necessarily. It's like putting TVs in the rooms at Old Faithful (Inn). Why?"

Some participants at the park's 2005 meeting are skeptical they'll ever see more wireless in Yellowstone.

"They want to keep the park as it is and we just want to provide for our customers," said David Albertson, real estate manager for Ubiquitel PCS. "At the end, it seems like the missions are so different."

**"Yellowstone belongs to the
American people who ought to have
some say before it is transformed into
a giant cybercafe."**

JEFF RUCH
PEER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

His company unsuccessfully sought to enter the Yellowstone market four years ago and still wants to under its new owner, Sprint.

"We just want to compete with what's in there," he said. His company pays roaming charges when its customers connect inside in the park and suffers a competitive disadvantage when local customers are attracted to companies that cover the park.

Verizon is seeking two sites in or around the park, spokesman Bob Kelley said.

Yellowstone's planning comes as the National Park Service works toward updating wireless policy systemwide, although most decisions still reside with individual parks, said Lee Dickinson, special park uses manager. One new regulation will state that companies must share towers whenever possible, she said.

Yellowstone drew criticism from environmentalists and historic preservation advocates for erecting a cellular tower in the Old Faithful region five years ago. Officials eventually lopped 20 feet off its 100-foot height after scorched trees toppled and left it more visible.

Documents obtained by PEER show Yellowstone's safety officer raised concerns about another set of wireless transmitters that were emitting elevated radio frequency radiation levels at a fire lookout on 10,243-foot Mount Washburn, a popular hiking destination.

"We are pushing the edge of safety up on Mount Washburn," the officer, Brandon Gauthier, wrote in a March 22, 2005, e-mail. An attached report cited a 2004 survey by an Occupational Health and Safety Administration inspector, Bob Curtis.

Curtis said Monday that radiation in three spots on Mount Washburn was twice the FCC standard for the general public, although it is still less than half the permissible limit for worker exposure. The two affected locations are accessible only to park employees, he said.

Someone would have to stand very close to the antennas for six minutes or climb the tower to be dosed with those levels, he said.

"If they stand back a couple feet they will be exposed less than they would from their cell phone," he said. He recommended installing warning signs and training employees to stay back. Those recommendations were carried out, Nash said.

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STATE



Wyoming ropes them in with cheaper gas prices

BY JENNIFER BYRD

Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Retiree Bill Proud travels the country quite a bit. And with gas prices skyrocketing nationwide, he looks forward to stopping in Wyoming for cheap gas.

"From experience, I knew it would be cheapest here," said Proud, of Dayton, Mont., while filling up at the Flying J station off Interstate 25 in Cheyenne.

Wyoming has the lowest gas prices in the nation — the statewide average Tuesday was \$2.64, compared to the national average of \$2.92, according to the AAA's daily fuel gauge report. Proud said he'd just come from Oklahoma, where he paid \$2.69.

"These prices are going to slow me down a lot," he said. "They're just awful."

Mercy Garcia, a clerk at Smoker Friendly Gasmat in Green River, said out-of-state travelers coming into the store Monday were impressed by the \$2.48 per gallon regular gas price they found there.

"They keep saying we're the cheapest they've run into," Garcia said.

But resident motorists see no bargain at the pump. Garcia said many of them have to drive miles to get to jobs at mines surrounding town and are having a tough time paying for fuel.

"They just don't understand why the prices are so high," Garcia said. "Nobody understands."

Karen Saylor, a clerk at Maverik County Store in Douglas, said many customers are coming into the store dismayed by high prices, despite the fact the store has the lowest price in town.

"This is hurting everybody," Saylor said.

Denise Harris, a spokeswoman for AAA Mountain West, said Wyoming has consistently had among the lowest gas prices in the nation. Wyoming has five large oil refineries and pipelines crisscross the state, she said, helping reduce overhead costs. Wyoming's gasoline taxes

ON THE NET

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also are low; only Alaska's are lower.

On Tuesday, Montana had the second-lowest statewide average for a gallon of unleaded gas in the nation. Missouri, Oklahoma and Minnesota followed. The most expensive gas in the nation is in Hawaii, followed by California and New York.

Wyoming doesn't have the cheapest diesel prices in the country, but plenty of truck drivers are still stopping at stations in the state.

