

Santa Monica Daily Press

May 6-7, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 150

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 8 20 39 53 55
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$54M

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

Fantasy 5 5 8 21 22 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 7 6 4
EVENING: 1 9 5

DAILY DERBY 1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.49.52

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Eleven women in the area around the nation's capital have bonded, according to a February Washington Post story, around a tall, athletic man of German heritage (with a master's degree and who tans easily), whom none has ever met. The man, known as donor 401, is the one whose sperm each of the women chose to be inseminated with, selected from a biographical catalog of the Fairfax Cryobank. That the women's 12 offspring have a common father has provided powerful motivation for them to learn about each other, as a way of learning about 401 (who has now retired as a donor, though there is still a waiting list for his stored sperm.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 126th day of 2006.
There are 239 days left in the year.

In 1856, explorer Robert Edwin Peary was born in Cresson, Pa.

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

GOING IN CYCLES: Santa Monica store manager Juan Quintero and CEO Sally Jewell brace for REI's guests on Thursday.

Ready to rock this town

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

FOURTH STREET — Looking to capitalize on Santa Monica's popularity and its residents' penchant for preservation, one of the nation's largest retailers of outdoor gear opened their first Westside

location here Friday.

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), a co-operative specializing in outdoor recreational equipment and clothing, began welcoming customers at 10 a.m. and received a steady flow of shoppers throughout the day, said store manager Juan Quintero

"We are doing phenomenally

well," Quintero said. "We've been valeting bikes all morning and I think we're close to 500."

For every bike rider who uses the valet this weekend, REI will donate \$10 to Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition, part of the company's

See **ROCK AND ROLL**, page 12

Westside unites for Light Rail

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD — Drivers frustrated with severe traffic congestion may have something to smile about as leaders from the Westside gathered here Friday to pledge their support for extending a light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

The Exposition Light Rail Line is expected to significantly ease congested roads and highways by drawing an estimated 72,000 riders per day, said Roger Snoble, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Elected officials from Culver City, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, as well as the City and County of Los Angeles agreed to "speak with one voice" as they joined forces with Santa Monica to compete as a region for more transportation funding, including the

See **LIGHT RAIL**, page 13

STATE

Malls get sense of style

Santa Monica Place could emerge as 'lifestyle center' after Macerich purchases Robinsons-May store

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Here in the land of malls, one of Southern California's oldest indoor retail centers is no more.

Many of the boxy buildings at the Huntington Beach Shopping Center sat boarded up despite sit-

ting astride one of Orange County's busiest freeways. Now, the site hosts one of the most extreme examples of a growing movement in mall design.

Noting the success of upscale, open-air shopping areas — "lifestyle centers" in mall jargon —

See **LIFESTYLE CENTERS**, page 8

Purple 'Heys'



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Colorful flowers absorb the sunshine along Ocean Avenue on Friday.

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HOROSCOPES

Browse around, Cancer

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)

★★★★ You have been in fifth gear. Now is the time to slow down. You could burn up your engine if you don't. Relax with those you care about. Get into a project. Invite a friend over for a game of Scrabble, cribbage or whatever you like. Tonight: Play it easy.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your playful nature warms the hearts of many. Let your good news and happy ways define your day and interactions with others. Remember, my dear Bull, you work to live, not live to work. Tonight: Replay a favorite date or evening out.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Establish a stronger sense of security around your personal life. Spruce up your house and get ready for spring and summer happenings. You know what will make you feel nested and secure. Please do just that. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Investigate your neighborhood with a new approach or eye to what you want. Rebalance your activities and choices around what works for you, not the person you were several years ago. Catch up others' news. Tonight: Browse around.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Pay bills, yet allow some fun or play money for yourself. Sometimes you don't realize how much you give or use in a nonconstructive manner. Loosen up and make new possibilities a definite yes. Do nothing halfway. Tonight: Pick up the tab, but choose a place you want to go to.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to help others out of their shell emerges, mainly because you are willing to put yourself out there or take a risk. Others feel that if you can do it, so can they. Do not underestimate the power of setting an example. Tonight: As you like.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Happily disappear. You might need a few days off from the same old daily routine. Take some time off with a favorite loved one. Don't make anything a big deal. Simply relax and take your time. For once, you don't have to impress anyone. Tonight: Chat away.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might feel as if you have a lot to do and many people to answer to. Who set these situations up? Claim your responsibility in these events, moving to a new level of understanding. You can change the present pattern. Tonight: How about where you want to be?



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others want you to organize the weekend plans and pull everything together. The question remains: Do you want to do that? Remember, this is your weekend too. Loosen up and lighten up. Tonight: Know that you are in the limelight.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Opt for a different set of plans, or approach life in a more creative manner. It is easy to make decisions if you aren't plugged into a problem. Your mood and perspective change as a result. Tonight: Continue walking down a new path.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ A partner wants to dominate and focus on you. Let him or her. Sometimes the Aquarian feels cornered or suffocated when in a relationship. Try to enjoy this person's caring, as you don't always get bathed in this type of affection. Tonight: Work as a team.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others want you. You are called upon to make a must appearance. Know that you can do it all and squeeze in everything and everyone you want to see. You recharge your batteries just hanging out with those you care about. Tonight: Where the action is.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Sergio Ortiz/Special to the Daily Press

The SMC Study Abroad program has taken students all over the world, including Australia.

Deadline to study abroad nears

By Daily Press staff

Time is running out to sign up for Santa Monica College summer study-abroad trips to Central America, Europe and Tahiti.

Students who participate earn academic credit and get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the world at reasonable prices, with all-inclusive packages ranging from \$2,500 to \$4,000.

The summer tours planned are an Inca archaeological dig in Ecuador; the study of music, history and speech in London and Paris; marine biology and intercultural communication in Costa Rica and Panama; and marine biology in Tahiti.

Get a glimpse of Mr. Rogers' neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

Will Rogers fans can tour his ranch house as well as learn to trick rope, if they're lucky.

Will Rogers State Historic Park will be providing tours of Rogers' restored ranch house at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. On that day, Will Roberts will be performing his tribute to Rogers with trick roping and sharing his unique perspective on daily news.

Parking is \$7. Tours are free.

Lending a hand, and books, to charities

By Daily Press staff

Two individuals have taken local books nobody wanted and given them to organizations that do.

Shelly Rosen, an entertainment lawyer, and Mark Johnson, biologist-turned-builder, made lemons into lemonade when they took books that weren't being sold at the Santa Monica Library and gave them to local charity groups.

The hardbound, paperback and large print books are now being read by people at the City of Hope, St. John's and Santa Monica-UCLA Hospitals, the Jewish Home for the Aging, Veterans Administration hospitals, Methodist Hospital, the Red Cross, Santa Monica High School, Meals on Wheels, food banks, senior centers, several convalescent and assisted living residences, Emeritus College which is part of Santa Monica College, John Adams Middle School, a local detention center, and churches and synagogues for congregants who are shut-ins.

Some organizations far from Santa Monica now pick up their books. Additional books are being sought, especially large print paperback books and videotapes.

Donors may drop off their books and tapes to the bookstore at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	168" - 192"	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	50	9/28

CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

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

CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 61°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

THIS WEEKEND SIZE SHOULD EVEN OUT A BIT MORE WITH MOST SOUTH FACING BREAKS SEEING SHOULDER TO HEAD HIGH SURF. STANDOUTS SHOULD SEE SIZE RUNNING A FOOT OR TWO OVER-HEAD ON THE BETTER SETS.

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

The QLine

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

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OPINION

The QLine

'93' REASONS TO DRAMATIZE SEPT. 11

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Do you feel it's a good time for Hollywood to dramatize the attacks, still fresh in our collective memories? Do plan on seeing United 93? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

© "The making and release of these kinds of movies is sheer tasteless exploitation by the Hollywood moguls. But then there hasn't been anything resembling good taste in movie-making for a long time. I don't go to the movies anymore, along with a lot of my friends. We just rent videos and DVDs of the good old movies."

© "No, I will not see the film. The only factual accounting of Flight 93 will be from where the aircraft ascended from, who was aboard and where the flight crashed terra firma. The rest will be a montage of trick photography and a story based on a film writer's conjecture compounded by conjecture. It should be understood that there are people in New York City who believe that the United States Air Force, sensing the flight's hijacked destination, shot the plane down."

© "There are some people who need to be reminded about what happened on 9-11, such as (President) Bush. He spends all of his time on Iraq with his oil pals instead of trying to find Osama (bin Laden), and invades Iraq when he should have invaded Pakistan because that is where all of these terrorists are hiding out, because the so-called government of Pakistan doesn't do anything about it and they claim to be our friends, but then with friends like that you don't need enemies. Bush should be forced to see that movie. People on the ground knew more about what was going on than what he bothered to do because he spent several minutes in a classroom with a kid's book when our nation was being attacked instead of getting out of there and doing something about it. It shows what kind of leadership we have in this country — a fool."

© "No, I will not be seeing the movie Flight 93. Although my prayers are with the families, I don't feel that this flight was any more or any less tragic than the other three flights on that very sad day of 9-11."

© "Hollywood is a trash barrel. It has been for

the past 20 years. They don't make good movies because they got a lot of trash hags that can't act. But Hollywood would make a movie out of your mother dropping the turkey on Thanksgiving. It's just a shame that they would do something like this. I think they should take the residuals they get back from this movie and give it back to the families who were killed in this terrible tragedy, but then they won't because the studios are controlled by a bunch of you-know-whos. Least I say any more? In regards to you and your paper, thank God you are on the line."

© "During WWII, the movie studios filmed one war movie after another. Disney put aside their projects to churn out training films. Hitler and Hirohito were the wicked joke in many a cartoon and movie. The Nazis and Japanese were lurking everywhere while the eastside gang — Bogart, Cagney and all of Hollywood were chasing them. John Wayne kicked Vietnamese butt with green berets, so what's wrong now with Hollywood filming the American flag over the evil al-Qaida?"

© "Yes, I will see the movie on Flight 93. It's time to see the heroes of that day. The movie, according to all the reviewers I have read, is one of the most excellent movies that is going to come out this year and it's not manipulating with any sappy side stories. It's just the camera being another passenger on that plane and they also show what the people on the ground were doing or not doing. They also make no comment on the president's total lack of response. They just present the facts that speak for themselves. It's a chilling movie and probably one very much worth seeing."

