



UMA THURMAN NABS DEAL
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS P15

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA
7 24 40 48 50
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$94M

Super LOTTO
3 8 28 40 42
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: \$32M

Fantasy 5 2 13 21 29 33

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 4 8 9
EVENING: 1 0 1

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:49.21

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

A Texas jury decided in 1991 that Steven Kenneth Staley, now 43, should be put to death for killing a restaurant manager, but three days before his February 2006 date with destiny, psychologists testified that he is mentally ill, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a mentally ill person cannot be executed. The solution, declared state judge Wayne Salvant in April, is for the state to inject Staley with enough psychotropic medicine to make him sufficiently sane to understand why he is going to die, at which point he can be killed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 137th day of 2006.
There are 228 days left in the year.

■ On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its Brown v. Board of Education decision, which found that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, and therefore unconstitutional.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A burning purpose attracts others who are drawn along with it and help fulfill it."

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE
AMERICAN PHOTOJOURNALIST (1904-1971)

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

DUCKS IN A ROW: A mother duck watches over her newborns as they play in the grass at Douglas Park.

Not all it's quacked up to be

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOUGLAS PARK — There's an old saying that you should never defecate where you rest — or something along those lines. It seems ducks here

haven't learned that. As a result, they have been forced out of one of their favorite breeding grounds due to excess poop in the ponds.

Every year, just before summer, City Hall drains the ponds at Douglas Park for the removal of the

fowls' fecal matter, which causes nitrogen levels in the water to rise and promotes algae growth that starves the water of oxygen. This kills the goldfish, mosquito eaters and other fish City Hall releases into the ponds, not to mention the plant life, said Joe McGrath, supervisor of park operations for the city.

Preferring not to use chemicals to keep the ponds clean, McGrath said draining them is the only option.

The problem is, the ponds are dry around the same time the wild ducks give birth. This forces baby ducklings to survive without a major source of water.

This year, the ponds were drained May 2. A sign at the park explaining the absence of water says the ponds will be refilled May 25.

Residents who live near the park say they are devastated when they see a group of ducklings struggling



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

In an effort to control duck populations, a sign advises visitors not to feed the wildlife.

See **DUCKS**, page 6

STATE

At year mark, LA mayor still big on promises

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Most everybody seems to like Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, even if his accomplishments after one year in office trail his sprinting ambition.

He wants to house the homeless. Revitalize downtown. Take over the school district. Get commuters to dump cars for subways and buses. And make a city infamous for sprawl and smog ever greener.

Wednesday marks the first anniversary of his watershed elec-

tion as the city's first Hispanic mayor in more than a century. And with it the inevitable question — can he deliver, or will he become another politician who reached too far?

Teachers are bucking his plan to

See **MAYOR**, page 9

City to extend workers' shelf life

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — In a move that could potentially get the city sued, elected leaders are moving forward with a law that would prohibit grocers from immediately firing employees of a newly acquired grocery store.

The law, known as "Grocery Worker Retention," is based on a similar law passed recently in Los Angeles that is being challenged in court by the California Grocers Association, a nonprofit, statewide trade association representing approximately 500 grocers operating more than 6,000 food stores in California and Nevada.

CGA officials said they are considering whether to file a suit against Santa Monica if the City Council gives final approval to the law, which is expected in the coming weeks.

CGA contends the Los Angeles law and the Santa Monica ordinance are "improper, unlawful and unenforceable" as they are preempted by federal law. In addition, CGA leadership said worker retention violates equal protection rights of employers and conflicts with state food-related health and safety laws.

CGA also charges that grocery worker retention is another move by labor unions to maintain an unfair advantage over grocers, and that elected officials supporting the law are beholden to unions.

"As a businessman, this is just another roadblock in a myriad of obstacles standing in the way of building stores in Santa Monica," said Peter Larkin, president of CGA. "This will have the effect of limiting shopping choices for consumers."

"I think it sends a message to the broader business community, let

See **GROCERS**, page 5

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Choraling students’ musical talent

By Daily Press staff

Spring is in the air at St. Monica. Santa Monica will come alive with the sound of music on May 18 when St. Monica Catholic High School presents its annual Performing Arts Department Spring Concert at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Monica Catholic Church. More than 75 high school and middle school students will entertain the public with a 90-minute choral concert consisting of contemporary and traditional music selections.

This year’s show will feature three different performance groups: Rainbow Riders (advanced high school choir), Coro di Concerto (beginning/intermediate choir) and Harmonic Bronze (hand-bell choir from High Desert Middle School in the Acton/Agua Dulce School District). The concert will consist mainly of group performances, with a few solos from featured members of the Rainbow Riders. All performers will have piano accompaniments.

“The annual spring concert is a tradition that has taken place for more than 25 years,” said Ed Archer, music director at St. Monica Catholic High School. “The Rainbow Riders and Coro di Concerto have already performed in two other choral festivals this year. We plan to take those programs and couple them with Harmonic Bronze to offer guests a truly wonderful evening of choral music.”

The concert takes place inside St. Monica Catholic Church, located at 725 California Ave. General admission tickets are \$5, with a reduced price of \$2 for students and seniors. All tickets can be purchased at the door.

For more information on the St. Monica Catholic High School Spring Concert, call (310) 394-3701.

Follow the money

By Daily Press staff

If you want to track how the local college is spending voter-approved bond money, here’s your chance.

Santa Monica College is seeking applications for the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, which oversees the implementation of Measures U and S, the 2002 and 2004 bond measures that are funding capital improvement projects at the college. The application deadline is Friday, June 2.

Two of the vacancies are specifically for a Malibu resident and a representative of one of the college’s support organizations, such as the SMC General Advisory Board or SMC Associates. Applications also are encouraged from representatives of Santa Monica neighborhoods.

To qualify for appointment, an applicant must be at least 18 years old; must not be a college employee or official; and must not be a vendor, contractor or consultant to the college.

The SMC Board of Trustees will review all applications and make the final appointments. Applications are available by calling (310) 434-4402 or by going to www.smc.edu/admin/trustees/CitizensBondOversightCommittee/default.htm.

The committee was established in spring 2002, as required by state law, to oversee the implementation of Measure U, the \$160 million bond passed by 70 percent of Santa Monica-Malibu voters. The committee’s responsibility was expanded to include oversight of Measure S, which was passed in November 2004. The bond measures are funding a wide range of projects, including replacement buildings, seismic retrofitting, safety and technology upgrades, and more.

Alumni among us

By Daily Press staff

The 18th Annual All-Class Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Samohi. There is free parking by the tennis courts and off Michigan Avenue. Register and meet classmates by the flag pole. Enjoy your own picnic at selected tables or buy food and drink in the quad area while listening to the mellow sounds of Art Barron ’54. Visit the newly renovated Barnum Hall, shop at Vike’s Inn, check out the memorabilia and tour the campus. Special guests celebrating their 50th includes Betty Guercio and the class of ’56. For more information, contact event chair, Jim Jaffe, ’60, at (310) 396-7027 or jljaffe@earthlink.net.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN
CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN
CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	0"	BASE DEPTH 132" - 156"	LIFT HOURS 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 7/28
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

MOUNTAIN HIGH
CLOSED

MT. BALDY

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

SNOW SUMMIT
CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY
CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 62°

SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)
TODAY THE 185-DEGREE SW ELEMENT BACKS OFF WHILE THE WITH INFREQUENT TASMAN SEA SETS CONTINUE. THE DOMINANT SWELL TODAY THOUGH WILL BE SOME WESTERLY WIND SWELL.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
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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	5:49AM	-0.80FT	4:19PM	2.45FT	
HIGH TIDE	12:32PM	3.20FT	10:52PM	5.92FT	
TUESDAY					
LOW TIDE	6:39AM	-0.71FT	4:57PM	2.67FT	
HIGH TIDE	1:40AM	3.10FT	11:37PM	5.70FT	
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

Even if you got 'em ...

