

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

0000

FANTASY 5

01, 03, 10, 26, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 6, 3

Evening picks: 3, 6, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race time: 1:43.57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Palmer, Mass., construction contractor Anthony Morales, tired of fighting customer Gail Kapulka over payment of his bill, planted the freshly severed head of a deer on the front seat of her car on Christmas night, according to police.

■ A frozen sheep's head was left inside a car owned by a Democratic political official in Lake Station, Ind., in January.

■ In March, at a rock concert in Oslo, Norway, the part of the act in which the lead singer of the death metal band Mayhem carves up a dead sheep went wrong, and the sheep's head was knocked into the audience, where it struck a fan in the head, requiring hospitalization. (Fan or not, he pressed charges.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never raise your hand to children. It leaves your mid-section unprotected."

— Robert Orben

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Santa Monica College to cut six programs

Dozens of teachers and employees will be laid off

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica College officials on Thursday voted to axe six academic programs from next year's roster.

The move, which is part of SMC's effort to plug an anticipated \$8 million shortfall in state allocation, is expected to save the school about \$1.25 million.

Eight full-time teachers and about 30 part-time instructors will lose their jobs because of the cuts, which will leave more than 500 students without a major.

The eliminated departments are architecture, geographic information services, public safety, recreation, tourism and hospitality, and transportation technology.

Though severe by all accounts, the cuts are relaxed from what the board approved in March, when it voted to eliminate 10 academic programs.

Officials saved the fashion design and merchandising, interior design and office

information systems programs — which were listed in the original cuts — by trimming and consolidating course offerings.

School officials are examining a variety of different plans to help close the remaining \$6.75 million deficit, including cutting the number of courses offered by 10 to 30 percent.

Thirteen administrators will be assigned to the classroom and the college will lease a building at the Santa Monica Airport to bring in more revenue.

School officials also could offer SMC employees monetary incentives to retire early, thus saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in salaries. The plans will be voted on by the fall.

About 350 people attended Thursday's special mid-day meeting of the SMC board of trustees at the Madison Campus, located at 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

More than 80 people addressed the board, urging officials to save the programs and positions by any means possible.

"The students, the community, the staff and the faculty have spoken with one voice,"

See SMC, page 8



John Wood/Daily Press

About 60 people protested the elimination of SMC academic programs and lay-offs at intersections around the Madison Campus on Thursday.

Santa Monica Festival honors city, environment

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

It's party time in Santa Monica this weekend.

Saturday marks the 12th annual Santa Monica Festival, one of the city's largest community gatherings.

The event attracts thousands of people to Clover Park, which is located on Ocean Park Boulevard, between 25th and 28th streets.

Elementary school students will carry their own colorful handiwork and parade through the park. In

past years, students have constructed giant jellyfish out of plastic bottles and named their parade "Creatures of the Sea."

This year, the roughly 120 students, who crafted oversized professional pieces under the guidance of Michelle Berne, a local community celebration artist, will be accompanied by about 40 Brazilian dancers from Santa Monica College.

A handful of city officials will formally announce the beginning of the Santa Monica Festival at the end of the parade, launching the park into a day of food, music and art.

"It's a great community event," Councilman Ken Genser said. "It's a great place for the community to come together."

Event planners expect

See FESTIVAL, page 8



File photo

The Santa Monica Festival attracts between 10,000 to 20,000 people each year. It will be held Saturday in Clover Park.

Lessons of quake ominous for L.A.

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — The faults that crisscross Southern California may be capable of rupturing in concert to produce larger earthquakes than previously thought, according to several studies of the magnitude-7.9 quake that rocked Alaska last year.

The Nov. 3 Denali quake was the largest to strike on land in North America in nearly 150 years, but caused few injuries and little damage given the remoteness of the area. It ripped across 210 miles in two minutes, split glaciers and triggered thousands of landslides.

Several new studies examining the earthquake reveal that it was actually a composite of three smaller quakes that began on one fault, skipped to a second and then moved on to a third. Details appeared Thursday in the journal Science.

That suggests a similar situation could arise in seismically analogous Southern California, where a rupture on the Sierra Madre thrust fault could trigger an earthquake on the strike-slip San Andreas fault. In strike-slip faults, two blocks move past each other in a horizontal fashion to produce earthquakes. Thrust faults do so when one block pushes upward over another, as if moving up a ramp.

The San Andreas runs nearly the length of California but comes no closer than about 40 miles of Los

See QUAKES, page 9



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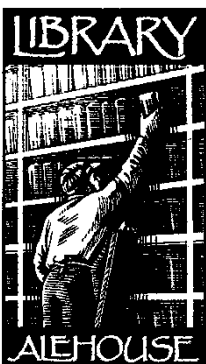


FISH FACTS:

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 16, 2003:

