

Santa Monica Daily Press

MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE III
ENTERTAINMENT P10

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
7 11 22 27 31
Meganumber: 33
Jackpot: \$54M

Super LOTTO
2 9 11 27 28
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$22M

Fantasy 5 16 22 26 31 35

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 6 5 5
EVENING: 7 2 0

DAILY DERRY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:42.60

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Savannah, Ga., in March, police picked up Carlos Little, wandering around a housing complex with a head injury, which he said was from a street robbery, but they later learned from a witness that Little and another man had fought over who was the better-"endowed" (and that, in the show-down, Little proved littler). And in Mexico, according to an April Reuters dispatch, one distinct presidential campaign theme this year is how candidates explicitly tout their manliness; one radio ad, for example, praises Felipe Calderon's "balls," while a TV ad acclaims Roberto Medraza for having "big ones."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 125th day of 2006.
There are 240 days left in the year.

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wars on nations change maps.
War on poverty maps change."

MUHAMMAD ALI
AMERICAN BOXING CHAMPION

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Cinco de Mayo Clinic



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

John Robertson, MD, digs in for a sample tasting during the eighth Annual Saint John's Guacamole Contest on Thursday amid his fellow judges. Team PACU (post anesthesia care unit) edged out the other 14 entries for top honors. For a copy of the winning recipe, call (310) 829-8990.

Post office claims glitches are gone; complaints persist

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — Despite assurances from U.S. postal officials that delays in mail deliveries to pockets of Santa Monica and West Los Angeles have been cut dramatically in recent months, residents here say they are still not receiving important pieces of mail, such as paychecks, applications for American citizenship, gas bills, even an Easter card from grandma.

The problem has been left to fester for so long, that some residents said they have given up on filing complaints with the U.S. Postal Service, and that may be the reason why postal officials believe the problem has been solved.

"The service we've received has just been horrible," said Marta Schwab, who lives on the 1400 block of Maple Street and refuses to mail important letters from home out of fear they will never reach

See **POSTAL SERVICE**, page 6

ENTERTAINMENT

Hey, kids, let's put on a show!

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — With public funding for arts education in schools across the country waning, local students and teen stars are gathering here this weekend to showcase how community support has made them excel as young artists.

The 2006 Celebration For The Arts is part of a campaign launched by the Education Foundation of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, which has a goal of raising \$15 million toward an

See **FOR THE ARTS**, page 11



Photo courtesy of the Education Foundation

Teen celebrities showed up en masse at last year's Celebration For the Arts, an annual fundraiser aimed at garnering financial support for arts programs in Santa Monica and Malibu schools. This weekend's event will also showcase local students involved in the arts.

LOCAL

Two inmates charged with killing brothers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — Three weeks after police submitted its murder case to prosecutors, the District Attorney's Office filed charges on Tuesday against two imprisoned gang members who are accused of randomly killing two men in Santa Monica nearly eight years ago.

David Robles and Jessie Garcia, both 29, each face two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder. The DA's Office also alleges that the two men intentionally discharged a firearm to cause great bodily harm

See **JUAREZ MURDERS**, page 7

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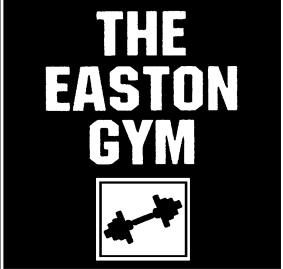


Eddie Guerboian

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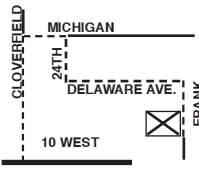
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HOROSCOPES

Honor your need, Scorpio

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)
★★★★ Your financial savvy starts coming through for you. You might want to create a more realistic budget or handle a long-term desire in a different manner. Your effectiveness could be tested. Let your imagination rock and roll. Tonight: Romp your way into the weekend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ With Mercury entering your sign, you become even more of an idea person than in the past. You have solutions. You will love brainstorming. A confusing situation surrounds you. Try to sort it out diplomatically. Tonight: Mosey on home.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will tend to tell everything -- which might be too much, under the circumstances. In the next few weeks, work on retaining more information and not just randomly sharing it. You will get better results. Tonight: Plans could change.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Eye your finances, keeping in mind your long-term goals and desires. Think positively about what you want and expect from someone. Approach this person knowing that he or she means well, even if he or she doesn't show it. Tonight: Stick to your budget.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You are in the pink and see everything and everyone with that rosy hue. Remember, when reality sinks in, you are the one who put others on their pedestals. You can blame disappointment only on your expectations and rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Say yes.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ News might have you smiling, but at the same time, you might not feel ready to share what is on your mind. Knowing when to spill the beans certainly becomes an art form. Enjoy yourself, knowing good things are heading your way. Tonight: A mysterious smile goes a long way.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Add fun and frolic to your plans. You have been serious long enough. It is time to relax and enjoy. Your happy ways help others relax and enjoy themselves. Join in with them, making the most of the moment. Money investments could be highlighted. Tonight: Lighten up.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to take your time with a request. Yes, you feel under pressure, because you are. Others expect an awful lot from you. Know when to pull back. Events will take care of themselves. Tonight: Honor your needs.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ What is being presented is interesting at best. You might be able to decipher some gibberish that others cannot. Your instincts kick in and point you in the proper direction. Detach from tension and demands. Tonight: Take off ASAP.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Working with an individual partner draws the type of reactions you really want. Think positively about this relationship. Still, you don't want to give up your power or concern about your personal funds. Tonight: Be a duo.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Confusion could surround emotional issues if you let it. Clear out and get to the bottom of an issue. You just might not understand what is going on with others right now. Give them space to reveal themselves. Tonight: Say yes.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your instincts play into the quality of your day. Not everyone has to see things as you would like. Let more lively and fun moments enter your daily life. Don't make anything harder than it needs to be. Tonight: Get some exercise or relax in a favorite way.

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Spring fair set for church

By Daily Press staff

Spring is in the air, and a fair is being organized by a local church to celebrate. First United Methodist Church Nursery School Spring Fair, now in its ninth year, is a family event which offers activities to tots, their grandparents and ages in between. This year's fair is themed "fiesta," as it will takes place during the weekend of Cinco de Mayo. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Saturday, May 6 at 1008 11th St. in Santa Monica. Attendees will enjoy the music of Mariachis as they take part in activities that range from pony rides, petting zoos to face painting and a dunking booth. Those in a shopping mood can browse through the "Book Nook" for deals on used books, videos and DVDs, or pursue a selection of colorful merchandise from Mexico, available for purchase. Admission is free. Most activities require one to three tickets, and tickets may be purchased for \$1. Proceeds from the fair benefit the pre-school, which has been serving families in the Santa Monica area since 1948.

Compost happens

By Daily Press staff

City Hall's solid waste division marks "International Compost Awareness Week" this weekend by giving away compost created from green waste and food waste collected in various city programs. The waste material is processed and turned into top grade compost and will be given at no charge to residents. No commercial enterpris-es can participate. Come over to the city yards at 2500 Michigan Ave. on Saturday, May 6, between 8 a.m. and noon with your bags or containers and get your free compost. Call (310) 458-2223 for more information.

SMC to host concerts

By Daily Press staff

May is the month for music at Santa Monica College, where a series of public per-formances are set to be played. SMC's music department will present a lineup of concerts in May, covering a wide range of musical styles. All concerts will be held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The lineup is: ■ 4 p.m., Sunday, May 7: SMC Symphony Orchestra will perform with music from Bizet's Carmen Suites and featuring the winners of the Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition for Instrumentalists. Tickets are \$10. ■ 7 p.m., Friday, May 12: The Justo Almario Quartet will perform Jazz. Tickets are \$10. ■ 8 p.m., Friday, May 19: SMC Chamber Choir, under the direction of Nike St. Clair. The concert will feature Italian madrigals by 16th-century masters, choral songs by Brahms, and an assortment of early-American and 20th-century pieces. Tickets are \$10. ■ 4 p.m., Sunday, May 21: The SMC Jazz Band will share their sounds under the baton of Keith Fiddmont. Tickets are \$10. ■ 11:15 a.m., Tuesday, May 30: SMC Musical Theater Workshop Highlights. Free. For tickets and information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

Healthy aging to be topic at Y

By Daily Press staff

Healthy aging will be the next topic discussed in a lecture series sponsored by the Santa Monica Family YMCA. The discussion will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, at the YMCA Senior Center, DeWind room, 1332 Sixth St. Admission is free. Topics to be explored include: a healthy aging food guide; power nutrients for older adults; reading nutrition facts labels; easy, healthy recipes; and nutrition resources.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

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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
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 18"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING				

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 61°

SWELL FORECAST (4-7 FT) TODAY INTO SATURDAY THE 6TH IS WHEN OUR NEXT SW SWELL IS DUE. THIS IS FROM THAT SYSTEM WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT FOR THE PAST COUPLE WEEKS THAT, LIKE ITS SMALLER COUSIN COMING IN RIGHT NOW, ALSO ORIGINATED OFF THE ICE CAP. LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS LIGHT NW DUE NEXT WEEK...				
TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA				
SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	5:20AM	-1.17FT	4:27PM	1.87FT
HIGH TIDE	11:49AM	3.67FT	10:46PM	6.18FT
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	6:10AM	-0.93FT	5:01PM	2.31FT
HIGH TIDE	12:52PM	3.33FT	11:24PM	5.77FT
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	7:06AM	-0.56FT	5:36PM	2.7FT
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	2:14PM	3.11FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	8:10AM	-0.17FT	6:24PM	3.05FT
HIGH TIDE	12:07AM	5.26FT	4:09PM	3.14FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	9:23AM	0.15FT	10:51PM	3.05FT
HIGH TIDE	1:01AM	4.72FT	5:45PM	3.39FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	10:35AM	0.33FT	10:51PM	3.05FT
HIGH TIDE	2:17AM	4.23FT	6:25PM	3.66FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	11:33AM	0.44FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	3:54AM	3.93FT	6:50PM	3.92FT

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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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OPINION

EDITORIAL



In the months to come, City Hall will be waging war against one of residents' biggest foes — The Eucalyptus tree.

