

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

**MEGA MILLIONS**
7 15 24 43 44
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$66M

**Super LOTTO**
6 20 27 37 43
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$25M

Fantasy 5 4 16 22 29 35

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 5 7 6
EVENING: 6 8 0

**DAILY DERRY**
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:41.39

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

■ In Mont-de-Marsan, France, Christophe Fauvau, 46, was sentenced to eight years in prison in the death of a young tennis player who ingested a sports drink Fauvau admitted to spiking with a tranquilizer. Fauvau said he spiked 27 young players' drinks before their tournament matches against his son Maxime and his rising-star daughter Valentine.

■ Dieterich Doerfler Sr. was arrested in Seminole County, Fla., in March and charged with shredding his adult son's child pornography collection, which police said he did in order to help the son avoid a probation violation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 130th day of 2006.
There are 235 days left in the year.

On May 10, 1869, a golden spike was driven at Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1775, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, N.Y.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Creative minds always have been known to survive any kind of bad training."

ANNA FREUD
AUSTRIAN-BORN PSYCHOANALYST (1895-1982)

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The promenade's final drag?



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

WHEN THERE'S NO SMOKE, THERE'S IRE: Steve Zawatsky, 45, a former Santa Monica resident now living in the Valley, lights up on the Third Street Promenade. Some smokers are upset that a proposed ban could put an end to smoking here and in other public places.

City Council looks into expanding ban on public smoking

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE — Smokers beware: The next time you light up here, you could be breaking the law.

Like the city's parks, beach and the Santa Monica Pier before it, the promenade could soon be off limits to smokers if the City Council decides to extend its ban on smoking in public.

The idea of a complete ban on the promenade, as well as in outdoor dining areas, movie theater lines, ATMs and all doorways is currently being studied by the City

Attorney's Office at the request of the council. The investigation follows a report from the California Air Quality Board that second-hand smoke is a dangerous and potentially deadly toxin that should be regulated on the same level as benzene, a known carcinogen.

City Hall has been at the forefront of the move to protect the public's health from second-hand smoke. It was the first city to enforce a statewide ban passed in 1998 on smoking in restaurants and bars. Shortly after that, City Hall prohibited smoking in public parks. That soon spread to the pier, beach, bus stops and within 20 feet of all public buildings.

If caught, violators can be fined as much as \$750. Smokers are usually given a warning before a cita-

See **SMOKING**, page 5

STATE

California wine is a risky liquid asset

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. — As investments go, wine's a risky liquid asset. A slip of the hand can send hundreds of dollars crashing to the floor. Fire, flood or a simple power outage can ruin a rare vintage. Even for those wines that stay safely tucked in their cellars, the cost of buying, selling and storing the stuff make it a questionable investment, say some economists.

None of which makes much of an impression on someone who's been bitten by the wine collecting bug. "There's a lot of different reasons to do it," said wine collector John Cobus, who works in real estate banking in Southern California. "For me, it's a combination of using my real estate skills and talking with growers and being out in the countryside. It's just a vast education."

Cobus is hardly the first person to be sold on his cellar. One of America's first wine authori-

See **WINE**, page 6

SM public schools making the grade

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY — The state of Santa Monica public schools is strong, with students from all grade levels making significant strides in academic achievement, according to a report from leaders of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

During a forum held Monday

entitled "The State of Our Schools: How Are We Doing?," parents learned that although California public school students rank dead last in English and second to last in math nationwide, SMMUSD is home to two of the top 300 high schools in the country, according to Newsweek, with a graduation rate of 98 percent, district officials said.

On top of that, student test scores

Student test scores have jumped by 33 percent overall compared to last year.

have jumped by 33 percent overall compared to last year, with the strongest gains coming from socio-economically disadvantaged students at 56 percent. Additionally, scores among Latinos improved by 52 percent, and scores among African Americans improved 46 percent.

"Growing up in Arkansas, we had a saying about our schools, and that was, 'Thank God for Mississippi,'" joked interim superintendent Mike Matthews about the level of government funding. "Now we say, 'Thank God for California,' because funding has changed that much. We're basically dead last."

But despite the odds, SMMUSD is making gains, much of which is credited to dedicated faculty, an active community and a City Council that has agreed to steadily fund the district in times of financial crisis that would normally force

See **SCHOOLS**, page 6

Sands of time



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

In preparation for summer and SoCal's dry season, a tractor gathers sand to fill the Pico storm drain where stormwater run-off flows during the winter.

Jacquie Banks

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HOROSCOPES

Ever playful, Gemini

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)

★★★★★ What you were sure of -- be it a person, goal or situation -- could become convoluted. Think in terms of gains and growing. A partner inspires ideas and helps you move in a new direction. Tonight: Easy does it.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Pace yourself and double-check facts. Someone who acts as if he or she is in charge might be confusing or the source of a mix-up. Being sincere and honest could help you work with others. Think positively despite all the red flags. Tonight: Keep smiling.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your playfulness easily could be misunderstood. Perhaps a little less exaggeration and a little more decorum will draw positive results. You might cause a hassle out of the blue. Investigate your options. Tonight: Ever playful.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Someone or a situation could disappoint you. Anchor in and understand what a partner wants. You might need to make a choice between two people or two situations. Know who butters your bread. That will be the smart choice. Tonight: Happiest at home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Keep talking and opening up to others. You might be surprised, and at some point disappointed, by what someone else says. You might want to move a project ahead, and others might undermine you. Be diplomatic if you want to succeed. Tonight: Meet a friend at a favorite haunt.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for others and listen to the other side of the question. You might want or need to spend some money in order to get much-needed feedback. Not everything is as it appears to be, especially in your daily life. Tonight: Seek feedback.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might be able to move mountains because of your creativity and high energy. Your perspective changes considerably because you are willing to put yourself on the line. A partner or associate is difficult. Tonight: You're top dog.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ The slower the pace, the better off you are. Think through a question more carefully. Review a personal matter involving an important relationship. See what happens if you relax and let your feelings and instincts flow. Tonight: Take some well-deserved personal time.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Friends point the way. Still, you could be confused by someone in your daily life and what he or she says. You might want to lighten up and just focus on what you want. That would be the most successful path right now. Tonight: Wherever you want to be.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Taking charge works for you better than many. Though there might be ambivalence about a risk, you may decide to go with it anyway. Money could easily drip through your fingers. You don't want that -- do you? Tonight: A force to be reckoned with.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to do something very different. Laugh and relax with those in your life. Someone at a distance could make a big difference in your choices. Smile and relax with news. Nothing is impossible. Tonight: Read between the lines.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Work with others and deal with the basics. A lot of the information you get could be off, or you might not be getting all the facts. Confirm everything you hear. Brainstorm and be willing to share more of your thoughts. Tonight: Dinner for two.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

Shotgun House to be highlighted this week

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Conservancy's third lecture in its annual lecture series highlights a unique and endangered historic building known as the Shotgun House, built in the 1890s and designated as a Santa Monica landmark in 1999.

The lecture, to be held on Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Santa Monica Public Library, will explore the house's historical significance to the development of Santa Monica. The presentation will be given by graduate students in USC's historic preservation program, taught by professor and conservancy board president Ken Breisch. The Shotgun House has been the subject of their case study in historical research.

A modest and small-scale structure, the wood-frame, one-story house has generated community support as its survival has been threatened more than once, conservancy board members said. Marked for demolition in 2002, the house has survived two temporary moves, one to the Santa Monica Airport and in November of 2005 to a vacant piece of city-owned land. The Santa Monica Conservancy is working hard to find a permanent home and to have the house restored in order to maintain it as a cultural resource with a new creative public use.

The Shotgun House derived its name from the fact that the design of the simple structure — one-story, one-room wide and two or three rooms deep, one behind the other — would allow a gunshot to enter through the front door and exit the back door without ever touching a wall. Around the turn of the century, more than 200 such cottages inhabited the area close to the beach, marking a time in Santa Monica's history when laborers lived in them and tourists used them as temporary housing. The affordable and quick set up of the houses made them popular. As a result, the Shotgun House chronicles an important part of Santa Monica's history as it grew from its identity as a frontier town into a prosperous city, conservancy board members said.

The lecture takes place in the second floor multi-purpose room of the new Main Library at Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. Parking is \$1 per hour in the library parking structure. For more information call the Santa Monica Conservancy at (310) 485-0399 or visit www.smconservancy.org.

This program is not sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library.

'Love Letters' open to the public

By Daily Press staff

A play will be performed in Santa Monica that will raise money for a local social service group.

The CLARE Foundation, a social service group with 11 locations on the Westside, will host "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney for one night.