Just because those around you can be unpredictable, you don't need to adopt their behavior. Stay in tune with what you feel and who you are. Venus in your sign bestows a special, unique charm that makes you close to irresistible to others. Let partners play out and exhibit more of their personality. Work with each individual, and you will greet far more success. You will add to your security. You also might opt to work more from your home. A new home could be a possibility. If you are single, you will meet someone quite special this fall, or later. If attached, your sweetie will especially appreciate your domestic focus. As a result, your love life will heat up. SAGITTARIUS relates intensely to you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You gain an insight that you might prefer not to have. Rethink recent developments. The question might be how to get the information you need — computer? Calls? Trust your judgment, especially with funds and assets. Tonight: You know what's best.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A friend does a total reversal, which you did not expect. A partner could be tense about what is going on. You will begin to see just how attractive you are and how much you have to offer. You sense a great deal of enthusiasm around you. Tonight: Schedule some time with a loved one.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Take your time with others. In fact, the less you do, the more positive the end results will be. Let others seek you out. A boss might be out of sync when dealing with others. You can say or do little. Excitement surrounds a must appearance. Tonight: Listen more.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You hear news from a distance. Excitement surrounds work and a new offer. Keep evaluating. You will make excellent choices as a result. Be the person who completes work while others go off and play. A friend comes through for you. Tonight: Do what you want.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A boss or loved one smiles on you. Unexpected developments come forward with a partner. You might not be sure of what you want. Vent your creativity and allow your imagination to come out, whether at work or at play. Tonight: Go for light and easy.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Deal with the basics within your circle of friends or family. Others do the unexpected. In the near future, reach out to those at a distance. You will find new ways of seeing situations. Learn to express more empathy. Walk in another's shoes. Tonight: Speak your mind.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ The time has come to share more. Listen more carefully to what a co-worker has to say. He or she shows you a new perspective. At first you might be stunned by their perceptions. Understand how much is changing and how quickly. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Unexpected developments occur with a child or loved one. For those who are single, someone quite special might enter your life, causing a radical change. Be sensitive to others. Schedule a long-overdue conversation. You discover another's feelings. Tonight: Your treat.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ All roads point to you. A family member could rebel. You gain another perspective from a conversation. You will get a new angle on a problem that has been part of your life. An associate cares a lot — perhaps a little too much. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might be distracted by an issue that is occurring right under your nose. Still, your ability to see what is important could be highlighted. Read between the lines with others. Dig into your creativity and imagination. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Family members sing a much sweeter tune than in the past. Friends distract you and could cause some unusual spending. Be direct. You might want to make an investment in your home life or in real estate. Tonight: Follow your friends.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could be amazed by what others say and do. All eyes look to you to take responsibility. You're able to speak and impress others. Finally, you get your point across! You have a greater impact than you realize. You don't need to be unpredictable! Tonight: Could be late.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hospital honors its volunteers

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center recently honored its more than 600 active volunteers by hosting a volunteer recognition luncheon.

The center recognized 121 volunteers who achieved year and hour milestones at the medical center during the past year.

Santa Monica resident Jette Simmons was the top honoree, with more than 64,000 hours of service. Two other westside residents, Alice Kurtz of West Los Angeles and Kuljit Marwah of Malibu, were honored for 34,000 and 20,000 hours of service, respectively.

Ruth Ensslin of Sherman Oaks was the top honoree in the year category, having achieved 30 years of volunteer service.

The center also paid tribute to members of the Santa Monica-UCLA Auxiliary, a principal support group for the hospital. Since 1942, the auxiliary has donated more than \$3.5 million to the hospital through various fund-raising activities.

Adult volunteers donated more than 60,000 hours of service to Santa Monica-UCLA in 2002 by assisting caregivers, working in non-clinical departments and running the hospital gift shop.

The hospital's workforce includes adults, pre-medical students and pet-owner therapy teams that visit patients during their hospital stays.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Santa Monica-UCLA, call (310) 319-4614.

Summer soulstice on Main Street approaching

By Daily Press staff

Main Street is planning a party to celebrate the summer soulstice.

The Third Annual Main Street Santa Monica Summer Soulstice is scheduled for June 15, featuring live music, an art show, fashion shows, a scavenger hunt with big prizes and children's activities.

A Beatles tribute band, a petting farm, and the chance to win a couch from Ashland & Hill, or a meal for two at Chinois in a scavenger hunt are just part of the fun.

The Main Street Merchants Association in Santa Monica will sponsor the celebration and sidewalk sale, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Main Street between Pico Boulevard and Marine Street.

Many Main Street merchants will be offering items on sale as part of the sidewalk sale, and businesses including Baci, Splash, Gioia, LaVecchia, O'Brien's, Trendy Sunglasses, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Bhutan and Amelia's will also be having customer appreciation open house specials and activities.

From noon to 6 p.m., there will be a variety of live music including jazz, folk-rock, Latin, rock n roll, Indian-Brazilian fusion, soul and more. Three tribute bands, Forever Fab (The Beatles), Highway 61 Revisited (Dylan), and Peace Frog (The Doors) will play on Kinney, across from Joe's Diner, located at 2917 Main Street.

Joe Gaeta's jazz trio will play after the farmers' market in front of the Victorian, located at 2640 Main Street, and the Tom Nolan R&B Revue, the Nancy Luca Band, and Sara Bareilles will play on Pier Avenue. Tanpura, a jazz-Indian classical-Brazilian fusion band will play in the Edgemar Courtyard and there will be live music at the First Federal lot.

For the kids, there will be pony rides, a petting zoo, games and a hands-on sea life exhibit called "Window On Our Water."

There will be a fashion show featuring items from various Main Street merchants.

New this year is the scavenger hunt. It's an opportunity for participants to win big prizes. Contestants can win a host of different prizes from area merchants.

Sign-up tables will be at the First Federal lot, located at 2812 Main Street and at the Soulstice "playground" lot on the corner of Main and Marine. Entry is free.

Parking is available in the Main Street municipal lots and all-day parking is available at the beach lots only two blocks away for \$6.



The swells are changing, but the surf should stay about the same. Just watch out for the wind. It hasn't let up for weeks now, and by afternoon it will be blowing strong.

Good news: A new SW swell will build slowly through the day.

Bad news: The SSW swell we enjoyed the past few days is nearly dead today.

Outlook: It's more waist- and chest-high surf for us lucky ones. Keep an eye on a NW wind swell that will fill in later in the day.

Today the water is:

62°

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:17	-0.2	4:15	2.0	11:41	3.4	10:34	5.3
SUNDAY	5:56	-0.1	4:33	2.3	(12:32)	3.1)	11:02	5.2
MONDAY	6:43	0.0	4:48	2.6	(1:45	2.9)	11:35	5.0
TUESDAY	7:41	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	8:50	0.3	N/A	N/A	12:19	4.7	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	10:01	0.2	9:40	3.2	1:27	4.4	6:10	3.5
FRIDAY	11:01	0.1	11:22	2.7	3:06	4.2	6:24	3.9

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Check Out the responses to the Question
of the Week on Page 5.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Relocate the homeless

Editor:

Looking down your noses at the homeless will not drive them out of Santa Monica. Ticketing the homeless will not drive them out of Santa Monica. In fact, it creates a legal obligation they must fulfill here in Santa Monica. Passing hitchhikers by will not drive the homeless out of Santa Monica. What will drive some of the unwanted from Santa Monica? A ride down the freeway, or a greyhound bus ticket. Urging you to call Mayor Bloom in support of a Santa Monica homeless relocation fund.