Seventy-seven of them will be cut down and another 444 trimmed this year, setting City Hall back \$175,000.

We think City Hall is barking up the right tree, since the eucalyptus has proven to be hazardous due to its tendency to shed itself of dead limbs. The trees, many of which are overgrown, have injured dozens of people throughout the city in recent years — one couple successfully sued City Hall for \$1.5 million after a eucalyptus fell on their car and injured them.

Cutting down aged trees is never a gleeful option, but we have confidence in the report presented by arboricultural firm HortScience Inc., which was hired by City Hall. Unfortunately, the assessment determined that some of the trees simply have to go. Of the 517 eucalyptus trees in the city, a majority of them are in danger of falling. It's comforting to know that city officials are choosing to cut down just 77 of them and managing the others with simple trimming techniques.

The trees will be replaced with a smaller species of eucalyptus, or whatever species dominates a particular area. The trees which will be removed are in the areas of Broadway, between 11th Street and Centinela Avenue; Seventh Street, between California Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard; Reed Park and Palisades Park.

City Hall's challenge will be educating the public as to why it's cutting down the trees. City officials need to launch an aggressive public awareness campaign informing residents of the safety campaign. They took the right steps today when foresters and arborists held a news conference at Reed Park announcing their plans.

We suggest that every resident who lives in the areas that are affected receive notice from City Hall informing them on how the trees will be cut, what they will be replaced with and the timeline for the work.

We know that Santa Monicans are extremely protective of their trees and don't like to see them removed. But if they are at the end of their life span, it's better to take them now before someone else gets hurt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samohi gets an 'A' by any measure

Editor:

Regarding "Samohi still among cream of crop" (SMDP, May 3, page 1).

In my opinion, Samohi's drop from 199 in 2005 to 256 in 2006 on the Newsweek ranking of American high schools is meaningless. First, this is a change within the top 1 percent of high schools in the nation. Minor fluctuations are expected in the ranking based on minor differences across years in the characteristics of junior and senior students. Second, as the article notes, more schools are added to the Newsweek list every year. Third, the Newsweek ranking is based on the "Challenge Index," which is calculated by dividing the total number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken at a school by the number of graduating seniors. As AP has soared in popularity, many high schools have entered a phase of rapid growth in their Challenge Index. Samohi was ahead of the curve on AP and had its phase of rapid growth in the Challenge Index a few years ago.

Despite the popular appeal of the Challenge Index, it is a limited measure of an AP program because it only captures the extent of AP course and exam taking; the index contains no information about performance on the exams. Of course, a comprehensive assessment of an AP program requires tracking performance as well.

Samohi offers 16 AP courses. The most common performance measure is the "passing" rate for AP exams, which by convention is the percentage of exams with a score of three or higher. According to data reported by the California Department of Education, in the last three academic years Samohi's passing rates were 73 percent, 73 percent, and 72 percent. These compare very favorably with a national passing rate of 59 percent for the 16 exams offered at Samohi. A more useful, though stricter, standard is the percentage of exams with a score of four or higher, because very few (if any) colleges any longer award credit or placement for scores of three. Again, Samohi fares extremely well, with rates of 45 percent, 46 percent, and 45 percent in the last three years. The corresponding national rate is 34 percent.

Finally, recently the College Board has been promoting a new measure that it argues captures both access to and performance on AP: the percentage of all graduating seniors who had at least one score of 3 or higher on an AP exam at some point during their school career. We have not calculated this measure ourselves, but Newsweek reports Samohi's value as 45.7 percent (the E and E percent). Assuming this value is correct (this is a much harder figure to calculate than the Index), Samohi again does exceptionally well. The corresponding values are 19.7 percent for California and 14.1 percent for the nation.

By any measure, Samohi has an excellent Advanced Placement program.

Jose Escarce
Santa Monica

Cinco de Mayo and Neo-Know Nothingism

THE SOAP BOX

BY BENNET KELLEY



Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo most likely will celebrate Cinco de Mayo by continuing to sound the alarm that the nation is awash in a wave of "of immigration ... far greater than anything we have ever experienced." Tancredo, who may run for president in 2008, views immigration not only as "the most critical issue facing our nation today" but as a threat to western civilization itself.

For example, census data for Arizona reports that foreign born residents (FBRs) account for 60 percent of the state's population. That would be a cause for concern were it not for the fact that the data is from 1870 and is five times Arizona's current FBR rate. In fact, at both the national level and in Tancredo's home state, the current "great wave" of immigration is significantly below levels for 1870-1930.

Tancredo, who wants to reduce legal immigration by nearly two-thirds, claims that immigrants are a financial drain on society, bring disease into the country, cause increased crime and that tougher immigration laws would prevent terrorism. Those claims either have no support or are refuted by evidence such as the National Academy of Sciences' study finding that immigrants contribute \$1,800 more in taxes per year than they receive in benefits.

The heart of Tancredo's argument is that immigration threatens the nation's "cultural identity." Tancredo's fear is that the United States becomes like multi-racial Brazil where "you cannot look at anybody and say they are Brazilian." He believes that without more restrictive immigration laws we will become "balkanized" and "no longer a nation at all" and that "Western civilization (is finished if it) succumbs to the siren song of multiculturalism."

Setting aside the racial overtones of his remarks, Tancredo could not be more wrong since what makes the United States distinct from other countries is that we are defined by common beliefs, not common blood. Immigration hardly threatens our cultural identity since the fact that we are a nation of immigrants and live in a multicultural society is an important part of our identity. Having attended my wife's citizenship ceremony, I can assure you that nothing is more affirming of American values than a ceremony with more than 900 immigrants who had traveled from all ends of the globe for the day when they could proudly swear that they would "support and defend the Constitution and laws

of the United States of America."

Despite the Statute of Liberty's invitation to "(g)ive me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," nativist anti-immigrant movements such as Tancredo's are a recurring theme in our history. This movement reached its zenith in the 19th century with the American (or Know Nothing) Party which President Lincoln warned would lead us from a nation founded on the principle that all men are created equal, to one in which "all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners and Catholics."

By being singled out as a threat to America's cultural identity, Latin American immigrants join a long list of ethnic groups who were all viewed as threats to American society at some point in time. My family came from Ireland in the 19th century and, despite serving in the Civil War and almost every war thereafter and entering into the 20th century, my grandparents still had to face signs reading "Irish Need Not Apply." This same prejudice led to California's Asian Land Laws which prohibited Asian immigrants from owning property and the decision to intern the Japanese during World War II. What Tancredo fails to understand is that this type of xenophobia and bigotry stain our nation's image as a beacon of liberty and is a far greater threat to our nation's identity than immigration ever will be.

I do not mean to suggest that immigration is not a serious issue or that we should not attempt to control our borders. This debate, however, should be driven by facts and our national interests, and not by myths cloaking the prejudice or naked ambition of the Tom Tancredos of the world.

Robert Kennedy once said that "our attitude toward immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal." This week began with nationwide demonstrations by over 1 million Latin American and other immigrants in which today's poor, huddled masses found their voice and proudly declared that "we are Americans too." On Cinco de Mayo we will embrace them by celebrating the cultural contributions of Mexican-Americans, just as we do for the Irish and Italians during St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day celebrations.

We should also make Cinco de Mayo a celebration of our faith in the American dream by choosing the welcoming hope and promise of the Statute of Liberty over the fear and bigotry of Congressman Tancredo's neo-Know Nothingism (adding lime and salt is optional).

Bennet Kelley (bennet@bennetkelley.com) is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm, a Santa Monica attorney and is married to a Canadian immigrant.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Maybe she should have curbed her dog

On Friday, April 28, at 5:48 p.m., Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 2700 block of Pico Boulevard regarding an alleged assault. When officers arrived, they spoke to a man who said he was punched in the face by a woman after the two argued over a dog defecating on the man's lawn. Officers later located the alleged attacker, identified as Sherry Ann Bell, 50, of Santa Monica. Bell was taken into custody and booked for assault. The alleged victim was not seriously injured and did not receive medical attention, police said. Bell's bail was set at \$20,000.