Mike Hawkins, a truck driver from Alberta, Canada, who was filling up at the Flying J in Cheyenne on Monday, said his truck can hold more fuel than most, so he has the range to pick and choose where he stops. Hawkins said he goes online to check prices along his route, and Wyoming is usually among the cheapest places to fill up.

"It's the difference between making money or losing money," Hawkins said. "You have to do your homework."

Hawkins said he knew of several other truckers who have been forced out of the business because they didn't keep up with fuel prices.

Jeff Zwolensky of Owosso, Mich., spent more than \$600 filling up his truck Monday, and said fuel prices might push him out of the trucking business soon.

"It seems like the government could do something," Zwolensky said. "If they can't get it under control, I'm done."

Lester Surface, of Jefferson City, Mo., said he used to be careful and check prices throughout the country so he could fill up at the cheapest stations. But now that doesn't seem to make much of a difference.

"It's high everywhere," Surface said. "There's just no reason for it to be like this."



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They don't have to give them credit, but they do



DAYS ON THE MARKET
 BY JODI SUMMERS

What do you do if you have a non-traditional credit record and want to be a property owner? Many young adults, minorities, immigrants or members of ethnic groups avoid use of the traditional banking system, but when all is said and done, a lender would be happy to loan to them. Problem is, these buyers are what lenders call "unscorable," or they have such thin credit files that their scores are abysmally low.

Rep. Michael N. Castle of Delaware estimated that "35 million to 50 million people" in this country "may not have a full credit reporting history."

In the banking business, no credit is not good. A low-credit individual will end up paying high interest rates and fees to get a loan to buy a house.

Recently, a House of Representatives financial services subcommittee conducted a formal hearing on ways to identify and use alternative data — information not collected by credit bureaus — that might help gauge underserved consumers' credit worthiness. They also talked about credit risks posed by thin-file and no-file loan applicants.

They are answering questions that every major institution in the home finance industry wants to know. What are the accepted techniques to "see through" applicants' special circumstances?

Data that the credit bureaus often don't collect includes utility payments for electricity, gas, water, telephones and cable TV.

"Utility payments are a prime form of credit data for people outside the regular credit system," observes Michael A. Turner, president and senior scholar at the Information Policy Institute, a nonprofit research group active on credit issues.

The problem is that state utility regulations are covert about the dissemination of consumers' payment records. Accessing that information may require regulatory changes at the state level.

Anthem is a system that analyzes existing thin-credit bureau data, along with current and previous rental payment histories, utility payments, insurance premium payments and child support payments, to name a few. Mark F. Catone, senior vice president of the First American Corp., the data firm that developed the Anthem score, has told state regulators that making utility payment data available to credit bureaus "would result in lowering the number of no-files and thin-files," and qualify many applicants for lower-cost loans.

Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO), the predominant credit scoring technology firm, has developed the Expansion Score, which evaluates nontraditional credit histories by auditing payday loans, rent-to-buy, rental history and other financial accounts. It provides lenders predictive scores on eight out of every 10 no-file or thin-file applicants.

Annapolis-based PRBC Corp. (Pay Rent, Build Credit) is attempting to become a national credit bureau for people who have minimal or no traditional credit histories using a "Bill Payment Scorecard," which rates consumers' performances on payments of child support, student loans, utilities, phone bills and

other accounts.

Countrywide Home Loans, a high-volume national mortgage lender, has developed their "Optimum" mortgage program — a special circumstances mortgage that translates the key elements of non-traditional financial profiles into traditional terms for mortgage underwriting purposes. It's an attempt to offer flexible standards in place of traditionally rigid loan requirements, and to offer non-traditional applicants the same interest rates and terms that prime market borrowers receive.

A low-credit individual will end up paying high interest rates and fees to get a loan to buy a house.

Ways that lenders are looking to qualify thin-file mortgage applicants include:

■ Lenders will attempt substantiate applicants' rent, utility, cable TV, telephone and other regular payment records. Companies like LandSafe Credit are said to be able to investigate most non-traditional credit histories and produce a credit score proxy for electronic mortgage underwriting within 48 to 72 hours at a cost of between \$30 to \$55.

■ Many households, particularly immigrants, depend upon pooled family resources or cultural community funds to assemble down-payment cash. That calculation is beyond the grasp of traditional loan underwriting standards, which require applicants to demonstrate that their down-payment cash comes from their personal assets.