See BRIEFS, page 7



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 156" - 180"	LIFT HOURS 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 7/28
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

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

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

TODAY IT LOOKS LIKE BOTH NW AND SW SWELLS WILL BACK OFF WITH WEST-FACING BREAKS SEEING SOME CHEST HIGH SETS, MORE LIKE WAIST HIGH FOR SOUTH-FACING BREAKS.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SW CREEPS IN SATURDAY, BUT BETTER ON SUNDAY...

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	1:35AM	1.47FT	1:17PM	0.88FT
HIGH TIDE	7:14AM	3.85FT	7:46PM	4.79FT

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE	2:09AM	0.92FT	1:41PM	1.09FT
HIGH TIDE	7:59AM	3.84FT	8:04PM	5.11FT

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE	2:42AM	0.41FT	2:05PM	1.31FT
HIGH TIDE	8:41AM	3.80FT	8:25PM	5.41FT

THURSDAY

LOW TIDE	3:14AM	-0.03FT	2:29PM	1.54FT
HIGH TIDE	9:22AM	3.74FT	8:47PM	5.67FT

FRIDAY

LOW TIDE	3:48AM	-0.40FT	2:54PM	1.77FT
HIGH TIDE	10:04AM	3.65FT	9:13PM	5.87FT

The QLine

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Pssst, do you want to sign a marijuana petition?

Santa Monicans have been asked that question in recent weeks, as the Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy is gathering signatures in the hopes of placing a measure on the November ballot that would make the drug's criminal enforcement a low priority.

Top police officials have already come out in opposition to the measure.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **Do you feel laws against personal marijuana use should be strictly enforced, or should police focus their attention elsewhere?**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition.



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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Education salaries lacking

Editor:

First of all, I hope my neighbors and colleagues — as well as your readers — will forgive my tardiness in responding to Jim Jaffe's letter to the editor (SMDP, April 25, page 4). I was trapped on Catalina Island with 58 fifth graders for several days and unable to access the Internet.

Jim laments the apathy of some citizens and voters in holding their elected officials accountable for their actions. Well Mr. Jaffe, you've got no one to blame but yourself on that one. You yourself have been so diligent, so tirelessly and remarkably alert to the actions of the SMMUSD Board of Education for at least three decades that I am aware of, many folks simply shrug their shoulders and sigh, "Jim'll take care of it" or "Jaffe's got our back."

It is an effect that I have seen coast to coast in this middle-aged democracy of ours. Too many citizens worn down by the everyday wear and tear of making a living and ends meet, depending upon the occasional rare individual who seems to get up every morning determined to preserved the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of all his or her neighbors.

I'd just like to say publicly, "Thank you, Jim Jaffe."

My second point references Jim's point about the expansion of administrative pay. Now I'm all for administrators making every penny they can — Lord knows they earn it. Besides many are former colleagues, and I'm all for anyone and everyone in public education including secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, grounds keepers, etc., making enough money to be able to live in the community they serve so well. However, I am vice president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers' Association (SMMCTA), and must confess a special interest to the needs of teachers.

To wit: From 2001 through 2005, state Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) from the state of California ran at a little better than 18 percent. Our teachers in Santa Monica received only 13 percent of that increase. Therefore, on New Year's Eve last, they were effectively working for 5 percent less than they had on Sept. 1, 2001. You may have noticed that gasoline, goods, rent — a great many things have increased dramatically over that time period.

This is made all the more troubling by the fact that the school board is sitting on top of a budget reserve of well over \$10 million. The state-mandated reserve is \$3.4 million. Why are they refusing to reward their other employees — besides the administrators — who also deserve better compensation?

On top of which, many of my colleagues, myself included, got hit with a \$500-plus increase in the cost of maintaining our family's health benefits — paying to maintain benefits is also a "new" concept this year for SMMCTA. That pretty much negated much of the mid-year increase we did receive, effectively only 1.6 percent of a 4.23 COLA for the year. Long-term substitute teachers lost their right to gain medical benefits for their families for reasons that have never been explained to me.

When the city and board go to the voters asking them to approve a bond measure for the district, they never fail to laud our excellent staffs and the need to hire and retain the best available teachers. But when it's time to ante up, teachers are left 5 percent short of where they were five years ago.

This bait and switch tactic needs to end. The board doesn't need a \$10 million cushion.

My thanks for your time and patience in these and all related matters.

Marc J. Sanschagrin
Vice President
Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers'
Association

Love works when time's short



THE WITNESS STAND BY CLIFF NICHOLS

Have you seen them? There are billboards appearing all over town that say something like, "6 + 6 + 06. The signs are all around you." Is this intended to mean that the Anti-Christ is now among us? If so, that could be important, don't you think? At minimum, it could affect what we put in our day-planners in the future. Time may be in shorter supply than we thought.

We all know time is in short supply anyway, but we soon forget it. We get busy with the doing of whatever the day has in store, and then are only too glad when it's over and we can get back to our homes. Then what? We eat and turn on the TV. Then we go to sleep, and that day is over. In the middle of it all and even if we assume the Anti-Christ's appearance may be delayed due to traffic, most of us rarely reflect upon the certainty that one more day in our lives is gone forever, and will never be recaptured. If we did, might we contemplate more carefully whether or not it was spent well?

Assume an average life span of 70 years. That comes to 25,550 days that most of us can anticipate spending on this earth. Sounds like a lot, especially to a newborn. But not if you're 50. At that point you have already spent 18,250 days and only have 7,300 left. And if the billboard is correct and the beast is soon to make his debut, maybe less. When viewed from that standpoint, would it not make sense to start considering those days that remain as increasingly precious? Doesn't the question then become how should they be spent, so that at the end we can know they were well spent?

The answer to that question, I guess, depends on our priorities. Say, for example, if you're into acquisition, I suppose that you would consider your days well spent if you are the richest SOB on the block, the city or maybe even the nation when you die. Who knows? If you're really good enough at it you may even get either a statue or freeway overpass named in your honor after you are gone. But even that won't allow you to escape the irony that all you will have acquired will go to others who will most likely have done little, if anything, to deserve it, and worse yet, who may even abuse the privilege it affords them by living lives that openly mock your memory. In that regard, Paris Hilton comes to mind. Don't you know Conrad would have been proud to know that all his life's work and the money it brought him ultimately resulted in making Paris' haughty lifestyle, not to mention the popularity of her XXX video, possible? Don't you think if he were to know that it would just warm the cockles of his heart?

Others, however, may suspect there is a better way. And the suspicion seems to increase the older, and hopefully wiser, one gets. Wealth is elusive, and relationships based upon it are hardly friendships to be cherished. True bonds established between us and the people who are put in our

lives are what increase the value of life, and I have come to believe they can only be predicated on one thing, and one thing only: love.

The fruits of our choice to express to others a love that comes from our hearts are many. We see it in some people's devotion to one another, their deference to other's feelings, their willingness to provide for the needs of others, their offering of a blessing to those who have abused them, their rejoicing when others are blessed, and their compassion to weep with those who are experiencing sorrow. Love never pays back evil for evil and always respects what is right in the sight of all men. Those who love others, so far as it depends on them, are at peace with all. They are people who seem determined to overcome evil with good. Not only do they live lives that reflect an abhorrence of what is evil, but they in fact seem to cling to what is good. The older I get, the more I see that it is the people who have molded their lives to conform to these principles who not only have lives worth living, but whom, in the estimation of all around them, have lives of worth.

We get busy with the doing of
whatever the day has in store, and
then are only too glad when it's over
and we can get back to our homes.

People who have allowed a love for their fellow man to become ingrained in their heart, and who have also acquired the personal freedom to allow that love to be expressed to others seem to be the people who more and more I want to emulate as my time grows shorter. More often than not, they do not appear to be people who are angry, hurtful, jealous, prideful or arrogant, but rather are patient, kind, long-suffering, humble and hopeful to and with all those around them. They smile and wave when they see you; they hug you when they say good-bye; they mean it when they tell you they hope to see you again real soon. And, in between now and then, you just know in your heart they are busy doing something to make your life better. Perhaps that is why when they are gone their absence seems so much more notable. Perhaps that is why the longer I live the more I seek to be like them. It seems so much better than leaving those who remain after I'm gone just a note telling them where to find the key to my safety-deposit box and hoping that I remembered to ask them to please try to not use the contents thereof to finance their starring role in a XXX video. Even though Lucifer's Beastly Boy might find it entertaining, from everything I've read about the likely success of his anticipated global ambitions, I really don't think the movie will have a very long run.

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

Bitch!
Whine!
Complain!