On Tuesday, April 25, at 6:38 p.m., police responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue after receiving a call of a burglary in progress. When officers arrived, they spoke with a man who said he saw a strange woman sitting in his car drinking a Red Bull while rummaging through his center console. The woman in the car fled before police arrived. She was later arrested and identified by the alleged victim. Police said she is Belinda Payton, 32, of Los Angeles. She was booked for burglary and felony probation violation. No bail was set.

On Wednesday, April 26, at 11:59 a.m., officers responded to the 2800 block of the beach regarding a report of indecent exposure. When officers arrived, they spoke with a woman who said while she was lying on the beach she saw a man about 10 feet from her pull out his penis and begin to masturbate. Police said the alleged victim wanted to prosecute, so officers took the man into custody, at which time he was booked for indecent exposure and engaging in lewd activity. He was identified as James Edward Pitts, 46, a transient. His bail was set at \$500.

On April Thursday, April 27, at 6:40 p.m. undercover officers in the 1900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard conducted an investigation of Oriental Shiatsu Massage after receiving complaints of prostitution activity at the site. An undercover officer entered the business and requested a massage. He paid a \$40 fee and was taken to a private room where he was given a massage, police said. During the massage, the masseuse allegedly asked the officer if he would like sexual services for an additional fee. The officers negotiated a price and called for back-up. Officers entered the business and arrested the masseuse, another woman and the owner of the business, police said. The masseuse, who was identified as Sun Jitchaku, 41, of Los Angeles, was booked for prostitution. Bo Youn, 33, a female from Los Angeles, was booked for public intoxication and obstruction of justice, and the owner, Yong Yi, 66, was booked for running a house of ill repute. Bail for Jitchaku was set at \$10,000, and \$35 for Youn. There was no bail information for Yi, police said.

On Thursday, April 27, at 10 p.m., an officer made a traffic stop in the 400 block of 23rd Street for a minor violation. As the officer walked up to the vehicle, he said he saw the driver place the car in reverse and attempt to back up. The officer, believing the driver was attempting to run him over, ran back to his patrol car and ordered the driver to turn the car off. He complied. The officer called for back-up. When the other officers arrived, they took the driver into custody. He was identified as Charles Easley, 47, of Inglewood. He was booked for assault with a deadly weapon. His bail was set at \$50,000.

On Friday, April 28, at 5:40 p.m., police responded to the 1700 block of Stanford Street, a DHL branch, regarding an employee who was being detained for stealing. When officers arrived, they spoke to security personnel, who said an employee was being held for allegedly stealing and then selling a laptop computer valued at \$2,500. Security said DHL wished to press charges, so the employee was taken into police custody and booked for grand theft. He was identified as Jose Contreras, 41, a resident of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$20,000.

On Saturday, April 29, at 12:02 a.m., police saw a man at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Bay Street drinking a 22-ounce can of beer in violation of the open container law. When officers approached the man to issue him a citation, the man said he did not have any identification. An officer conducted a warrant check and discovered the suspect was on probation for narcotics. The officer asked the man if he had any drugs on him and the suspect said he did not, however, he did have two glass pipes in his possession. The pipes were confiscated and the suspect was arrested and booked for possession of drug paraphernalia. The suspect was identified as Bobby Kelly, 50, a transient. His bail was set at \$10,000.



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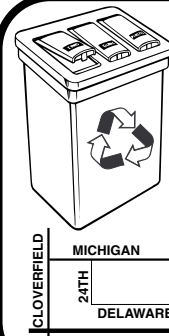
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LOCAL

Frustrated residents tire
of lodging complaints

POSTAL SERVICE, from page 1

their final destination. "I think it's incompetence. If they've said they've solved the causes of these delays, then why are we still seeing our mail delivered as late as 9 (p.m.)? Why is mail not being forwarded? Why are we still having to deliver mail to our neighbors that's delivered to us?"

Schwab, frustrated by the lack of solutions, said the problem became unbearable early last month when mail service to her block was stopped following a postman being bit by a neighbor's dog. Service was restored two days later, but Schwab said the post office gave her no warning about the stoppage in deliveries.

This angered her so much so that she circulated a letter to roughly 100 of her neighbors to see if they too have had problems over the years. Schwab received several responses about poor service, which she compiled in a letter to U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, who has been investigating the issue since last fall, when scores of his constituents complained daily about late deliveries or no deliveries at all.

The problem was supposed to have been solved with the hiring of more postal employees to help sort the mail and get it to mail carriers quicker so deliveries are made before residents get home from work.

Larry Dozier, a spokesman for the USPS, said the consolidation of post offices in Santa Monica, along with the hiring of more employees and the realignment of mail routes, has "almost eliminated complaints," which have dropped from 25 per day in January to three or four a day, the average.

"We are still working on this issue, but for the most part, we have gotten things under control," Dozier said. "We had a problem with staffing that has been addressed and there was a slight learning curve when we moved from the Marina del Rey (mail sorting center) to the main office (in South Los Angeles), but things are running smoothly now."

Dozier said the main distribution center in South Los Angeles sifts through roughly six million pieces of mail daily at a rate of

36,000 letters per hour, up from nearly five million letters sorted daily before the Marina del Rey center was closed. Dozier said the closing of that facility has nothing to do with the delays, but rather it was staffing shortages, something that has now been resolved.

"We're tired of the excuses
from the post office. We
want something to be done."

MARTA SCHWAB
RESIDENT

In a statement Thursday, Waxman said he is aggressively working on the delay dilemma and has had face-to-face meetings with the postmaster general, John E. Potter, at which times complaints from constituents have been handed over to Potter, making him aware of problems specific to Santa Monica. Staff members in Waxman's office said he will address the delays in more detail when the Committee on Government Reform holds its next hearing.

"Residents deserve consistent and timely postal service, and I'm investigating all possible sources of these problems," Waxman said in an e-mail to the Daily Press. "We're working with the Postal Service to get to the bottom of undelivered and late mail, and to rule out waste, fraud, or abuse. We've heard back from some residents that their problems have been alleviated, and will continue to work hard to address those complaints that persist."

In the meantime, residents have resorted to using Fed-Ex or other private mail carriers to deliver important packages. Some have stopped mail delivery to their homes altogether, purchasing post office boxes.

"We're tired of the excuses from the post office," Schwab said. "We want something to be done. It's not as if we can just give up on the postal service. Surprisingly, in this age of e-mails and paying bills over the Internet, you still need regular mail delivery."

Disturbing the peace



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

RUDE AWAKENING: A peace officer approaches a loiterer on the grounds of the Main Library.



German engineering



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Ayla, 16, a shepard mix who suffers from a spinal column disorder, makes his way along Seventh Street recently with the aid of his doggie wheelchair.

Death penalty an option

JUAREZ MURDERS, from page 1

to four individuals and carried out the crimes for the benefit and association of a criminal street gang. That allegation carries with it a special circumstance, which means Robles and Garcia are eligible for the death penalty.

A special committee will determine if Robles and Garcia should face the death penalty after a preliminary hearing is held.

Robles and Garcia, who are currently locked up in state prison on other convictions, will enter their pleas when they are arraigned on June 7. It is unknown whether Robles and Garcia have been notified of the charges against them, or if they will have private attorneys or public defenders representing them at their arraignments, said DA spokeswoman Jane Robison.

Robles and Garcia, cousins and noted gang members, are alleged to have fatally shot Michael Juarez, 27, and Anthony Juarez, 19, on Oct. 27, 1998. The Juarez brothers were visiting their cousin, Frank Juarez Jr., who owned Westside Clothing on Lincoln Boulevard, when masked gunmen stormed into the store in broad daylight and fired numerous rounds from an assault rifle and pair of handguns.

The murders were believed to be in retaliation for a homicide which occurred days earlier. Apparently, a gang member who was attending a drug class at the Clare Foundation on Lincoln Boulevard was shot while waiting for the bus, sources said, prompting the Culver City Boyz to retaliate against Santa Monica gang members.

The Juarez brothers weren't from Santa Monica, nor affiliated with any gangs. They were interested in opening a store

similar to Westside Clothing where they lived, in Cayucos, a small town in San Luis Obispo County. The brothers had come into Santa Monica the night before to check out their cousin's operation.

Wearing masks, the gunmen entered the store — which was located between Pacific and Strand streets on Lincoln Boulevard — shortly before noon, opened fire and ran out. Michael Juarez and Frank Juarez Jr. ran toward the back door to escape the gunfire, police said. Anthony Juarez didn't make it to the back of the store, and was gunned down.

Frank Juarez Jr. was shot multiple times, as was Matthew Vaughan, a customer in the store. Both survived.

The assailants ran out of the store and got into a car awaiting them on Lincoln Boulevard, driven by an unknown suspect. The car was discovered near LAX later that day, wiped clean.