■ Use of "tenant" income to qualify for monthly payments. Many would-be buyers don't make enough to qualify for a mortgage, yet they may have a boarder or tenant who contributes to the monthly household income. Traditional underwriting rules don't take supplementary income into account for qualifying purposes. The new program will count "boarder" income, provided the boarder has been contributing income to the household for at least 12 months.

■ Cash businesses. Cash income from sideline work such as childcare, cleaning services, landscaping, auto or home repair can be hard to verify. Loan underwriting rules usually don't count this as income.

■ Allowing for non-occupant "co-borrowers" such as an uncle or grandparent to add some of their incomes to the primary home buyers' monthly income to qualify for the mortgage. Co-borrowers are described as "people with long-standing relationships" with the applicants.

The new special circumstances loan programs intend to allow minimal down payments and will offer the full range of standard fixed-rate and adjustable-rate loan terms. The borrower will need to have a valid Social Security number and be either a U.S. citizen or permanent or non-permanent resident alien. Some versions of the program may require buyer counseling. For more information, consult a mortgage broker.

Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219, or visit www.santamonicalandmarks.com.

Blatant disregard is a matter of principal



IN YOUR SPACE
BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

A basic requirement of a 1031 exchange is that investors take title to a replacement property in the same way that it was held by the relinquished property — the same name on the tax return. For example, if you held title to relinquished property as Fred Jones, you could not take title to the replacement property as Jones Investment.

The only time the IRS allows for an investor to effect a 1031 tax-deferred exchange without the replacement and the relinquished property holding title in the same name is if the title of either property is held in what is known as a “disregarded entity.” A disregarded entity is one that

does not file a separate tax return and where the principal of that “entity” is filing the tax return that will include the “disregarded entity.” The list includes a Revocable Living Trust, an Illinois Type Land Trust, and a Single Member LLC.

The Revocable Living Trust does not file an income tax return. All of the rents, dividends, interest, expenses, etc., arising from assets owned by the living trust are reported in an investor’s personal tax return. So, if Fred Jones owned the relinquished property in the name of the “Jones Revocable Living Trust,” he can sell it, do an exchange, and buy the replacement property as “Fred Jones” because the same tax return owned the relinquished property.

An Illinois Type Land Trust is a type of trust where the property is held in the name of the trust, but multiple owners of the trust are considered the true owners — the trust does not file a tax return. If there are three owners, then three tax returns are

A disregarded entity is one that does not file a separate tax return and where the principal of that “entity” is filing the tax return that will include the “disregarded entity.”

needed for 1031 purposes. If Fred Jones is one of the owners, he can sell his share and buy replacement property as “Fred Jones” because it is all the same tax return. Illinois Type Land Trusts do not protect the owners from personal liability and are not commonly used.

A Single Member LLC does protect an investor from personal liability, but the tax return is filed as separate from the individual members. When you file a tax return for an LLC with only one owner, the IRS will send it back and tell you to report the income and expenses on your own individual tax return. If Fred Jones sells his relinquished property, he can buy the replacement property as “Jones Investments, LLC” if he is the only member, because

again, it is all the same taxpayer.

It is important that an investor discuss any investment decision thoroughly, with their tax and legal professionals regarding vesting issues when doing 1031 exchanges.



You can reach **Christina Porter** at 1-877-4 TM 1031, or e-mail her at christina@tm1031exchange.com to discuss your specific needs. TM 1031 Exchange assists investors in planning and executing successful real estate investment strategies. Visit www.tm1031exchange.com for a complete list of investment properties and to download the TM 1031 Tool Kit.



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THE HOA ADVISOR BY MICHAEL CHULAK

QUESTION: Our homeowners' association is paying a fortune for earthquake insurance. I am on the board that is seriously considering canceling our earthquake coverage because of its high cost and high deductible. What are your thoughts?

ANSWER: While most boards have the authority to decide whether to purchase earthquake insurance, it is wise for boards who have such authority to permit the overall membership an opportunity to vote on this important issue unless the board decides to acquire such coverage. If a board is opposed to obtaining earthquake insurance coverage, it should always permit the overall membership to vote on the

matter in order to minimize its exposure to liability. Such liability can result from an earthquake that results in damage.

It is important to be aware that many directors and officers liability policies do not cover directors and officers for their failure to obtain correct or adequate insurance coverage.

In order to minimize your liability as well as the board's, I recommend that you encourage the purchase of earthquake coverage and arrange for a vote by all members of the association.