© "I have little or no interest in seeing the government-backed version of what happened on 93 — I'm subjected to enough propaganda in the media without paying to sit for hours facing forward in a stranger-filled darkened room. Armed forces recruiters should find 'lucrative targets' among the well-qualified gullible streaming out of the theaters."

Maybe answer to oil woes lies in a French baguette



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

When the price of gas went to \$3 a gallon here, I didn't rush to my local gas station to fill up my car. This was despite the fact that I only had a quarter of a tank left. I wasn't in any hurry to spend that much per gallon. So I continued to drive around, not wanting to give my money to the oil companies. I guess it was my little protest. Needless to say, by the time I absolutely, positively needed gas, the price was up to \$3.15. It was not the most successful protest in history.

As I filled up, I watched the dial on the pump spin all the way up to \$45. I know six months from now, we'll nostalgically be talking about the days when we could fill our cars for "only \$45," but it was a shock. You know in those old movies when the guy pulls into a gas station and says to the attendant, "Give me a dollar's worth of regular, please?" How much gas would that buy today? A drop?

Maybe there's a silver lining here — employment. If prices keep rising like this, each gas station is going to need a full-time guy on that ladder changing the price on the sign. I just hope he doesn't have to drive to work.

My daily commute consists of walking from my house to my office above the garage. But even someone who drives as little as I do feels the price of gas is getting ridiculous. Obviously I feel sorry for those with long commutes and even worse for people who drive for a living. I feel the least sorry for those who have giant SUVs and drive alone.

But maybe I'm being too harsh on those who choose to have a car bigger than Delaware who don't fill it up with people. It's a cultural thing — especially in California. People are encouraged to car-pool, and those who do get to drive in special uncrowded lanes on the freeway. Still, most of those SUVs seem to be empty except for the driver. Here in California, and probably in the rest of the United States, cars are very personal. Maybe they

are just "things" to people in other countries, but many of us are very attached to our vehicles. Some people no doubt feel that to suggest they share their car with five other people would be like suggesting that they walk around sharing their pants with five other people. It's just not something they'd be comfortable doing.

Using France's economic system as a positive example is probably not a good idea in most areas. However, there's one thing they do that warrants a thought. In France, jewelry and other luxuries have all kinds of taxes attached to them, helping to make them very expensive. But the government puts a limit on what a baker can charge for bread. If you think you make the best baguette in France, you still can't charge whatever you want. In their culture, bread is considered a necessity, and, therefore, the citizens shouldn't be gouged when buying a loaf. Well, to many in our culture, gasoline is a necessity, and we shouldn't be gouged, either. If private industry doesn't police itself, maybe the government will have to put a limit on gas prices. Or at least with every fill-up, give us a free loaf of bread.

My daily commute consists of walking from my house to my office above the garage.

Spokespeople for the oil companies can say all they want about the marketplace, crude oil prices, etc. But why are their profits going up and why are their executives getting huge bonuses if they're just passing along their increased costs to us? I guess what I'm saying is that I can't help feeling it's a little hard to justify the fact that gasoline prices have probably gone up just since you started reading this column.

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boycotts made life a little easier

Editor:

I have written several pieces that have been printed in the SMDP opinion section, that is because, it is of course, my opinion. The rest of the paper, and all of news reporting for that matter, is supposed to be unbiased. They are, as their names suggest, just supposed to report the news while leaving their personal opinions out of the story.

Having watched, read and listened to several stories about the boycott, I was amazed at the lack of balanced reporting. I did not see one story about how uncrowded the highways and streets were. Not one story about how people were able to get in and out of stores and hardware centers easier. Nothing about the fact that, basically, other than blocking traffic in a few areas, the overall effect of the boycott was not noticed outside of Latino communities.

The fact that most reporters refuse to even call an illegal alien "an illegal alien," but instead term them "undocumented," is a prime example of the bias of the media and the lack of integrity in news reporting today.

Billy G. Woody
Santa Monica

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STATE



Only about 90 percent of seniors make grade

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — About 11 percent of this year's senior class has not yet passed the high school exit exam and won't be able to graduate on time, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell reported Thursday.

California Department of Education officials said another 7,000 seniors passed the test in March. But that still leaves nearly 47,000 students in the Class of 2006 — roughly equivalent to the population of Palm Springs — who haven't passed both parts of the math and English test.

The figure does not include special education students, who won a one-year exemption from the exam last year after suing the state.

"Every student needs to have the skills necessary for success in this new global economy and that's what we're measuring with this exam," O'Connell said.

An Alameda County judge is scheduled to hear arguments next week in another lawsuit against the exam, filed primarily by English-learning students who are seeking a temporary injunction delaying the test. They contend the state should offer alternative assessments for students who can demonstrate they know the material but cannot pass the exam.

ON THE NET

California Department of Education:
www.cde.ca.gov

O'Connell said the lawsuit has no merit and that the department is not making contingency plans in case the plaintiffs win an injunction.

This is the first year students must pass the exit exam to get a California diploma. In previous years, about 13 percent of seniors, or about 50,000 students, failed to graduate for various reasons, according to the department.

Seniors who haven't passed the test will have one final chance next week, although it won't come in time for them to graduate with their classes.

Some districts, such as Fresno Unified, hold special summer graduation ceremonies for students who finish the requirements over the summer.

In Fresno, nearly 300 of approximately 4,000 seniors have enough credits to graduate but still haven't passed at least one part of the exit exam, spokeswoman Erin Kennedy said. Many are English-learners.

O'Connell said it is vital that California graduates learn English, despite the challenges.

"We do need to make sure that our students can communicate in English in order to compete in this new economy," he said.

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Paroled sex offenders temporarily housed in San Quentin barracks

BY LOUISE CHU

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A dozen paroled sex offenders moved onto San Quentin State Prison grounds Thursday because officials were unable to find them housing elsewhere.

The men were sent to live in old officers barracks after being forced to leave a Solano County hotel where they had been staying until permanent housing could be secured, said Elaine Jennings, spokeswoman for the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Jennings said the hotel recently decided to end its contract with the state.

Moving the parolees into the barracks is the "safest short-term solution" to the housing problem, while officials work with them to find a more permanent situation, Jennings said. This is the first time parolees have been moved onto prison grounds for this reason, she added.

Finding housing for sex offenders is an ongoing challenge because of laws that prohibit them from living within a certain distance of schools and because communities and watchdog groups often try to block their placement.

A bill introduced last month by Assemblywoman Nicole Parra, D-Hanford, would allow landlords to ask prospective tenants if they are sex offenders and evict tenants who misrepresent themselves. A failed bill earlier this year had called for landlords to have the right to deny or evict any sex offenders.

Assemblyman Joe Nation, D-San Rafael, criticized the Department of Corrections move Thursday, noting that of

the 12 parolees sent to San Quentin, there are eight from Solano County, two from Sonoma, one from San Francisco, one from Alameda — and none from Marin.

"It looks as though the Department of Corrections has made Marin the dumping ground for high-risk sex offenders in the Bay Area," he said.

Officials say they've taken on the difficult task of helping sex offenders find housing because they might otherwise become homeless or move somewhere without notifying the department, but they've been frustrated by resistance from communities.

"Communities need to work with us to identify possible solutions to this problem," Jennings said. "These are individuals who are paroled by mandate of law and need to be paroled to the community of their last legal residence."

Harriet Salarno, president of Crime Victims United of California, said moving sex offenders onto prison grounds was a better alternative than putting them back on the streets near potential victims.

"We need to protect the children first," she said. "Safety is our priority."

Charles Carbone, an attorney for California Prison Focus, a prisoner rights advocacy group, said officials need to better define the term "sex offender" so those who don't pose a threat to communities are allowed to return home. But, he added, "everyone recognizes that you have to err on the side of caution."

"It's a very delicate balancing act between public safety and the rights of parolees to enter the community," Carbone said.

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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Judge throws out landslide case

By The Associated Press

VENTURA, Calif. — A judge tossed out some claims against Ventura County filed by family members of people killed last year in the La Conchita landslide.

Superior Court Judge Vincent O’Neill on Thursday rejected trespassing, negligence and breach of a special relationship allegations after ruling there was no legal basis supporting the claims, said attorney Robert Ceccon, who represents the county.

O’Neill allowed the plaintiffs’ claims of wrongful death and other allegations to go forward.

The families said they would continue their suits.

“There is no doubt that we will be going to trial,” said attorney Anthony Murray, who represents residents.

Twenty-three lawsuits have been filed against the county by 39 plaintiffs. The lawsuits claim county officials failed to protect the residents from the Jan. 10, 2005, mudslide that killed 10 people and destroyed 13 homes.

At least they looked like a million bucks

By The Associated Press

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Two homes that recently sold for a total of nearly \$1 million in an area threatened by landslides have been condemned.

It was the first time in at least two decades that the city has red-tagged homes in the unstable area.

Some neighbors fear their homes could be next.

“We’re quite nervous this would be the first step in coming and red-tagging other homes,” community association president Casey Porter said.

City officials said the condemned homes were a special case because they had slid 450 to 500 feet downhill since 1978 and might now sit on municipal land.

“We don’t know how these homes got sold given that they’re sitting on city property,” City Manager Les Evans said.

The City Council met in closed session this week to ask the city attorney to research the issue.

Indians share the wealth, and how

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The Morongo Band of Mission Indians has started sharing its gaming wealth with people who live in the tribal area but can’t prove heritage that qualifies them for a share of casino revenue.

The Tribal Assistance to Needy Families program is providing short-term aid to people to pay for child care, marriage or job-search expenses and efforts to get off welfare.

“The perception is that you’re Indian and are rolling in casino money, and that’s not the case,” tribe spokeswoman Waltona Manion said Thursday.

Indio builders to pay the price

By The Associated Press

INDIO, Calif. — To offset costs for city services amid rapid population growth, officials have voted to nearly double the fees developers must pay to build new homes.