Brian D. Koepke
Santa Cruz

Pull the PGA plug from Augusta

Editor:

The antichrist retrieves a gun from the guard. He shoots two people with one bullet. He places the gun in the hands of one of the deceased. He looks each person in the room in the eye and says, "They shot themselves." Each one in turn repeats what they were just told. All except for Buck Williams.

The Left Behind series is a compelling series on earth's last days. It makes for great reading. The newspaper articles on the situation at Augusta do not make for great reading. If the people are so worried about Augusta and their exclusive viewpoint, why don't they lobby the PGA to take it off of the tour schedule? Then they won't get air time to express their views to the rest of us, some who want to keep hearing their very message.

Annika Sorenstam will soon be playing in a PGA event. Does she need the fame, the name recognition, the money? I don't think so. She might be like someone else in their career search. OK, I've accomplished that, and that, and even that, now what? The best thing to come out of Annika's playing a PGA event is that it might get into the head of someone else, who just might be 13 years old, that views like that expressed by Augusta, need to go by the wayside.

Jan Orngdorfer
Santa Monica

A little too late

Editor:

Dee's will be closing and many will be sad to see this happen. The replacement place at least isn't another Starbucks. What usually happens when a place closes after a long time is that everyone gets upset. Yet if all these people would have gone to the places on a regular basis, maybe they wouldn't close.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

The Q Line

Respondents say 'get rid of Gov. Gray Davis soon'

This past Monday, Q-line asked:

"Do you think Gov. Davis should be recalled from office? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

■ "Of course Gray Davis should be recalled. He has failed in every aspect as governor. He's blundered the energy fiasco and sold out the education of California for the prison guard's union. If you would like to help with the recall log on to www.recallgraydavis.com. We deserve better than this."

■ "I would definitely support getting rid of Mr. Davis. For three reasons that I know, of one of them being he's colluded with the fox in Mexico, he's colluded with the big energy companies, and now he's going to increase car registration by 300 percent. There are probably many more good reasons."

■ "Yes I do plan to sign the recall list to get Governor Gray Davis out of office. He is the worst governor California has ever had besides Gary Brown. It seems he has more interest in paying money to the prisons. The schools are going without money."

■ "No. Gray Davis should not be recalled. No one person should be held

responsible for the downside of the economy nationally that is suffering with low cash flow. Governments are subsidized by taxation. Low spending equals low cash flow. Low cash flow equals less taxation being paid in. Less being paid in equals less government spending. It's a vicious circle."

■ "If you want to throw out Governor Davis, I suggest you throw out Bush as well. Not only has he put us in the worst deficit and unemployment, he has ruined the whole world. While you're at it send Enron with them."

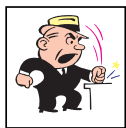
■ "Absolutely, he misled Californians by hiding the depths of our financial crisis until after the election. With his relentless attacks on Simon he distracted supporters. This kind of deceit and disrespect for Californians must end."

■ "I do not think that Governor Davis should be recalled. We have enough that is going on in the world and in the state. If the Republicans want to use their power and money they should use it for something a little more worth their while."

■ "I do not like Gray Davis. I've actually considered the possibility that he may be an android. But, the people pushing this recall are even worse. Besides, if the state is facing such tight budgetary problems isn't this recall a waste of money? Shouldn't that money go to our schools?"

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

Distrust and lack of faith is building in local school district



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Last week's Daily Press Q-line confirmed that many people seem to dislike the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District.

I'll bet it has to do with the schools always running in the red and begging for funding.

Problems really started in the mid-1990s after the district granted a sizable pay raise for teachers and administrators, then ran short of money.

Poor asset management, not knowing how many students were in school, questionable reorganization decisions and inept contract negotiating by the school board have accelerated the flow of red ink.

No wonder, every year, they go hat in hand to the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu for ever-increasing multi-million dollar bailouts. And, they're turning to us, again.

Last week, the district's financial oversight committee announced that SMMUSD teachers were among the highest paid in the county with salaries 19 percent above the average. Classified employ-

ees were tops in the county with salaries 34 percent above the county average.

Of course, teachers and other classified employees haven't volunteered to take pay cuts. Instead, they are contributing heavily to the district's "Yes on S" parcel tax campaign.

With 12,400 students and a claimed budget shortfall of \$13.5 million, the per student deficit in SMMUSD is \$1,089 per student. Twenty percent of SMMUSD's students don't reside in Santa Monica or Malibu. It costs more to educate these permit students than the district gets in state support.

Has it occurred to the stewards of our schools that these some 2,400 permit students are substantial contributors to the shortage of classrooms and teachers? Wanna bet the district hasn't even asked permit parents (or any other parent) for donations to help out?

It seems we're all aboard a runaway train. There's no incentive to cut expense and stop waste. We're being taken for a ride when they coerce us to pass two bonds (\$125 million in debt) and two parcel taxes. And, like the Terminator, they'll be back for even more.

The school board is controlled by the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights' political machine. SMRR members are dominant on the school committees including both the previous "EE" and present "S"

ad-hoc parcel tax committees, the Committee for Excellence in Education and the financial oversight committee.

All the familiar faces — including SMRR co-chairs Denny Zane and Patricia Hoffman, and their sycophants — are heavily involved. So, in addition to financial problems, we have agendas and heavy-handed propagandizing.

In recent years, we've seen school board members and district employees, including Superintendent John Deasy, use school resources to demand the unionization of local hotels — under the guise of education. (I think the correct word is propaganda.)

Then there are the flyers routinely sent home with students. Last week's civics lesson flyer was basically a request for absentee ballots so parents could vote for Measure S. Two years ago, Grant Elementary School students were given pro-homeless PTA flyers suggesting they approach total strangers on the street and ask them how their day was going.

The "Yes on S" campaign will raise and spend about \$200,000. This money is not going to schools, rather it's going to SMRR's favorite consultants and out-of-town political firms for salaries and campaign materials. Between "EE" and "S," about \$400,000 will flow into SMRR associates' coffers — associates hired by SMRR to push their candidates and political causes.

The financial disclosure statement filed by the Committee for Excellence in Education (Yes on S) as of April 19 even shows a \$3,500 payment for "consulting" to former school board member Pam Brady. Why isn't she donating her services? How many other SMRR cronies are on the payroll?