City staffers are presently studying the feasibility of banning smoking entirely from the bustling Third Street Promenade. Following measures that nixed cigarettes and the like from the city's beaches, parks and pier, a total ban would preclude all smokers from lighting up anywhere on the thoroughfare. Violators could face up to \$750 in fines.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

Should Santa Monica follow the city of Calabasas' lead and ban smoking from all public places — sidewalks, streets, rooftop decks?

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



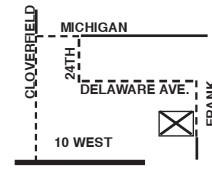
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crack down on homeless services, smoking in public

Editor:

Regarding the editorial (SMDP, April 28, page 4). I applaud the sentiments expressed so well. I, too, want to see a broad-based process and hope that the city workers and social service providers who now profit immensely from the transient and homeless are not the only ones included in the study. The Urban Institute should, and I hope will, diversify those interviewed and not limit their study to those who have a vested interest in continuing the status quo.

The statu quo just doesn't do anything but enable those who choose to continue their drug and alcohol dependency at our expense. The true homeless who are victims of abuse in the home or have lost employment due to outsourcing of jobs, or are mentally ill, deserve all we can do to help them reestablish their independence. And the drug addicted and alcohol addicted who want sobriety should be helped to attain this goal.

I recall one of the SMDP's columnists wrote about a person who went undercover to one homeless agency and signed in, was given a box lunch and told to come back to see a counselor. He returned a half hour later, signed in again using the same name, was given a box lunch and told to come back and see a counselor. The third time that day, he signed in using the director of that facility's name, was given a third box of lunch and told to come back to see a counselor. This is just but one kind of waste and ineptitude that goes on.

I would like to see all agencies that currently enable the outrageous situation that exists in Santa Monica due to the transients — just read 'Crime Watch' in the SMDP on Fridays — replaced with agencies that abide by the old adage "Give me a fish and I eat today, teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime."

Regarding the article "The Promenade's last drag," (SMDP, May 10, page 1). I hope the City Council does decide to expand its ban on smoking in public.

However, before voting this into law, I hope that this time they factor in implementing and enforcing this law. Unlike the law against smoking within 20 feet of the bus stops, where there are no signs and therefore are favorite spots for smokers to sit and blow their toxic fumes in our faces. Post signs by the bus stops.

I have seen mothers fanning their young ones to keep the second-hand smoke at bay. We breathe enough toxic fumes from the congested traffic. Also, another law not enforced is the leaf blower law. So we breathe even more toxic fumes right under our windows.

If the City Council doesn't know how to implement the no smoking on the Promenade, if passed, they should consult a place like Disneyland. When someone lights up outside the designated area — and they do — a guard immediately appears.

And if the die-hard smokers start beefing about their rights and their freedoms, I'm sorry but they do not have the right to involve the rest of us in the ramifications of their addiction. I used to smoke but quit when I decided I didn't have a death wish after all. I know it's tough to quit, but it sure was nice finding real freedom from a life-threatening addiction.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

A world where right is wrong and wrong is right



**THE
WITNESS
STAND**
BY CLIFF NICHOLS

What's going on? Doesn't it seem recently that bizarre behavior is occurring with increased frequency?

On the criminal behavior front, just a week or so ago we had the three guys in North Carolina who videotaped themselves castrating men in the basement of their house that they had ever-so-cleverly named "the dungeon." Elsewhere, it appears Google is, or until recently was, hosting a "boy love" blog site called "Paiderastia: The Boy Love Revival." In addition to the dozens of teachers found to be having sex with their students, we now have a high school assistant principal in Florida being prosecuted for asking some of his young charges to videotape their sex acts and bring the tapes to him so he could watch them. Then there are the homicide charges brought against the parents of a baby who died of a heroin overdose, the man's conviction for drowning his girlfriend's children in a lake and the woman who pleaded guilty to slitting the throat of her friend's baby.

Have we gone nuts?

And the political world doesn't appear to be much less bizarre. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is now denouncing Howard Dean for nothing less than — dare we say it? — pandering to Christians. Has the man no integrity? According to the task force, Dean grossly misrepresented the Democratic Party's official position on the definition of marriage when interviewed recently by the Christian Broadcasting Network. He said his party's position is that marriage is between a man and a woman. Can you even imagine that? Well, it sure upset the task force. They said he should know better than to say such a thing, and have demanded he correct it without delay. I guess that leaves the rest of us to pray he does the right thing.

Let it not be said, however, that republicans don't have problems of their own. It is now reported that, ostensibly to protect our freedom, the National Security Agency is busy invading our privacy. Apparently, they are collecting a comprehensive data base of every phone call made by every citizen in the United States, whether or not we may be suspected of any criminal behavior whatsoever. The irony, of course, is that this particular program is being done in total disregard of the fact that one of our most sacred freedoms is supposed to be our expectation that we will be protected against unwarranted government invasions of our privacy.

Can any solace be found in the fact that both parties seem to be confounded by the illegal alien problem? When we travel to Mexico we are warned that if we break their laws we will be put in prison, and there is little our government can do to help us. By contrast, however, a friend told me that on Cinco de Mayo in Santa Ana there were Mexican flags being flown all over her neighborhood by illegals with the words "Conquer America" emblazoned on them. Are we to presume that when they achieve

that goal they would improve our country by making it more like the one they left to come here illegally?

Then, just as we appear to be ready to concede that our nation's borders should be abandoned as the anachronisms of intolerance that some now say that they are, our government gets all bent out of shape when Mexico's government wants to legalize the possession of all narcotics for personal use. Why? In the absence of borders to impede migration, I don't view this proposed legislation as much of a problem, but rather an opportunity. If nothing is going to be done about our country having to absorb its labor force, wouldn't it at least achieve some level of parity if Mexico's culture were to absorb our drug addicts who, no doubt, would have been given a significant incentive to migrate south?

In the aggregate, bizarre events such as those, in addition to many others not mentioned, are leaving me with the sense that we can soon expect to witness the mushrooms screaming from the castle gate that the tomatoes have mashed King Spud and are taking over the kingdom. Or, maybe it's already happened and we just failed to hear the alarm. Maybe we were all just too busy with other things to pay any attention to it happening.

Have we gone nuts?

The other day I contacted a Christian minister to see if he would have an hour to spend with a friend of mine who had asked if it would be possible to talk to that minister about Jesus. To my amazement, the minister responded that his schedule was too packed to do it, but that, if I thought it necessary, he would try to find someone else who might have the time. Among other things, I might describe that as being too busy. But it also serves to exemplify how we might have gotten ourselves into the position we are all now in — what should be right is somehow spun as being something that is wrong and what is wrong we are told is really right. As a people we have been conditioned to turn a blind eye to both these lies and their consequences. How else might one explain how we as a people have come to accept a government that would even consider court-martialing a soldier because he exhibited the temerity to say the name of Jesus Christ in a prayer while in uniform? Yet we have, and, though it might make Orwell proud, to me it is but another tragic example of the bizarre.

The only question that remains then is whether we as a culture have passed the point of no return. If so, I expect that we should prepare ourselves to see the occurrence of even more bizarre behavior in the future. On the other hand, if we have not, allow me to take this opportunity to suggest that a remedy to this malaise is going to require something more than bumper stickers and billboards telling people things like "Friends don't castrate friends."

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

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Police bust drunks behind the wheel

By Daily Press staff

WILSHIRE BLVD — The Santa Monica Police Department nabbed three drunk drivers and impounded four vehicles last Saturday in an effort to reduce the number of people killed in alcohol-related crashes.