The City Council voted Thursday to approve the increase — which will pay for new roads, parks, sewer systems and police protection — a year after doubling fees for single-family home developments.

“Our growth is astounding,” said Councilman Ben Godfrey. “It has just hit us all at once.”

Indio’s population swelled from 49,114 in the 2000 Census to an estimated 71,654 in January 2006, according to the California Department of Finance. Indio officials expect the city’s population to reach more than 125,000 by 2020.

To keep up with the growth, fees for each new single-family home will increase on Aug. 1 from \$6,697 to \$13,332. A separate fee for each acre of home development will rise from \$7,160 to \$8,961.

Fred Bell, executive director of the desert chapter of the Building Industry Association, said the home builders group agreed that the increase was necessary.

“We want to pay what we cause in impacts,” Bell said.

He warned, however, that such fee increases are typically passed on to consumers through higher home prices.

Patton in general disrepair

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Federal prosecutors are adding Patton State Hospital to a consent decree filed to improve patient treatment at state mental hospitals.

Patton was added to the decree, along with Atascadero State Hospital along the Central Coast, as the U.S. Department of Justice released a scathing report Thursday about the facilities’ conditions.

The two state mental hospitals are plagued by widespread problems, including inadequate diagnoses and treatment, improper and excessive medication, and a boilerplate approach to care that leads to unnecessarily prolonged hospitalization, according to the findings.

Investigators also found that Patton suffered from high rates of patient-on-patient violence, repeated suicide attempts by hanging and care so inadequate that visible signs of irreversible side effects from psychotropic medications had escaped notice.

Patton director Octavio Carlos Luna said hospital staff have already started fixing the problems revealed in the report and called the findings “as positive as a negative thing can be.”

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STATE

Grove's appeal continues to grow

LIFESTYLE CENTERS, from page 1

the owners tore down the 1960s-vintage shell, and up sprang an airy shopping plaza with water fountains and a grassy amphitheater. The \$170 million Bella Terra was born.

Lifestyle centers first arrived nearly two decades ago. But their success, even in cold climates, is now prompting traditional mall owners to invest millions of dollars in redesigns rather than new development. A shrinking number of major department stores also is spurring a change that is remaking the American mall.

In past years, a remodel may have included a paint job, new furniture, maybe marble accents. Not anymore.

"There's always been a need to update," said Anita Kramer, director of retail development for the Urban Land Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank dedicated to land use and development. "Just now the update is a whole new configuration."

The "de-malling" of the Huntington Beach mall isn't the norm. Most developers looking at projects from Seattle to Iowa aren't starting over but instead adding "lifestyle" elements — outdoor streetscapes leading to existing entrances, destination restaurants and cinemas.

The redesigns are not cheap, and there's always a risk of misreading the market. Still, lifestyle centers are showing they can compete: They averaged \$325 worth of sales per square foot of retail space in

2004, according to the most recent figures from the International Council of Shopping Centers. That's compared to \$392 for enclosed malls in 2005.

And lifestyle centers have been proliferating nationwide.

Nationally, they will number over 100 by year's end, according to CoStar Group Inc., which tracks data for commercial real estate professionals. That's nowhere near the 1,077 enclosed malls CoStar recorded. But the number of new enclosed malls is shrinking — from a height of 387 built in the 1970s to just 47 so far this decade.

Some lifestyle centers have become bona fide destinations.

The Grove in Los Angeles often is credited with helping establish the viability of the lifestyle center.

There's The Cheesecake Factory, Nordstrom, a cinema and plenty of scenery — ranging from a minilake to a trolley meandering down the central cobblestone street. Each serves as a "minianchor," according to Rick Caruso, chief executive of Caruso Affiliated, owner of The Grove.

The result: 20 million annual visitors and sales per square foot that are 40 percent above the industry average.

Cherita McNeill, a 33-year-old aspiring actress from Los Angeles, was on a recent shopping trip to The Grove.

"It's about the atmosphere, the decor," McNeill said. "Not the same old look, the same old institutional feel. There's life out here."

Unlike classic malls, Caruso said, the

Grove wants patrons "to shop, be entertained, to dine, but also to go hang out with friends.

"The days of putting one department store at each end and tenants in the middle are long gone," Caruso said.

Changes in the department store industry are accelerating change.

Last year's \$11 billion merger between Federated Department Stores Inc. and May Department Stores Co. has provided a rare opportunity, as Federated — owner of Macy's and Bloomingdale's — looks to shed duplicate stores.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SM PLACE

Macerich Inc., which owns Santa Monica Place mall, announced this week that it will purchase 11 former Robinsons-May stores, including the one in Santa Monica that has been vacant for more than a month. With the sale, Macerich plans to move forward on its plans to redevelop the mall into an open-air shopping center under the same "lifestyle center" model, complete with retail, restaurants, movie theaters and recreation. A plan has not been submitted to City Hall but a former plan that was scrapped included three 21-story high rises.

The Westfield Group, owner of 128 shopping centers worldwide, recently announced it was acquiring 15 stores from Federated, with plans to knock some down and replace them with outdoor entry plazas and exterior-facing storefronts. Although it means a loss of rentable space, Westfield hopes the outdoor element will help draw

shoppers.

"We're having great fun with it," said Kenneth Wong, president of

Westfield's U.S. division, "and we're having great success with it."

Westfield isn't alone.

As part of a major redevelopment outside Seattle, General Growth Properties Inc. opened up an entrance to its Alderwood Mall, creating an outdoor plaza with restaurants and shops.

"We shouldn't be doing the same look architecturally or otherwise that we did 20 years ago, let alone 10 or even five years ago," said General Growth chief executive John Bucksbaum.

The company continues to open new properties — it owns or manages more than 200 nationwide — and is not ready to abandon the indoor mall, particularly in colder climates. But General Growth is turning to hybrids, where outdoor elements merge with traditional projects.

In 2004, the company opened its \$200 million Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines, Iowa. The 46-acre project features an enclosed mall, street-facing restaurants, an outdoor amphitheater and a 3.5-acre man-made lake. The success has been dramatic. The mall saw an estimated 15 million shoppers the first year.

ON THE NET

<http://westfield.com/uscentres/>

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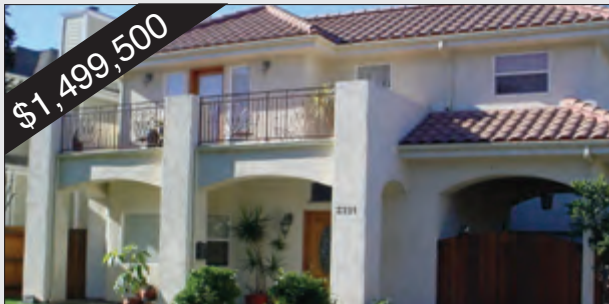
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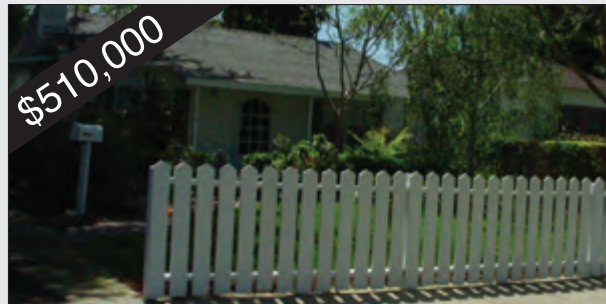
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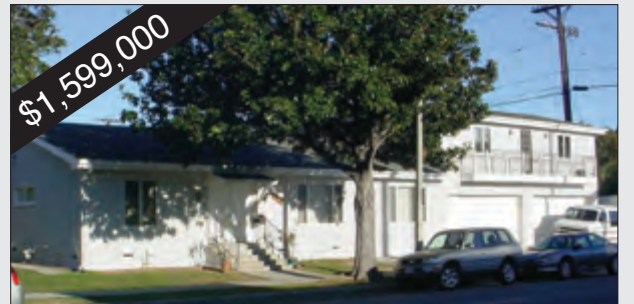
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Supermax, the Alcatraz of the Rockies, ready for Moussaoui

BY ROBERT WELLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Zacarias Moussaoui is expected to be shipped to southern Colorado to serve out a life term for his role in the Sept. 11 attacks — but he won't have much of a view.

At Supermax, the so-called Alcatraz of the Rockies, he can look forward to 23 hours a day in his cell and little to no contact with other notorious criminals, including Ramzi Yousef, Eric Rudolph, Ted Kaczynski and Terry Nichols on “bombers’ row.” Or Richard Reid, the would-be shoe bomber he said was to help him fly a fifth plane into the White House.

Even when Moussaoui is allowed outside “he will see the sky but not the mountains or other terrain” outside the prison, former warden Robert Hood said. He said the lack of contact with other prisoners makes it truly hard time.

Still, Moussaoui would be afforded religious rights as a Muslim and probably a special diet if he behaves. Inmates at Supermax are also allowed telephone calls and visitors if they don't act up, though most communications at the nation's most secure federal prison are monitored and the warden wields major discretion when it comes to access. Hood said that phone privileges could be as little as 15 minutes once a month.

Officials at the prison declined comment Thursday after Moussaoui was formally sentenced in Virginia. Carla Wilson, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Prisons in Washington, would not confirm that Moussaoui will be a Supermax inmate.

Still, she noted the prison 90 miles southwest of Denver is designed for people like him.

“It operates under a special mission and that mission is to handle the most violent and disruptive inmates,” she said.

Moussaoui would get a medical and mental evaluation upon arrival at the

prison. His overall treatment would depend partly on his conduct because there are several levels of security, Wilson said.

The \$60 million Supermax, formally called Administrative Maximum, was built in 1995 in Florence, a town of 3,600 people the police chief calls a “quiet, little retirement community.”

The triangular, two-story prison was designed for inmates once held at the U.S. Penitentiary in Marion, Ill., which had replaced Alcatraz when it closed in 1963. The cells are 7-by-12 feet, and the mattresses are atop a concrete platform, Hood said. The lone chair is a concrete stool, there are no knobs in the stainless steel shower and there is no seat on his toilet.

There is a small black-and-white television, Hood said, but inmates see no current news and some of the programming will be official prison material.

“If a newspaper is allowed it will be time-delayed” Hood said.