Aren't parents sick of the constant blackmailing of their children's education? Year after year, district administrators threaten teacher firings and cuts in services, classrooms and programs if we don't give them the money. This is emblematic of a school district totally out of control and running amuck.

So, when are parents and opposition activists going to figure out that supporting SMRR-controlled entities, even if it is the schools, sustains and perpetuates incompetent decision making, financial mismanagement, political game playing, left wing agendizing, more extortion and higher taxes?

We must stop going along with their program. We need to make substantial changes — starting with those in charge and begin running the district as a business instead of an experiment in social engineering with an unlimited budget.

Then, maybe we can begin to like and willingly support our schools, again.

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

OPINION

The special interests behind Measure S are our children

As co-chairman of the Save Our Schools sub-committee that crafted Measure S, I was appalled by Bill Bauer's fictitious account of what transpired during our committee deliberations (Santa Monica Daily Press, May 9.).

The SOS committee — a broad cross-section of citizens representing every sector of Santa Monica and Malibu — had only one consideration in our decision as to what method of finance to put before the voters to save our schools: Finding the most balanced and legally sound measure to provide our local schools the funds they so urgently need.

Measure S is just that. The "square footage" parcel tax approach touted by Bauer was carefully examined by the SOS committee. While appealing at first blush, a closer look revealed that the vast majority of residents in Santa Monica and Malibu would pay more under a square footage tax than under Measure S.

In fact, 85 percent of renters, who represent most low-income residents in our city, would pay more under Bauer's preferred scheme. That is the reason it was overwhelmingly rejected by the SOS committee.

Our school district is very limited in its options for raising local funds. Measure S is not only legally sound, but the fairest approach to immediately provide our schools with the funds they so desperately need.

Measure S will cost property owners a mere \$18.75 a month. Resident homeowners 65 and older — many of whom must get by on limited fixed incomes — are eligible for an exemption under this measure.

Homeowners have a great deal at stake in the passage of Measure S, whether or not they have children in public schools. A recent Forbes analysis of property values found that home values vary dramatically depending upon the quality of a region's schools — a common sense connection, indeed.

A "no" vote on Measure S sends the chilling message to the real estate community that high quality schools are not a reality here, and would have a diminishing effect on property values. Investing in the quality of our schools is one of the best investments any community can make.

Measure S protects that investment by

requiring strict taxpayer accountability, ensuring the new funds go where they are needed most. Funds must be deposited into a separate account with annual independent audits made available to the public.

Measure S will help save our excellent schools from unprecedented state budget cuts. Because the state is slashing education funding, Santa Monica-Malibu schools are being forced to make at least \$13 million in budget cuts.

This is the most severe funding crisis in our school district's history.

Measure S will provide approximately \$6.5 million to our schools annually for six years, restoring about half of the money we're losing from the state.

The situation is dire. Without the immediate infusion of funds generated

by Measure S, our schools will be devastated. We'll lose 91 excellent teachers, class size will increase dramatically, elementary school music programs and pre-school programs for low- and moderate-income children will be eliminated, and advanced placement courses for high school students will be cut back.

School nurses, librarians and custodians — the critical support that ensures a healthy and enriching learning environment for our students — will be laid off. Indeed, the Board of Education has already adopted these and other cuts, and they will go into effect July 1, unless we pass Measure S.

The impact will be long-term and it will be felt by all of our children.

A large, bi-partisan coalition — the most diverse coalition in our city's political history — is working to pass Measure S. The Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs, the League of Women Voters, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Police Activities League, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, labor groups, renters and homeowners and many others all urge a "yes" vote on Measure S.

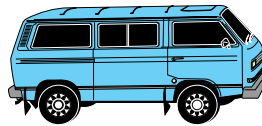
The state has abandoned our schools and our children. It's up to us to get them through this crisis. That's what Measure S is all about.

(Harley Frankel is the co-chairman of the Save Our Schools sub-committee.)

Guest Commentary by Harley Frankel

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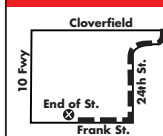
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REAL ESTATE

Is Santa Monica more kinder to landlords?



DAYS ON THE MARKET
By Jodi Summers

Santa Monica has always been partial to tenants as opposed to landlords. In 1979, the citizens of Santa Monica voted to amend the city charter to establish rent control in order to:

- Preserve residential rental housing which is affordable to low- and moderate-income people.
- Control monthly rents on residential rental dwellings.
- Limit circumstances for evictions.
- Encourage the maintenance of rental properties.

Notice that the city has a rent control board, but no landlord commission.

But slowly, so slowly, the city is becoming more accommodating to landlords. This change in part is due to local damage caused by the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Many rental units were damaged, and landlords were reluctant to spend a half million dollars to fix a building when they could only ask for \$325 in rent. That was a motivating factor behind the city establishing the vacancy de-control law in January 1999, allowing the rents on vacated units to rise to fair market value. Vacancy de-control had affected 9,486 units by the end of 2002.

"I'm sure the city has their own agenda as to why they're changing their regulations," noted a major Santa Monica apartment building owner who wished to remain anonymous. "They're not doing it to be nice to landlords, in my opinion. I'm sure they're doing it so they can have more voters on their side."

"The city is of no opinion," said Tracy Condon, the spokeswoman for the city's Rent Control Board. "It is not our job to comment on the growth, but to monitor it."

More recently the city passed Regulation 3304 — New Maximum Allowable Rent for Tenant Not In Occupancy. Regulation 3304 states that if the tenant is not using the residence as his or her primary residence, a landlord can petition the Rent Control Board to have the rent control cap on that unit removed.

"Owners have brought to our attention a number of situations where long-term tenants are not actually residing in their units," Condon said. "They might have moved someplace else and they're keeping a unit close to the beach as a vacation

place, or we've even heard of them being used for storage."

"Because of this situation, the board adopted a regulation that would allow owners to petition for an increase if they can establish that the tenant is not in occupancy in that unit," she added.

According to Regulation 3304, which was established this past March, "Occupancy as a tenant's residence does not require that the tenant be physically present in the unit at all times or continuously, but that it is the tenant's usual residence of return."