Evidence recovered at the crime scene was processed with current DNA technology. The DNA evidence was sent to the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensics Services DNA Laboratory and entered into their databank of known offenders. The samples submitted were matched with Robles and Garcia, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Robles, also known as "Puppet," is currently serving an eight-year sentence in Corcoran State Prison. He was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in February 2001. Garcia, also known as "Psycho," was convicted of carjacking and assault with a deadly weapon with a firearm causing great bodily injury in May 1999. According to the Department of Corrections, he is currently serving a 15-year sentence in Ironwood State Prison.

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STATE

Legislators say deal on public works near

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Legislative leaders this week said they were close to agreeing on a public works bond package worth more than \$35 billion, a series of measures they hope to put before voters in November.

Revival of a plan to provide billions of dollars for transportation improvements, school construction, flood control upgrades and other projects would mark a victory for lawmakers of both parties and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Republican governor proposed a record borrowing plan in January, but it failed to make the June ballot after he couldn't reach a compromise with the Legislature.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, said legislative leaders had agreed on the approximate size of the bond and how to divide the spending.

"We have not been arguing about numbers for quite awhile," he said.

Perata said he, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman, R-Tustin, and Assembly Minority Leader George Plescia, R-La Jolla, were discussing proposed bill language to make sure it meant what they thought it did.

Ackerman and Plescia would not comment, but the four were expected to continue meeting late Wednesday night.

The package would include four separate bond measures: \$10.4 billion for school construction; \$19.2 billion for transportation projects; \$3.1 billion for flood control upgrades; and \$2.6 billion for housing.

The current record for a single bond measure in California is the \$15 billion deficit-reduction bond approved by California voters in 2004.

The amount is well below the \$68 billion in borrowing originally sought by Schwarzenegger, who had hoped to make a massive public works initiative the signature policy achievement for his re-election year.

In his January state of the state address, he asked for a 10-year, \$222.6 billion public works plan.

The legislation also wouldn't include money for many of the projects he sought, including new jails, prisons, courthouses and reservoirs. Nevertheless, Schwarzenegger was upbeat about the negotiations when he talked to reporters Wednesday at a press conference.

"Everything is going terrific," he said, adding that he hoped lawmakers would act before he releases his revised state budget proposal next week.

Any plan that emerges from the Legislature would require approval from voters.

Improving the state's infrastructure has had wide bipartisan support, even as lawmakers disagreed over what projects to fund and how much to spend.

Schwarzenegger's earlier proposal ran into opposition from Republicans and Democrats, partly because some lawmakers said it would generate too much state debt.

Negotiations seemed to pick up after Republicans agreed to drop funding for new reservoirs from the bond talks and Democrats gave up money for new parks and other environmental projects. Those had been among the major sticking points when the initial talks failed earlier this year.

Both sides have agreed there is a certain amount of urgency to negotiating a deal, in large part because of the weakened state of California's levee system. The levees were tested this spring by record rainfall and a deep snowpack, in some places overflowing their banks and flooding neighborhoods.

Schwarzenegger previously declared an emergency for 29 levee sites that are considered critically weak, an action that speeds up repair work.

On Wednesday, he also issued an emergency declaration for four counties that suffered damage during spring storms — Lake, Madera, Nevada and Napa.

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STATE



Crossing the line

City losing battle with atheist who wants cross dismantled

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered cash-strapped San Diego to remove a 29-foot cross from city-owned property within 90 days or face \$5,000 in daily fines.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Gordon Thompson Jr. marked the latest twist in a 17-year legal battle waged by a San Diego atheist against the hilltop cross that towers above tony beachside La Jolla.

"It is now time, and perhaps long overdue," Thompson wrote, for the court to enforce his 1991 injunction that forbid the cross to stand on public property because it violated the constitutional separation of church and state.

Atheist Philip Paulson, a Vietnam veteran, has been

challenging the placement of the cross on city-owned parkland since 1989. Paulson declined comment Wednesday, but his attorney, James McElroy, said he hoped the city would back down.

"I don't think our elected officials will have the courage to put \$5,000 a day in fines on the back of the taxpayers when they have not been able to win this fight in 15 years," McElroy said.

Mayor Jerry Sanders said that he would ask the City Council and the city attorney to aggressively pursue a stay on the injunction from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. City Attorney Mike Aguirre said Wednesday that continuing the court battle would likely be futile.

The city has tried to sell the half-acre beneath the cross

to a nonprofit association that maintains the surrounding memorial walls. But federal judges have repeatedly blocked the sale, saying the transactions were designed to favor a buyer who would keep the cross. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the city's appeal in 2003.

A city-sponsored referendum asking permission from residents to sell the property failed in 2004, but 75 percent of the voters approved a second referendum the following year to transfer the land to the federal government. A Superior Court judge ruled that the 2005 measure was an "unconstitutional aid to religion." That decision is being appealed by the city.

The 20-ton cross was dedicated as a memorial on Easter Sunday in 1954 atop Mount Soledad to the veterans of the Korean War.

Hilton hotel managers accused of threatening workers for union talks

By The Associated Press

GLENDALE — Hilton Hotel managers threatened, interrogated and eavesdropped on workers during a union organizing drive last fall, according to a complaint filed by the National Labor Relations Board.

The complaint was issued last week by a regional office of the board.

The five-month investigation came after two unfair labor practice claims were filed by a local chapter of Unite HERE, a union campaigning to organize hotel industry workers nationwide.

Kathy Shepard, a spokeswoman for Hilton Hotels Corp., declined to address the substance of the complaint.

"This is a typical action that labor unions take when they're in an organizing mode," she said.

The complaint said the managers videotaped employees protesting outside the hotel, offered an employee a raise and promotion to stay out of the union, and threatened to fire another worker who tried to bring in a cake decorated with the words, "Welcome to the Union."

The NLRB scheduled a June 5 hearing before an administrative law judge, who will make recommendations about the case to the full board.

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Cruise no couch potato



MOVIE REVIEW

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Mission Impossible III

THE DIRECTOR: JJ Abrams

THE STARS: Tom Cruise, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Michelle Monaghan, Ving Rhames, Billy Crudup

Tom Cruise's curious behavior over the past year or so suggests his sanity may have done a header off Oprah's couch, but Cruise's gung-ho performance in "Mission: Impossible III" is an emphatic reminder of why this voluminous presence is widely considered the world's single biggest movie star. And if you've never watched an episode of the spy series "Alias," it's time to order the DVD box sets because that show's creator, JJ Abrams, making his feature film directorial debut in "M:I-3" sure does know a thing or two about assembling an ass-kicking espionage thriller. "M:I-3" is pure edge-of-the-seat entertainment from beginning to end, chock filled with white-knuckle action sequences and tantalizing performances from the Cruise-ettes.

Recently anointed Oscar-winner Phillip Seymour Hoffman is a fantastic menace as Owen Davian, the world's most elusive and dangerous arms dealer. Davian's considerable bad-guy credentials are laid bare in the film's nail-biting first scene, in which he demands Ethan Hunt (Cruise) fork over something called the "rabbit's foot" or lose the only thing he's ever loved. That would be fiancé Julia (Michelle Monaghan), who never suspected her beloved was a spy — that is, until she wound up bound and bloodied with Davian's gun pointed at her head. Silly girl.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Tom Cruise and Michelle Monaghan add spark to 'M:I-3', a taut, white-knuckle thriller.

Symphony plays to students

BY D'LYNN WALDRON

Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica Symphony gave a concert for 1,000 children from elementary schools in Santa Monica, Venice and Pacific Palisades on April 25 in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

Maestro Allen Robert Gross introduced the children to the music and to the soloists. Susan Greenberg showed the children the variety of instruments she plays from the tiny piccolo to a large bass flute, which few people have ever seen. Patricia Kindel demonstrated her huge contrabassoon by playing excerpts from well-known pieces of music.

The orchestra opened the concert with a rousing dance from Copland's "Rodeo," followed by the "Concerto for Piccolo and Contrabassoon" by young LA composer Damian Montano. The concert concluded with the "Hoe-Down" from "Rodeo," which had the children bouncing to its rhythms.

The students came from the Santa Monica's Franklin, McKinley, Roosevelt, St. Anne's, Santa Monica Alternative, New Roads and Crossroads elementary schools, and from Venice's Westminster and Pacific Palisades' Calvary Christian.

Tom Whaley, arts coordinator for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, arranged the bussing of students to the auditorium.

The concerts are just one part of the Santa Monica Symphony's educational outreach to the schools. The symphony holds open rehearsals at Grant School and the Santa

Monica Symphony Woodwind Quintet presents on-site concerts in the area schools. This year the quintet played five school concerts featuring "The Carnival of the Animals" narrated by Nat Trives, president of the Symphony.

The Santa Monica Symphony will conclude its 61st season with a free concert on Sunday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Featured will be Beethoven's Leonore Overture No. 1, Brahms' Symphony No. 2, and cellist David Garrett in Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto No. 1. Professor Raymond Knapp's pre-concert talk will be in the meeting room at 6:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Symphony is popular with concertgoers of all ages. Young people and parents with their children fill the balcony where they get to enjoy meeting other music lovers before the concert begins.

Admission is free to all Santa Monica Symphony concerts, a 61-year tradition made possible by sponsors and donors and the city of Santa Monica.