The soundproofed cells were designed so inmates cannot make eye contact with each other. Each cell has a narrow window looking out at other prison walls or the small concrete recreation yard.

“I suppose that if he screamed at the top of his lungs he could be probably be heard,” Hood said.

Inmates get one hour out of their cells each day to eat or play basketball or handball, though some earn longer recreation periods through good behavior. They can take academic courses on the closed-circuit TV in each cell. Religious services are conducted in a small chapel.

The surrounding community shrugged off the possibility of another high-profile criminal in town — even one of the Sept. 11 conspirators.

“I mean, we’ve had a lot of weird ones out there and Florence is still standing,” said Louise Garcia, manager of the Super 8 motel that often serves as a stop for prison visitors.

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NATIONAL



Many nations harsher than U.S. on illegal immigrants, study says

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Defending his House-passed immigration bill that sparked street protest by millions of immigrants, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee issued a report Friday showing that several countries are harsher than the United States in their treatment of illegal immigrants and their employers.

The Law Library of Congress study of immigration laws in six countries found that all but Brazil have criminal penalties for illegal entry and presence within their borders.

In four of the countries — Japan, Switzerland, Sweden and Egypt — employers can be jailed for up to three months to up to three years for hiring illegal immigrants.

“With all the blustery rhetoric coming from opponents about a ‘harsh’ and ‘draconian’ House bill ..., I note that five out of the six countries studied — including Mexico — make illegal entry and unlawful presence a criminal offense,” said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

The House bill, written largely by Sensenbrenner, would make being in the country illegally a felony. It already is a misdemeanor to enter the country illegally, and re-entering the country after being deported also is a crime.

Illegal presence in the U.S. is now a civil offense.

After street protests and demonstrations last month, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., pledged that illegal immigrants would not be prosecuted as felons in a final House-Senate version

of the bill if it gets that far.

A bill considered by the Senate last month did not include criminalizing being in the United States illegally. Instead, it would have allowed many of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants to remain, work and eventually become legal residents after paying fines and back taxes and learning English.

The Senate bill faltered just before Easter but leaders in both parties have said they would bring it up again this month.

The Law Library study found that prison sentences for being in the country illegally ranged from up to three months in Egypt to up to three years in Japan. Employers were most severely punished in Japan, facing up to three years in prison for hiring undocumented workers.

Sensenbrenner said the six countries studied were chosen to provide racial and geographic diversity.

Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute at New York University School of Law, complained that Sensenbrenner’s study didn’t look at the resources the six countries devoted to enforcing their immigration laws.

“I don’t know what lesson one could draw from them,” he said, adding that U.S. spending on border enforcement has increased fivefold since 1986 and manpower devoted to it has more than tripled. Chishti’s institute supports guest worker programs for immigrants.

Hawaii pulls plug on gas cap

BY MARK NIESSE
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Lawmakers in the Hawaii House have reluctantly voted to suspend Hawaii’s one-of-a-kind gas price cap, saying they would rather have repealed it for good.

The bill now goes to Gov. Linda Lingle who is expected to sign it, ending use of the cap barring a later decision by a governor to reimpose it.

Several House members said they believed the gas cap didn’t save consumers any money and that it was based on dubious calculations that had nothing to do with Hawaii’s market, which has historically had the most expensive gas in the country.

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LOCAL

REI digging ex-Toys site

ROCK AND ROLL, from page 1

overall efforts to support organizations that promote recreation and conservation, as well as the education of youth about the beauties of nature.

Replacing the Toys R' Us that previously occupied the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Fourth Street, REI is viewed by city officials and members of the business community as a perfect fit, having swapped children's toys with toys for adults. The company's philosophy regarding the importance of exploring nature, along with its record of giving back, also seemed to mesh with the attitudes of many Santa Monicans.

"This really is a great opportunity for us," Mayor Bob Holbrook said Thursday night during a community reception, which was catered by Real Food Daily, fitting in with the city's reputation for vegan cuisine. "REI has a great reputation for being involved with the community, giving money and time to causes that protect the environment, which is something we are very concerned about here in Santa Monica."

Last year, REI and its 83 stores amassed more than \$1 billion in sales, and \$37 million in net revenues, according to company officials. REI gave \$4 million to charities or non-profits.

Sally Jewell, REI's chief executive officer and a customer for more than 30 years, said REI had always dreamed of coming to Santa Monica, but could never find the right location. The company was close to building a store in West Los Angeles, but that deal fell through.

"Luckily for us," Jewell said of the deal. "If not we wouldn't have found this great location here in Santa Monica. It's a great building, fantastic location right next to the promenade, so we expect to not only raise awareness about REI and what we do, but to also get more people inspired to try their own adventures."

The two-story, 32,000 square-foot store, complete with energy saving features like automatic climate control, is expected to employ a staff of 60 full- and part-time workers once the store is fully matured, company representatives said. REI will provide equipment and clothing for a wide range of activities, including camping, rock climbing, cycling, hiking, kayaking, travel and snow sports, and feature top brands such as Columbia and North Face, as well as its own line of products.

REI was founded in Seattle in 1938 as a cooperative,

Nature or nurture?



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A butterfly nears yellow daisies along Ocean Avenue on Friday.

meaning shoppers can become lifetime members of the company and share in the profits for a one-time fee of \$15. Members receive refunds based on the amount of their purchases. Members can also vote for the company's leadership and receive exclusive deals on used products for sale.

REI opened its first store in the Los Angeles area in 1977. The Santa Monica location is REI's seventh store in the region, and is expected to be one of the most profitable for the company, REI officials said.

Before the Santa Monica location, people had to drive to Manhattan Beach or Huntington Beach.

Local retailers that sell similar products to REI welcomed the company into the community and expressed little fear of losing business. On the contrary, those with Helen's Cycles and Adventure 16 said REI could be good for their businesses since it will attract more folks to Santa

Monica and to outdoor recreation.

"We really view ourselves as our own competition," said Jay Wolff, general manager of Helen's Cycles. "We are always striving to serve our customers better. We feel like we have a strong foothold in the community, people know who we are, and they trust our products."

John Mead, president of Adventure 16, said customers will continue to shop at the store on Pico Boulevard just outside city limits because, "they like that we are a smaller store that can give that one-on-one attention."

Jewell said the company does not view others as competition, but rather partners in promoting the great outdoors.

"Our competition is television, PlayStation and people who are over-scheduled," Jewell said. "We really just want to get more people active, enjoying nature so that they will be more inclined to protect it."

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LOCAL



Leaders on Westside have one-track mind

LIGHT RAIL, from page 1

estimated \$750 million needed to extend the Expo rail line to the ocean.

"The Westside, including Santa Monica, is Los Angeles' economic engine," said Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown. "We need, and deserve, mass transit, and with all of us speaking together, I believe we can make that happen."

The commitment by local leaders to transportation projects with the greatest regional impact — instead of smaller, localized projects — comes on the heels of state lawmakers approving a \$20 billion transportation bond on Thursday night to fund much-needed freeway improvements, street repairs and public transit. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's staff has given all indications that he will place the bond measure before voters on Nov. 7, along with a series of related infrastructure bonds for a grand total of \$37 billion — the largest bond package in California history.

Officials here hope to halt what they feel have been decades of neglect, and collect some of that money for the Expo Line, the possible extension of the region's subway system and the reconfiguration of the 1-10 interchange at Robertson and Venice boulevards. The overwhelming consensus is that the Expo extension should be top priority.

"With the Legislature's move last night, we have a great opportunity ahead of us to make a tremendous impact on the Westside, an area that has been ignored for years when it comes to funding for mass transit," County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who represents Santa Monica, said Friday during the second Westside Transportation Symposium, held at the Pacific Design Center.

"The Expo line must be viewed as a rail line to Santa Monica and nothing less," Yaroslavsky said as he spoke before a crowd of nearly 150 city planners, councilmembers and public transit advocates. "I want to see us rally together and get the money needed to keep this project moving forward. I do not want to see construction stopped at Culver City. I want a seamless transition (to Santa Monica)."

Phase 1 of the Expo line, which will run from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, is already underway, with construction scheduled to begin this summer at a cost of \$650 million.

Snoble of the MTA told local leaders during the symposium that the Expo line, if extended to Santa Monica, would be the MTA's most traveled line, serving the Santa Monica-Wilshire corridor — one of the top 10 employment centers in the region with 427,191 jobs.

However, if the line is not extended, Snoble conceded it would not be as desirable to riders, many of whom need quick and easy transportation to Westwood, Venice and Santa Monica.

"Expo really needs to get to Santa Monica before we can expect to see riders using it in abundance," Snoble said.

But with the state sending approximately \$200 million more in gas taxes to the federal government than it receives in funding, "it's going to take not just elected officials, but the business community, environmentalists, resi-

dents — all of them singing the same song so that we can't be ignored," Snoble said.

NEGLECTED NEED

Those who attended the symposium said there are a host of reasons why the Westside has continually been left out in the cold while other areas, such as San Bernardino, have seen an abundance of transportation funding.

One of the reasons is the political leanings of the Westside, which is predominantly Democrat. With Republicans dictating spending priorities at the federal level, areas like Santa Monica and West Los Angeles are forgotten or dismissed, leaders here said.

"I've told leaders in Congress time and time again, both publicly and privately, that we have to start funding where the needs are, not where it's politically favorable," Yaroslavsky said.

Bill Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association, the leading advocacy group for cities and suppliers for public transit, said the competition at the federal level is only going to increase as more cities begin to explore mass transit.

THE COSTS OF SNOBBERY

Some believe the lack of transportation funding stems from the area's affluence. There is a belief, some say, that wealthy Westside residents don't have a need for cheap, public transportation, or would never leave the comforts of their Hummers and BMWs to sit on a bus with someone who is homeless.

"There's been that sort of stereotype out there, that we don't deserve public transit, but the reality is we are home to a significant number of jobs, and those employees need a better way to get to work than to waste time sitting in traffic," said Kathy Dodson, president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, which has joined with other chambers to advocate for the Expo expansion and other projects. "It really is political, but with new leadership I think we are opening new doors and we will soon begin to see those results."