**"The city is of no opinion.
It is not our job to
comment on the growth,
but to monitor it."**

— TRACY CONDON
Spokeswoman for the city's Rent Control Board

In order of a landlord to increase the maximum allowable rent of a unit, he must file a petition, and have two copies of supporting documentation as evidence. This can include a driver's license or motor vehicle registration at another address, voter registration, etc. The Rent Control Board then makes a decision whether or not the tenant is not in occupancy of that unit.

"We have a couple of units that we can pursue this on, though I don't know if we've taken any action on this to date," noted the apartment building owner. "This is something the city should have done for unit owners a long time ago, but Santa Monica is all about the tenant, even though we're paying the property taxes."

"This is a token concession," concluded another veteran landlord. "There's a reason I'm not buying buildings in Santa Monica anymore. This city makes it too difficult on owners."

The Rent Control Board is composed of five elected commissioners. The meetings are in City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., except for the third Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to the public and are broadcast on cable TV channel 16.

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

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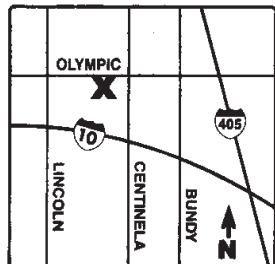


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LOCAL

Cuts will be reviewed before 2003 fall semester

SMC, from page 1

said Lantz Simpson, president of SMC's Faculty Association, a teacher union. "That voice has said, 'Find another way.'"

The Faculty Association, along with the Academic Senate, a group of faculty members that oversees academic issues, the Budget Committee, which is made up of teachers, workers, students and administrators, and several student groups proposed an alternative plan that would plug the shortfall in state spending mostly by eliminating certain courses and instituting a wide-reaching series of pay cuts.

But SMC President Piedad Robertson said she couldn't consider the proposal because it was dependent on a number of unknown variables, including the value of retirement incentives that have not yet been used.

"I can only build (a budget) on reality," she told the audience, many of whom watched through windows and listened over speakers because the room quickly filled to capacity.

Robertson said the board looked at every available option before deciding on the program cuts. She added that the board acted to impact the least amount of students possible and said the entire scenario will be reviewed when the state's budget crisis becomes clearer this summer.

Thomas Donner, SMC's vice president, said the board had to act Thursday because of state-imposed deadlines for announcing lay-offs and program eliminations, which go into effect at the beginning of this year's fall semester.

He said Thursday's vote preserves options for the board, which might otherwise be forced to make more severe cuts that impact even more students and staff members.

Before the vote, board members expressed their displeasure with the financial state of SMC and reiterated their

**"The students, the
community, the staff
and the faculty have
spoken with one voice.
That voice has said,
'Find another way.'"**

- LANTZ SIMPSON

SMC Faculty Association, president

commitment to saving whatever programs and positions they could.

"These are tough times," Chairman Herb Roney said. "And we realize this."

The change was largely due to improvements in Gov. Gray Davis' revised budget, which was issued Wednesday. SMC officials had previously anticipated a \$15 million cut in state money to the college.

The school's respiratory therapy department is earmarked to be cut, but will continue to operate until its contract with SMC's sister school, East Los Angeles College, expires in two years.

Nancy Greenstein, the sole dissenting trustee, said after the vote that she had hoped the board would consider cuts that would be smaller and more spread out.

"I was still interested in pursuing other options," said Greenstein, whose "no" vote was met with booming applause. "I was hoping that we could continue (the discussion) to look at the state budget situation."

Festival to bring people of all ages together

FESTIVAL, from page 1

10,000 to 20,000 people, depending on weather, but said the festivities will go on rain or shine.

And it's free, except for the food.

The centerpiece of the festival will be an installation by String Theory, a performance ensemble that will stretch the strings of its trademark "curve harp" to the top of the park's 40-foot playtower. Then they'll play it.

If you're looking for Chinese, African, Mexican or other types of grub, Santa Monica Festival is the place to be. There will be nine food vendors cranking out plates all day long.

And once you've had your fill, you can bounce over to one of two stages, where a mix of musicians and performers will be putting on a series of shows that will last straight through until 6 p.m.

In past years, the festival has attracted the band Ozomatli and a performance by the San Francisco mime troupe, among others.

This year, the Orchestra Superstring will play post-modern jazz, Conjunto Jardin will play Mexican folk music and a handful

of other groups will perform an opera and traditional Chinese and African music.

Then there are the performances by Amen Santos, a capoeira master, the American Academy of Dance & Kindred Arts and Kennedy Kabasares, who will present a staged reading of Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, written by Dai Sijie.

What's more, students from Olympic High School, Santa Monica's alternative school, will read their poetic works.

The entire day is a giant tribute to the city and to the environment, said Aaron Paley, who helped organize the event with the city's cultural affairs department.

One local business will walk away with the Sustainable Quality Award, which is given to a local merchant recognized for sustaining the local economy, community and environment.

Several local organizations will be holding environmental demonstrations, including TidePool Cruiser's storm drain exhibit, which shrinks revelers to the size of a worm and takes them below street level to see first-hand how cigarette butts, candy bar wrappers and coffee cups make their way into the streams and into the ocean.

STATE



Earthquake information has big implications for L.A.

QUAKES, from page 1

Angeles. The Sierra Madre passes just miles from downtown Los Angeles.

An earthquake that struck simultaneously on both faults could be as large as magnitude-8, or larger than expected so close to Los Angeles.

"It could increase the magnitude of earthquakes to plan for," said U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist Donna Eberhart-Phillips, a co-author of the lead study.

James Dolan, an earthquake geologist at the

University of Southern California, said the new studies confirm what many had suspected about the simultaneous movement of multiple faults.

"What we have now seen in the Denali earthquake is that indeed moderate earthquakes on a thrust fault can trigger, if the geometry is correct, very large earthquakes on adjacent strike-slip faults," said Dolan, who was not connected with the studies.

The Denali quake also produced shaking of a longer duration and period than would a smaller quake, increas-

ing the likelihood of damage to tall buildings and bridges, scientists said.