At a sobriety checkpoint in the 2800 block of Wilshire Boulevard, officers randomly searched 228 vehicles out of a total of 1,140 that passed through the area from 9:45 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. Three drivers were found to be under the influ-

ence of alcohol and were arrested. Citations were issued to four other drivers: one for driving without a license, another for driving without a license in possession, and another for possession of marijuana. The reason for the fourth citation was unknown at press time.

The checkpoint was paid for through a grant from California's Office of Traffic Safety as part of the national campaign "You Drink and Drive. You Lose."

In a statement, SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. reminded people, "Don't risk it. If you plan to drink, don't drive."

Council: Law would protect public safety, worker welfare

GROCCERS, from page 1

along food retailers, that politicians are hostile to our interests," Larkin added. "It says the City Council is willing to unfairly target a certain class of business people, which sends a message to others that maybe it would be better to invest elsewhere."

Councilmember Kevin McKeown, who sponsored the ordinance, said he and his colleagues are supportive of worker retention because they are concerned about public health, not because City Council members are in the pockets of labor unions.

If 30 to 60 employees were to leave a grocery store at once and were replaced by new employees, McKeown said he is concerned that training will not be done correctly and, as a result, food quality could be jeopardized.

The council also expressed concern for low-wage grocery workers who may suffer hardship by suddenly losing their jobs due to an ownership change. With the retention ordinance in place, it is the council's intent to protect the health, safety and welfare of these families that may have to scramble for new employment and could lose their homes in the city's highly competitive and expensive housing market.

"Do you want your family (to risk eating) food from untrained handlers?" McKeown said. "The reasons for this law are clear on the council record, both when I first introduced the concept and when the council unanimously supported it last week."

Worker retention is heavily supported by local unions, and grocery workers who have been affected by a transfer in ownership have testified before the council at least twice, offering horror stories of poverty and despair following a sale. Those workers said the parent company of Albertsons is planning to close

several of its unionized stores and replace them with non-union Whole Foods markets.

Representatives from Albertsons did not return phone calls seeking comment.

There are two Albertsons stores and one Whole Foods Market within Santa Monica.

If the ordinance is approved, grocers with stores more than 15,000 square feet in size would be required to retain employees for up to 90 days following a transfer in ownership. During that period, employees could only be fired for just cause.

Within five days of the sale or transfer, the current employer will be required to post a notice of the change in ownership. The notice must be posted throughout the entire time of the transfer, according to the proposed law.

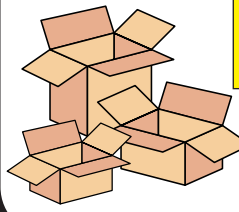
Within 15 days of the sale or transfer, the former owner will be required to provide new management with a list of the names, addresses, dates of hire and employment classification for each grocery worker currently employed.

If it is found that the store can be operated with fewer employees than hired under the previous owner, the current store operator must retain workers based on seniority, according to the proposed law.

In a report to the council, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie seemed confident that CGA will not file a suit against City Hall if the law is passed. Moutrie believes CGA intends to resolve the issue by sticking with its suit against Los Angeles. In the event of litigation, Moutrie said in a report to the council that City Hall would likely prevail against the CGA's constitutional claims, but that the arguments of preemption would be more problematic because federal and state labor laws may have more weight.

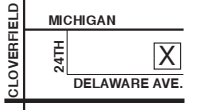
"We'll just have to see what happens," Moutrie said.

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

SITTING DUCKS Fowl rest near an empty aqueduct that funnels water into ponds at Douglas Park.

Drains could help ducks

DUCKS, from page 1

to get free from the mud left behind. Others said that without the water serving as a natural barrier between the public and the ducks, people can touch the ducklings, which in turn leads the mother to abandon her babies. Without any guidance, the ducklings are left to fend for themselves and are often killed by crows or neighborhood cats, park visitors said.

"In a city which claims to be about sustainability and protecting the environment, this sure is contradictory," said Tricia Crane, who lives near the park and has seen many of her neighbors try to help the ducks by providing water or escorting them across Wilshire Boulevard if they wander from the confines of the park. "I don't understand why this has to happen every year at the same time. This needs to be handled better."

McGrath said he receives several complaints every year from residents concerned about the ducklings, but he says they are not in danger of dying due to the draining of the ponds.

"They don't really need the pond water to survive," he said. "There's plenty of water sources around the park and plenty of food. Plus their mothers are close by taking care of them."

McGrath, who has worked for the city for more than 20 years, said the ducks have been regular residents of Douglas Park for as long as he can remember. They have always been

an attraction and somewhat of a nuisance, particularly because of their waste.

With the remodel of the park, complete with new ponds, the ducks seem to be coming in greater numbers, sometimes by the hundreds, McGrath said.

"We are trying everything we can to appropriately manage the ducks because we understand that they are a cherished aspect of the park."

JOE MCGRATH
SUPERVISOR, PARK OPERATIONS

To help handle the influx and make life easier for ducks and for residents, McGrath said new drains will be installed at the ponds so that the annual droughts may become a thing of the past.

Currently, the ponds are all connected to one drainage pipe, which makes it impossible to drain one pond without draining the others. With the new drainage project, set to begin after the summer, McGrath said staff will be able to drain some ponds while others would be untouched. The new system would also allow for some ponds to be partially drained and refilled with fresh water to cut down on the accumulation of nitrogen.

"We are trying everything we can to appropriately manage the ducks because we understand that they are a cherished aspect of the park," McGrath said.

On a recent visit to Douglas Park, a group of fascinated children could be seen intently watching a mother duck and her babies.

City employees working on the ponds said the ducklings were rare these days since most of the ducks have moved to the Water Gardens on the other side of town.

Tony Bruce, a screenwriter who walks dogs at the park to pay the bills, said he has missed the ducks and hopes they'll return when the ponds are refilled.

"This is the absolute best place to see ducks in the city," Bruce said. "They really add something to the character of the park. Seeing them just takes me back to my days on the farm in Indiana. Now where else in the city can you say that?"

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STATE



Driven to bikes

More Americans commuting on two wheels

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Fed up with sitting in traffic and paying more than \$50 to fill his tank, Scott Morrison ditched his gas-guzzling pickup and started biking to work.

Rain or shine, Morrison now bikes the six miles from his home in Fairfield, about 45 miles northeast of San Francisco, to the packaging plant where he works as a machine operator. Six months after switching to two wheels, he feels more relaxed and healthier, having lost nearly 50 pounds.

"Every time I get on the scale, it's like I'm getting rewarded for riding to work," said Morrison, 38. "The two biggest complaints people have are not having enough money and obesity. I'm taking care of both."

As gas prices climb to record highs, more Americans seem to be abandoning their cars and biking to work to save money at the pump. This week, as cities across the country celebrate National Bike to Work Week, advocates are promoting bicycle commuting as a way to trim transportation costs, get in shape and help the environment.

"Every additional person who rides their bike to work would start reducing our dependence on foreign oil immediately," said Tim Blumenthal, who heads the Bikes Belong Coalition in Boulder, Colo.

Cycling to work is just one way Americans are seeking relief from skyrocketing gas prices. People who normally drive to work are riding public buses and trains, working from home and carpooling with colleagues.

"People are starting to look for fundamentally different ways to travel," said Bill Wilkinson, executive director of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking in Bethesda, Md. The soaring price of fuel "prompts people to really think about where they live and how they get around."

Bike shops nationwide are seeing more customers who want to buy new bikes or repair old ones to commute on, said Fred Clements, who heads the National Bicycle Dealers Association in Costa Mesa, Calif.

"They have seen a surge in interest from the public about riding bicycles as a way to reduce the impact of high gas prices," Clements said. "People that already have bikes suddenly realize this would be a great way to save money."

About 20 million bikes were sold in the

United States in 2005, one of the industry's best years ever, and retailers are optimistic that escalating gas prices will lead to record bike sales this year, Clements said.