Check out our Q-Line™ question on Page 3.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



SMMUSD schools among top in the nation

SCHOOLS, from page 1

schools to cut programs, Matthews and others said.

"It all comes to this: We have a clear mission at the district, and that is we want extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap," Matthews said. "We've made some outstanding progress, particularly amongst students who have traditionally struggled. We still have a lot of work to do.

"If it can't be done in Santa Monica and Malibu, then it can't be done anywhere," Matthews added. "We have the resources and the commitment to make it happen."

Matthews was joined at the forum by school board president Julia Brownley and RAND Corp. researcher Brian Stecher, who tried to provide some context for student achievement here by offering a report card on the state as a whole. The event was hosted by the Santa Monica-Malibu Parent Teacher Association and Community for Excellent Public Schools, a group of community and school supporters.

Stecher found that the state is performing poorly in several areas, including academic achievement, fully credentialed teachers, maintaining and upgrading facilities, funding, and graduation rates. Overall, Stecher said RAND rated the state's commitment to schools somewhere around a D, with an F in academic achievement and a C-minus in funding.

Brownley said many of the problems school districts face are caused by a lack of funding, which is why City Hall's commitment of about \$6 million annually to SMMUSD is so crucial to the district continuing to offer "a well-rounded, quality education." Brownley mentioned Santa Monica High School's award-winning choir, science bowl team, as well as scores of other clubs the school offers as evidence that the district is doing more than just what's required in the classroom.

"We just don't stop at education rigor," she said. "We recognize the importance of arts enrichment ... We are also attentive to non-academic needs, with the one of the highest counselor-to-student ratios anywhere."

Brownley praised parents for donating time and money to their children's schools. Their efforts, she said, have helped raise \$16 million a year through a combination of parcel taxes, funding from City Hall and \$3 to \$4 million from parents holding bake sales and other fund-raisers.

"The funding we receive helps us attract top-notch teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians in all schools and provide programs that have been cut elsewhere," she said.

Some of those teachers were on hand Monday night along with seniors from Samohi. They each gave presentations in which they discussed their experiences in the district, both from an employee's per-

"This is such an amazing place. I love the diversity, the community feel and the commitment from teachers."

FELIPE GARCIA
SAMOHI SENIOR

spective and that of customers of the district, being the students.

"This by far has been the greatest adventure of my life," said Steve Rupprecht, a former world traveler who has taught math at Samohi for the last 10 years. "There is this pervasive psychology of the loving of learning ... We offer not just job training, but thought training."

Samohi senior Iván Rodriguez-Lopez, whose parents immigrated from Venezuela, said he would never have been able to study neuroscience at UCLA this fall if it wasn't for the challenging curriculum and the many extracurricular activities in the district.

"When I started school in the district, I was presented with so many options to pursue," he said. "Anything I felt I wanted to do, I could. I was just blown away by that."

As was Felipe Garcia, another senior at Samohi, who plans to attend USC in the fall. Garcia said before coming to the district during his middle school years, he attended a school in east Los Angeles, where he said he did not know any of his counselors. As a result, he became detached and depressed.

"The place made me feel ashamed to be

Mexican," he said.

But after a few months in Santa Monica, he said his attitude changed completely. He became enrolled in the district's AVID program, which helps students whose parents have never been to college navigate the application process.

"This is such an amazing place," Garcia said. "I love the diversity, the community feel and the commitment from teachers."

However, there still is room to improve, said senior Daryl Fairweather, who will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.

"I've never felt like an I.D. number at Samohi," she said. "But there have been some rough patches along the way."

Fairweather said there is still "segregation" among students in honors classes and those who are struggling, as well as a lack of minority students in advanced placement classes.

"But teachers know this exists, and they are addressing it," Fairweather said. "There is also a lack of a sense of unity and pride. Samohi is a great school, but I know we can achieve more."

Grapes of math: Successful wine businesses require education, trust

WINE, from page 1

ties was its third president, Thomas Jefferson, who toured European vineyards looking for wine to send home.

A Jefferson selection — a 1787 Chateau Lafite marked with the initials Th. J that apparently never got shipped — turned into what is believed to be the world's costliest single bottle of wine, fetching more than \$156,000 in 1985.

Still, for every superstar story, there are as many tales of grape expectations dashed.

Joyce P. Jacobsen, chairman of the economics department at Wesleyan University, has studied wine as an alternative to stocks and bonds and found it wanting.

Jacobsen co-authored a paper that looked at the rate of return on high value wines from 1986 to 1996 and found that wine didn't outperform financial assets, especially after factoring in extra costs such as insurance, storage and price markups.

"We say it should be savored rather than saved," was Jacobsen's conclusion.

It is possible to make money buying and selling wine, said Jerry Zech, chief executive of WineBid.com, an online auction house. "But you have to know what you're

doing. You have to educate yourself and deal with people that you can trust."

The people who do end up making money on wine, he said, usually aren't doing it as an investment. "They're buying wine because they love wine." The selling part often happens when someone gets interested in a new wine-growing region and decides to clear out past purchases.

Cobus got into the wine game by an unusual route; he was a home beer brewer who branched out.

He estimated he's got 1,000 bottles, mostly kept at a storage facility. His wife "has no idea," he cheerfully admits. "That's generally how it works."

The trick to investing is getting in early; some of California's most sought after wines are sold only by mail to subscribers who signed up long ago and the lists are now closed.

Cobus estimated some of his purchases have appreciated substantially over the years. Not that he plans on selling much soon, noting that sales are often brought on by the "three Ds" — death, divorce and debt.

In Napa, wine collector Garret Murphy has a similar outlook.

Wine is Murphy's business. He owns the

A look at some notable prices fetched by wine

By The Associated Press

Here's a look at some of the highest-priced wines ever sold:

BELOVED BURGUNDY: A six-magnum case of 1985 Romanee-Conti wine sold for more than \$170,375 at Christie's in New York City in March.

VALUABLE VINO: An 1891 bottle of Brunello di Montalcino Biondi Santi Riserva fetched nearly \$15,000 at a Rome wine auction by Florence's Pandolfini auction house in 2000.

G'DAY, GOOD PRICE: A bottle of 1951 Penfolds Grange Hermitage sold for about \$21,500 at a December 1999 auction in Adelaide, Australia, conducted by special-

ist auction house Oddbins. The 1951 Grange, created by wine industry legend Max Schubert, is highly sought after because it was never released but given away to Schubert's friends and colleagues.

COSTLY CABS: Nine bottles of California wine brought \$58,600 at auction. That amounts to about \$6,500 a bottle for the 1941 Inglenook cabernet sauvignon, sold during a Zachys-Christie's auction in Los Angeles in 1999.

A GRAPE DEAL: A bottle of 1787 Chateau Lafite sold for more than \$156,000 at Christie's London in 1985. The bottle, apparently intended for Thomas Jefferson, was worth extra because it was engraved with his initials, "Th J," and is believed to be the most expensive single bottle ever sold. (A 1784 Chateau d'Yquem, also earmarked for Jefferson, sold for more than \$55,000 the following year.)

Vintner's Collective, a charming tasting room in downtown Napa where visitors can get a sampling of some of the area's boutique wineries.

And he takes his work home. The cellar under his kitchen floor holds a small but cherished collection.

Murphy's more likely to drink or give away his wines than sell them, although he'd consider it. "I have a '62 Inglenook and if I

ever found out it was worth \$50,000 a bottle because it was the last one remaining on earth ...," he said, trailing off.

Stored wine took a hit in 2005.

Hurricane Katrina wrecked a number of wine cellars, including the highly regarded 35,000-bottle collection at New Orleans' Brennan's Restaurant, where some fabled vintages broiled in the heat when the electricity went out.



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Schools: Repeal bill affecting reimbursement

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — School districts and education lobbyists are petitioning California lawmakers to repeal a bill they say was passed in a late-night session last summer and could end up costing them millions of dollars to run state-mandated programs.

The Assembly legislation passed last July could cost districts as much as \$300 million if the state stopped paying them for the administration of some programs, including overseeing charter schools or compiling the complex annual school accountability reports, said Kevin Gordon, president of School Innovations and Advocacy, an education lobbying group.

Brett McFadden, a spokesman for the Association of California School Administrators, said his group and others noticed the problem about a month after the law was passed as part of the process to approve the state budget last year.

An analysis compiled for legislators who were voting on the bill specifically said it would not affect schools.

"This was done in the dark of night, done in a budget trailer bill," said Sandy

Silberstein, director of government relations for the California Association of School Business Officials. "There was no public hearing, no opportunity for us to weigh in on this."