Also, the energy released by the earthquake was focused in the same direction as the southeasterly progression of the rupture of the three faults. Were a similar quake to occur on some segments of the San Andreas, its energy could be focused directly at the Los Angeles region.

Together, that has "big implications for Los Angeles," said Lucy Jones, scientist in charge of the USGS office in Pasadena and another of the lead study's co-authors.

Senate passes bill banning subsidies to lure retailers

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California cities would be banned from offering subsidies, tax breaks and other public improvements to lure car dealers and high-volume discount stores from neighboring cities under a bill that passed the state Senate on Thursday.

The bill is one of two in the Legislature to reshape California's growth patterns by reining in the fierce, and what some call destructive, competition among cities for stores and businesses that bring sales taxes.

"Millions and millions of dollars have been spent by local jurisdictions in recent years," said the bill's author, Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-Martinez. "It's time to stop this rip off of funds from one agency to another, especially during these recessionary times."

Opposed by auto dealers and commercial property owners, the bill passed 23-13. It forbids cities from subsidizing moves by large stores within 25 miles and car dealers within 40 miles.

"It's unfair. It basically locks in forever the current big-box retailers and auto malls,"

—PETER WELCH

lobbyist for the California Motor Car Dealers Association

Supporters, including many cities and their agencies that redevelop older neighborhoods, maintain that competition for businesses that bring sales taxes has triggered a destructive bidding war that distorts the state's growth and worsens its housing shortage.

Cities aiming to boost their sales tax collections frequently offer an array of financial incentives to attract lucrative auto dealerships and high-volume "big box" stores, such as Lowe's, Home Depot and Wal-Mart. These incentives, often promised to woo businesses from neighboring cities, include discounted property,

free street improvements and tax breaks.

In turn, cities that win new businesses get \$300 from the sale of every \$30,000 car sold within their boundaries and 20 cents for each \$20 store buy. Sales taxes in most cities have become the leading source of money to pave streets and buy police cruisers.

A related bill nearing an Assembly floor vote would give cities more of the property taxes generated inside their borders, making them less dependent on shopping and more friendly to badly needed houses, condominiums and apartments.

But opponents, citing a market trend

toward auto malls and freeway locations in growing new cities, say they hope to overturn Torlakson's bill in the Assembly.

"It's unfair. It basically locks in forever the current big-box retailers and auto malls," said Peter Welch, lobbyist for the California Motor Car Dealers Association which represents most of the state's 1,500 new-car dealers. He said many cities favoring the bill already have lucrative auto malls and want to head off raids.

This is Torlakson's second attempt to deal with this issue. In 1999, he proposed a bill that ended in a compromise law that requires cities that lure a business from a neighboring city to share the gain in their sales taxes for the first 10 years. Among cities soon to test the process are the Bay Area's Pittsburg and Antioch. Pittsburg recently lured Antioch's Mazzei Pontiac-Cadillac-Buick to a new 47-acre auto mall, where the city hopes to earn \$5 million in sales taxes yearly from 12 dealerships. The city has agreed to share taxes from Mazzei's dealership with Antioch.

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INTERNATIONAL

Vladimir Putin agrees Iran poses nuclear threat

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Edging closer to the Bush administration's view, Russian President Vladimir Putin is registering concern about Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions and there will be further discussion of the issue when Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov holds talks in Washington next week, a senior U.S. official said.

Putin and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov did not get into specifics in talks with Powell in Moscow on Wednesday, but it was apparent to the U.S. side that findings by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has a vigorous weapons program was getting through to the Russians.

The Russians made clear they, too, are concerned about nuclear activity in Iran and they do not want a nuclear-armed Iran in the neighborhood, the official said Thursday.

The issue is on the agenda for President Bush's visit to St. Petersburg June 1 for talks with Putin. The Russian

president is trying to establish a positive basis for the talks, said the official on condition of anonymity.

The Russian defense minister is to hold talks in Washington May 21-22.

Powell flew Thursday to Bulgaria's capital to thank the Eastern European country for its support in the war with Iraq. The stop also marks the 100th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the United States.

Putin tried to move past the U.S.-Russian split over the Iraq war and edged closer to the Bush administration over technology sales to Iran.

The two sides did not settle their disagreement over lifting U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell said they had not resolved the issue of weapons searches, and Foreign Minister Ivanov stressed Russia's insistence on a "legal basis" for governmental transition in Baghdad.

Powell signaled, however, that the Bush administration was considering a compromise with the Russians on sanctions. Russia has supported only a suspension of the

economic sanctions. Powell said eliminating them was preferable, "but we will look at the idea of initially suspending sanctions."

On a flight from Sofia to Berlin, Powell expressed a tougher line.

"We are going for lifting the sanctions," he said. "We want to get 15 to 0 in the Security Council. I think a lift is achievable."

Determined to set a positive agenda for Bush's visit, Powell met with Putin at the Kremlin and three times with Ivanov, in addition to having dinner with the foreign minister.

"We could congratulate each other," Putin said as the Russian Duma, or lower house of parliament, approved a pact with the United States to cut long-range nuclear warheads by two-thirds over the next 10 years. It was ratified by the U.S. Senate in March.

Putin went on to declare "we have had a lot of arguments recently concerning the Iraq problem, but we have successfully overcome these differences," referring to Russia's objections to the war with Iraq.

Riyadh attacks a reminder of al-Qaida's influence

BY DAFNA LINZER

Associated Press Writer

Nairobi, New York, Bali. And now Riyadh.

Months, even years can go by between carefully planned al-Qaida attacks, often leaving the mistaken impression that Osama bin Laden's organization is becoming too weak to strike. But each attack serves as a reminder of the terrorists' reach and their influence on other

militant groups worldwide.

While the United States has made significant progress in fighting al-Qaida in Pakistan and Yemen, where the FBI and CIA are operating with local authorities, the battle has been far more difficult in places such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, where U.S. authorities have been unwelcome.

Still, initial intelligence assessments point to an outside command-and-control structure that directed the Saudi operation, according to intelligence sources who

spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear whether al-Qaida operatives who have floated into Iran from Afghanistan in recent months may have been involved.