For more information about the symphony, call (310) 395-6330 or visit www.symphony.org.

Young people and parents with their children fill the balcony where they get to enjoy meeting other music lovers before the concert begins.

MUSIC

Just Jinjer adds spice to ho-hum Mondays

BY KURT HEIM

Special to the Daily Press

Monday night in Santa Monica is usually a relatively mellow night. That wasn't the case on April 24 at Temple Bar on Wilshire Boulevard. Just Jinjer, dubbed by The Los Angeles Times as "Buzz Band" of the week, served up invigorating melodies and a butt-shaking beat back.

Playing to a crowded venue, the first thing that caught the attention of the urbanite crowd was lead vocalist Art Matthews' crooner-like tone. That, coupled with accomplished musicians as a solid band, set a balmy mood. It was evident that this four-piece had something very unique to offer — a fresh sound with an edge and more importantly a message.

"What He Means," the band's new single started off with the lyric "If there is grace in this world, if there is light on this earth, let us use it, let us see it, starting right now." It's an anthem that speaks to us about the state of the world we all live in. Matthew's message was clear "Peace, love, more tolerance." "It doesn't matter what book you read."

Hailing from South Africa, the band has released four-platinum albums in their native country, opening for acts such as U2 and Skunk Anansie.

Just Jinjer will be performing again at Temple Bar on June 6.



A LITTLE SPICE: Just Jinjer frontman Art Matthews and his band have a return engagement at Temple Bar on June 6.

This Is No "Bull"

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK

Local kids bring it

FOR THE ARTS, from page 1

endowment fund that will ensure every student receives instruction in the arts, including music, visual arts, dance and drama. For the Arts, the fund-raising arm of the foundation, has so far raised \$1.6 million toward its goal.

This weekend's celebration, which also is a fund-raiser, will showcase local students' talents in the arts through performances, displays of artwork and arts-related workshops. To drive the point home that early arts education can build careers, dozens of teen stars from Nickelodeon, Disney and WB will donate their time and be at the pier over the weekend. They will speak about how arts education has helped their careers, and as an attraction for the teens, the stars also will be on hand to sign autographs and meet the public.

"They are the ultimate version of the success of it," said Elizabeth Gelfand Stearns, an event organizer. "And the public is very excited to see their favorite stars."

The two-day festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will give a portion of their sales to For The Arts. There will be plenty of food at the festival provided by local restaurants, who also will donate a portion of their sales to the cause.

The endowment campaign was started by two Santa Monica residents in 2002. When one of the parents got involved in the PTA at Roosevelt Elementary, she noticed the disparities throughout the district in terms of

See FOR THE ARTS, page 12

Teen talent for 2006
Celebration For the Arts:

- Sean Michael Afable (Akeelah and the Bee)
- Alex Black (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)
- Corbin Bleu (High School Musical)
- Rose Bloomfield (Black. White.)
- Paul Butcher (Zoey 101)
- Jillian Clare (Days of our Lives)
- Raja Fenske (Unfabulous)
- Sahara Garey (Akeelah and the Bee)
- Anthony Ghannam (Kronk's New Groove)
- Hunter Gomez (National Treasure)
- Kristin Herrera (Zoey 101)
- Malese Jow (Unfabulous)
- Victoria Justice (Zoey 101)
- Steven Anthony Lawrence (Even Stevens, My Suicide, Cheaper by the Dozen)
- Daniel Curtis Lee (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)
- Nathaniel Lee (Tiger Cruise)
- Monet Lerner (singer)
- Lauren Mayhew (Raise Your Voice)
- Fred Meyers (Even Stevens)
- Tahj Mowry (Smart Guy)
- Mitchel Musso (Hannah Montana)
- Alexa Nikolas (Zoey 101)
- Johnny Pacar (Now You See It)
- Rob Pinkston (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)
- Leah Pipes (Pixel Perfect)
- Bobby Preston (Lost and Found)
- Daryl Sabara (Spy Kids)
- Evan Sabara (Raising Helen)
- Christian Serratos (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)
- Lindsey Shaw (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)

See ARTS LINEUP, page 12



SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE

MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for the weekend of May 5. The goal of the Art Palette, created by City Hall's cultural affairs division, is to showcase the many eclectic arts and cultural opportunities available in Santa Monica every week, highlighting one or more of the many happenings within our borders.

Spring is here and despite the June Gloom that arrives every May, it's time to hit the beach. All day Saturday and Sunday you can see for yourself just how amazingly talented the young people are in our community. Stop by the Santa Monica Pier's Celebration for the Arts for some terrific food and great entertainment. And if the sun never appears and the bleak skies chill your bones, we've got just the place for you. Before you go home, cruise on by the California Heritage Museum where you can imagine yourself swathed in the only art form that can keep you snug and warm — quilts.



The Santa Monica Pier will host the annual Celebration for the Arts showcasing the talents of students from the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Students will perform on two stages featuring instrumental and vocal music, poetry, theatre and dance performances. Visual artwork will be on display and there'll be craft workshops for everyone, along with special guest stars from some of Nickelodeon and the Disney Channel.

Celebration for the Arts 2006
Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<http://www.santamonicipier.org>

The California Heritage Museum is helping to keep the quilting tradition alive with its current exhibition, California Art Quilts: Work by California Members of the Studio Art Quilt Associates. This array of quilts displays a variety of unique visions created through the medium of fabric.



April 28 to Aug. 13
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St.
(310) 392 8537
Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
General admission \$5; students and seniors \$3
Free admission for children 12 and under.
<http://www.californiaheritagemuseum.org/>



But maybe what you really want to do is just go shopping, and if that's the case, there's a sale for you. Correia Art Glass, our own homegrown creator of glass vases, paperweights, and items is having a sale.

Visit their temporary sale location at 1707 Berkeley St., between Olympic Boulevard and Colorado Avenue south of Centinela Avenue to start your own collection of these exquisite objects.

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Correia Art Glass



And once again, don't forget to mark your calendars now for the 14th Annual Santa Monica Festival on May 13. Chicano musicians Quetzal will embrace your soul with the sonics that have grown out of their Afro-jarocho musical roots. Meanwhile, in the Global Café, you'll find an amazing assortment of delectable treats from Cha Cha Chicken, Mr. Cecil's Ribs, Corn Maiden, Morts Mobile Gourmet and a lot more.



If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

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Show for art's sake

FOR THE ARTS, from page 11

what schools offered for arts education.

Some schools, which have students and parents who are more affluent, are able to raise more money than those across town. While Santa Monica and Malibu are cities known for their affluence, there are plenty of poor students throughout the district. According to school officials, about 31 percent of all families in Santa Monica have an average income under \$22,500 and one-third of the students in the district qualify for free or reduced-fee lunches. What's more, there has been no district-funded choral music program at the elementary level, or funding for visual arts, dance, drama and music in the elementary schools.

For The Arts — which some say is a national model for arts education reform — has gained momentum over the years with backing from legendary singer-songwriter Jackson Browne and the Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy & the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF). Browne has held numerous concerts in Santa Monica with proceeds going toward the endowment. And EIF has included For The Arts as one of the beneficiaries in its annual Grammy Jam which was highlighted by such artists as Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire and Usher.

The Education Foundation was created in 1982 to preserve, support and enhance programs within the school district. The foundation has raised \$1 million for a literacy endowment. It raises thousands of dollars to fund a host of programs every year that cross all disciplines including science, technology and the arts.

"There's a lot to celebrate here," Gelfand Stearns said. "This weekend, every stage is filled with local students and they are central to what we do."

- ARTS LINEUP**, from page 11
- Alyson Stoner (Mike's Super Short Show)
 - Kyle Swann (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)
 - Scout Taylor-Compton (Sleepover, Zombies)
 - Rory Thost (Phil of the Future, Punk'd, Voices characters for HigglyTown Heroes and Robot Chicken)
 - Matthew Underwood (Zoey 101)
 - Anneliese van der Pol (That's So Raven)
 - Cole Evan Weiss (Sandlot 2)
 - Devon Werkheiser (Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide)

- Stage schedules for performances:**
- Saturday, May 6**
- 11:00 Elementary School Instrumental Music
 - 11:30 Santa Monica High School Theatre
 - 12:00 Elementary School Vocal Music
 - 12:30 Chance To Dance
 - 1:00 Lincoln Middle School Orchestra
 - 1:30 Teen Celebrity Q&A
 - 2:00 Lincoln Middle School Jazz Band
 - 2:30 Dream Winds
 - 3:00 Santa Monica High School Wind Ensemble
 - 3:30 Dream Winds
 - 4:00 Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra
 - 4:30 Monet
- Sunday, May 7**
- 11:00 Elementary School Instrumental Music
 - 11:30 Poetry Readings
 - 12:00 Music in Motion
 - 12:30 Malese Jow
 - 1:00 Malibu High School Jazz Band
 - 1:30 Teen Celebrity Q&A
 - 2:00 John Adams Middle School Choir
 - 2:30 Kids on Stage
 - 3:00 John Adams Middle School Jazz Band
 - 3:30 Stage Kids Theatre Company
 - 4:00 Santa Monica High School Jazz Band



Photo Courtesy

(From left to right) Leticia Pinon, culinary career advisor; chef Daniel Drumlake, assistant culinary director; Susan Feniger; Mary Sue Milliken; and Chef Christophe Bernard, culinary director, ate it up in Santa Monica this past week.