Organizers are promoting National Bike to Work Week with a series of events aimed at getting drivers to try commuting by bicycle, if only for a day. Minneapolis, Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C., among others, will hold special events for commuters Friday, National Bike to Work Day.

The San Francisco Bay Area is marking its 12th annual Bike to Work Day on Thursday, when volunteers will hand out refreshments, breakfast foods and biking information at 170 "energizer" stations in nine counties.

About 36,000 Bay Area residents bike to work on a typical work day, but organizers expect up to 100,000 people to participate on Thursday, given the widespread frustration over gas prices that have surged past \$3.50 per gallon here and elsewhere.

"The biggest challenge is that people think the car is more convenient," said Cole Portocarrero, who heads the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition, a sponsor of the event. Once they try biking to work, "they realize it's convenient, fun and enjoyable."

Unlike most countries, the vast majority of bikes sold in the United States are used for recreation rather than transportation. About 550,000 Americans — less than 1 percent of U.S. workers — bike to work regularly, according to Blumenthal.

Advocates are trying to boost those numbers. But while cities like San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Seattle and Minneapolis have bike-friendly streets and high numbers of two-wheel commuters, other cities were built for cars and lack bike lanes and paths.

"You don't feel the love in a lot of places when you're riding your bike," Blumenthal said. "For a lot of people, it's intimidating and you don't feel safe. It's a lack of shared respect between cyclists and motorists."

But advocates are optimistic that America will become more bike-friendly as cities, states and the federal government boost spending on bike paths, lockup racks and bike stations where cyclists can park and shower.

The \$286 billion federal transportation bill signed last year will double the amount of money available for bike and pedestrian facilities to about \$4 billion.



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STATE

Attorney general, lawmakers compete for treasurer's seat

BY DAISY NGUYEN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Term limits are driving the race for state treasurer, as Attorney General Bill Lockyer and a pair of Republican officeholders run to become California's chief banker.

Lockyer is the highest-profile — and best financed — candidate running for the four-year post now held by Phil Angelides, a Democratic candidate for governor. Two Los Angeles County Republicans, Assemblyman Keith Richman and Board of Equalization member Claude Parrish, will be termed out of their jobs next year.

The treasurer manages the state's \$60 billion investment account and issues bonds for public works projects. The position also has a seat on dozens of governing boards and commissions, including the state's powerful public employee and teacher pension systems, which have more than \$300 billion in assets combined.

The seat is considered by many as a springboard to other statewide offices, but Lockyer, a former state senator and assemblyman, appears to be taking a step back by running for treasurer instead of governor.

Lockyer, 65, said he dropped plans to run for governor because he wants to spend more time with his 3-year-old son and avoid the partisanship inherent in the governor's job.

The treasurer's job, he said, "is not political and it shouldn't be."

As treasurer, Lockyer said, he would help the state prepare for its growing population by investing in the education system and financing infrastructure projects. He noted that California last made a "great wave" of investments in those projects to handle 25 million residents.

"Now we're at 37 million and we're going to 50 million in a couple decades. If we don't figure out ways to provide for schools, transportation system and other things, we're going to cripple the economy and the environment," he said. "Shame on us if that's our legacy."

The Legislature and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are placing a bond package worth \$37.3 billion on the November ballot as a step toward doing just that. If approved by voters, the four bonds would provide money for schools, highways and mass transit, levee repairs and affordable housing projects.

The GOP contenders offer different per-

spectives on the office and what they would do if elected.

Parrish said the treasurer's most important job is to keep the state solvent. He believes he can save hundreds of millions of dollars by issuing bonds through California brokers instead of using East Coast brokerage firms, thereby cutting high fees associated with the "the middleman."

However, he would oppose the sale of more bonds for anything except critical infrastructure needs. Of the public works bond package, he said he would only support the one that calls for levee repairs.

With California's credit rating ranked one of the worst in the country, Parrish said it is inappropriate to increase the state's debt through the sale of more bonds.

Richman views the office as a platform for taking on a wide range of issues, including illegal immigration, health care reform and redistricting because they ultimately impact the state's financial well-being, he said.

A medical doctor and three-term assemblyman, Richman worked on legislation to overhaul what he calls the "skyrocketing costs" of the state's pension system for public employees.

In February, the board of the California Public Employees Retirement System, or CalPERS, rejected a constitutional amendment he proposed that would institute a less generous pension system for employees hired on or after July 1, 2007. As treasurer, Richman said, he would continue to address the issue as a member of the CalPERS board.

In 2001, the public pension system cost the state \$160 million, but that number jumped to \$2.6 billion dollars last year, Richman noted.

"The issue is not just the cost of public employee pensions, it's the amount being spent that's not going to education, higher education, investments in roads, highways and other infrastructure needs," he said.

"The treasurer's office is a statewide office. It allows a statewide bully pulpit to address the issue."

Lockyer said the issue should be addressed, not "single-handedly in the hands of the treasurer" but by a team of officeholders and governing boards.

So far, the race has attracted scant attention from voters. An April Field Poll found that more than 80 percent of likely voters didn't know enough about Richman or Parrish to have opinions about them.



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STATE



Study details Salton Sea decline, need for restoration

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A new study Tuesday issued a dire warning if no restoration efforts are launched to save the Salton Sea, as the state prepares to release a draft proposal next month outlining possible solutions to an environmental problem that has plagued California for decades.

The Salton Sea, California's largest lake and a critical habitat for migrating birds, faces an uncertain future after a series of water transfer agreements were approved to reduce the state's dependence on the Colorado River. The lake is located near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Under the agreements, officials have begun transferring water to the more heavily populated areas of San Diego, ultimately reducing the amount flowing to the Salton Sea. Already dependent on water flows to balance high salinity intrinsic to the lake, the Salton Sea is on a perilous track, experts say.

If no action is taken, the lake will shrink by more than 60 percent in the next 20 years, creating a host of health problems for Imperial County residents, according to a study by Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based think tank.

Increased salinity will kill all the fish — an essential food source for the area's more than 400 species of birds — in the

Salton Sea within 12 years, and air quality will sharply decline as more dusty lakebed is exposed each year to desert winds, the study said. The area already has the highest childhood asthma hospitalization rate in the state.

"There has been talk about doing something with the Salton Sea for 30 (to) 40 years now but nothing has been done," said Michael Cohen, senior associate with Pacific Institute and co-author of the study. "The idea is to put out a baseline for comparison and essentially provide a wake-up call for the state and Congress to take action to revitalize the sea."

As part of the water transfer agreements, the state passed legislation directing state agencies to develop a restoration plan and California's Resources Agency plans to issue a draft environmental report in June that will include 10 alternatives for the lake.

Of the 10 options, eight would offer partial restoration and two would consist of no action, said Dale Hoffman-Floerke, chief of the Colorado River and Salton Sea Office of the state Department of Water Resources. The agency is working on the state report, which must be submitted to the Legislature by the end of the year.

Hoffman-Floerke indicated the no-action options were unlikely as a final solution. "It's really used as an evaluation to look at all the other alternatives," she said.

Cohen said he hope the Pacific Institute's study would show in stark terms the consequences of taking no action.

"My fear is that when the state outlines its alternatives there will be a huge sticker shock," Cohen said, referring to the estimate that it could cost more than \$1 billion for long-term restoration plan.

Others said the study was an important step forward.

"It's a reality check that there are consequences of just doing nothing, of just walking away," said Doug Barnum, a U.S. Geological Survey chief scientist at the Salton Sea Science office. "This report goes a long way to illustrating what those consequences are."

Other findings of the report include:

■ Without restoration, the lake's elevation will drop about five feet in the next 11 years and its salinity will increase by about a third.

■ A five-foot drop in elevation will expose more than 26 square miles of land. If an estimated 40 percent of this land generates dust, an average of 17 tons of fine dust could be added each day to the basin's already poor air quality within 11 years.