"We know there is senior al-Qaida in Iran," Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

U.S. officials have identified three al-Qaida leaders in Iran: Saif al-Adil, bin Laden's security and intelligence chief; Saad bin Laden, Osama's son; and Abu Hafis the Mauritanian, a religious scholar.

To what extent the Tehran government tolerates their presence is not known, U.S. officials say. But Rumsfeld identified Iran as a country that is harboring al-Qaida leaders.

A senior Turkish intelligence official recently told The Associated Press that the Iranians have been sending plane loads of low-level al-Qaida fighters back to Saudi Arabia, but that senior figures are trying to stay in Iran.

Abu Musab Zarqawi, a senior associate of bin Laden, passed through Iran after fleeing Afghanistan. But he went to

Baghdad for medical treatment — and became a key factor in the U.S. allegations that Saddam Hussein's government had contacts with al-Qaida. His whereabouts are unknown.

Bin Laden and his chief deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, are still thought to be in the mountainous region along the Afghan-Pakistani border. Rumsfeld said Thursday that the United States still doesn't know whether the al-Qaida chief is alive.

Rumsfeld emphasized that 18 months of battling al-Qaida had led to significant gains, including a crippling of the network's communications and elimination of Afghanistan as a base.

But experts said Monday's attack in Saudi Arabia and others in recent months show al-Qaida can carry out successful operations on the move.

"Terrorist organizations don't need bases anymore," said Zvi Barel, a Middle East analyst for the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz. "They can operate from anywhere. They have the Internet, they can buy explosives and weapons in any country."

On guard



Adnan Haji Ali/Associated Press

A Lebanese security man stand guards near the British and Japanese embassies building in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday. Soldiers have arrested members of a terrorist network that planned to attack a Western embassy and other foreign targets in Lebanon, the Lebanese Army said Thursday. The military's statement did not identify which foreign embassy.

Key developments on Iraq

By The Associated Press

Key developments concerning Iraq:

■ Heavily armed U.S. forces stormed into a village near the northern city of Tikrit before dawn, seizing more than 260 people, including one unidentified man on the United States' most-wanted list. All but about 30 were later released.

■ Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division shot and wounded a looter in Mosul after being fired upon, U.S. military officials said. The shooting, which came a day after military officials denied issuing a shoot-on-sight policy against looters, was in accordance with the rules of engagement because the soldiers had come under fire, the Army said.

■ A V Corps soldier was grazed by a gunshot late Wednesday after responding to gunfire at a Mosul bus station, the military said. The gunman, who also wounded two Iraqi civilians, fled, military officials said. The soldier was able to return to duty.

■ On the Tigris River north of Tikrit, U.S. forces saw a boat being loaded with cases of unidentified materials and fired a warning flare. The Americans came

under fire from the boat and fired back; they said they believed they killed everybody aboard.

■ U.S. civilian administrator L. Paul Bremer held his first news conference, saying American forces are working hard to improve security and promising to fight remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime. He said 300 criminals have been arrested around the country this week. Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, the American military officer in charge of Iraq, told Iraqis that coalition forces would begin arresting people who possess or sell firearms.

■ British forces formally turned over control of the port city of Umm Qasr to a civilian government, the first such handover since the war ended.

■ In an apparent bid to get Russian and French support on the U.N. Security Council, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States would consider suspending sanctions against Iraq rather than lifting them.

■ Danish lawmakers gave their approval to sending 380 soldiers to Iraq, including several medics and explosives experts.

SPORTS



Lakers lose their chance at four-peat

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The three-year championship reign of the Los Angeles Lakers came to a decisive end Thursday night.

Two-time MVP Tim Duncan had 37 points and 16 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 27 points as the San Antonio Spurs overpowered the tired, beat-up Lakers 110-82 to win the Western Conference semifinal series 4-2.

The Lakers were out of contention by midway through the fourth quarter.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers with 31 points and 10 rebounds. He was removed with 4:34 remaining and the Spurs leading 98-76.

Kobe Bryant added 20 points for the Lakers and was teary-eyed when it ended.

"We have a million and one excuses we can go to, but the fact is we're not going to make any. They played better than us in this series," Bryant said.

Duncan, who finished 16-for-25 from the field, scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to give the Spurs an 82-69 lead. A basket by Manu Ginobili made it 84-70 with 10:07 remaining.

Ginobili's 3-pointer with 8:09 remaining made it 91-74, and the Lakers were through.

The Spurs advanced to the Western

Conference finals to face Dallas or Sacramento. The series begins Monday.

San Antonio led by only two points after a basket by O'Neal with 4:43 left in the third quarter, but Duncan scored eight points in a 10-0 run that made it 76-64, and it was 78-69 entering the final period.

Duncan and Parker scored the last 20 points of the third period and the first four of the fourth.

O'Neal fouled Duncan twice in a span of 66 seconds, giving the Lakers' big man four fouls and a seat on the bench with three minutes remaining in the third period.

That was the beginning of the end.

The Spurs shot 23-of-39 (59 percent) and the Lakers were 22-of-38 (57.9 percent) in the first half, which ended with San Antonio on top 54-50.

Ginobili, who had 10 points, set Parker up for a 3-pointer and then scored four straight points to give the Spurs a 40-31 lead midway through the second quarter.

O'Neal scored nine points in the last 4:37 of the period, including a three-point play that gave him 21 points and cut San Antonio's lead to 50-48.

Duncan shot 7-of-8 in the first quarter and the Spurs were 13-of-20, but their lead was just four points — 29-25.

Angels owner motivated by love of baseball

BY DANNY POLLOCK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Arturo "Arte" Moreno has always kept a low profile.

The new owner of the Anaheim Angels sometimes meets with associates while coaching his Little League team. Friends say he sits in the cheap seats at games at the University of Arizona, his alma mater.

It doesn't look like he'll change, even though the businessman from Tucson, Ariz., became the first minority owner of a major league team when his \$184 million purchase of the Angels from The Walt Disney Co. was approved Thursday by baseball owners in New York. The deal is expected to close next week.

Moreno, 56, doesn't plan any major changes in the team — at least not yet.

"I think they have good people," he said. "For me, it's a learning process. I'll sit back and listen."