The bill, introduced by the Assembly budget committee, was part of an agreement with counties and other local governments to reform the way they are reimbursed for state mandates.

For schools, that money mostly goes for administration and paperwork to compile student-accountability report cards or establish local offices overseeing charter schools and other programs they are required to supervise under state law. The law would not affect funding for the actual programs, but rather the potential reimbursement to school districts.

When legislators approve new requirements for school districts, the districts operate the programs, report back to the state and then typically apply to be repaid for the costs of overseeing them. The law passed in July could allow the state to withdraw that reimbursement, school officials said Monday.

For San Francisco Unified School District, that could add up to about \$8 million a year, said Jill Wynns, a commissioner for the San Francisco Board of Education.

"You have to spend the money first and then go through this arcane process to get it back," Wynns said.

Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, chairman of the budget committee that wrote the bill, did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press on Monday.

Another assemblyman, budget subcommittee on education Chairman Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton, is working on legislation that would reverse the consequences of last year's law, his office said. A coalition of school boards, administrators and lobbyists also have appealed to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to direct the state Department of Finance to intervene.

In a letter to the group Monday, state Treasurer Phil Angelides, a candidate for the

"You have to spend the money first and then go through this arcane process to get it back."

JILL WYNNS
COMMISSIONER, S.F. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Democratic gubernatorial nomination this June, said he also supports repealing the law.

"Funding for California public schools is already shamefully low and any attempt to exacerbate the difficult fiscal conditions they face should be swiftly defeated," Angelides said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The play stars Meredith Baxter, a CLARE Foundation board member, and Jeffrey Tambor, a long-time supporter of CLARE. The show will be held at the Church in Ocean Park at Second and Hill streets. The evening will open with a silent auction and dessert reception at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, May 12. The performance begins at 8:30 p.m.

The one-act play chronicles the lives of Andrew Makepeace III and Melissa Gardner, childhood sweethearts from the 1930s through the 1980s. Their story is related through letters they write to each other. While Andrew is in Europe fighting World War II, Melissa marries another. Andrew returns, also marries, and rises to success as a lawyer, then senator. Melissa struggles as an artist, spiraling down through addiction and despair, her marriage in ruins. Andrew's final letter is to Melissa's mother, after Melissa's untimely death.

For tickets or sponsorship information, please visit www.clarefoundation.org or call or call (310) 314-6212

Justo Almario to perform at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Justo Almario Quartet, the hot new jazz group whose woodwind-playing leader has been called "one of the top 10 Latin jazz saxophonists of our time," will be performing at Santa Monica College this week.

The show will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12, in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$10.

Colombian-born Almario is a musician, composer and arranger who combines elements of his native South American rhythms with American jazz to create an artistry distinctly his own.

An alumnus of the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Almario started his professional career with the Latin jazz great Mongo Santamaria, traveling and performing throughout the world.

His career has spanned several decades, and he has performed and recorded with such leading artists as Herb Alpert, Freddie Hubbard, Chaka Khan, Linda Ronstadt and Queen Latifah. He also has contributed to numerous films and television soundtracks.

Several recordings that he has played on have been nominated for Grammys, and in 1996 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Berklee College of Music.

For tickets, call (310) 434-3000.



Photo courtesy

Justo Almario will perform May 12 at SMC.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Officers avoid charges related to stun-gun death

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — Two San Bernardino County sheriff’s sergeants will not face criminal charges in the death of a suspect who was repeatedly zapped with a stun gun, prosecutors said.

Sgts. Gary Stewart and Thomas Alsky applied the Taser as they were trained to do, the district attorney’s office concluded Monday.

Leroy Pierson, 55, died nearly a year ago after being shocked four times at a jail-house. The final electric shock was applied for 47 seconds straight, according to the report by the district attorney’s office.

The deputies did not believe they were applying deadly force, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Ray Pyle said.

“This wasn’t supposed to cause any injury,” Pyle said. “I just don’t see how you can hold someone criminally responsible when they’re acting within their training and experience.”

Deputies arrested Pierson for public intoxication last May 16, and he was combative in the patrol car and at the jail, authorities said.

Pierson’s mother said the jailers used excessive force on her son, who weighed only about 150 pounds and should have been easy to restrain without being shocked.

Transit planners back natural gas

By The Associated Press

ORANGE — Transit planners backed the purchase of 250 compressed natural gas buses after being told ridership would increase because of higher gas prices.

Orange County Transportation Authority chief Art Leahy persuaded the agency’s directors to support the purchase Monday, saying the vehicles were needed for commuters seeking alternative ways to get around.

He said he wanted to place the order early because he feared a repeat of what occurred in the 1970s fuel shortage, when some transit agencies didn’t get buses because manufacturers couldn’t meet demand.

The transit authority will get a \$5 million quantity discount on the \$106 million order.

When the deliveries are completed in 2009, the county will have 299 natural gas buses in service, officials said.

State law prohibits transit agencies from buying diesel-powered buses because of clean-air regulations.

Wallet could reveal clue in burglary investigation

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — Deputies investigating a burglary found what may be a clue in a loot-laden car — a wallet.

Deputies responding to a call discovered a parked 1988 Honda with a computer and other electronic equipment inside, San Bernardino County sheriff’s Sgt. Tony DeCecio said.

They determined the items had been stolen from a nearby home with an open window.

Later, authorities got a call from someone who saw a man jump over a wall into a field. Deputies believe the man stayed hidden in the area until he thought deputies had left.

Officials plan to use the wallet in their search for the man.

“We’re attempting to make contact with him,” DeCecio said.

Officials order analysis of domestic abuse

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City officials ordered an analysis of domestic assaults reported in 2005 after advocates said police had underestimated the frequency of abuse.

The order by the Public Safety Committee came Monday in response to claims that a revised police policy had resulted in the exclusion of cases involving minor or no injuries.

Advocates fear the lower numbers could result in the cutting of funds for battered women and children.

“There is a direct relationship between the number of victims and the amount of funding programs receive,” said Karen Earl, executive director of the Jenesse Center, an abuse intervention program.

Los Angeles police Cmdr. Charlie Beck said the department reclassified its domestic assaults to comply with federal guidelines.

“There’s no change in the way the department handles domestic violence calls,” he said. “The only change has been the way we report the statistics to the FBI.”

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STATE



Wachovia to acquire Golden West in \$24 billion-plus deal

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Wachovia Corp., the nation's fourth largest bank, is muscling into the West with a \$24.2 billion deal to buy Golden West Financial Corp., a mom-and-pop shop that blossomed into a prized savings and loan.

The stock-and-cash acquisition initially valued Golden West at \$25.5 billion, or \$81.07 per share — 15 percent above the company's last price on the New York Stock Exchange before the takeover was announced late Sunday.

But the proposed sale price dropped as Wachovia's stock declined amid investor concerns about how the deal will affect the bank's future earnings. Wachovia shares fell \$3.97, or 6.7 percent, to close at \$55.42 on the New York Stock Exchange, where Golden West shares rose \$4.39, or 6.2 percent, to finish at \$74.90.

With the takeover, Charlotte, N.C.-based Wachovia would pick up a 285-branch network spanning 10 states that would fill a void in the company's operations. Wachovia especially wants to raise its profile in California, where Golden West holds \$32 billion in deposits and operates 123 branches under the World Savings Bank brand.

Golden West earned \$1.5 billion last year, primarily from making the adjustable rate mortgage loans that have been its bread and butter for decades.

The Oakland, Calif.-based company began to take shape 43 years ago when the husband-and-wife team of Herbert and Marion Sandler paid \$4 million for a San Francisco Bay area savings and loan with just \$34 million in assets and 25 employees.

Boasting \$125 billion in assets and 11,600 employees today, Golden West now ranks as the nation's second largest savings and loan behind Washington Mutual Co. The Sandlers, now in their mid-70s, have remained Golden West's co-chief executive officers in one of corporate America's most unique partnerships.

In a report issued Monday, CreditSights analyst David Hender said the deal raises questions about whether a large bank like Wachovia will be able to retain the same personal touch that made Golden West such a success under the Sandlers.

Although they refused to sign an employment agreement with Wachovia, the Sandlers have promised to remain on board as long as Wachovia Chairman Ken Thompson desires.

Because Golden West holds such a large number of adjustable rate mortgages, Wachovia runs the risk of inheriting more losses if rising monthly payments cause more borrowers default on their home loans.

"There are quite a bit of misgivings about the timing of this deal," said Thomas Burnett, director of research for Wall Street Access. "People are worried that Wachovia is buying into the peak of the mortgage market."