ON THE NET

The Pacific Institute report
www.pacinst.org/reports/saltonsea

Villaraigosa taking on traffic, pollution, plight of the homeless

MAYOR, from page 1

run the schools, homeowners grumble about a proposed jump in trash fees to pay for more police. Meanwhile, the budget is tight and unionized employees are clamoring for raises.

Undeterred, Villaraigosa has brought undeniable energy and visibility to an office recently known for a paucity of both. He has established himself as one of the nation's most ubiquitous Latino politicians — a smile in motion as he traverses this nearly 500-square-mile city.

He walks the streets of downtown's Skid Row, reads to school children in South Los Angeles, addresses Hollywood award shows and hundreds of thousands of marchers at an immigration rally. He's been on the cover of Newsweek, and is sought out by likely Democratic candidates for president.

"The whole notion of being the Energizer Bunny has really paid off," said Raphael Sonenshein, a political scientist at California State University, Fullerton. "You can never argue that this guy has not taken on big things."

For all the issues Villaraigosa, 53, has sought, some have come to him.

Immigration, a subject dominating national headlines, for one. The mayor has talked of those trapped in hardscrabble neighborhoods "who clean hotel rooms, who sweep the floors, who watch our children." Indeed, he is closer to those immigrants than many other politicians.

To win in the first place, Villaraigosa cast himself as the antidote to the lackluster James Hahn. It was a rematch of their 2001 campaign — the son of a Mexican immigrant against the son of an iconic Los Angeles politician — but also a race defined by the city's changing demographics. Los Angeles has been a Hispanic-majority city for years, though Latino voters typically represent a much smaller share of the vote.

Easily elected after drawing votes across racial and geographic spectrums, Villaraigosa promised to upend the status quo, starting with dead-end schools from which tens of thousands of students fail to graduate each year. In was a natural issue for the former high-school dropout, who turned around his life after surviving the rough streets of East Los Angeles.

Better schools, he says, are the way to turn around commu-

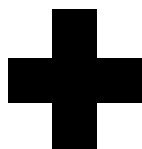
nities where gangs are too many, decent homes and jobs too few.

"When he portrays this as a failing district, he's misrepresenting the truth and that's what politicians do," said A.J. Duffy, president of the 48,000-member United Teachers Los Angeles. Villaraigosa's plan to place a council of mayors in charge of the regional school system — the district includes Los Angeles and about two dozen smaller cities — would merely exchange one oversized bureaucracy for another, he said.

Villaraigosa is undaunted.

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Apartment market continues to strengthen



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

All of the recent real estate economic forecasts agree: Southern California apartment rents and occupancy rates rank among the highest in the country. And continuing regional economic gains should push those levels higher.

That information has been confirmed by several powerful studies conducted by the likes of the Richard S. Ziman Center for Real Estate at UCLA, the Anderson School of Management at UCLA, the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate and the Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast.

The conclusion they draw is that approximately 97 percent of apartments in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and San Bernardino counties are rented. The average monthly rent at the end of last year was \$1,416, and under free market conditions unsuppressed by rent control, rent increases of 6-7 percent are forecast in Los Angeles. In Orange County, the average monthly rent was \$1,390 in 2005, predicted to rise an additional 6-7 percent in 2006. Inland Empire rents, which had a monthly average of \$1,012 at the end of 2005, should rise about 5 percent in 2006.

"These statistics show that the market will inevitably sustain a high demand for apartments," noted Dr. Stephen D. Cauley, associate director of research for the Ziman

Center.

The most recent quarterly survey of apartment market conditions by the National Multi Housing Council, a group that represents apartment owners, developers, managers and financiers, found that 70 percent of respondents reported improved demand for apartments, measured by lower vacancy rates, higher rents or both.

Those are not particularly enlightening conclusions when you realize that Los Angeles County has had a rental shortfall of 25,000 units per year for the past several years. The USC Lusk Center for Real Estate went further to state that the "same dynamic of strong demand and insufficient new supply is expected to continue."

The report further notes that Los Angeles County leads the nation in multi-family development, with 10,900 new apartments under construction at the end of 2005. Constrained by available land, LA County residential projects average 57 units apiece. (Apartment projects in Orange County average 270 units.) Downtown Los Angeles accounted for one-third of all apartments completed in the county in 2005. Occupancy rates downtown — now at 98.2 percent — will continue to be tight.

In LA County, demand for apartments will grow with the addition of 45,000 to 60,000 new jobs in various business sectors. Rent increases will rise as jobs continue to grow.

"The Hollywood submarket's makeover in Hancock Park, Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Park La Brea should keep apartment demand strong this year. The South Bay submarket is on a steady path to recovery,

boosted by federal spending and accelerated growth in global trade. The Antelope Valley continues to be Los Angeles' most affordable submarket, with average monthly rents of \$916 per month last year," noted the Lusk report.

In Orange County, "Irvine remains a dominant submarket with the greatest number of new apartments completed," and six new communities with a total of 1,400 apartments are scheduled to open this year.

The average rental rate in Newport Beach is \$1,892 per month, or about 33 percent higher than the rest of the nation. Newport Beach has not had new apartment construction since 2002. Urban revitalization in Anaheim has two high-end projects bringing about 500 new units to market this year. In Buena Park, "occupancy remains extremely tight so further rent increases are expected."

The Inland Empire is predicted to see steady, moderate rent increases with almost 6,000 new units opening in 2006. The trade-based submarkets near Ontario Airport will continue to grow, and the Lusk report named the entire region "California's fastest-growing urban area over the next 10 years."

Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies has concluded that in 2004 an estimated 29.6 percent of the 106.4 million U.S. households spent 30 percent or more of their total income on housing, compared with about 28.2 percent of households in 1997; and 13.4 percent of U.S. households spent at least half of their income on housing in 2001 compared with 12.8 percent in 1997.

Approximately 13 percent of Los Angeles residents can afford to purchase a

median-priced single-family home. Currently, the home ownership rate in the LA area is about 40 percent, compared to the national average of about 70 percent.

"Even with record-level single-family home sales, demand for apartment residences by individuals and families continues to strengthen virtually across the board," noted National Multi Housing Council's NMHC Chief Economist Mark Obrinsky. "If the homeownership market should start to cool, demand for apartments could rise even further."

"Our analysis strongly suggests that increases in long-term interest rates will be followed by corresponding increases in cap rates, although they will lag somewhat," concluded Dr. Cauley of the Ziman Center. "If increases in interest rates occur at historical levels over the next three to four years, declines in apartment values and market disruptions should be relatively small. If, however, interest rates should escalate quickly due to such events as increased inflation or major oil disruptions, the impact on the markets could be significant with substantial declines from the current record highs in the real value of apartments."

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 Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, call 310-309-4219 or visit her Web site at www.santamonicalandmarks.com.)

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Answers to questions about pools, maintenance, felines



THE HOA ADVISOR
BY MICHAEL CHULAK

QUESTION: I work for a small company that manages homeowners associations. What is the minimum age allowed by law for unsupervised children to use a swimming pool or spa?

ANSWER: Unsupervised use by children under 14 years old is prohibited. In addition, warning signs are required in accordance with Section 3119B.5 of the California Building Code and Title 22, Section 65539(c) of the Code of Regulations Environmental Health. Your pool maintenance company should be familiar with those requirements.

QUESTION: When a corporation for a homeowners association issues memberships, must the rights of each member be equal?

ANSWER: No. In accordance with Section 7330 of the California Corporations Code, a corporation may issue memberships having different rights, privileges, preferences, restrictions or conditions, as authorized by its articles or bylaws. However, except as provided in or authorized by the articles or bylaws, all memberships shall have the same rights, privileges, preferences, restrictions and conditions.

QUESTION: The management company for our homeowners association provides maintenance services, which makes me uncomfortable. Is there a problem with this arrangement?