GET OUT THE VOTE

While the bonds would be placed on the ballot in November, there still would stand the task of getting people to approve them. Officials in Santa Monica said they will go to great lengths to educate residents about the need for these bonds.

The Westside Cities Council of Governments, comprised of several cities in West Los Angeles, including Santa Monica, also intends to engage in an education effort to help drum up support for the unprecedented level of state spending.

"When you develop grassroots support for something, it makes it easier for elected officials to lead and to get things done," said Darrell Clarke, a Santa Monica planning commissioner and co-chair of Friends 4 Expo, a group in support of the Expo extension. "What we have here now are all elected officials expressing their commitment to Expo and other projects that serve a regional need. We didn't have that four years ago."

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Sale may make millionaires of everyone in Nevada city

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

Associated Press Writer

BOULDER CITY, Nev. — No gated communities here. No showgirls. No neon. No blackjack or slots. This desert enclave, 25 miles southeast of Las Vegas, has never been interested in cashing in on its proximity to Sin City — until now.

But a group of local activists think Boulder City, where gambling has been banned since it was founded in 1931, is sitting on a jackpot: 167 square miles of undeveloped open land in one of the hottest real estate markets in the country.

They've developed a plan to cash in, and make millionaires of every man, woman and child in this town of about 15,000. (It's too late to move here; they mean everyone living in Boulder City as of March 31.)

The land is called Eldorado Valley, an expanse of dry lake bed dotted by creosote bushes and flanked by red-rock mountains.

The group estimates its value at between \$15 billion and \$50 billion, and says that's too much dough and too much responsibility for its bungling City Council to handle. Their first choice, they insist, is to protect that land, which has long insulated Boulder City from its neighbor to the north.

But if they can't save it, they want to profit from it.

"We're trying to give people a choice," said Sherman Rattner, a silver ponytailed, Brooklyn-born gadfly who is leading the group. "If you don't stand up now, it's going to be sold out. And if that's the case let's get the money to the people and let's create something wonderful."

Rattner's Coalition to Protect the Future of Boulder City is circulating two vastly different petitions in its attempt to control the future of the Eldorado Valley, which at 107,000 acres would almost fit the city of San Jose, Calif.

One proposal would require the land to remain untouched, set aside for the preservation of the endangered desert tortoise, public recreation and possible solar power development.

The other would force the City Council to sell the property to the highest bidder. Ten percent of the money would pay off the city debt, build a bypass highway around town and fund education. Ninety percent would be put in a tax-exempt trust and distributed to city residents.

In a region surrounding Las Vegas, where an average vacant acre sold for \$152,000 in the third quarter of 2001 and \$700,000 in the same period in 2005, the sale could yield a check for up to \$3.2 million for every Boulder City "resident of record."

It took only a week for Rattner's group to gather half the 700 signatures necessary to put the petitions on the November city ballot.

Rattner tries to persuade voters to sign both petitions, and he resents the notion that his group is after a quick buck. He says they're more like jaded government bird-doggers, refugees from California, who've seen the way growth seems to spread unchecked, despite officials' assurances.

When the mayor recently suggested the town consider selling a portion of land known as Dutchman's Pass to pay for a highway bypass, Rattner's group was alarmed.

"The fix is in," he said. "We think of this like cutting out the middleman, the City Council."

Rattner compares the arrangement to

Alaska, where citizens get an annual check for their share of royalties paid to the state from the trans-Alaska oil pipeline

Local officials won't be taken out of the picture so easily. They argue Rattner's plan will never survive a legal challenge, and they insist selling the land is selling the heart of Boulder City's charm — a holdover from when the federal government built the town to house workers at nearby Hoover Dam.

The "Main Street" feel has been preserved in part thanks to tight limits on the number of the new homes built each year.

"I would have to say that almost universally the people who live here in Boulder City favor slow growth to no growth," said City Attorney Dave Olsen. But some people oppose everything between, including tourism, parks and economic development, he said.

"There is a consistent, vocal group of people here, not unlike just about every little town in the country, that many have affectionally dubbed, 'The Cave People,'" Olsen said. "That's 'Citizens Against Virtually Everything.'"

Olsen is confident the land-sale petition will be shot down in court. He argues the March 31, 2006, residency cut-off date is arbitrary and unfair to longtime residents who may have moved recently.

Citizen petitions and charter amendments cannot interfere with administrative duties assigned to the city government by the city charter, Olsen said. Selling land is one of those duties.

And more fundamentally, the city attorney said, the land doesn't belong to the residents of Boulder City in the first place.

"The deed that's on file in the county recorder's office says the city of Boulder City, not the people of Boulder City. Boulder City is a corporate entity that exists at the pleasure of the Nevada State Legislature," he said.

Olsen and other officials are prepared to mount a legal challenge against the petition.

"I'll do everything in my power to see that it doesn't pass," said Mike Pacini, a City Council member and grocery store clerk who has lived here since 1969. He draws a contrast between himself and Rattner, who's lived in a hotel overlooking Lake Mead since he arrived from California three years ago.

Rattner shrugs off the "outsider" label, saying he's as entitled to petition his government as anyone else.

He considers the initiative a populist response to what he sees as corruption and mismanagement in government. Pacini acknowledges the city has made some management blunders, but argues that selling off Eldorado Valley to show distrust "is selling off your nose to spite your face," he said.

That's a notion repeated by a handful of Boulder City residents, skeptical of the plan.

"It seems like kind of a pipe dream," said Sherrill Graff, Miss Boulder City 1980, as she sat outside the Boulder City Credit Union, collecting donations for this year's pageant. "I trust the City Council to make the right decisions."

"It's the silliest thing I've ever heard," said Sherri Budd, part-owner of the Edie and Sher-Lo Flower Shop on Nevada Way, the town's main drag. "If we sell it, we'll lose control."

But county and state officials recently reminded residents that Boulder City doesn't have much control to begin with.

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NATIONAL



Conservative party-poopers

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Angry conservatives are driving the approval ratings of President Bush and the GOP-led Congress to dismal new lows, according to an AP-Ipsos poll that underscores why Republicans fear an Election Day massacre.

Six months out, the intensity of opposition to Bush and Congress has risen sharply, along with the percentage of Americans who believe the nation is on the wrong track.

The AP-Ipsos poll also suggests that Democratic voters are far more motivated than Republicans. Elections in the middle of a president's term traditionally favor the party whose core supporters are the most energized.

This week's survey of 1,000 adults, including 865 registered voters, found:

■ Just 33 percent of the public approves of Bush's job performance, the lowest of his presidency. That compares with 36 percent approval in early April. Forty-five percent of self-described conservatives now disapprove of the president.

■ Just one-fourth of the public approves of the job Congress is doing, a new low in AP-Ipsos polling and down 5 percentage points since last month. A whopping 65 percent of conservatives disapprove of Congress.

■ A majority of Americans say they want Democrats rather than Republicans to control Congress (51 percent to 34 percent). That's the largest gap recorded by AP-Ipsos since Bush took office. Even 31 percent of conservatives want Republicans out of power.

■ The souring of the nation's mood has accelerated the past three months, with the percentage of people describing the nation on the wrong track rising 12 points to a new high of 73 percent. Six of 10 conservatives say America is headed in the wrong direction.

Republican strategists said the party stands to lose control of Congress unless the environment changes unexpectedly.

"It's going to take some events of significance to turn this around," GOP pollster Whit Ayres said. "I don't think at this point you can talk your way back from those sorts of ratings."

He said the party needs concrete progress in Iraq and action in Congress on immigration, lobbying reform and tax cuts.

"Those things would give the country a sense that Washington has heard the people and is responding in a way that will give conservatives a sense that their concerns are being addressed," Ayres said.

Conservative voters blame the White House and Congress for runaway government spending, illegal immigration and lack of action on social issues such as a constitutional amendment outlawing gay marriage. Those concerns come on top of public worries about Iraq, the economy and gasoline prices.

Candice Strong, a conservative from Cincinnati, said she backed Bush in 2004, "but I don't agree with the way he's handling the war and the way he's handling the economy. I think he should have pulled our troops out of Iraq."

Hardline conservatives are not likely to vote Democratic in the fall, but it would be just as devastating to the Republicans if conservatives lose their enthusiasm and stay home on Election Day.

AP-Ipsos polling suggests that Democrats may be winning the motivation game. Fewer voters today than in 2004 call themselves Republicans or Republican-leaning. In addition, 27 percent of registered voters were strong Republicans just before the 2004 election, while only 15 percent fit that description today.

Democratic numbers are the same or better since 2004. "This tells us we've got our work cut out for us," said Sen. Sam Brownback, a conservative Republican from Kansas who may run for president in 2008. "The key for us is to show restraint on spending and on dealing with immigration."

Bush's strong suit continues to be his handling of foreign policy and terrorism, an area in which he modestly improved his ratings since April. Still, a majority of Americans disapprove of his performance on both fronts.

Only 23 percent of the public approve of the way the president is handling gasoline prices, the lowest in AP-Ipsos polling. Those who strongly disapprove outnumber those who strongly approve by an extraordinary 55 percent to 8 percent.

As for his overall job performance, history suggests that Bush's paltry 33 percent spells trouble for Republicans in the fall.

In the past six decades, only one president had a lower job approval rating six months before a midterm election — Richard Nixon in May 1974, the year in which Watergate-scarred Republicans lost 48 seats in the House and four in the Senate.

By November, Nixon was out of a job too, having resigned the presidency in August.

Nearly half of the public strongly disapproves of Bush, a huge jump from his 5 percent strong disapproval rating in 2002. The poll has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Of all Republicans, nearly 30 percent disapprove of the job Bush is doing, including 13 percent who feel strongly about it.

"Hopefully this is a wakeup call for my party to get out of its bunker and hunker mentality," said Republican strategist Greg Mueller, whose firm specializes in conservative politics.

He urged his party to start criticizing Democratic positions on the Iraq war, immigration and the economy.

"We've been like a punching bag," Mueller said.

Democrats need to gain 15 seats in the House and six in the Senate for control of Congress, no easy task in an era that favors incumbents.

"What we have to do is earn the public approval of our right to govern again," said Democratic Party chairman Howard Dean.