Hot Tamales!

Celebrity chefs heat things up at Art Institute

By Daily Press staff

Culinary students at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles in Santa Monica were treated to a guest lecture with celebrity chefs Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger, Food Network's "Too Hot Tamales," this past week.

Students were able to ask questions and get first-hand advice from the chefs on how to get started in the business and how to make good career choices, as well as other words of wisdom from the chef/owners of Border Grill Santa Monica, Border Grill Las Vegas at Mandalay Bay, and Ciudad in downtown L.A.

"Our students benefit greatly when they are given the opportunity to ask questions and interact with accomplished chefs such as Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger," said chef Christophe Bernard, culinary academic director at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles. "In addition to a thorough education, it is very helpful for students to hear success stories in the business and be able to learn first hand how people get to the level of these two chefs."

"Often, students learn that the road to celebrity chef status did not happen overnight and realize that this business requires a lot of hard work."

Milliken and Feniger share their passion for food through many media outlets. Their television careers began in 1993, as two of the 16 chefs invited to cook with legendary Julia Child in her PBS series "Cooking with Master Chefs." Veterans of 396 episodes of their popular "Too Hot Tamales" and "Tamales World Tour" series with Food Network (1995-1999), the duo often appear as guests on TV shows around the country. They have had several homes on the radio dial since 1996 and currently host "In the KFI Kitchen with Mary Sue and Susan," a two-hour Sunday morning talk show on KFI-AM 640 in Los Angeles. They have authored five cookbooks: "City Cuisine," "Mesa Mexicana," "Cantina," "Cooking with Too Hot Tamales," and "Mexican Cooking for Dummies." In 2001, their Border Grill and Cuidad dishes "starred" in Samuel Goldwyn's feature film, "Tortilla Soup." The chefs also have a line of prepared foods under their "Border Girls" brand at Whole Foods Market and a line of signature peppermills and salt mills manufactured by Vic Firth Gourmet.

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STATE



Lets talk about sex

Bill requires alternative lifestyles to be inserted back into history

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A Senate committee approved a bill Wednesday that would require California's textbooks to include the contributions of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people to the state and nation's history.

The bill outraged some religious and conservative family groups, which said it would indoctrinate students in what they view as an unacceptable lifestyle.

The Senate Education Committee passed the bill by state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, 8-3, along party lines. It now goes to the full Senate.

"Our community is invisible in all of the teaching material, so that our students are never, ever given any information about the fact that somebody who did something good was a gay person. That changes the way you feel about someone," said Kuehl, who was the state's first openly gay legislator.

She and members of Equality California, a gay rights group that sponsored the bill, said gay and lesbian students are less likely to feel isolated and even drop out of school if they see themselves represented in the material they learn at school.

Marina Gatto, a 17-year-old senior at Mercy High School in Burlingame, testified that she has faced discrimination at school because she has two lesbian mothers. She said once a teacher explained that AIDS was spread by gay people as punishment for their lifestyle.

"This bill doesn't say that you have to be in favor of the gay rights movement, it doesn't say that you have to be a part of it. All it says is that you have be educated," Gatto said after she had testified. "I think there's nothing wrong with education."

Opponents, who filled several rows in the meeting room, derided the bill as encouraging homosexuality. Their testimony even sparked heated exchanges with some Democratic committee members.

Karen England, executive director of the Capitol Resource Institute, a Sacramento-based conservative "pro-family" group, said Californians already are aware of the gay rights movement and don't need it "mandated in our curriculum."

"This conversation belongs in the bedroom and not in the classroom," she said.

She noted that many schools recently held a student-organized Day of Silence to protest discrimination against gay students.

Sen. Jackie Speier, however, equated learning about the accomplishments of gays to the women's suffrage movement and demonstrations in favor of equal rights for blacks.

Sen. Bill Morrow, R-Oceanside, the only committee mem-

ber who spoke against the bill at Monday's hearing, said Kuehl herself is likely to be noted as a pioneer in future history textbooks.

But he said her bill goes too far, requiring that sexuality be included even when it's not relevant to a person's accomplishments.

"For instance, where John Marshall of course discovered gold in California that ultimately led to the 1849 gold rush and California as a state. Now, I don't have any idea whether John Marshall was gay or transgender or whatever, but even if he was, certainly whether or not he was, doesn't add to or subtract from the contribution he made to California history," Morrow said.

Responded Kuehl: "I heard the same argument in the '50s and '60s and '70s. Who cares if Langston Hughes was black? He was just a great poet. Well, black students had no black role models."

State law already prohibits the board from adopting textbooks containing material that portrays people negatively because of their race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry.

It also requires the inclusion of contributions from "Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans and members of other ethnic and cultural groups to the total development of California and the United States."

California spends more than \$400 million a year on textbooks and is the nation's largest purchaser. Its social science texts will next be revised in 2012.

If Kuehl's bill becomes law, it would be referred to the California Department of Education, where a committee would advise textbook publishers about the new state standards, said Sue Stickel, the department's deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

Randy Thomasson, president of the Campaign for Children and Families, criticized state lawmakers for wasting their time on what he said are irrelevant issues.

"While half the Hispanic and black students drop out of school, this Legislature is sexually indoctrinating our students," he said.

He said his group would ask Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to pledge to veto any similar measure that comes before him.

"This bill doesn't say that you have to be in favor of the gay rights movement, it doesn't say that you have to be a part of it."

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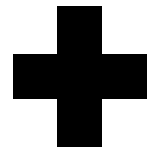
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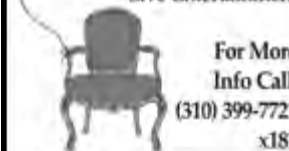
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Kempthorne nomination for interior tied to energy

BY JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senators focused on energy production from public lands Thursday as \$3-a-gallon gasoline provided the backdrop to Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne’s Senate confirmation hearing to be interior secretary.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., reminded Kempthorne his duties would be “not the secretary of energy” but to serve as “steward-in-chief of our nation’s land and resources.”

“There’s been criticism in the last several years of the Department of Interior, in particular, that there has been too much emphasis on commercial exploitation of resources, and not enough stewardship of the land and resources,” Bingaman said.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee plans to vote on the nomination within a few weeks. Testifying Thursday before the panel, Kempthorne said it would be a “great responsibility” to manage public lands and waters that produce 30 percent of the nation’s domestic supply of energy.

“All of America is experiencing pain at the pump with high gas prices,” Kempthorne, a former senator, told the panel. “This is an issue of economic security as well as national security. I pledge to work with you and stakeholders on responsible energy development.”

Idaho’s two Republican senators, Larry Craig and Mike Crapo, presented Kempthorne, who was accompanied by his wife, Patricia, and their children, Heather and Jeff. Craig called Kempthorne the best person for the job, noting that 40 governors also had endorsed the nomination.

“He is a problem solver, a leader, and has demonstrated that he is a good steward of the land. Idaho is a perfect training ground for the issues that Dirk will deal with,” Craig said. “Dirk has demonstrated that he can bring opposing groups to the table to solve problems.”

The committee’s chairman, Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., also praised Kempthorne’s experience. “It’s our hope we can get you quickly confirmed,” Domenici said. “We

can’t afford to leave the department without permanent leadership.”

Democrats were keen on using the nomination as a bargaining chip to stop more oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, or to gain a share of the proceeds for their states.

But even senators such as Bill Nelson, D-Fla., who threatened to block the nomination, foresaw Kempthorne eventually taking the helm of the Interior Department.

“I think he’ll be confirmed, I really do,” Nelson said Wednesday.

Kempthorne served as a senator from 1993 through 1998 and the Senate rarely rejects a former member for the Cabinet.

Moreover, the Western Governors’ Association gave Kempthorne its unqualified support. Kempthorne “possesses extraordinary leadership skills and a keen understanding of public lands issues,” wrote the group, representing 18 governors.

Kempthorne met privately with Nelson and other senators to gain their support. Nelson said he would try to block Kempthorne if Republicans don’t reverse course on a plan to open 3.6 million acres of the central Gulf to more drilling. Nelson cited concerns for environmental damage as the reason.

Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., objected when the proposal was approved by the committee in March, and planned to question Kempthorne about it. But the committee chairman is Domenici, lead sponsor of the drilling bill.

Nelson said he and other senators plan to use a parliamentary procedure to stall the nomination. The 100-member Senate can break the delaying tactic with 60 votes. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., also threatens to use the procedural maneuver to stop, or at least delay, Kempthorne’s nomination.

She wants the federal government to let states share in the federal proceeds from oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf. At the hearing, Democrats also planned to highlight energy production, gas prices and potential drilling in an Alaska wildlife refuge.

Western nations are united on Iran stand

BY NICK WADHAMS
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Over Chinese and Russian opposition, Western nations circulated a U.N. Security Council resolution that would demand Iran abandon uranium enrichment or face the threat of unspecified further measures, a possible reference to sanctions.