ANSWER: Yes. When a management company provides maintenance services to an association, it creates a conflict of interest that cannot be addressed satisfactorily. Management companies have a fiduciary responsibility for making certain that their clients receive the greatest value possible for every dollar spent on maintenance services. That means the management company must make certain that their clients do not pay an excessive billing rate, do not pay for an excessive number of hours billed, do not pay for inferior work, do not pay for unnecessary work, and that maintenance is scheduled so as to minimize the number of service calls in order to minimize your overall cost.

Companies that provide maintenance services are in the business to maximize their profit. This legitimate goal is in direct conflict with the property owner's goal of minimizing maintenance costs. We believe a management company cannot reconcile that conflict of interest if it provides maintenance services to its client. For example, it is possible that the need to meet payroll costs could influence the management company's judgment as to how much maintenance is necessary at your property.

A management company that hires only independent, third party maintenance companies has the incentive and ability to fully protect property owners without regard to the profitability of the maintenance operation. A management company that provides maintenance services may not have the same incentive or ability.

By law, a management company, as agent for the association, has the duty to put your interest above its own.

QUESTION: I recently purchased and moved into a condominium with my cat, only to find out that pets are not allowed per the covenants. The board of my homeowners association has demanded that I get rid of my cat. My cat never goes out and makes absolutely no noise. What can I do?

ANSWER: You must comply with your association's covenants. The California Supreme Court has previously ruled on this issue. The court held that covenants are presumed to be reasonable and will be enforced unless the restriction is arbitrary, imposes burdens that substantially outweigh the restriction's benefits to the residents of the association, or violate public policy.

The lesson is clear. Prospective purchasers should always read the covenants before they commit to purchase a home within a homeowners association.

(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 these two web sites: www.MTCLaw.com and www.HoaQandANSWER.com.)

Mind the IRS in your related party exchanges



IN YOUR SPACE
BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Exchanges between related parties can be an effective estate planning tool. It's important that the rules governing exchanges between related parties be understood and carefully followed to avoid having the exchange disallowed by the IRS.

The IRS rules governing exchanges between related properties disallow basis shifting that could result in an investor cashing out of a property without paying the capital gains tax owed.

Prior to Revenue Ruling 2002-83, an investor could effectively cancel out the capital gains tax obligation on the profit gained from the sale of a low-basis property by exchanging or basis shifting from a low-basis property to a high-basis property and then selling for cash.

To accomplish cashing out, the investors looked to "related parties" or family members to ensure that they would receive the cash from the gain.

Revenue Rule 2002-83 denies basis shifting when related parties perform an exchange of low-basis property for a high-basis property in anticipation of cashing out. The IRS looks at related parties as a single "economic" unit and will disallow tax deferral of a gain on a sale if it is part of a transaction or a series of transactions that are structured to avoid paying taxes owed.

The guidelines that the IRS has put in place for related parties transactions are as follows:

A two-year holding period: The tax deferral treatment is lost if either related party in the exchange disposes of the exchanged property within two years of the transaction

Definition of a related party:

■ Family members, siblings, spouses, ancestor and lineal descendants. Step parents, uncles, in-laws, cousins and ex-spouses are not considered related.

■ A corporation or a partnership in which more than 50 percent of the stock or capital interest is owned by the taxpayer.

■ Two entities in which the same individual owns directly or indirectly more than 50 percent of each.

■ An estate in which the taxpayer is either the executor

Sample Properties For Sale				
Retail				
Tenant	State	Price	Sq. Ft.	Cap Rate
Stock Hill Plaza	AZ	\$2,315,000.00	30,781	9.6%
Retail	NY	\$3,200,000.00	11,800	8.9%
Homesburg Center	PA	\$3,325,000.00	18,850	7.3%
Retail	TX	\$4,750,000.00	138,600	10.6%
Tenant In Common/Alternatives (No Management)				
Type	State	Minimum Investment	Year1/Year 5 Cash On Cash	
Flex Office/Warehouse	CA	\$100,000	6%/17%	
Dry Stack Boat Storage	FL	\$100,000	6%/20%	
Retail/Office Center	GA	\$250,000	7%/7.5%	
4 Property Self Storage	NV	\$500,000	7%/8.2%	

or the beneficiary of the estate.

■ A trust in which the taxpayer is the fiduciary and the related party is a beneficiary either of that same trust or a related trust or a fiduciary of a related trust.

A good rule of thumb is if the buyer and seller are related, and one of the parties ends up with the property and the other ends up with the cash, the exchange will probably be disallowed.

The IRS does not bar related party exchanges. It merely requires a longer holding period to deter taxpayers from shifting low-basis property to high-basis property in anticipation of cashing out and avoiding taxes.

When doing a related party exchange, the IRS will require that the taxpayer provide details on the related party's name, address, identifying number and relationship. In the addition to filing in the year of the exchange, form 8824 will need to be filed out in each of the two years following the exchange.

Related party exchanges can be advantageous when doing estate planning. If an opportunity or situation arises when an investor is considering a like kind exchange with a related party, it is important that it be structured to not run afoul of IRS regulations.

Consult with your real estate attorney and CPA before finalizing any related parties exchanges.

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

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NATIONAL

Finding more oil to burn

Oil companies may gain greater access to Libyan reserves.

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — American oil companies stand to gain in competing for access to oil reserves in Libya by the restoration of normal diplomatic relations and the removal of Moammar Gadhafi's regime from a U.S. list of terrorism sponsors.

The diplomacy that led to the renewal of ties with the North African country, which were severed in 1980, could also serve as an example to Iran, Bush administration officials say.

"It could be a model," Assistant Secretary of State David Welch said Monday, citing Libya's decision, under the weight of sanctions, to abandon its nuclear and other weapons programs.

American oil companies were banned from operating in Libya for 18 years — until President Bush in 2004 lifted most restrictions on doing business in Libya.

This freed companies with oil and gas leases to go back to work and compete with European companies.

Peter Lichtenbaum, who oversaw trade controls until February as assistant secretary of Commerce, said the actions taken Monday by the Bush administration will remove the need for licenses for some equipment.

Assuming Congress does not disapprove of Libya's removal from the State Department's terror list in the 45 days allowed for review, "the oil companies will send whatever they want to send for their operations," Lichtenbaum, an international lawyer with Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, said in an interview.

Another control being lifted, he said, was one imposed by energy legislation enacted last summer. It barred shipment abroad of devices that could be part of a nuclear program that companies like Halliburton normally use to explore for oil.

"That potentially was going to shut down U.S. companies' ability to explore for oil," he said.

Libya produces about 1.6 million barrels of oil a day. Four big American companies, Occidental Petroleum, ConocoPhillips, Marathon Oil and Amerada Hess, for some 20 years have held leases on Libyan oil and gas reserves.

David Mack, a U.S. political officer in Libya during and after its 1969 revolution, said the amount of oil Libya is going to provide for America was not going to make a big difference. "But it will be important for a few companies that do business there."

Mack, in an interview, said American oil companies are

never going to dominate Libya's oil industry again; the competition from Europe is too strong.

He said sales of civilian aircraft without a special license now will proceed and Libya could be a pretty good market for them.

Welch, at a State Department news conference, said the decision to remove Libya from the terrorism list was not based on the quest for oil.

"This decision is undertaken because they have addressed our national security concerns," he said.

That contrasts with Iran, which is accused by the administration and its European allies of hiding a nuclear weapons program. Iran says it is only trying to develop nuclear energy.

Gadhafi surprised the world in late 2003 when he swore off terrorism and announced plans to dismantle his country's weapons of mass destruction programs, including its nuclear program. Libya's nuclear weapons hardware was shipped to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee in 2004.

The Bush administration has kept its distance from negotiations with Iran, declining to join now-stalled talks between Iran and the European Union. There is virtually no U.S. trade with Iran. Diplomatic relations have been in suspension since 1979.