QUESTION: The board of directors of our homeowners' association is permitting members of our association to grow ivy on the exterior stucco of our buildings. The stucco is a common area that must be repaired by the association if the ivy damages it. Since I don't want to be responsible to pay for stucco repairs through my association dues in the future, what should I do?

ANSWER: First, point out to your board the specific provisions in your

Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions that obligate the association to maintain the stucco. Next, point out the fact that future stucco repairs are only one potential liability being created by permitting the ivy to grow on the stucco. When ivy or other vines cause the water-proofing quality of stucco to be destroyed, moisture can enter the buildings causing substantial interior damage, including but not limited to mold infestation. Some molds are highly toxic, resulting in immune system disorders and other serious medical problems. In short, your board is assuming a big and unnecessary risk by allowing ivy or other plant materials to grow on the stucco.

QUESTION: In shopping for a new management company for our homeowners' association, we have noticed that some are licensed by the Department of Real Estate (DRE) and some are not. One company that is licensed by the DRE told us that there is an advantage to DRE licensing because the DRE audits association accounts, thus protecting homeowner associations. Another management company says this is not true. Who is correct?

ANSWER: The DRE does not audit or review association management accounts unless under the direct control of the original developer. They have absolutely no legal authority to do so and would refuse even if requested by an asso-

ciation. The first management company referred to has given you incorrect and misleading information.

QUESTION: I am the treasurer of our homeowners' association. Recently a member of our association filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7. He owes the association more than \$6,000. Our management company has advised us that there is nothing we can do. What is your advice?

ANSWER: Section 523(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that dues owed to condominiums, cooperatives or other similar membership associations after the filing of a bankruptcy petition are not dischargeable, to the extent that the dues are payable while the debtor either lived in or received rent for the condominium or cooperative unit. In other words, so long as the homeowner still lives in the unit or rents it out to someone else, the dues will continue to accrue after the date of the filing of the petition. Your association's management company can collect these dues.

Michael T. Chulak is the founder of Michael T. Chulak & Associates, a Law Corporation, based in Agoura Hills. Questions can be sent by e-mail to info@MTCLaw.com. Answers are general in nature. An attorney should always be consulted when legal advice is needed. For more information visit www.MTCLaw.com and www.HoaQandA.com.

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For love or money?

Former playmate Smith wins case, legal battles to continue

BY GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court revived former Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith's pursuit of her late husband's oil fortune, ruling Monday that the one-time stripper deserves another day in court.

Smith won the votes of all nine justices in her feud over the estate of J. Howard Marshall II, the colorful Texas tycoon who died in 1995 at age 90.

The case has had twists and turns. Smith won a \$474 million judgment, which was cut to about \$89 million and eventually reduced to zero.

Although Monday's ruling reinstates her claim, there is no guarantee she will collect any money.

Justices said only that federal courts in California could deal with her case despite a Texas state court ruling that Marshall's youngest son was the sole heir to the estate.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who wrote the opinion, gave some of the history of the unlikely romance between Marshall and Smith, whose real name is Vickie Lynn. They married in 1994 when she was 26 and he was 89, after meeting at a Houston strip club. Marshall, who had a penchant for strippers, died the following year.

"Although he lavished gifts and significant sums of money on Vickie during their courtship and marriage, J. Howard did not include anything for Vickie in his will," Ginsburg wrote.

She said there were accusations that E. Pierce Marshall "engaged in forgery, fraud, and overreaching to gain control of his father's assets" and, on the other side, that Smith had defamed her former stepson.

"I will continue to fight to clear my name in California federal court. That is a promise that Vickie and her lawyers can take to the bank," Pierce Marshall said in a statement after the decision.

The ruling gives federal courts more authority to resolve disputes that arise out of estates, although state courts still have sole responsibility to probate a will. The Bush administration had supported that outcome.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a separate opinion to say that he would have given federal courts more flexibility to deal with such contests. He said Smith's appeal was "an easy case."

The case now goes back to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, where Pierce Marshall's lawyers will try to get it thrown out on other grounds.

"We are confident that the 9th Circuit will have no problem in ruling in our favor on the issues that remain," said Kent Richland, one of the model's lawyers.

Ginsburg's opinion included only a hint of the nastiness of the family fight that began even before Marshall died of heart failure.

"This voyeuristic aspect of this case that the rest of the world likes is not something the court is interested in," said Douglas Baird, a law professor at the University of Chicago.