Britain and France, backed by the United States, hope to wrap up negotiations on the legally binding resolution before a meeting of foreign ministers in New York on Monday. Diplomats acknowledged that resistance from China and Russia may prolong talks well beyond that.

The resolution, presented Wednesday, is the latest in weeks of negotiations over how to confront suspicions about Iran’s nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes. The United States and France accuse the country of secretly trying to build nuclear weapons.

“Once again, the key to this lies in Iran’s hands,” U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said. “If they give up the pursuit of nuclear weapons, a lot of things are possible. If they continue to bluster and to threaten and obfuscate and try to throw sand in our eyes, then we’re onto a different circumstance.”

The resolution mandates that Iran suspend enrichment and warns the council would “consider such further measures as may be necessary to ensure compliance.”

It calls on Iran to stop construction of a heavy-water reactor and demands that nations “exercise vigilance” in blocking the transfer of goods and technology that could help Iran’s uranium reprocessing and missile programs. The council would also seek a report back from the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, on Iran’s compliance.

No timeframe has been set for that report but France’s U.N. Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said he wanted it no later than early June.

The resolution was written under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which makes any demands mandatory and allows for the use of sanctions if they are not obeyed. Any sanctions would require another resolution.

That could force a showdown with Russia as well as China. Both nations have said they adamantly oppose tough council action, including sanctions, and the two could use their veto power on the council to block it.

“I don’t think this draft as it stands now will produce good results,” China’s U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said as he emerged from the Security Council meeting where the draft was introduced. “I think it’s tougher than expected.”

The resolution was drafted by Britain, France and Germany, the three European Union nations that have led negotiations with Iran. Ambassadors said discussions between the three EU nations, the United States, China and Russia were only beginning over the resolution.

Ambassadors said the Chapter 7 element was the core of the resolution, suggesting that other language, like the threat of further measures and blocking technology transfers, could be scrapped.

“On the strategic objective, there’s nothing between the six of us. We do not want to see an Iran with a nuclear weapon capability,” Britain’s Ambassador Emyr Jones-Parry said. “On the detail of the resolution, there have been exchanges of views and those will continue.”

President Bush has stressed that the United States will continue to focus on diplomacy. He refuses to rule out military action if necessary. When asked last month if the United States would consider “the possibility of a nuclear strike” if Tehran refuses to halt uranium enrichment, Bush replied, “All options are on the table.”

Russia was clearly wary that some language in the new draft could be seen as opening the door to military action. That would likely include the reference to “further measures.”

“We do not believe the matter can be resolved by use of force,” Russia’s U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said.



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Stars can go 'Home' again

By The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Hollywood came to Lake Wobegon as Meryl Streep, Lindsay Lohan and other stars gathered for the world premiere of "A Prairie Home Companion," the movie version of Garrison Keillor's folksy radio show.

Hundreds of people gathered along the red carpet outside the historic Fitzgerald Theater on Wednesday as the stars arrived by horse-drawn carriage. Many fans screamed and some actors stopped to sign autographs.

The film, directed by Robert Altman, is set on the last night of the radio show before the station's new corporate owners shut it down.

In an interview, Keillor, who plays a radio-show announcer, praised Lohan's acting. The 19-year-old actress plays the moody daughter of Streep's character and spends her time writing poems about suicide before taking the stage with a show-stopping version of the song "Frankie and Johnny."

"Lindsay wanted to be in the movie. We lobbied to be in the movie before there was even a part for her. And she turned out to be just a terrific pro. She was there, she was on time, she knew her marks, and she knew her lines. She's a very classic actress," Keillor told The Associated Press.

Lohan called the movie, which opens nationwide June 9, "something nice to come into. Definitely a wonderful experience to work amongst other amazing actors."

While Lake Wobegon is not mentioned by name in the movie, Keillor said he hopes Altman makes a film about his fictional hometown.

LOS ANGELES — Not that long ago, in a nearby galaxy, George Lucas joined forces with the dark side. The "Star Wars" creator has become a Storm Trooper.

Hasbro, maker of "Star Wars" toys, is paying plastic tribute to Lucas, interpreting him as a limited-edition action figure in Storm Trooper attire.

The head of the toy maker's "Star Wars" division called Lucas "the greatest character in the universe."

"We took a cue from when Han Solo and Luke disguised themselves as Storm Troopers," said Derryl DePriest, marketing director and acknowledged lifelong "Star Wars" fan. "We placed George in his own universe that he created."

This is the first time Lucas has been honored with an official "Star Wars" action figure,

DePriest said, but not the first time his likeness has been used. Hasbro had previously issued a figure that looked like Lucas called George Sacul.

"That was very subtle," DePriest said. "This time we really wanted to pay tribute to the man himself."

Lucas thought it was a "fun" idea, said Lucasfilm spokeswoman Lynne Hale.

"He laughed because he never imagined he'd be a Storm Trooper," she said.

The new toy is only available to participants in Hasbro's "Ultimate Galactic Hunt." Fans must show proof of purchase of five vintage "Star Wars" action figures to get the George Lucas Storm Trooper figurine.

LOS ANGELES — Larry David of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Seinfeld" fame put his Prius where his mouth is — giving away the hybrid car in a contest aimed at increasing awareness of global warming.

David and his wife, Laurie, an environmental activist, surprised a class Wednesday at the University of California, Los Angeles, to award the car to medical student Erick Tarula.

Tarula, 24, of Azusa, registered for the year-long Virtual March to Stop Global Warming, an online petition organized by Stop Global Warming. The group was co-founded by Laurie David to spur politicians to act on the issue.

Tarula "jumped up, he was all excited" when Larry David announced his name, Laurie David said Wednesday. The student told the class he drives a "gas-guzzling" truck and was eager to switch to the Prius, she said.

David's Toyota Prius was used in his HBO comedy series, "Curb Your Enthusiasm." David co-created the NBC comedy "Seinfeld."

The actor-writer remained true to his cantankerous "Curb Your Enthusiasm" character in reacting to the giveaway, an idea his wife said she came up with spontaneously and without consulting him.

"I'm still waiting for the moment when I'm supposed to feel good about this," Laurie David quoted her husband as saying.

MTV's college cable TV network, mtvU, a partner in the virtual march, filmed the couple's visit to UCLA's "Effective Methods of Social Change" class for the series "Stand In." The episode will air May 9 on both mtvU and the broadband channel mtvU Uber.

More than 300,000 people and counting have signed up for the virtual march, said Laurie David.

LOS ANGELES — In her latest film, "Freedomland," Julianne Moore plays a woman whose son was kidnapped. In real life, the actress is helping the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to keep kids safe.

The center has launched a new Power of Parents program — a Web site with free safety information. The site encourages parents to practice safety skills with their children and keep photos and basic physical details about their kids handy and up-to-date.

"That was a truly novel idea to me," Moore told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I'm a loving parent, but I didn't realize the importance" of keeping current, straightforward headshots of her children on hand.

Moore, 45, has two children, Cal, 8, and Liz, 4, with her husband, Bart Freundlich.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A Huckabee-Colbert ticket in 2008?

Gov. Mike Huckabee raised that prospect in a recent appearance on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

The show is hosted by Stephen Colbert, who sends up fads and fashions. On Tuesday night, the target was healthy living, which has been a theme of Huckabee's during his current term as chairman of the National Governors Association, after losing 110 pounds and adopting a running regimen.

The Arkansas governor traded quips with Colbert from the start.

"You look fantastic," Colbert told Huckabee. "I bet you say that to all the guys," Huckabee responded.

He told Colbert in jest that he embarked on his diet-and-exercise regimen after he "kept getting letters from people who said they wanted to see less of me."

Besides, as a politician, it made him less vulnerable, because "when you're a smaller target, you're not as easy to hit."

Huckabee, who has said he is considering seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2008, was pressed by Colbert to declare if he would do so.

"If you run as my running mate, Stephen, we could change America," Huckabee responded.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: FRIDAY, MAY 5, 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 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican forces loyal to Benito Juarez defeated troops sent by Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla.

In 1891, Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its opening night in New York City.

In 1925, John T. Scopes was arrested in Tennessee for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island of Corregidor.

In 1955, West Germany became a sovereign state.

In 1955, the baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway.