Currently, the administration is seeking ways to impose economic sanctions on Iran, either through the U.N. Security Council or through actions by individual countries.

Whether Iran decides to follow the model set by Libya is up to Iran, Welch said.

"It's up to other nations how they look at that as a model," he said.

Mack said the United States was persuaded by Britain to talk to Libya "and it was worth it."

"It shows diplomacy works if it is backed up with a stick in the closet," he said. "The chances of having productive talks with Iran is greatly increased by this decision."

Libya turned around after years of stiff sanctions imposed for defying international demands, Welch said. "That is a process, in my judgment, that can be emulated in other cases."

As the administration turned a page with Libya and struggled to find a way to halt what it insists is an Iranian nuclear program, the State Department took a significant step against Venezuela, also a major oil producer.

Long at odds with the leftist government in Caracas, the department gave notice it was banning arms sales to Venezuela as well as financing for such purchases.

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NATIONAL



Bush wins in an early immigration vote

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate rejected a call Tuesday to secure the nation's borders before tackling other immigration-related concerns such as citizenship for millions of men and women in the country illegally, a victory for President Bush and supporters of a comprehensive approach to a volatile election-year issue.

The vote was 55-40 against a proposal by Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., who said that anything less than a border-security-first approach amounted to "a wink and a nod one more time to those who would come here" unlawfully.

Republican and Democratic supporters of the sweeping Senate bill said Isakson's approach would be self-defeating and derail the approach that Bush backed in Monday night's prime time speech from the Oval Office. "We have to have a comprehensive approach if we're going to gain control of the borders," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

In all, 36 Democrats and 18 Republicans joined with one independent to torpedo the amendment. Thirty-three Republicans and seven Democrats supported it.

Eager to blunt any political fallout from opposing Isakson's proposal, the bill's sponsors countered with an alternative of their own. Backed by Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., it said immigration changes envisioned in the legislation could proceed if the president declared they were in the national security interests of the United States. It passed, 79-16.

The Senate cast its first votes on the immigration bill as Bush renewed his call for Congress to act. "The objective is,

on the one hand, protect our borders; and, on the other hand, never lose sight of the thing that makes America unique which is, we're a land of immigrants and that we're not going to discriminate against people," he said at a news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

Bush drew continued criticism from House Republicans for his speech, and the White House sought to emphasize the border security elements of the president's plan.

"This is going to be a tremendous enforcement support partnership," U.S. Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar told reporters at the White House, anticipating the deployment of up to 6,000 National Guard troops to states along the Mexican border.

"We can certainly do what is asked by our commander in chief," added Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Blum, Aguilar and others stressed that National Guard forces would function in support roles, leaving front-line law enforcement against illegal immigrants in the hands of

federal Border Patrol agents.

Republicans expressed support for new attempts to secure America's porous borders, but they rebelled against another element of what Bush calls a comprehensive plan to alter immigration laws.

"Thinly veiled attempts to promote amnesty cannot be tolerated," said Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga. "While America is a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws, and rewarding those who break our laws not only dishonors the hard work of those who came here legally but does nothing to fix our current situation."

Any legislation that emerges from Congress will eventually come from House-Senate negotiations.

But first, the Senate had to act, and there, Bush's speech won praise from Republicans and Democrats alike lining up behind long-stalled legislation.

Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., said he and other supporters

See **BORDERS**, page 14

Border bills across Congress

By The Associated Press

Highlights of the immigration and border security bill before the Senate:

- Allows illegal immigrants in the country five years or more to remain, continue working and eventually become legal residents after paying fines, back taxes and learning English.
- Requires illegal immigrants in the U.S. between two and five years to go to a point of entry at the border and file an application to return.
- Requires those in the country less than two years to leave.
- Creates a special guest worker program for an estimated 1.5 million immigrant farm workers, who could also earn legal permanent residency.
- Provides up to 325,000 temporary visas a year for future workers, with additional visas possible based on labor market demands.
- Adds up to 14,000 Border Patrol agents by 2011 to the current force of 11,300 agents, for a potential total of 25,300.
- Authorizes additional detention facilities for apprehended illegal immigrants.
- Requires employers and subcontractors to use an electronic system to verify new hires are legal within 18 months and increases penalties up to \$20,000 per illegal worker and jail time for repeat offenders.

House bill passed in December:

- No provisions providing path to legal residency or citizenship for illegal immigrants. No new temporary guest worker program.
- Makes illegal presence in the country a felony and increases penalties for first-time illegal entry to the U.S.
- Makes it a felony to assist, encourage, direct or induce a person to enter or attempt to enter or remain in the United States illegally.
- Beginning in six years, all employers would have to use a database to verify Social Security numbers of all employees.
- Increases maximum fines for employers of illegal workers from current \$10,000 to \$40,000 per violation and establishes prison sentences of up to 30 years for repeat offenders.
- Requires mandatory detention for all non-Mexican illegal immigrants arrested at ports of entry or at land and sea borders.
- Establishes mandatory sentences for smuggling illegal immigrants and for re-entering the United States illegally after deportation.
- Makes a drunken driving conviction a deportable offense.
- Requires building two-layer fences along 700 miles of the 2,000-mile border between Mexico and the United States.



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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.

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Speech stresses borders

BORDERS, from page 13

had the support needed to defeat any crippling amendments offered by critics. Bush's speech "solidified some votes," he told reporters.

"The president gets it," added Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. Behind the rhetorical lovefest lay political calculations — politicians of both parties stressing their election-year credentials as tough on illegal immigration in an era of terrorism.

Still, the impact on the Senate floor was to demonstrate support for legislation that combined several elements — toughening border control, creating a new guest worker program and opening the door to eventual citizenship for most of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already in the country. The same bill includes provisions to toughen enforcement of laws against the hiring of illegal workers by businesses.

The centerpiece of Bush's speech Monday night from the Oval office was his announcement that as many as 6,000 National Guard troops would be dispatched, in coordination with governors, to states along the Mexican border to provide intelligence and surveillance support to Border Patrol agents. The Border Patrol would remain responsible for catching and detaining illegal immigrants.

"We do not yet have full control of the border, and I am determined to change that," the president said.

Still, Bush insisted, "The United States is not going to militarize the southern border."

While much of the advance focus on Bush's speech was on border security — a major issue for conservatives — the president's comments on possible citizenship for illegal immigrants were more explicit than earlier remarks and showed an effort to appeal to moderates and business owners who favor liberalized immigration laws.

"Some in this country argue that the solution is to deport every illegal immigrant, and that any proposal short of this amounts to amnesty. I disagree," he said.

"It is neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people, many with deep roots in the United States, and send them across the border. There is a rational middle ground between granting an automatic path to citizenship for every illegal immigrant, and a program of mass deportation."

Pentagon hands over list of all Guantanamo Bay detainees

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — After years of secrecy, the Pentagon has disclosed the names, ages and home countries of everyone held at the isolated Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in southeastern Cuba as a suspect in the U.S.-led war on terror.

None of the most notorious terrorist suspects was included in the list, raising questions about their whereabouts.

The U.S. says it has held 759 males, ranging from teenagers to older than 70, from more than 40 countries, according to the list released late Monday in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by The Associated Press.

The list includes some 200 previously undisclosed names. They are of former Guantanamo detainees who were moved out before the military began hearings in the summer of 2004 to determine whether detainees were properly classified as "enemy combatants."

While the list includes the 10 detainees who have been charged with crimes, it doesn't include alleged Sept. 11 plotters Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshibh.

"There's still much more in darkness," said Priti Patel, a lawyer with New York-based Human Rights First who has monitored legal proceedings at Guantanamo.

Lawyers and other advocates will be able to use the new list to track who has been held at the base and find former detainees to help investigate allegations of abuse, Patel said.