Smith's case had brought unusual drama to the high court. Dressed in all black, she wept in the courtroom in late February as justices discussed Marshall and whether he had intended to provide for his young wife in death.

The case could return to the Supreme Court after the next round of litigation.

"The game is far from over here," Baird said.

INTERNATIONAL

Al-Qaida fugitive detained in Pakistan

BY PAUL GARWOOD

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — A top al-Qaida leader whose links stretch from Afghan terror training camps to extremist networks operating throughout Europe has been detained in neighboring Pakistan and possibly handed over to American authorities, according to a U.S. law enforcement official.

Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, a Syrian who also holds Spanish citizenship, was captured in a November 2005 sting in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta that left one person dead, said the American official, who declined to be identified further because the matter is sensitive.

The official, who spoke to The Associated Press late last week, said Nasar, who is also known as Abu Musab al-Suri, may now be in U.S. custody but did not specify where. He declined to comment further.

U.S. military officials aware of the detention of terror suspects at American prison facilities in Bagram, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, had no immediate information Tuesday on whether Nasar had been incarcerated at either jail.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official told The AP from the capital, Islamabad, that Nasar had been flown out of Pakistan to an undisclosed destination "some time ago."

"I only know that he is not here. But, I do know that Syrian authorities had also requested to get him back,"

said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of sensitive nature of his work.

Pakistani and American officials have long been tightlipped on the status of Nasar, who has had a \$5 million U.S. bounty on his head. He has been described by the U.S. Justice Department as a former trainer at Osama bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan who helped teach extremists to use poisons and chemicals.

A picture and short biography of the red-haired Nasar was recently removed from the U.S. government's Rewards for Justice Web site.

Another Pakistani official confirmed the Quetta arrest but had no information on Nasar's whereabouts.

"He had been interrogated by us. He had been interrogated by our American friends," said the official, who also declined to be identified because of the secretive nature of his activities. He added that both Syrian and U.S. authorities wanted to take Nasar into custody.

A picture and short biography of the red-haired Nasar was recently removed from the U.S. government's Rewards for Justice Web site. Justice and State Department officials declined to say why Nasar was no longer profiled.

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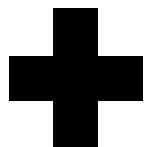
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INTERNATIONAL

Border Patrol says migrants could face a deadly summer

BY JULIE WATSON

Associated Press Writer

SASABE, Mexico — Wearing tight jeans and a glittery “bebe” T-shirt, the 17-year-old scrambled out of a packed van as the temperature edged toward 90 degrees in this barren stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border.

Carrying no hat or sunscreen, the teenager who called herself Adriana Brenda said the longest hike she’d taken was through a shopping mall. But here she was, ready for a three-day trek across the desert.

She carried two gallons of water — enough, experts say, to keep her hydrated for two hours.

As temperatures rise, the U.S. Border Patrol and aid groups are gearing up for what they fear could be one of the deadliest summers for migrants sneaking into the United States.

The U.S. Senate is debating a bill that could lock the border tighter than ever, and activists fear the flow of migrants is moving to an even hotter and more remote section of desert than the current favorite, an area south of Tucson, Ariz., where hundreds of people have died since 1994.

The desert around Tucson is crawling with 2,400 U.S. Border Patrol agents. Rifle-bearing civilians known as Minutemen are also keeping watch.

In response, many migrants are crossing closer to Yuma, Ariz., where daytime

temperatures can hover around 120 degrees — 10-15 degrees hotter than around Tucson.

Migrant deaths for the Yuma sector hit a record 51 in 2005, up from 36 in 2004 and 15 in 2003, according to the Border Patrol.

Apprehensions have jumped 16 percent for the region — with 89,336 people caught from October through April, said Richard Hays, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in Yuma.

“We are already anticipating this shift in traffic and are working to ensure the safety of those who are determined to get into the United States in violation of the law,” he said.

Those plans include erecting seven more rescue beacons in the Yuma sector — there are now 12 — and adding agents, Hays said.

Migrants have moved to more remote areas each time the U.S. has cracked down on a section of the 2,000-mile-long border, activists say.

The desert east of Yuma is one of the least forgiving. From the border, a migrant can walk for 50 miles before reaching an interstate.

In 2001, one of Arizona’s worst migrant tragedies occurred in the area, when 14 people died in temperatures reaching 115 degrees.

Adding to the danger is the Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range, where the

U.S. Air Force drops bombs to train for the war in Iraq.