A fourth-generation Mexican-American, Moreno grew up the oldest of 11 children in a blue-collar neighborhood. He worked for the family print shop in Tucson, graduated with a marketing degree from the University of Arizona and is a Vietnam veteran.

In the mid-1980s, he took over Phoenix-based Outdoor Systems, transforming it into an advertising industry giant before he and a partner sold it for \$8.3 billion in 1999 to Infinity Broadcasting Co. Now worth an estimated \$940 million, he ranks No. 246 on the Forbes list of 400 richest Americans.

Moreno is a private man who doesn't flaunt his wealth. He has no secretary,

coaches Little League and spends a lot of time with his two sons and daughter at his homes in Phoenix and La Jolla.

He rarely grants interviews and did not speak publicly about his deal for the Angels until Thursday's vote by owners.

Despite that silence, friends say he has long loved baseball.

"Every bit about baseball intrigues him," Jack Donovan, his longtime friend and current director of spring training for the Arizona Diamondbacks told the Los Angeles Times. "You can tell when someone has a passion for the game. It just oozes out of him."

Back in 1986, when Moreno was an up-and-coming businessman, he and 17 other investors scraped together \$150,000 and bought the Class A Salt Lake City Trappers, then did everything from collecting tickets to shagging fly balls during practice.

Under his watch, the team ran off a 29-game winning streak and won three championships.

"Every guy's dream is to own a baseball team," he said.

Moreno has since owned a small interest in the Arizona Diamondbacks and currently has a part interest in the NBA's Phoenix Suns.

He has been around baseball long enough to know that players are credited for wins and owners are blamed for losses.

"I told my son they'll probably be booing me soon," he said.

Moreno played down the significance of becoming the first minority owner with a controlling stake in a major league baseball team.

Twins falter



Jim Mone/Associated Press

Minnesota Twins' Doug Mientkiewicz, left, breaks up any chance for Kansas City Royals' shortstop Angel Berroa, right, to turn a double play in the first inning, on Thursday, in Minneapolis. Twins' Todd Sears was safe at first. The Royals won 9-5, in 14 innings.



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2003-04 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2003-04 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2000-05) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2000. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed One-Year Action Plan.

Copies of the Proposed FY 2003-04 One-Year Action Plan and the Proposed Draft Community Development Plan FY 2003-06 are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending June 17, 2003. Any comments received before June 6, 2003 will be transmitted to the City Council. To obtain a copy of the Proposed FY 2002-03 One-Year Action Plan or the Proposed Draft Community Development Plan FY 2003-06, please contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701. Please send your written comments to the above address by June 17, 2003.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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A cartoon by Tom Whalen. A man with a large, triangular nose and a single hair curl looks up at a sign. The sign has two lines of text: "50% COTTON CANDY" and "50% POLYESTER CANDY". He is holding a stick of cotton candy. The cartoon is signed "© 1988 TOM WHELAN" in the bottom right corner.

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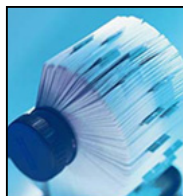
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- Two newsstands at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Raymond
- Main Street and Kinney
- Main Street and Strand

Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!



BACK PAGE



Renaming outerspace

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Three asteroids will be renamed to honor the University of Arizona's achievements in astronomy.

The International Astronomical Union in Paris last week approved the names 17593 Wildcat, 18368 Flandrau and 16669 Rionuevo.

The Wildcat is the university's mascot. The Flandrau Science Center is located on the University of Arizona campus, and Rionuevo name was designed as a tribute to UA's cooperation on the downtown science center still under development.

Woman's life goes to dog

By The Associated Press

NORTH FORT MYERS, Fla. — Monica Hayes lost virtually everything she owned in a weekend fire that tore through her rented mobile home. But if it wasn't for her dog, Hayes could have lost even more.

Sassy, a 3-year-old Chihuahua, managed to rouse Hayes from a deep sleep early Saturday morning. Hayes

said she opened her bedroom door and discovered flames and smoke racing through the home.

"I wouldn't be alive today if not for my Chihuahua," said Hayes, 36, who was alone inside the home. "I lost everything I have except her."

Hayes' children, ages 10 and 11, were at their father's home when the fire broke out, she said.

The North Fort Myers Fire Department determined the fire was accidental, possibly caused by a burner on the electric stove being left on. Hayes said she can't figure out how that would have happened, because she only uses a microwave when she cooks.

Hayes does not have renters' insurance and only receives \$545 in monthly disability income. She's not sure where her next home is, but she knows that Sassy is coming with her.

"I'd live on the streets before I'd leave my dog behind. ... I'll never yell at her again for barking," Hayes said.

Anxiety? No, childbirth

By The Associated Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — A woman who went to the emergency room thinking she was having an anxiety attack ended up giving birth in a hospital restroom.

"She didn't realize she was pregnant," Lakeland Regional Medical Center spokeswoman Cindy Sternlicht said. "When they asked if she had any reason to believe she was pregnant, she said, 'No.'"

Other patients waiting in the emergency room Tuesday heard the woman's screams from the restroom. They later broke into applause when a nurse emerged with the baby girl wrapped in a pink blanket.

Sternlicht said there was no time to get the woman on a stretcher or to a room. About 25 nurses and paramedics surrounded the woman while she gave birth.

Sheila Holton was at the hospital when the 1:20 p.m. birth occurred.

"I was hysterical because this lady was screaming bloody murder," Holton said.

The mother asked that no information be released about her or her child. Officials said the baby is healthy and that the mother was "healthy and smiling."

Camels grows another leg

By The Associated Press

GILLETTE, Wyo. — Police intervened before pranksters could arrange a midnight rendezvous for Humphrey the Camel.

Humphrey is the mascot sculpture at the North Campus of Campbell County High School. Late Monday or early Tuesday, the pranksters went to work by using a prosthesis to make Humphrey more obviously male.

"It was screwed onto it," Principal Boyd Brown explained.

The plan was to introduce Humphrey to a camel sculpture from the high school's South Campus. But police scattered the pranksters as they went about making off with the South Campus camel.

One man was caught: a 21-year-old arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and with a suspended license. He allegedly had acetylene bottles that were going to be used to weld the camels together.

Brown estimated damage to both camels at \$500.

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