The Democratic strategy is to nationalize the elections around a throw-the-bums-out theme.

Republicans counter that they will do better than polls suggest when voters are forced on Election Day to choose between candidates in their particular House and Senate races.

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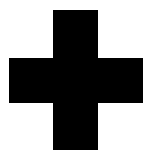
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NATIONAL

Sometimes life is long hard climb

More than 1,000 climbers take to Mt. McKinley

BY MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A steady stream of mountaineers is now headed to Mount McKinley in Alaska to tackle North America's tallest mountain.

Four climbing teams were waiting at 8 a.m. Monday, the unofficial start of the summer climbing season, for the doors to open at the Talkeetna ranger station 60 air miles away, eager to check in and head up the 20,320-foot mountain.

"It is like the salmon," Roger Robinson, lead mountaineer at Denali National Park and Preserve, said Tuesday as another van of climbers pulled into the parking lot. "They are arriving in a good number now."

Greg Collins, a 42-year-old guide with the Alaska Mountaineering School, was

waiting Tuesday at Talkeetna Air Taxi for the clouds to clear to fly four clients from Alaska, New Jersey, New York and Illinois onto the mountain.

Collins has reached the summit 10 times.

"It's incredibly challenging," Collins said. "There are many hazards, but you get pretty good at it if you go there all the time... It makes you feel so alive."

As of Tuesday, 1,052 climbers were registered to climb McKinley this summer. Park officials expect the number to reach about 1,200 climbers, with most of them on the mountain 135 miles north of Anchorage in the next two months.

Most will choose the less technical West Buttress route to the top, but not Collins' group. His group is going up the West Rib route, a steep ascent that provides a direct

route to the summit but requires climbing up short sections of 60-degree ice.

Climbers call one particularly scary stretch the "valley of death," Collins said.

"I don't know why they call it the valley of death," he quipped. "There's just a few meters of death."

While McKinley is not considered the most difficult of the big mountains to climb, it is treacherous, mostly because the weather can become deadly in a heartbeat. Robinson points to three Japanese climbers whose bodies were found in 1989.

"At some point, they were blown down and across the surface, just blown away," he said. "The only reason we found them is that the rope had snagged on some ice. The autopsy showed they were flash-frozen."

Maureen McLaughlin, spokeswoman for the park, said 83 climbers already were on the mountain Tuesday.

Last year, a record 1,340 climbers attempted McKinley with 58 percent from the United States. The other climbers were from 37 countries, with Canada, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom leading the way.

The peak climbing period is from late May to early June.

"There are over 600 we can have on the mountain at any given time in late May to June," McLaughlin said. Last year, 101 climbers reached the summit on June 15. "That was pretty amazing," she said.

On average, 52 percent make it to the top. Last year, the average was 58 percent.

Twin brothers from Ohio were among

"The only reason we found them is that the rope had snagged on some ice. The autopsy showed they were flash-frozen."

ROGER ROBINSON
LEAD MOUNTAINEER

them, but fell to their deaths on the way down at a particularly treacherous traverse between 17,200 feet and 18,300 feet. Their deaths were the only ones in 2005.

"If you are tired on this traverse going back down, and it is pretty icy, it is the kind of ground if you start to slide it is really hard to stop," Robinson said.

Measures were taken a couple of years ago to make that part of the mountain safer, Robinson said. T-shaped pickets were driven into the mountain. The pickets have holes in them, with webbing and carabiners attached. The anchors are about 100-150 feet apart.

"Climbers can clip into those as they go up and down," Robinson said. "If someone slips theoretically this anchor should hold them."

It probably would have saved 55-year-old brothers Jerry and Terry Humphrey of Negley, Ohio, but they left their rope back at their snow cave, Robinson said. It looked

See CLIMB, page 17

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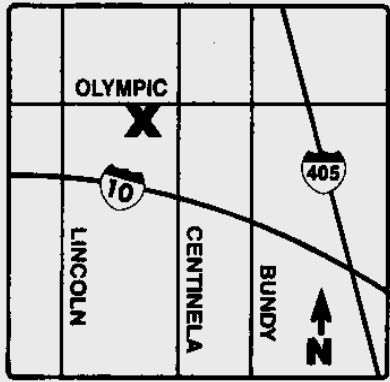


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NATIONAL



Taking a toll

CLIMB, from page 16

like they decided at the last minute not to bring it, he said.

"When the brothers fell last year, it was really icy," he said. "If they brought a rope they might not have fallen."

The twins were the 94th and 95th people to die on McKinley since 1932 when the first deaths occurred.

Nonguided climbing teams and individual climbers are required to register 60 days before their climbs. A fee of \$200 per climber is required.

Park rangers require basic information on climbers, including emergency contact numbers and their personal climbing histories.

Teams and individuals are not turned away because they look weak on paper, McLaughlin said. But rangers may encourage climbers to try easier climbs first or use a guide.

Climbers start by flying 50 air miles from Talkeetna into base camp at 7,200 feet on the Kahiltina Glacier. From there, climbers using the most popular route usually go to 7,800 feet, where they stop and camp in a flat area before starting up a gentle slope.

Climbers proceed up the glacier until they reach 11,000 feet, where rangers

advise them to take a couple of days to acclimate to higher elevations.

From there, they head to Windy Corner at 13,000 feet — not a good place to stop — and on to the upper base camp at 14,200 feet. The Japanese climbers have a name for this spot where up to 200 people a night camp. They call it McKinley City, Robinson said.

"People are coming in and out all the time, at all hours," he said.

The serious climbing begins from this point on, said Robinson, who has climbed the upper reaches of McKinley numerous times.

Climbers use fixed lines to scale a steep rock and ice ridge to 16,200 feet. The mountain's high camp is another 1,000 feet on a shelf off the side of the mountain.

"Generally, people don't spend a lot of time there," Robinson said.

The next section, the Denali Pass traverse from 17,200-18,300 feet, is where the Ohio brothers died.

After walking across a basin, climbers at 20,120 feet are confronted with the summit ridge, the last 200 feet to the actual top of the mountain. The drop-off from the ridge is 2 miles on one side, 500 feet on the other.

At that point, some climbers decide they've gone far enough, Robinson said.

"For a lot of the year, it is real hard ice. It would scare the typical person half to death to be there," Robinson said. "They say, 'That is good enough for me.'"



Ocean Park Chapter NO. 245, OES Centennial Celebration

Ocean Park Chapter No. 245, Order of the Eastern Star, is happy to announce its 100th Anniversary Celebration, 1906 to 2006 on Sunday, May 7, 2006.

Our members are very proud of the Chapters 100 years of service to the community and the Order of the Eastern Star. Our chapter meets on the first and third thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m., 1720 Ocean Park Blvd in Santa Monica at the Sunset Masonic Center. The Order of the Eastern Star is open to women and men with Masonic affiliation over the age of 18 years old. For further information call (310) 452-3943



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INTERNATIONAL

Blair fires top ministers after Labour Party setback

BY BETH GARDINER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair fired his foreign secretary who had taken a different tack on Iran and reportedly expressed doubts about the Iraq war in a wide-ranging Cabinet shuffle Friday, a day after the governing party took a pounding in local elections.

Blair replaced Jack Straw with Margaret Beckett, who had headed the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and becomes the first woman to hold the foreign secretary position.

Straw was moved to the far less exalted job of leader of the House of Commons, where he will be in charge of shepherding through Blair's controversial program of reforming public services.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke, embroiled in a politically damaging furor over the failure to deport foreign criminals, also said Blair had removed him from office. Defense Secretary John Reid was named the new law and order chief, and Des Browne was promoted from chief secretary at the Treasury to secretary of defense.

The moves came after Labour Party pulled 26 percent of Thursday's vote to the Conservatives 40 percent, a result that renewed calls from some quarters for the prime minister to step down. The local elections also resulted in unprecedented gains for the far right.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who admitted an affair with a secretary, will keep his title but was stripped of the responsibilities of his department, which include housing and planning.

"I felt that it was very difficult, given the level of genuine public concern, for Charles to continue" as home secretary, said Blair, who days earlier had defended Clarke as the right man to deal with the prisoner issue.

Clarke said he had turned down offers of other government posts. "I do not think it would be appropriate to remain in this government in these circumstances," Clarke said in a statement.

Straw's demotion was a surprise.

There had long been rumors of tension between Straw and Blair — some reports said the outgoing foreign secretary had privately expressed doubts about the Iraq war, and he publicly took a different position on Iran than Blair did. Straw frequently described military action against Tehran as "inconceivable" and the reported U.S. contingency plans for a tactical nuclear strike as "completely nuts."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Straw after hearing the news and wished him well, State Department

spokesman Sean McCormack said. Rice and Straw teamed up during a trip to Iraq last month to try to expedite the formation of a government there.

"She has had an excellent working relationship with him ... You saw that demonstrated time and time again, including on their trip Baghdad," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said. "While she will miss him as a colleague the friendship with he and his wife, Alice, will continue."

Rice also looks forward to working with Beckett and expects to talk with her soon, McCormack said.

The shake-up appeared aimed at demonstrating Blair still holds a firm grip on his beleaguered government after weeks of negative headlines and scandal.

The government's acknowledgment last week that officials had failed to screen 1,023 foreign criminals for deportation before freeing them from prison in the past seven years was particularly damaging to Blair.

"It'll take far more than a reshuffle," Conservative Party leader David Cameron said. "What we need in this country is a replacement of the government."

"I think what we have seen over the last few hours is that while the Labour Party is collapsing, the Conservative Party is building," Cameron said as he toured London to celebrate his party's gains in the local elections.

Glenda Jackson, a former Labour government minister who has been a persistent Blair critic, joined the calls for him to go. "The problem for the party and its government is its leader," she said.

Thursday's vote was widely seen as a referendum on Blair's government, and Cameron emerged as the main winner.

"I'm a happy man this morning," said Cameron, who took over the party in December.

Labour took 1,065 seats in incomplete counting, down 251 seats compared with the results of the last election. The Conservatives won 1,567 seats, a gain of 249. Labour lost control of 16 local councils and the Tories gained eight.

The far-right British National Party won 13 seats.