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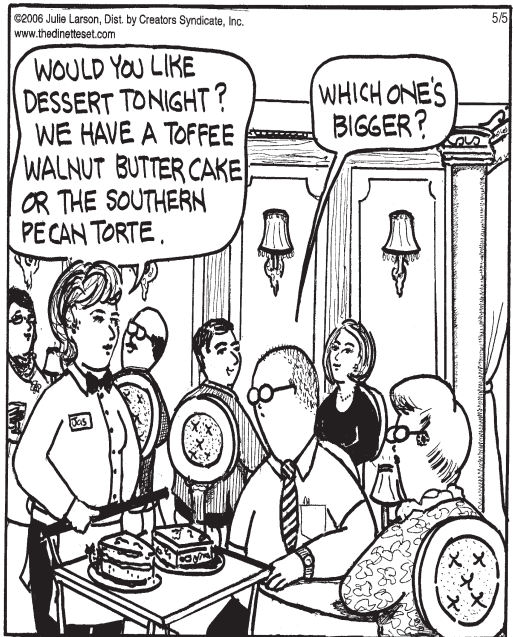
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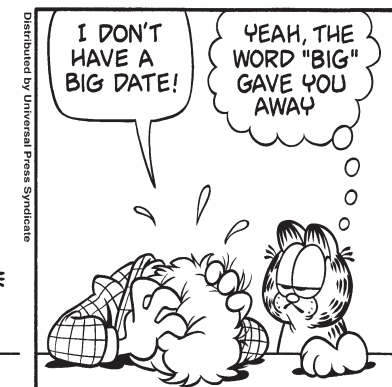
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



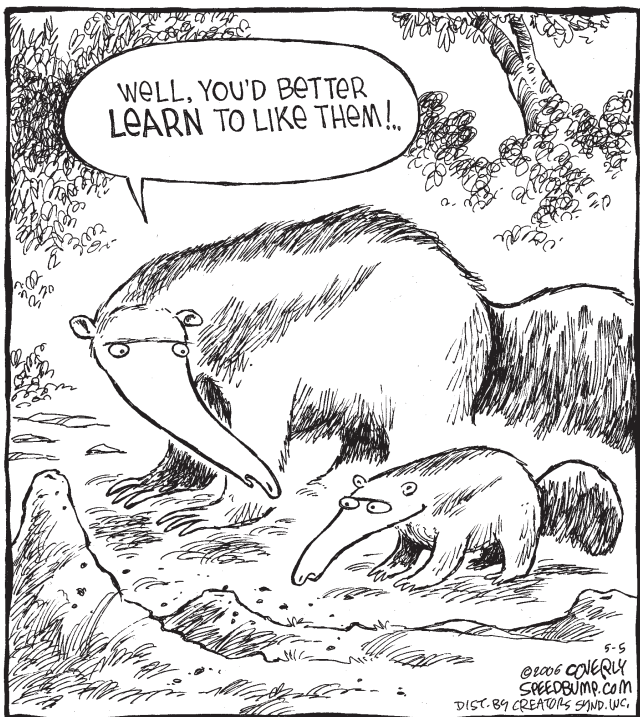
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



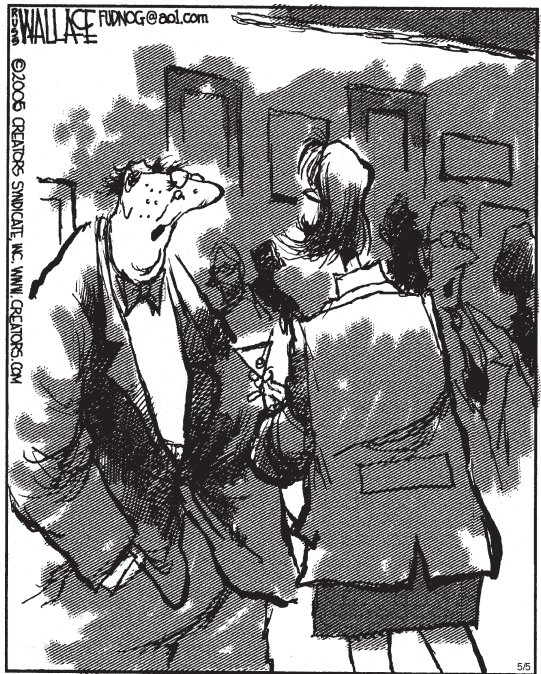
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Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Produce
- 5 Fast planes
- 9 Not quite straight
- 11 Post-workout woes
- 13 "That's a lie!"
- 14 Canine, e.g.
- 15 Business abbr.
- 16 Ordinance
- 18 1950s Secretary of State Dean
- 20 "Aw, shucks!"
- 21 Like Poe tales
- 22 "Believe" singer
- 23 Opposite of "oui"
- 24 Trendy
- 25 Uses a ray-gun on
- 27 Pens for hens
- 29 Swearing-in oath
- 30 Dennis Weaver role
- 32 Painter Jackson
- 34 Whopper

35 Strike

- group
- 36 Best of the best
- 38 Lace loop
- 39 Chopped up
- 40 "The O.C." role
- 41 Last letters, in London

DOWN

- 1 Craze
- 2 Right away
- 3 They're on mess duty
- 4 Golf's Ernie
- 5 Mr. Scratch

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Yesterday's answer

- 6 Glasgow native
- 7 Orwellian officers
- 8 Sofa's kin
- 10 Include
- 12 Very thin
- 17 Sock part
- 19 Amorous archer
- 22 Fan
- 24 Pawned
- 25 Close, as a jacket
- 26 Beautiful boy
- 27 New Deal org.
- 28 Appropriate
- 30 Calendar page
- 31 Actions
- 33 Pirate's take
- 37 Designer Claiborne

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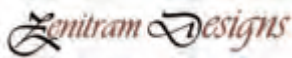
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pets, Gated parking, cute and clean
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patio, large, sunny apartment, hard-
wood floors (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1150/mo
1bdm/1Bath, Hardwood Floors, Park-
ing, laundry, close to beach/main st
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SANTA MONICA \$2350/mo
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tandem parking, laundry, dishwasher,
2decks (310) 395-RENT www.west-siderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2800/mo
3bdms/2Baths, North of Wilshire,
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washer, balcony, fireplace.
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SANTA MONICA \$800/mo
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tertainment. 310.274.9786 or email
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Call (310) 995 5136
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SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street.
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* As of January 11, 2006
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF
JAMES PATTERSON ERVINE
Case No. BP098089
To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of JAMES PATTERSON ER-
VINE

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Donald M.
Ervine in the Superior Court of Cali-
fornia, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Ada
P.Sands be appointed as personal
represen-tative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal re-
presen-tative to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
actions, however, the personal re-
presen-tative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration author-
ity will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on May 30, 2006 at
8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 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 ob-
jections with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR 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 Re-
quest 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:
SANFORD M EHRMANN ESQ
SBN 26708
9606 SANTA MONICA BLVD
3RD FL
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90210-4420
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN751368 ERVINE May 4,5,11, 2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF JOSE
GAETA aka JOE GAETA
PEREZ

Case No. SP006722
To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of JOSE GAETA aka JOE
GAETA PEREZ

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Rosa Gaeta
Singrin and Teresa Gaeta
Fernan-dez in the Superior Court of
Cali-fornia, County of LOS ANGE-

Notices

LES.
THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Rosa
Gaeta Singrin and Teresa Gaeta
Fernan-dez be appointed as per-
sonal rep-resentative to administer
the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal re-
presen-tative to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal re-
pre-sentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration author-
ity will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on June 9, 2006 at
9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at
1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA
90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written ob-
jections with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR 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 Re-
quest 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:
MARK F VON ESCH ESQ
SBN101452
VON ESCH & VON ESCH
810 E COMMONWEALTH AVE
FULLERTON CA 92831
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN753691 16924 May 4,5,11, 2006

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TS NO. 2006-1021 Order No. 00687391 Loan No.
05-3950 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DE-
FAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED
4/13/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PRO-
TECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A
PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION
OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING
AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAW-
YER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for
cash, Cashier's Check drawn on a state or national
bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit uni-
on, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings
and loan association, or savings association, or
savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Finan-
cial Code and authorized to do business in this
state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as
shown below, of all right, title, and interest con-
veyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereina-
fter described property under and pursuant to a
Deed to Trust described below. The sale will be
made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed
or implied, regarding title, possession, or encum-
brances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the
note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest
and late charges thereon, as provided in the
note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of
Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses
of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of
the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reason-
ably estimated to be set forth below. The amount
may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Vladimir
Rodionov, a single man and Linda J. Chancellor, a
single woman, as joint tenants Duly Appointed
Trustee: ACF Reconveyance Deed of Trust re-
corded 05/16/2005 as Instrument No. 05-1145132
in book , page of Official Records in the office of
the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,
Date of Sale: 5/23/2006 at 11:30 AM Place of Sale:
At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior
Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona,
CA Amount of unpaid balance and other reason-
ably estimated charges: \$1,030,422.54. Street Ad-
dress or other common designation of purported
real property: 607 26th Street, Santa Monica (Los
Angeles), CA 90402 A.P.N. 4264-007-035 The
undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any in-
correctness of the street address or other common
designation, if any, shown above. If no street ad-
dress or other common designation is shown, direc-
tions to the location of the property may be ob-
tained by sending a written request to the benefi-
ciary within 10 days of the date of first publication of
this Notice of Sale. For sales information, please
call (714) 573-1965 or log onto
www.priorityposting.com Date: 4/24/2006. We are
attempting to collect a debt, and any information we
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Deed Network 31194 La Baya Drive Suite 106,
Westlake Village, CA 91362 818-991-4600 Yardia
Blane, Sr Trustee Sale Officer P245980 4/28, 5/5,
05/12/2006

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email
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