Last year, Border Patrol agents rescued five children, five women and four men from the bombing range after their smuggler abandoned them and they activated a rescue beacon. No one has been hit by a bomb, Hays said.

Migrant groups estimate 500 people died trying to cross the border in 2005. The Border Patrol reported 415 deaths in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

While that number includes people who drowned in the Rio Grande, died in car accidents and succumbed to cold, the desert’s searing heat takes the heaviest toll.

In southern Arizona, Border Patrol agents routinely run across people vomiting uncontrollably in the summer heat, their skin clammy, their eyes glazed over, said Aerr Eltringham, a Border Patrol spokesman in Tucson. Some migrants are found dead.

On a recent afternoon, agents for the Mexican government’s Grupo Beta aid group distributed pamphlets to migrants preparing to cross. The pamphlets recommend carrying plenty of water, food and salt, and advise migrants to keep their clothing on to avoid dehydration and sunburn. If the heat gets to be too much, the pamphlets advise setting a fire to summon rescuers.

Brenda, the 17-year-old in the “bebe” T-shirt, stuffed the pamphlet into her backpack and said she didn’t think the trip

“It was the coldest I’d ever felt in my life. I spent the night hugging that woman.”

ALEJANDRA VALENZUELA
IMMIGRANT

would be so hard. However, the teenager from the central city of Puebla admitted she had little experience in the outdoors.

“My parents warned us about the risks along the way, that you suffer cramps and get tired, but I have food and water,” said Brenda, who set out last week with her 18-year-old sister and about 16 other migrants on her way to Mesa, Ariz., where her brothers live.

“We’re doing this so we can have a better life,” said Brenda, who may not have given her full name for fear of being found by U.S. officials. It was impossible to determine if she successfully made the crossing. The Border Patrol does not confirm the names of detainees for privacy reasons.

Alejandra Valenzuela, 27, said her group used mountain bikes to move across the rugged terrain. But she and another woman couldn’t keep up, and the smuggler and other migrants wouldn’t wait.

She said the cold desert nights were worse than the baking sun.

“It was the coldest I’d ever felt in my life. I spent the night hugging that woman,” said Valenzuela, pointing to a woman sleeping on a nearby bunk at a shelter in the border town of Nogales.

After spotting what she believed was a coyote and hearing snakes hiss nearby, the women found a highway and waited for the Border Patrol.



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Cruise relishes new mission

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Tom Cruise whipped off his sunglasses with flair and flashed a winning smile as he greeted a hotel ballroom packed with journalists in Mexico’s capital.

His mission: to promote his new film, “Mission: Impossible III,” which opens in theaters Friday.

“We really wanted a story that’s going to leave the audience feeling emboldened and empowered when they leave the theater,” the 43-year-old actor said Monday.

His fiancée, 27-year-old Katie Holmes, gave birth last month in Los Angeles to the couple’s first child, a daughter named Suri.

“The hours go by so quickly as I just stare at her,” Cruise said of spending time with his newborn.

When a reporter asked about a widely circulated comment Cruise made in an interview with GQ magazine about eating his child’s placenta, Cruise laughed and said, “That’s ridiculous.”

He later said he doesn’t pay attention to media reports that criticize his personal life.

When he was done fielding questions, Cruise came down from the stage and mingled with journalists. At one point he produced a small digital camera and snapped some pictures of those jockeying for position to photograph him.

Cruise starred in 1996’s “Mission: Impossible,” directed by Brian De Palma, and 2000’s “Mission: Impossible II,” directed by John Woo. This latest installment was directed by J.J. Abrams, creator of the TV series “Lost” and “Alias.”

“He’s a sensational filmmaker. I wanted a J.J. Abrams’ “Mission: Impossible,”” Cruise said.

NEW YORK — It’s apparently over for Paris Hilton and Greek shipping heir Stavros Niarchos.

“So it would appear. Yes,” Hilton publicist

Elliot Mintz told The Associated Press on Tuesday of the reported breakup.

“I’m not going to deny that there was a split,” he said.

Mintz would not provide further details.

Hilton, 25, and Niarchos, 21, began dating last year. The hotel heiress and “The Simple Life” actress announced in October that she was ending her engagement to Paris Latsis, another Greek shipping heir.

“The Simple Life,” which features Hilton and ex-friend Nicole Richie thrown into normal jobs and responsibilities, has been dropped by Fox. But the show was picked up this season by E! and renamed “Simple Life 4: Till Death Do Us Part.”