Labour also did badly in the 2004 local vote but that didn't stop Blair from leading the party to its third straight national election victory a year later.

Treasury chief Gordon Brown, the man expected to succeed Blair, said voters were concerned about issues of crime, terrorism and their financial and job security. "We've got to show in the next few days, not just in the next few weeks, that we are sorting these problems out," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Rebel groups refuse to sign peace accord

BY MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press Writer

ABUJA, Nigeria — Two of three rebel groups battling the Sudanese government for control of the country's Darfur region resisted intense international pressure on Friday to sign an accord aimed at ending a conflict that has claimed at least 180,000 lives.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged all countries to press the warring parties to reach agreement but warned the international community has an obligation to protect civilians in Darfur, by force if need be.

The small Justice and Equality Movement was the first to walk out overnight. Abdel Wahid Nur, of a faction of the main rebel Sudan Liberation Army, followed before dawn Friday saying: "We are not going to sign."

Another faction, led by Nur's rival Minni Minnawi, said it was willing to sign despite reservations believed linked to rejected rebel demands for Sudan to have a vice president from Darfur, said AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni. The issue of the vice presidency was believed the main reason the other factions had rejected a deal.

Mezni also said the Minnawi faction was willing to resume direct talks with the government; the parties have been negotiating through intermediaries in recent days.

Days of negotiations culminated in an all-night session with the African Union, rebels and envoys from the United States, Britain, the European Union and the Arab League. Deadlines have been extended twice since Sunday and Thursday's session went five hours beyond the midnight time limit.

Sudan's government was not involved because it already had agreed to the initial proposal drafted by AU mediators, and negotiators were waiting for the rebels to agree.

"These are all opportunities, but it requires leadership on the part of the movement that, frankly, is in question," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick told reporters.

The last-ditch diplomatic efforts appeared doomed to failure, but Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Republic of Congo and current head of the 53-nation African Union, said "It has not yet ended."

Annan reminded world leaders that at September's U.N. World Summit they had agreed that if a state could not protect its citizens — or was the perpetrator of violence — "the international community, through the (Security) Council, has to take action, and, if need be, by force." He spoke in an interview on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS television.

The time had come to redeem that pledge, said Annan. The United States has accused Sudan's government of genocide in Darfur, while the U.N. has called the conflict the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Darfur rebels earlier had cautiously welcomed U.S.-drafted proposals to salvage the peace agreement.

Four pages of last-ditch revisions to the 85-page peace plan drawn up by African Union mediators offered concessions to the rebels on integrating fighters into the Sudan armed forces, compensation for war victims and power-sharing.

As the session went well beyond the deadline, it became clear the rebels were unhappy.

Decades of low-level tribal clashes over land and water in Darfur, a vast region about the size of France, erupted into large-scale violence in early 2003 with rebels demanding regional autonomy. The government is accused of responding by unleashing Janjaweed militias upon civilians, a charge Sudan denies.

Sudan's government has shown increasing flexibility since the United States and Britain sent top envoys to the talks, indicating Wednesday that it could accept the U.S.-drafted changes.

"We hope that the Americans' suggestion will be agreed upon," government spokesman Abdulrahman Zuma told the AP.

Revisions to the peace plan made available to AP called for 4,000 rebels to be integrated into Sudan's armed forces and another 1,000 into the police force.

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The skinny on ‘Simple’ star

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nicole Richie, whose drastic weight loss spawned speculation that she has an eating disorder, acknowledges she is “too thin” and is getting treatment to add pounds, in an interview in Vanity Fair.

“I know I’m too thin right now, so I wouldn’t want any young girl looking at me and saying, ‘That’s what I want to look like,’” the 24-year-old “Simple Life” star tells the magazine in its June issue, on newsstands Tuesday.

The 5-foot-1 Richie was visibly heavier in 2003 when she began filming TV’s “The Simple Life.” Richie, who has said she gained weight during a stint in rehab for heroin addiction, says she doesn’t know how much she weighs today.

However, she says her eating habits are far from healthy: “I eat the worst foods — salty cheese-and-grease kind of stuff.”

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Rock star and activist Bono expressed hope Thursday that a peace agreement could be coming for the Sudanese region of Darfur.

“We just got news on this very day that there’s a potential breakthrough,” Bono said during a speech to The Economic Club of Grand Rapids. “I ask you to pray for their success.”

Decades of tribal clashes over land and water in Darfur erupted into large-scale violence in early 2003, with rebels demanding regional autonomy. The central government is accused of responding by unleashing militias upon civilians, a charge that Sudan denies.

At least 180,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million have been forced to flee their homes in what the United Nations has called the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Sudanese rebels cautiously welcomed U.S.-backed proposals to salvage a peace agreement for Darfur on Thursday. The international community urged them to finally accept the deal.

About 2,000 people attended the sold-out annual dinner, which was open only to club members and their guests. Tickets cost \$150 each. Past speakers include former Secretary of

State Colin Powell.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Holding out a raised fist from a horse-drawn carriage, Muhammad Ali greeted thousands of spectators Thursday as grand marshal of the Kentucky Derby Festival’s Pegasus Parade.

The Louisville native and three-time heavy-weight champion was the crowd favorite as he sat in a round, white carriage fit for Cinderella on her way to a ball. He waved and blew kisses as crowds chanted his name.

“Look! He came from Louisville and he’s the best boxer ever,” Robin Thompson explained to her 5- and 6-year-old sons as Ali rode by.

Andre Wells Sr. said seeing Ali was a primary reason for coming to the parade.

“He showed how one man can make a difference,” Wells said, adding that he also had to tell his children about the famous former boxer who is now battling Parkinson’s disease.

“They should know, because we have his picture all over the house,” Wells said.

The parade has become a Derby week tradition since 1956. Ali also led the parade 25 years ago.

Ali and his wife, Lonnie, will appear at a VIP reception Friday evening at the Muhammad Ali Center in downtown Louisville as a part of festivities leading up to the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

NEW YORK — “Sopranos” actor James Gandolfini took a tumble after his motor scooter collided with a taxi, but apparently escaped unscathed.

“James Gandolfini is fine, and his scooter is in the repair shop,” HBO spokeswoman Angela Tarantino said Thursday.

Gandolfini, who plays mob boss Tony Soprano on the hit HBO series, was motoring along a street in lower Manhattan Wednesday when the accident happened.

Gandolfini left the scene in another taxi and arranged for his crippled Italian scooter to be picked up to be fixed.

CINCINNATI — T.I. plans to resume his national tour in New Orleans on Tuesday, a week after the fatal shooting of his personal assistant and the wounding of three others in the rapper’s entourage following a show in Cincinnati.

T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris, will also reschedule an appearance that had been set for Wednesday in St. Louis, Atlanta-based Grand Hustle records said Thursday.

Police in Cincinnati said they had no new leads in the gun battle that began early Wednesday at an after-hours club during a party for T.I. and fellow rapper Yung Joc.

T.I. and his group left the party but were pursued by two sport utility vehicles, police said. T.I. wasn’t injured in the exchange of shots from the vehicles as they drove toward downtown Cincinnati on Interstate 75, police said.

The vehicles pursuing the rapper’s entourage were gone when police arrived.

Philant Johnson, 26, was pronounced dead at a hospital. A Minnesota woman was hospitalized, and a driver and bodyguard were treated and then released.

NEW YORK — It’s a girl for White Stripes frontman Jack White and his wife, model Karen Elson.

The couple welcomed their first child, Scarlett, on Tuesday in Tennessee, where they recently bought a new home, White’s representative Chloe Walsh said Thursday.

White married Elson in June 2005 in a ceremony in Brazil. White’s ex-wife and White Stripes drummer Meg White was maid of honor.

White, 30, began dating Elson, 27, after he and Renee Zellweger ended their two-year relationship in 2004. The red-haired Elson appears in the White Stripes’ video for the song “Blue Orchid.”

The singer-guitarist recently formed the Raconteurs, a Detroit group including singer-songwriter Brendan Benson. The band will release their debut album May 16.

Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES: WEEKEND EDITION, MAY 6-7, 2006

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An American Haunting (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30
Promise, The (PG-13)
1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45
Sentinel, The (PG-13)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
United 93 (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

American Dreamz (PG-13)
11:10am, 4:40, 10:10
Hard Candy (R)
10:20
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40
Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:10, 1:10, 2:00, 3:20, 4:20, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9:40, 10:40, 11:30
V for Vendetta (R)
1:40, 7:10

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Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
Hoot (PG)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10
Inside Man (R)
1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
RV (PG)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:10, 3:10, 5:15, 7:25, 9:40
Silent Hill (R)
12:00, 2:40, 5:25, 8:20, 11:10
Stick It (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 11:40

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Art School Confidential (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

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
Sir! No Sir! (NR)
12:45, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:55
Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

On May 6, 1937, the hydrogen-filled German dirigible Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, N.J., killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.
In 1861, Arkansas seceded from the Union.
In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.
In 1910, Britain’s King Edward VII died.
In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating.