In a conference call with analysts Monday, Herb Sandler dismissed those worries as "a bunch of garbage."

Even as it has steadily grown with a series of acquisitions,

Wachovia's 3,159 offices have been limited to 16 states concentrated in the East and South. The company acquired a small presence in California earlier this year with a \$3.9 billion acquisition of auto lender Westcorp, which has 19 branches in southern California.

Besides substantially expanding Wachovia's California presence, the Golden West deal will give the bank its first branches in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and Nevada. Wachovia doesn't plan to begin converting the World Savings branches to its name until late 2007.

"We feel like we are merging with a crown jewel," Thompson said during an interview Monday. "This is a transformative deal for us."

Wachovia's brand began extending into new markets in 2001 when it was sold for \$14.6 billion to First Union Corp., which subsequently changed its name. Until now, Wachovia's biggest acquisition since then had been its \$14.3 billion takeover of SouthTrust Corp. in 2004.

If the Golden West deal goes through as expected late this year, Wachovia will control about \$669 billion in assets and deposits of \$390 billion.

The combined deposits will give Wachovia a national market share of 6.6 percent, ranking third behind JP Morgan Chase & Co. at 7.3 percent and Bank of America Corp. at 11 percent, according to Prudential Equity Group analyst Michael Mayo.

Wachovia would remain fourth in asset size, trailing Citigroup Inc. (\$1.6 trillion), Bank of America (\$1.4 trillion) and JP Morgan Chase (\$1.3 trillion).

Unlike many banking takeovers, there is little overlap between Wachovia and Golden West. Wachovia expects to close 55 branches and lay off 1,100 employees, leaving a combined payroll of 110,000 workers. The cost-cutting is expected to reduce the combined company's expenses by \$53 million annually.

Wachovia is counting on the Golden West takeover to boost its pretax earnings by \$230 million annually by 2009.

The proposed sale resolves the question of what will happen to Golden West after the Sandlers retire — a question that had been dogging the company for several years. Herbert is 74 and Marion is 75.

Despite Golden West's track record for double-digit earnings growth, Herb Sandler said he and Marion knew the company needed to diversify beyond home mortgages to remain successful in the future.

"You can go just so far with a one-product company," he said during the conference call.

The Sandlers are in line for a \$2.4 billion windfall, based on their 10.24 percent stake in Golden West, according to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In an interview, Herb said the couple plans to give all their money away through a foundation that they set up years ago.

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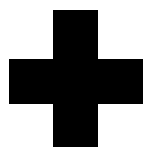
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Office space needed in Southern California



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Last year was an incredible year for office building purchases. Across the country, \$99.7 billion of office properties traded hands — a 34 percent increase over 2004, and more than one-third of the \$268 billion in investment grade commercial real estate transactions in 2005. Locally, buyers spent close to \$5 billion on office buildings in LA County last year — up from \$4.2 billion in 2004, which was 6 percent more than 2003, and double the 2001 figure, according to Cushman & Wakefield Global Real Estate Services.

“There have been gobs and gobs of money thrown at commercial real estate,” says Nicolas Buss of PNC Real Estate Finance.

Southern California has the tightest industrial market in the U.S., and a rapidly tightening office market. The challenge is demand versus supply. There is not enough land available for new commercial development to accommodate business growth. Still, we try. There were a total of 252 major expansions in the five-county region during 2005, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp (LAEDC).

Office vacancy rates have been declining across the Los Angeles five-county region

since the second quarter of 2004, a period when businesses started hiring more employees. Among the growing white-collar businesses in Southern California are law, accounting, banking and management consulting — more employees equals the need for more office space. Between fourth quarter 2004 and fourth quarter 2005, LA office vacancy rates dropped from 14.8 percent to 11.2 percent; Orange County dropped from 10.7 percent to 7.2 percent; Riverside-San Bernardino counties went from 9.5 percent to 7.0 percent; and Ventura County was down from 11.2 percent to 9.0 percent a year ago.

The LAEDC has calculated office space need by industry sector: “Professional services,” which includes accounting, law, architecture and engineering, as well as personnel services, posted 52 major expansions in

VARIOUS OFFICE VACANCY RATES AND RENTS

Area	Vacancy Rate	Rent per Sq. foot
Long Beach	11.9%	\$1.86
North L.A. County	8.1%	\$2.13
Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena	8.5%	\$2.42
L.A.'s Westside	8.3%	\$2.74
L.A. Central		
Business District	14.6%	\$2.29
Inland Empire	12.3%	\$1.96
Orange County	8.9%	\$2.17

* Source: Cushman & Wakefield

“The overall economy is continuing to grow, and a lot of the growth is coming in sectors that are big users of office space.”

JACK KYSER
ECONOMIST, LAEDC

2005, up from 41 in 2004. “Logistics” had 26 major expansions, down from 34 in 2004. The “finance and insurance” industry had 12 major expansions in 2005, down from 27 in 2004. The “entertainment industry” had 11 major expansions in 2005, down from 12 in 2004. “Apparel and textile” had 10 major expansions, down from 14 in 2004. “Aerospace/defense” and “hi-tech” both had nine major expansions compared to 10 during 2004. Three of Southern California’s major projects in 2005 were out of state relocations from Colorado, Nevada and Texas — up one development project from the year prior. Foreign firms accounted for 18 major office expansions during 2005, unchanged from the previous year. The expansions came from Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Sweden and United Kingdom.

“The overall economy is continuing to grow, and a lot of the growth is coming in sectors that are big users of office space,” said economist Jack Kyser of the LAEDC.

Cushman & Wakefield reported that at the end of the first quarter of 2006, asking rents averaged \$2.14 per square foot per month, up 9 cents from the first quarter in 2005. By the end of the year, the National Association of Realtors predicts that office vacancy rates will be around 11 percent nationally, with rates dipping as low as 5 percent in parts of Southern California.

Meanwhile, for those buying and selling office buildings, prices on average have soared above \$200 per square foot. The Los Angeles Times reports that the average price per foot for office buildings rose to \$196 in 2004, up from \$156 in 2003. Prices downtown hit \$350 a foot this year. Sale prices are well above \$400 per square foot in downtown Santa Monica.

Nationwide, the National Association of Realtors reports that office rate vacancies were 12.6 percent for the first quarter of 2006, predicted to drop down to 12.1 percent for the second quarter. This is the first time since the summer of 2001 that the national office vacancy rate has dropped to under 13 percent.

Options are still sizable for a small-business tenant who uses less than 5,000 square feet, “but companies that need more than 50,000 square feet will have very limited choices,” said Jerry Porter of Cresa Partners, tenant representatives.

The LA Times stated that downtown’s vacancy rate fell to 14.6 percent from 16.3 percent in the first quarter and rents climbed 24 cents to \$2.29. Other markets including Pasadena and the San Fernando Valley also have tightened. Average monthly asking rents in Santa Monica were the highest in the county at \$3.61 per square foot, a 26 percent increase from a year ago. The vacancy rate fell to 4.6 percent from 7.5 percent a year ago.

“We are going to be in a much stronger landlord market for the next 24 to 30 months until more space comes on line,” Porter noted.

Landlords like the Inglewood-based Trizec Properties Inc. are expected to raise rents and reduce concessions, said Trizec vice president Patrick Lacey. Trizec has just taken title to several large Westside office buildings, which it is purchasing from Arden Realty Inc. as part of a \$1.6-billion deal.

“We bought into that market because we saw that’s where the growth is going to be,” Lacey said.

New development is modest and will not accommodate demand. The Construction Industry Research Board noted that during 2005, industrial building permits valued at \$755.8 million were issued in the five-county region. Los Angeles County’s industrial building permit value was \$277.4 million; Orange County’s total was \$26.9 million; and Ventura County had \$20.1 million in industrial permits. The Inland Empire had the biggest industrial building permit total: \$431.5 million.

“Gross and net absorption reached five-year highs in most markets across Southern California during 2005, contributing to declining vacancies and increasing rents throughout the region,” said Erika Gjovik, director of research for GVA DAUM. “As continued job growth is forecasted for Southern California in 2006, we expect vacancy to hover near the historically low levels reached during 2005.”

For more on Southern California commercial properties, there is a great information blog at www.socalindustrialrealestate-blog.com.

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

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Owners in default receive extra scrutiny



THE HOA ADVISOR

BY MICHAEL CHULAK

QUESTION: We have had several homes foreclosed by lenders within our homeowners' association over the last few years. Our board never seems to know when a homeowner is delinquent on his loan payments or if a foreclosure is in process. Is there an easy way for our board to stay informed on these matters?