LONDON — Gary Glitter, who is jailed in Vietnam for child molestation, says he hopes to win his appeal and restore some honor and dignity to his family and supporters.

Glitter, 61, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison by a Vietnamese court March 3. He was charged with committing obscene acts with two girls, ages 10 and 11, at his rented sea-side villa and at a hotel.

The People’s Supreme Court of Appeals in Ho Chi Minh City will hear his case May 19, the Thanh Nien (Young People) newspaper said Sunday.

“I haven’t done anything,” Glitter said Tuesday in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. television.

“It was only till recently that I found out that underage is 18 in this country ... but I don’t believe that I slept with anybody under 18 in this country,” he said.

Glitter, who served four months in prison in Britain in 1999 for possessing child pornography, said he would not condone sexual relations with an 11-year-old.

Asked whether he envisioned his future in Britain, Glitter said, “I don’t think about the

future, I’m in prison.”

“The only thing I think about is trying to win the appeal, and trying to put some honor and dignity back to my family, my friends and the fans who have supported me all this time,” he said.

Glitter’s crowd-pleasing “Rock and Roll” anthem is still played at sporting events.

SANTA BARBARA — Oprah Winfrey has made a rare public appearance to honor her “angel friend” — late teen poet and peace activist Mattie Stepanek.

“Mattie lived the biggest, greatest life of anyone I’ve ever known. He lived his life with the light of love, and each of us has the power to do that in our own way,” Winfrey told 200 people gathered Sunday at Borders books on State Street.

The event was a celebration of 13-year-old Stepanek of Maryland, who published several books and was a guest and friend of Winfrey’s before his death from muscular dystrophy in 2004.

The teen’s final publication is “Just Peace: A Message of Hope,” a posthumous book of essays and poetry.

“At the roll call of your life, at the end of your life, what really matters is who did you love and who did you offer love to,” Winfrey said.

Also on hand was Mattie’s mother, Jennifer Smith Stepanek, who lost all four of her children to muscular dystrophy and also suffers from the disease.

Stepanek, on a national book tour to support her son’s last book, told of being at a thrift store with then 6-year-old Mattie, who picked out a book titled, “Oprah Winfrey: A Self-Made Woman of Many Talents.”

The boy read the book and said, “Mommy, Oprah Winfrey is part of God’s plan for me,” Stepanek said.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: APRIL 29-30, 2006

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

American Dreamz (PG-13)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
The Benchwarmers (PG-13)
1:45, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30
The Sentinel (PG-13)
2:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30
United 93 (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

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

Hard Candy (R)
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
Take the Lead (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50
V for Vendetta (R)
12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

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

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Inside Man (R)
1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50
RV (PG)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
1:20, 3:35, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15
Silent Hill (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05
Stick It (PG-13)
12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00
The Wild (G)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:40

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

The Notorious Bettie Page (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50

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

Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Kinky Boots (PG-13)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1802, Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.
In 1916, Irish nationalist Padraic Pearse and two others were executed by the British for their roles in the Easter Rising.
In 1921, West Virginia imposed the first state sales tax.
In 1933, Nellie T. Ross became the first female director of the U.S. Mint.
In 1944, U.S. wartime rationing of most grades of meats ended.
In 1945, Indian forces captured Rangoon, Burma, from the Japanese.
In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to blacks or members of other racial groups were legally unenforceable.





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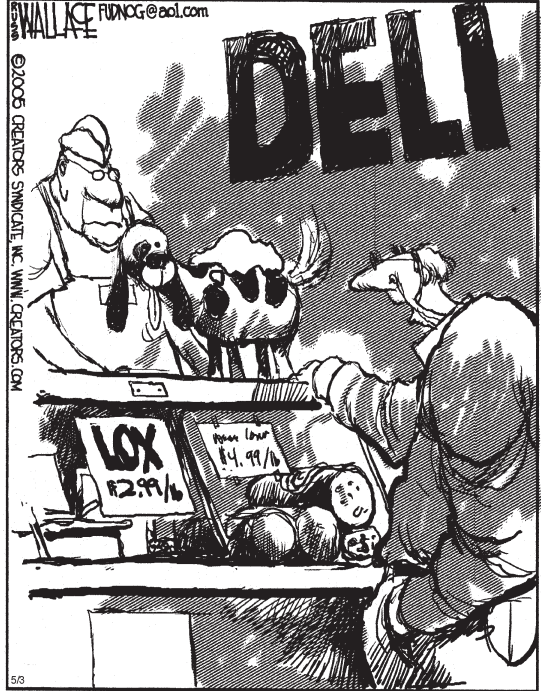
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ACROSS