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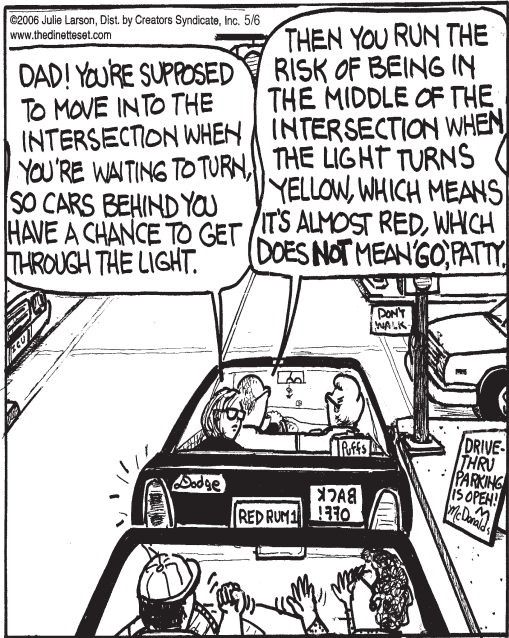
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COMICS

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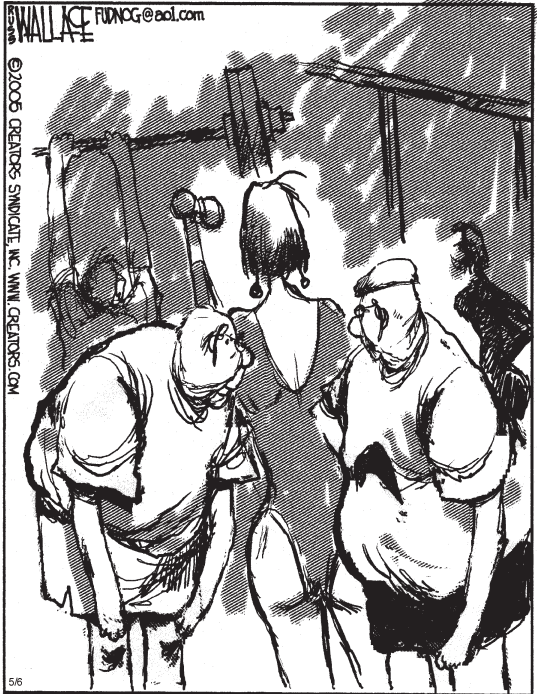
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 16 Masseur's workplace
- 17 Tad's dad
- 18 Tofu ingredient
- 20 Pined
- 22 Tirade
- 23 City on the Mohawk
- 25 Globe spindle
- 28 Out of it
- 32 Refined
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- 43 Close up

DOWN

- 1 Shady shelter
- 2 Perception
- 3 Eroded
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- 11 Inclined

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Yesterday's answer

- 15 Like much salt
- 19 Muffin makeup
- 21 Blast
- 24 Used crayons
- 25 Patron saint of young girls
- 26 Persian king
- 27 Place for some blackbirds
- 29 Not release
- 30 Wading birds
- 31 Rx amounts
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IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the environmental service department of St. John's Health Center. Looking for housekeeper/waste management. PT/FT. Hospital experience preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview

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NEW FITNESS company seeks \$\$\$ motivated leaders, ground floor opportunity. \$75k-\$175k first year potential. (800) 660-1532

OVERNIGHT CAREGIVER (part time)

Ocean House is looking for a part time overnight caregiver to work 2 days per week at upscale retirement community on Ocean Ave. Will be responsible for meds and care of residents. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume with salary history to (310) 314-7356.

RECEPTIONIST \$10-12HR, SM corporation seeks friendly, energetic voice to answer heavy phones, file, type 30wpm, some computer knowledge, min 2yrs exp. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

Santa Monica Daily Press □ Weekend Edition, May 6-7, 2006 □ **Page 21**

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SECRETARY WITH verbal and computer skills needed for lighting show room part/full times.(310) 393-6286



SEEKING PERSONAL trainer to work in premier personal training studio. www.fitnessitogether.com Email resume to: kellyradomski@fitnessitogether.com

SM CORPORATION seeks Executive Assistant \$50-60k/yr, must be proficient with Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook, 5yrs exp. supporting a Senior level Executive. College Degree required. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

SOCIAL ESCORTS needed. Accompany celebs, V.I.P.'S to dinner, theatre, events, etc. \$200/hr (323) 836-0700

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Ocean House is looking for experienced cook and a dishwasher to work in kitchen at upscale retirement community on Ocean Ave. This is a full time position and candidate must have experience and be flexible morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Benefits eligible after 90 days. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume with salary history to (310) 314-7356.

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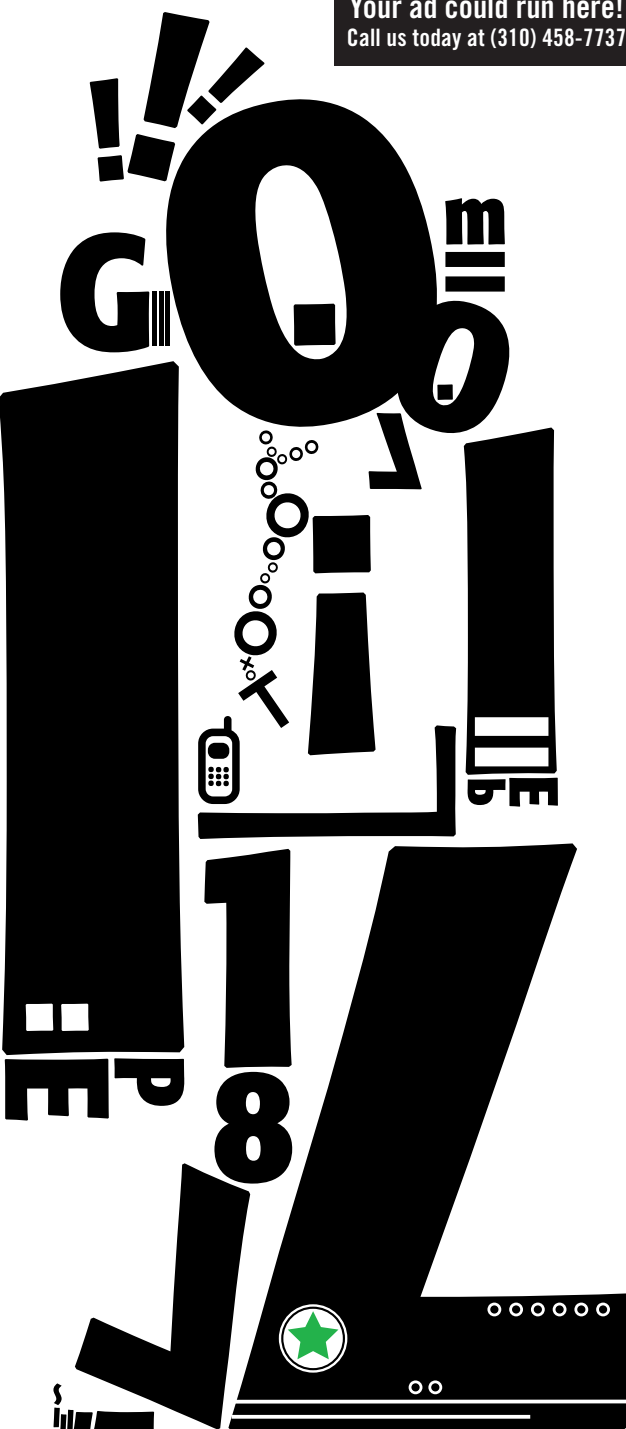
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'02 CLK320 ASKING PRICE \$32,981	\$29,981
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'05 C230 ASKING PRICE \$32,981	\$29,981
WHITE/BLACK, CD, CERTIFIED, 5F564191	
'00 S430 RED TAG PRICED	\$31,981
NEW CAR TRADE, VALUE PRICED, CERTIFIED, YA004614	
'03 E320 ASKING PRICE \$35,981	\$32,983
BLACK/STONE, VALUE PRICED, CERTIFIED, 152784	
'04 SLK320 ASKING PRICE \$37,981	\$35,981
NEW CAR TRADE, CD, CERTIFIED, 4F306438	
'06 E350 RED TAG PRICED	\$43,981
PEWTER/CHARCOAL, CERTIFIED, 6A797170	
'02 S430 ASKING PRICE \$47,981	\$43,981
SPORT, BL/BL, CHROMES, CD, CERTIFIED, 226152	
'01 CL600 ASKING PRICE \$56,981	\$46,982
BLACK/BLACK, CERTIFIED, 1A013138	
'02 G500 ASKING PRICE \$52,981	\$47,983
LOCAL CAR, LOW MILES, CERTIFIED, 2X129441	
'04 S430 ASKING PRICE \$56,981	\$51,984
WHITE/JAVA, NEW CAR TRADE, LO MI, CERTIFIED, 407597	
'03 G500 RED TAG PRICED	\$51,984
NEW CAR TRADE, CERTIFIED, 3X138243	
'03 SL500 ASKING PRICE \$69,981	\$64,984
SPORTS PKG, CHROMES, CD, CERTIFIED, 3F022029	

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'99 C280 RED TAG PRICED	\$11,982
BLACK/TAN AND MORE!, XA678640	
'99 E320 ASKING PRICE \$20,981	\$17,981
BLACK/BLACK, CHROMES, CD, VALUE PRICED, XA923465	
'97 S420 ASKING PRICE \$22,981	\$17,981
WHITE/TAN, BEAUTIFUL, LOW MILES, 345354	
'02 CLK320 ASKING PRICE \$32,981	\$29,981
COUPE, WHITE/ASH, CD, LOW MILES, 2T103918	
'00 S430 RED TAG PRICED	\$31,981
NEW CAR TRADE, CHROMES, YA00614	
'04 SLK320 ASKING PRICE \$37,981	\$35,981
NEW CAR TRADE, CD, 4F306438	
'95 E320 CAB RED TAG PRICED	\$CALL!
CABRIOLET, BLK/BLK, CHROMES, CD, MUST SEE! SC279701	

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'04 MUSTANG RED TAG PRICED	\$14,984
COUPE, RED, ONLY 7400 MILES, 4F117580	
'04 BEETLE ASKING PRICE \$25,981	\$21,984
CONVERTIBLE, LOW MILES, AUTOMATIC, 4M324124	
'05 MINI COOP ASKING PRICE \$29,981	\$26,983
AUTO, CONVERTIBLE, SPT, LOW MILES, STG10499	
'03 M45 ASKING PRICE \$28,984	\$26,984
CHARCOAL/BLACK, VALUE PRICED, 004514	
'02 BOXSTER ASKING PRICE \$28,981	\$26,981
LOW MILEAGE, 6 SPEED, 2U620852	
'04 PILOT ASKING PRICE \$29,981	\$27,982
NEW CAR TRADE, DVD, LOW MILES, 534565	
'01 XK8 ASKING PRICE \$36,981	\$33,982
JAGUAR, CONV, NAVI, CHROMES, LOW MILES, 22084	
'05 AUDI S4 RED TAG PRICED	\$39,981
2.7 LT, BLACK/TAN, MUST SEE!, 5A047677	
'04 CAYENNE ASKING PRICE \$44,981	\$42,98
TIPTRONIC, PRICED TO SELL, LOW MILES, 4LAG5825	

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