ANSWER: Yes. Most good management companies subscribe to a service that provides the information you need to know on a daily basis and will provide it to you as part of their service.

QUESTION: How does a foreclosure on real estate work in California?

ANSWER: After being instructed by the beneficiary (lender) that the trustor (borrower) is in default, the trustee prepares a Notice of Default (NOD), and files a copy with the county recorder's office in the county where

the property is located. The borrower has three calendar months to cure the default.

If the borrower does not cure the default within three months from the recording of the NOD, the trustee schedules a trustee's sale and records a notice of trustee's sale.

After advertising the property for sale during a 21-day period, the trustee will sell the property to the highest bidder. Any bid made by the beneficiary (lender) is normally equal to the unpaid principal of the loan, plus accrued interest, advances for taxes, prior encumbrances, insurance and foreclosure costs. After the sale is made to the successful bidder and the trustee is paid the amount of the highest bid, the trustee delivers a trustee's deed (and title to the property) to the buyer.

QUESTION: The management company for our homeowners' association has a real estate broker's license. From time to time they have taken sales listings from members of our association, as have other real estate brokers and agents who are not involved in the management of our association. A competitor of our management company broker insists that it is a conflict of interest for our

management company broker to represent sellers and buyers, and has convinced several members of the association to complain to the board, claiming that an unfair advantage and conflict exists. While the board has cited no legal authority, it has nevertheless sided with the complaining broker. Is there a conflict of interest in your opinion and what should the board do?

ANSWER: There is no conflict of interest and the board should be pleased that you are representing members in selling their homes as well as potential buyers.

Both sellers of homes and their brokers/real estate agents have a legal duty to make disclosures about the listed home and association. These disclosure requirements include matters that are both known and those that should reasonably be known. These disclosures are required by law in order to protect both the buyer and seller.

When a real estate broker or agent representing a buyer, seller or both is also the management company, the broker or agent will undoubtedly know much more about the association than other brokers and agents in the community. This additional knowledge places an extra burden on the broker or agent

to make disclosures that other brokers and agents would not always be required to make. Consequently, both buyers and sellers doing business with the broker who is also managing are afforded more protection, not less. I believe this to be the interest of buyers, sellers and the association.

Full disclosure results in fewer disputes and less litigation. It also results in a more harmonious community, which tends to result in higher prices.

The broker who has complained to the board is simply attempting to eliminate competition. It also appears that the complaining broker is dangerously close to committing the tort "Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage," or possibly "Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage." This is a matter you should discuss with legal counsel.

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

Balancing the risks and rewards of real estate investment



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Diversification is one of the keys to preserving investor dollars while enjoying the benefits of investing in real estate. The advent of Tenant in Common (TIC) properties that are 1031 compliant has greatly increased the ability of investors to diversify their portfolio.

TIC ownership presents an opportunity to build a portfolio from different investment categories, different geographical areas and different levels of risk. That can provide the investor with good cash flows — 7 percent to 10 percent — with attractive appreciation potential while minimizing risk.

In an effort to increase cash flow and further diversify, many investors are considering oil and gas royalty properties. Currently these investments offer first year cash flows of 12 percent to 20 percent with healthy depletion allowances to help shelter income. Historically, court rulings have affirmed that

oil and gas royalties qualify as "like kind" for a 1031 exchange. It is important for 1031 exchange investors to verify that the oil and gas investment they are considering is 1031 compliant.

The issue for oil and gas typically is if a "production payment" is considered personal property, which or may or may not qualify for a 1031 exchange. A "royalty interest," which is sometimes known as an "overriding royalty," is generally 1031 compliant. The difference between production payments and royalty payments is the amount of time an interest is held. A production payment usual-

ly terminates when a specified amount of oil or gas has been produced or a stated amount of proceeds have been received. A royalty interest continues until the oil or gas deposit has been exhausted.

The higher return on an investment in oil and gas is attractive to investors because of the strong potential cash flow and tax advantages. It is important to remember that the higher return reflects higher risk.

(You can reach Christina Porter at 1-877-4 TM 1031 or e-mail her at christina@tm1031exchange.com.)

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NATIONAL

Barrow prepares for two months of midnight sun

By The Associated Press

BARROW, Alaska — The 4,200 residents of Barrow are preparing to embark on a midnight sun binge, with no sunset for more than two months.

Gina Sturm of the National Weather Service said the sun will set at 1:45 a.m. Wednesday, then rise again at 3:01 a.m. It will not set again until Aug. 2.

Many residents of the community 725 miles north of Anchorage are happy to see the hours of sunshine after a dark winter.

"The sun being here 24 hours just seems to revitalize our levels of activity," said Ben Frantz, who has lived in Barrow since 1967. "With so much to do on the ice, inland, and then on open water, it is a great plus. Weather permitting, we are then able to enjoy our grand expanses around the clock."

Barrow is North America's northernmost community. It's on the coast of the Chukchi Sea.

New York governor announces a new upstate ethanol plant

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SHELBY, N.Y. — Construction of New York's first dry mill ethanol plant is scheduled to begin this summer, with the state contributing nearly \$6 million as part of a strategy to reduce dependence on foreign energy, Gov. George Pataki said.

Western New York Energy's \$87.4 million Orleans County facility is expected to produce about 50 million gallons of the fuel each year.

The clean-burning, corn-based product is combined with gasoline to produce a blended, higher octane fuel. The plant will buy an estimated 20 million bushels of corn each year, 6 million from western New York, opening a new market for the state's farms. It will employ 58 people.

The facility "will help us take advantage of this opportunity to reduce our dependence on unstable foreign energy supplies," Pataki said Monday near the 144-acre site of the future plant in Shelby, a town of about 5,400.

Pataki, the first northeast governor to join the Governors Ethanol Coalition, also announced a \$20 million program to develop more efficient ethanol technology, known as cellulosic ethanol.

"Ethanol from corn is relatively inefficient. You might have to put a unit of energy in to get two units of energy out — 1.67 out," Pataki said. "But the next generation of technology, instead of just using the sugar in the corn, is going to be able to use the cellulose from the corn, from the corn stalk, from grasses, from trees, from lumber mills. And there the efficiency is as high as 20-to-1."

The facility also will produce two byproducts that will be marketed for sale: carbon dioxide, used for beverage carbonation and freeze drying, and distiller's dried grains, a high-protein livestock feed.

"It's an exciting day for those of us who produce the corn or are in the dairy industry and can take advantage of the ... grain," said New York Farm Bureau President John Lincoln.

The western New York plant, using a process that grinds the entire corn kernel into flour and converts the starch into ethanol via fermentation, is expected to begin production in January 2008.

The average price of unleaded gasoline in New York was \$3.12 per gallon Monday, with the national average at \$2.90, according to the motorists' club AAA.

The Shelby plant "is a great thing. Ethanol is not going to solve our gas problems, but every little bit helps when the price is so high," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

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Barriers cutting down smuggler traffic

By The Associated Press

YUMA, Ariz. — New 6-foot-tall reinforced steel beams jutting up from the desert floor east of Yuma and barriers on 18 canal bridges have helped cut the number of smugglers driving illegally across the border, the Border Patrol says.

Despite a steady increase in the number of apprehensions the Border Patrol is making in the Yuma area, fewer than 900 smuggling vehicles have driven across the border this year. That compares to nearly 1,800 this time last year.

Border Patrol spokesman Rick Hays said the illegal vehicle traffic coming across the border and trying to evade agents is a hazard in border communities.

In Yuma, fleeing smugglers have rammed agents, flipped

SUVs loaded with immigrants and collided with other vehicles in recent months in incidents that have sent immigrants, agents and civilians to the hospital.

"(Smugglers) have no regard for human life and the safety of the public. (The barriers) prevent them from entering into a populated area and from injuring or — God forbid — killing somebody," Hays said.

The Border Patrol has been putting in the vehicle barriers east of San Luis since January at a cost of about \$1.1 million a mile. Hays said the Patrol has completed three miles of the steel barriers, and now plans to put in another three miles.

Hays said the barriers could be extended 37 miles farther east to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge if they are successful in deterring smugglers.

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INTERNATIONAL



What's your beef?

U.S., Japan to discuss lifting Tokyo ban on American beef

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — U.S. and Japanese agricultural officials could meet as soon as next week to discuss the lifting of Tokyo's ban on American beef, officials from both countries said Tuesday.

The U.S. is inspecting American beef facilities and will soon dispatch a technical team to give Tokyo the findings, the officials said.

Michael Boyle, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, said the meeting would be held next week. Naomi Morikawa, a spokesman for Japan's Agriculture Ministry, said that no date had been set, but that the meeting could happen next week.