- 1 Church sights
- 7 Prejudice
- 11 Join forces
- 12 Aware of
- 13 Yacht spot
- 14 Track shape
- 15 Flashing light
- 17 Tag-sale proviso
- 20 Sub system
- 23 King's carrier
- 24 Soft cheese
- 26 Idiosyncrasy
- 27 Geologic period
- 28 "— been swell!"
- 29 Reception feature
- 31 Bigwig, initially
- 32 Zellweger of "Jerry Macguire"
- 33 Chest muscles, briefly
- 34 Bank worker
- 37 Battery fill
- 39 Bouquets
- 43 Pigeon's cousin

DOWN

- 44 Party target
- 45 Tinted
- 46 Fume
- 1 Money machine
- 2 Pasture
- 3 Black goo
- 4 Wrong
- 5 Smallest of the litter
- 6 Practice for a bout
- 7 Goof
- 8 Like Edison
- 9 — loss
- 10 Peruvian coin
- 16 Boxer De La Hoya
- 17 Cast member
- 18 Shore bird
- 19 Stimulus
- 21 Storage site
- 22 Gravelly voices
- 24 Defy authority
- 25 Writer Levin
- 30 Called for
- 33 Likely
- 35 Track circuits
- 36 Great Lakes port
- 37 Append
- 38 Demure
- 40 Injure
- 41 Eroded
- 42 Down in the dumps

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Yesterday's answer

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5-3

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WILLIAM S. DIMSDALE CASE NO. SP006813

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of WILLIAM S. DIMSDALE. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JOEL DIMSDALE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOEL DIMSDALE 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 06/30/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear 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 person 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 appraisal 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 BRETT BARENHOLTZ EPHRON & BARENHOLTZ 1901 AVENUE OF THE STARS, #1030 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067-6012 5/3, 5/4, 5/10/06 CNS-961878# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 200839CA Loan No. 0695684597 Title Order No. 6270390 You are in default under a

Notices

Deed of Trust dated 06/10/2005. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceedings against you, you should contact a lawyer. On 05/23/2006 at 10:30 AM, California Reconveyance Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 06/15/2005, Book --, Page --, Instrument 051401202 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: David Feddon, an unmarried man, as Trustor, Long Beach Mortgage Company, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Boulevard, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA Legal Description: The Northeasterly 1/2 of Lot 184, of Tract No. 8379, in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 113 Page(s) 54 to 56 inclusive Maps, in the office of the county recorder of said county. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$762,497.05 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 2464 Ocean park Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90045. APN Number: 4272-023-016 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". Date: 05-03-2006 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee 9301 Corbin Avenue Mail Stop: N030312, Northridge, CA 91324 (714) 259-7850 or www.fna-sap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com Deborah Brignac, Vice President California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 767829 05/03/2006, 05/10/2006, 05/17/2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KATY SUE CAMPBELL Case No. BP098093 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KATY SUE CAMPBELL A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Willard M. Reisz in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Willard M. Reisz 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 re-

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pre-sentative 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 May 30, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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:
FREDERICK S REISZ ESQ
SBN 143962
10880 WILSHIRE BLVD
STE 2240
LOS ANGELES CA 90024-4123
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN751361 CAMPBELL May 3,4,10, 2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: IRENE YOUNG BRIGGS CASE NO. SP006815

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of IRENE YOUNG BRIGGS.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SANDRA B. SCIORTINO in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SANDRA B. SCIORTINO 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 06/02/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear 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 person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an

Notices

inventory and appraisal 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
CYNTHIA CATALINO
CATALINO LAW OFFICES
1875 CENTURY PARK E., #700
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067
5/3, 5/4, 5/10/06
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 0658229 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PACIFIC REEF TROPICAL FISH, 1513 WEST SEPULVEDA BLVD., SUITE D, TORRANCE, CA 90501. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MIKE H. YIM, 6604 MARQUETTE DR, BUENA PARK, CA 90620 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein. /s/: MIKE H. YIM

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/28/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/26/2006, 5/3/2006, 5/10/2006, 5/17/2006

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