Japan banned U.S. beef in January after a shipment violated a prohibition on bones, which Tokyo considers a mad cow disease risk. The prohibition had been a condition for easing a previous two-year ban in December 2005.

The U.S. Agriculture Department issued a report in February about two companies' connections to the faulty shipment. American officials in March pledged further training of companies handling Japan-bound beef.

Morikawa said that at the coming meeting, Japan would present the results of its consultations with consumers about U.S. beef. The mad cow scares have greatly eroded the popularity of American beef in Japan, once the most lucrative overseas market for the U.S. meat.

He denied, however, that Japan would make any quick decisions on whether to lift the ban.

The Asahi newspaper reported that if Japan finds no major problem in the U.S. report, it plans to hold more public hearings in major cities across the country for about two weeks before making a final decision, which could come in mid-June at the earliest.

Japan initially banned American beef in December 2003 following the first discovery of mad cow disease in the United States.

That ban was eased last December to allow the importation of meat from cows aged 20 months or less — seen as posing a lower risk of having the disease — but the ban was later tightened following the faulty beef shipment in January.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a degenerative nerve disease in cattle. Eating contaminated meat products has been linked to the rare but fatal human variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Iran's letter slams U.S. foreign policy

BY NICK WADHAMS AND ANNE GEARAN

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — Iran's president declared in a letter to President Bush that democracy had failed worldwide and lamented "an ever-increasing global hatred" of the U.S. government. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice swiftly rejected the letter, saying it made no progress toward resolving questions about Tehran's suspect nuclear program.

"This letter is not the place that one would find an opening to engage on the nuclear issue or anything of the sort," Rice said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It isn't addressing the issues that we're dealing with in a concrete way."

Rice's comments were the most detailed response from the United States to the letter, the first from an Iranian head of state to an American president since the 1979 hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The letter from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made only an oblique reference to Iran's nuclear intentions. It asked why "any technological and scientific achievement reached in the Middle East region is translated into and portrayed as a threat to the Zionist regime."

Otherwise, it lambasted Bush for his handling of the Sept. 11 attacks, accused the media of spreading lies about the Iraq war and railed against the United States for its support of Israel. It questioned whether the world would be a different place if the money spent on Iraq had been spent to fight poverty.

"Would not your administration's political and economic standing have been stronger?" the letter said. "And I am most sorry to say, would there have been an ever-increasing global hatred of the American government?"

Iran's top nuclear negotiator called the surprise letter a new "diplomatic opening" between the two countries, but Rice said it failed to resolve the dispute over the Iranian nuclear program. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush had been briefed on the letter, which the White House received Monday through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

"There's nothing in here that would suggest that we're on any different course than we were before we got the letter," Rice said.

Even though the letter hardly touched on nuclear issues, officials said it appeared timed with a push by the United States, Britain, France and Germany for a Security Council vote to restrain the Islamic regime's nuclear ambitions. Both China and Russia are opposed to leveling sanctions against Iran and the letter could provide them support.

Rice met privately for more than two hours Monday night

"This letter is not the place that one would find an opening to engage on the nuclear issue or anything of the sort."

CONDOLEEZZA RICE
SECRETARY OF STATE

on Iran with foreign ministers from the other permanent members of the council.

Her spokesman gave no details of the substance of the discussions, but described the talks as strategic and not focused on specific steps.

The United States is concerned that Iran's program is a cover for making nuclear weapons, while Iran contends it has the right to process uranium as fuel in nuclear reactors to generate electricity.

In the letter, Ahmadinejad says that people around the world have lost faith in international institutions and questions whether the Bush administration has covered up some evidence surrounding the Sept. 11 attacks.

Liberalism and Western-style democracy "have not been able to help realize the ideals of humanity," said the letter, obtained late Monday by The Associated Press. "Today these two concepts have failed. Those with insight can already hear the sounds of the shattering and fall of the ideology and thoughts of the Liberal democratic systems."

The Iranian government spokesman who disclosed the communication did not mention the nuclear standoff and said the missive spoke to the larger U.S.-Iranian conflict. Gholam-Hossein Elham said the letter proposed "new solutions for getting out of international problems and the current fragile situation of the world."

The document makes no concrete proposals and does not suggest new talks. Instead, Ahmadinejad suggests that Bush should look inward, saying there was an increasing hatred worldwide of the United States, and that history shows how "repressive and cruel governments do not survive."

"How much longer will the blood of the innocent men, women and children be spilled on the streets, and people's houses destroyed over their heads? Are you pleased with the current condition of the world? Do you think present policies can continue?"

The letter was the lead item on several Iranian television and radio news shows throughout the day. The official IRNA announced it and also carried international reaction to it. Iran's only evening daily, the state-owned Ettalaat, carried a large story on its front page under the headline: "Important letter from Ahmadinejad to the American president."

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Metro Gets \$315 Million from State for Expo Line

The California Transportation Commission approved \$315 million in funding for construction of the 9-mile Exposition Light Rail Line from Downtown LA along Exposition Boulevard to Venice/Robertson Boulevards in Culver City. Find out more at metro.net/expo.

40% More Seats on Wilshire Metro Rapid

Thanks to new high-capacity buses, there are seats for more passengers on Metro Rapid line 720. The eye-catching vehicles, which travel along Wilshire and Whittier Boulevards between Commerce and Santa Monica, offer more than 40% greater seating capacity than a standard bus.



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Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES: WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

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Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Hoot (PG)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
Inside Man (R)
1:10, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
RV (PG)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
1:25, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55, 10:15
Silent Hill (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05
Stick It (PG-13)
12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

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

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

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

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
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The Notorious Bettie Page (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
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Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Kinky Boots (PG-13)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1865, Union forces captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Irwinville, Ga.
In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was given the job of FBI director.
In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.
In 1940, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.
In 1968, preliminary Vietnam peace talks began in Paris.
In 1978, Britain's Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon announced they were divorcing after 18 years of marriage.
In 1994, the state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy for the murders of 33 young men and boys.
In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office to become South Africa's first black president.

Woods settles suit over yacht

By The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Tiger Woods has settled a privacy-rights lawsuit over his yacht, aptly named “Privacy.”

Venable LLP, the law firm representing Woods, issued a statement Monday saying the golfer had settled for an undisclosed amount with the builder of “Privacy,” Vancouver, Wash.-based Christensen Shipyards Ltd.

Woods claimed in the lawsuit filed in 2004 that the company had breached its contract by using his name and photos of him and the 155-foot yacht as promotional materials without authorization.

“We made a mistake and truly regret the company’s conduct,” said Christensen President Joe Foggia in a statement released by Woods’ law firm.

Although the settlement amount was officially kept secret, Christensen’s insurance company, St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co., said in a related court action that the amount was \$1.6 million.

In a lawsuit filed last week in Miami federal court, St. Paul asked a judge to order Christensen to pay the entire amount or to limit St. Paul’s share to a \$1 million cap cited in its policy with the shipbuilder. No hearing has been scheduled in that case.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Fans who bought tickets from an online broker for June 26-27 concerts by Tom Petty with Pearl Jam at Xcel Energy Center may find themselves without seats.

Petty’s management and Ticketmaster have canceled about 460 seats that had been set aside for fan club members but showed up on the Internet being resold at a higher price.

Petty’s manager says the tickets will be offered once again to fan club members under more strict guidelines. Those who buy the tickets will have to show a photo ID to pick up the tickets on the night of the concert.

Some scalpers apparently joined Petty’s fan club to buy tickets and resell them at a higher price. That practice violates the club’s terms and Minnesota law.

“We don’t claim to have completely eliminated all reselling activity on these or any other shows,” manager Tony Dimitriadis said in a statement on Petty’s Web site. “But this is definitely a step in the right direction and a major strike on behalf of the good guys.”

LOS ANGELES — Call it Radio Free Whoopi. Whoopi Goldberg announced Monday she’ll be joining the growing ranks of radio voices this summer when she launches a live, syndicated program, “Wake Up With Whoopi.”

“I’m going to talk to people. People are going to talk to me. I’m going to be singing and dancing in my chair. I’m going to wake people up,” Goldberg told The Associated Press by phone. “I want to have a good time in the morning and I want everyone who wakes up with me to have a good time.”

The show will air weekday mornings from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., said John Hogan, president and CEO of Clear Channel Radio. He didn’t indicate which markets it would be in when it debuts July 31.

Besides taking calls and doing comedy bits, Goldberg said she’ll be playing music, adding she hopes she’ll be allowed to select some of her own.

“I’ve got all kinds of great wonderful things on my iPod,” she said. “Everything from Shaggy to Pavarotti to Tony Bennett to Warren Zevon.”

NEW YORK — Nicole Kidman says her divorce from Tom Cruise was a “major shock” — and, she still loves him.

“That was a major shock,” the 38-year-old actress says in an interview in the June issue of Ladies’ Home Journal, on newsstands Tuesday.

“He was huge; still is. To me, he was just Tom, but to everybody else, he is huge. But he was lovely to me. And I loved him. I still love him,”

she tells the magazine.

Cruise filed for divorce in February 2001 after 10 years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences. The divorce was finalized later that year.

“I always knew the rug was going to be taken out from underneath me at some stage,” Kidman says. “I didn’t think it was going to happen in the way it happened. I had seen my mother battle breast cancer, so I had a fear of my health being jeopardized — that was really where I was thinking mine would come.”

“I knew I was going to get hit with something. But I think a divorce, and the demise of what your family is, is a little death in itself.”

Cruise and Kidman adopted two children, Isabella, now 13, and Connor, now 11.

“I feel enormous love for whoever my children’s birth parents are,” Kidman says. “And if my children choose to go find them at some stage, I can’t wait. Because — it’s the weirdest thing — I actually feel (they’re) very connected to us as a big, strange family, and whether they choose to search for them or not, who knows.”

Katie Holmes, Cruise’s 27-year-old fiancée, gave birth to the couple’s first child, a daughter, Suri, last month.

NEW YORK — Fantasia Barrino, who won the third season of the popular Fox talent competition, “American Idol,” will star as herself in a Lifetime Original Movie.

Principal photography was to begin this month in New Orleans, the cable network said in a recent statement. The movie, which has the working title, “Life Is Not a Fairy Tale: the Fantasia Barrino Story,” is set to premiere in August.

Barrino, 21, published her memoir, “Life Is Not a Fairy Tale,” last year. Her debut album, “Free Yourself,” was released in 2004.

The R&B singer dropped out of high school in her hometown of High Point, N.C., and became an unwed mother at 17.

She has a daughter, Zion.

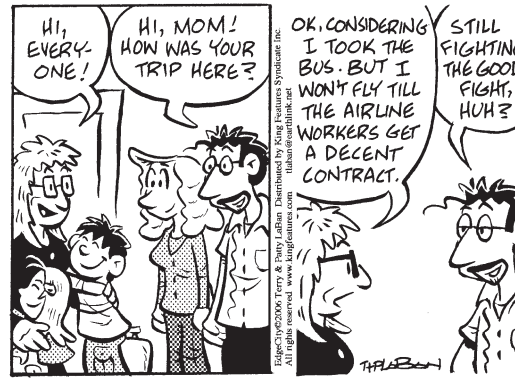
Debbie Allen is set to direct the film.

The advertisement features a blue background with a subtle pattern of ice cubes. In the upper left, there is a logo consisting of a blue diamond shape with a yellow outline and a white teardrop inside. Below this logo, the words "LIQUID ICE" are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "ENERGY DRINK" in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font underneath. To the right of the logo, the phrase "This Is No 'Bull'" is written in a large, red, italicized, sans-serif font. In the lower left, the quote "If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy" is written in a large, yellow, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a can of Liquid Ice Energy Drink, tilted diagonally. The can is blue with a yellow teardrop logo and the words "LIQUID ICE" and "ENERGY DRINK" printed on it. The top of the can has a yellow cap.

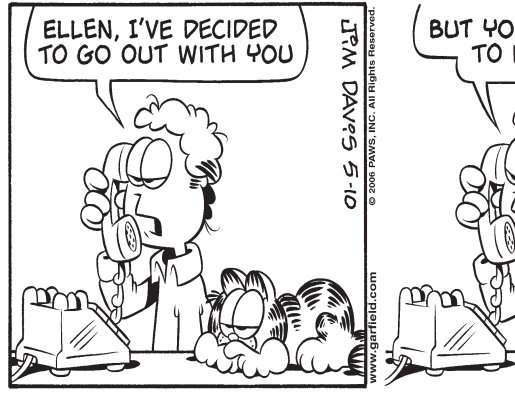
COMICS



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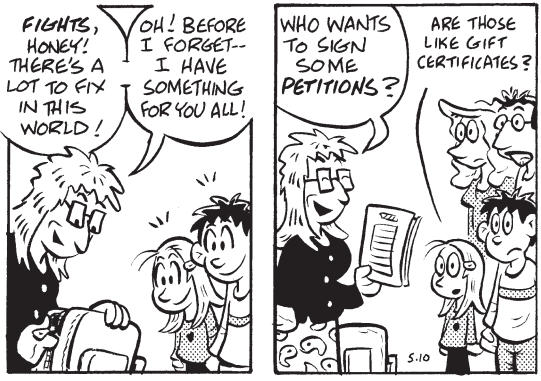
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29 Filming

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32 "Aw,

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33 Knot-tying

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39 Some

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41 Prom

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WILLIAM S. DIMSDALE CASE NO. SP006813
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of WILLIAM S. DIMSDALE.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JOEL DIMSDALE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOEL DIMSDALE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 06/30/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your

Notices

the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Boulevard, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA Legal Description: The Northeastly 1/2 of Lot 184, of Tract No. 8379, in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 113 Page(s) 54 to 56 inclusive Maps, in the office of the county recorder of said county. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$762,497.05 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 2464 Ocean park Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90045. APN Number: 4272-023-016 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". Date: 05-03-2006 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee 9301 Corbin Avenue Mail Stop: N030312, Northridge, CA 91324 (714) 259-7850 or www.fna-sap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com Deborah Brignac, Vice President California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 767829 05/03/2006, 05/10/2006, 05/17/2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: IRENE YOUNG BRIGGS CASE NO. SP006815
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of IRENE YOUNG BRIGGS.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SANDRA B. SCIORTINO in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SANDRA B. SCIORTINO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 06/02/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner CYNTHIA CATALINO CATALINO LAW OFFICES 1875 CENTURY PARK E., #700 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 5/3, 5/4, 5/10/06 **CNS-961882# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KATY SUE CAMPBELL
Case No. BP098093
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KATY SUE CAMPBELL.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Willard M. Reisz in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Willard M. Reisz be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 30, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner: FREDERICK S REISZ ESQ SBN 143962 10880 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 2240 LOS ANGELES CA 90024-4123
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN751361 CAMPBELL May 3,4,10, 2006

PRIORITY A AND B CATCH BASIN RETROFIT IN CITIES TRIBUTARY TO THE SANTA MONICA BAY NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the installation of trash excluders in existing storm drain catch basins and other appurtenant work under Project ID No. FCC0001003, Priority A and B Catch Basin Retrofit in Cities Tributary to the Santa Monica Bay, in the Cities of Inglewood, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Rancho Palos Verdes.

The Bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2006. The Bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The Work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The Work is estimated to cost between \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000 and shall be completed in 100 working days. The Work requires a Class A, C42, or C61 (D34) contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr. Richard Weyermuller at (626) 458-7870.

Notices

The Bids must be submitted on the Proposal forms included in the Bidder's package of the Contract Documents, which may be purchased for \$14, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$17, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.
Each Bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to Los Angeles County in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the Bid to guarantee that the Bidder will enter into the Contract if it is so awarded.
All persons performing the Work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination made by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.
The Bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the Proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the Bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.
The Contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
A responsible Bidder is a Bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the Contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.
The successful Bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the Contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the Contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.
The successful Bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.
As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the Contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the Contract or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.
Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such Bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.
Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.
The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.
By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.
Dated April 18, 2006.
Sachi Hamai
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN752055 00673 May 8,9,10,11,12, 2006

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARY ELIZABETH BREHONEY CASE NO. BP098183
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MARY ELIZABETH BREHONEY.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by FRED SZKOLNIK in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FRED SZKOLNIK be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Es-

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Notices

tates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 06/05/06 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner JILL BROUSARD, ESQ. 13305 PENN ST., #100 WHITTIER, CA 90602 5/10, 5/11, 5/17/06 **CNS-964647# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 0658229 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PACIFIC REEF TROPICAL FISH, 1513 WEST SEPULVEDA BLVD., SUITE D, TORRANCE, CA 90501. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MIKE H. YIM, 6604 MARQUETTE DR, BUENA PARK, CA 90620 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein. /s/: MIKE H. YIM
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/28/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/26/2006, 5/3/2006, 5/10/2006, 5/17/2006

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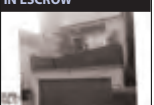
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