The Pentagon released the list while denying the AP access to other information about the detainees, most of whom were held on suspicion of links to al-Qaida or the Taliban following the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The handover marks the first time that everyone who has been held by the Defense Department at Guantanamo Bay has been identified, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chito Peppler, a Pentagon spokesman.

Last month, the military released the names of 558 detainees, also in response to an AP lawsuit.

The names of all detainees held at Guantanamo Bay were previously kept classified because of "the security operation as well as the intelligence operation that takes place down there," said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman.

The new list, when compared to the one from April, shows the Pentagon released many Afghans who were swept up early in the war. More than 90 were transferred out of Guantanamo between January 2002 and the summer of 2004.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, believes U.S. officials are trying to deflect international criticism of Guantanamo Bay by gradually moving out detainees.

"They are trying to slowly let the air out of the tires as a way to make the problem go away," Romero said.

The list released Monday also does not specify what has happened to former Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The fate of some is documented. All British nationals held at Guantanamo Bay were transferred back to Britain. What has become of dozens of other detainees was not known.

Some could be free. Others could be in secret U.S. detention centers, or in torture cells of prisons in other countries.

The AP sought the names, photos and other details of current and former Guantanamo Bay detainees through a Freedom of Information Act request on Jan. 18. After the Pentagon didn't respond, the AP filed a lawsuit in March seeking compliance.

The Pentagon later agreed to turn over much of the information. Motions are pending in court for additional information, including the height and weight of the roughly 480 detainees still at Guantanamo Bay to assist with news coverage of a hunger strike.

The Pentagon refused to release that information, arguing that medical records are private. The military said the hunger strike began in August and has involved a maximum of 131 detainees.

The Pentagon also argued that releasing photos of current detainees would damage U.S. intelligence gathering.

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Uma prepares for Swarm

By The Associated Press

BERLIN — Uma Thurman, along with two German producers, has secured the film rights to German author Frank Schaetzing’s best-seller “The Swarm,” his publisher said.

The ecological thriller dominated Germany’s best-seller lists for nearly a year and was translated into 18 languages.

Thurman, along with Ica and Michael Souvignier, plans to shoot the movie at several international locations, Kiepenheuer & Witsch publishers said in Cologne.

“Several big-name studios and producers have pitched for the stuff in the past few years,” Schaetzing said Tuesday. “For me, Uma, Ica and Michael are the ideal constellation for an international film success. We have the same vision.”

Thurman, 36, was nominated for an Oscar for 1994’s “Pulp Fiction.” Her screen credits also include roles in “The Producers” and the “Kill Bill” movies.

CANNES, France — Ian McKellen’s visit to this year’s Cannes Film Festival is a little more high-profile than his past trips.

McKellen has done Cannes before in unofficial capacities, trying to raise funds for his Shakespeare adaptation “Richard III,” publicizing his little-seen movie “Emile,” and doing interviews for the premiere of footage from “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

This time, McKellen gets his first trip up the grand Cannes red carpet — and he gets to do it twice, as a co-star of “The Da Vinci Code,” which was to open the festival Wednesday, and “X-Men: The Last Stand,” which premieres at Cannes on Monday.

For all the glamour of Cannes, the festival is an exhausting experience for anyone in the film world, whether they’re promoting an upcoming release, trying to land financing for a project or finding distributors for a finished movie, McKellen said.

“I think people who probably enjoy Cannes the

most are people who are not in the business at all and who just like movies and come to see them,” the 66-year-old actor said. “They may not see many stars, but they get to see lots of movies.”

HANOI, Vietnam — Vietnam has postponed the appeals trial of former British glam rocker Gary Glitter until next month.

The trial, which was scheduled for Friday, has been postponed until after June 5, said Bui Ngoc Hoa, head of the People’s Supreme Court of Appeals in Ho Chi Minh City.

“There are things we need to prepare more thoroughly,” he said Tuesday.

Glitter, 62, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison by a Vietnamese court in March for committing obscene acts with 10- and 11-year-old girls at his rented seaside villa and at a hotel.

He was arrested in November while trying to leave the country on a flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Bangkok, Thailand.

Glitter has maintained his innocence and says he is a victim of a British tabloid conspiracy.

CANNES, France — Tom Hanks and other stars of “The Da Vinci Code” arrived at the Cannes Film Festival on board a train that broke the world record for the longest nonstop international rail trip.

The high-speed Eurostar train, named “The Da Vinci Code” for the trip, was part of a promotional blitz leading up to the movie’s world premiere Wednesday in Cannes. The London-Cannes train went 883 miles in 7 hours, 25 minutes, passing through the tunnel under the English Channel on Tuesday.

Eurostar said an official from Guinness World Records was on board and certified the record.

Before starting the trip, Hanks posed for pictures at Waterloo station in London with co-stars Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Paul Bettany, Jean Reno and Alfred Molina, director Ron Howard and author Dan Brown.

In Cannes, the stars were whisked into a black Mercedes driven by men in black suits and sun-

glasses, and a crowd cheered their names.

LONDON — Bono was a guest editor of The Independent newspaper, filling its pages with stories on HIV/AIDS in Africa, poverty and global warming.

The 46-year-old Irish rocker, who has long complained that Africa’s problems get little attention in the news, was invited to sit in the editor’s chair to highlight his latest venture, Project RED, which enlists corporations to donate the proceeds of products made under the “RED” brand to humanitarian efforts in Africa.

On Tuesday, the newspaper’s front page featured a headline saying, “No News Today,” with the footnote: “Just 6,500 Africans died today as a result of a preventable, treatable disease (HIV/AIDS).” The message was illustrated with several images symbolizing life and death by artist Damien Hirst.

Half the revenue from the sale of Tuesday’s Independent will go to aid groups in Africa, the newspaper said.

“Our readers have already shown, by their contribution to our annual charity appeals, their interest and concern in Africa,” said Independent Editor in Chief Simon Kelner in a statement.

In an editorial, Bono, the frontman for U2, asked readers to support his Project RED initiative, which includes corporate sponsors such as American Express, the Gap and Converse footwear.

The newspaper also included an editorial by Bob Geldof, an interview with Giorgio Armani by Stella McCartney, observations by U2 guitarist The Edge on rebuilding efforts by New Orleans musicians in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the top 10 favorite musical works of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Sean “Diddy” Combs has reached a settlement with a North Carolina man who said the bodyguards hired by the rap mogul beat him after a concert in 1995.

Details of the confidential settlement reached Monday were not released.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006

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1441 3rd Street
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An American Haunting (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30

Inside Man (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Just My Luck (PG-13)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

United 93 (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
11:10am, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40

Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
11:20am, 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:10, 4:20, 5:10, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20, 11:00

Poseidon (PG-13)
11:00am, 11:30am, 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 7:50, 9:10, 9:40, 10:30

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Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Goal! The Dream Begins (PG)
1:10, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00

Hoot (PG)
12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:40

Keeping Up With the Steins (PG-13)
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

RV (PG)
12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:55, 10:15

Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55

Silent Hill (R)
12:50, 10:10

Stick It (PG-13)
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

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

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

Down in the Valley (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55

Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Wah-Wah (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

- **In 1792**, the New York Stock Exchange was founded by brokers meeting under a tree located on what is now Wall Street.
- **In 1875**, the first Kentucky Derby was run; the winner was “Aristides.”
- **In 1906**, 100 years ago, opera singer Zinka Milanov was born in Zagreb, Croatia.
- **In 1939**, Britain’s King George VI and Queen Elizabeth arrived in Quebec on the first visit to Canada by reigning British sovereigns.
- **In 1940**, the Nazis occupied Brussels, Belgium, during World War II.
- **In 1946**, President Truman seized control of the nation’s railroads, delaying a threatened strike by engineers.
- **In 1973**, the Senate opened its hearings into the Watergate scandal.
- **In 1980**, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami’s Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.



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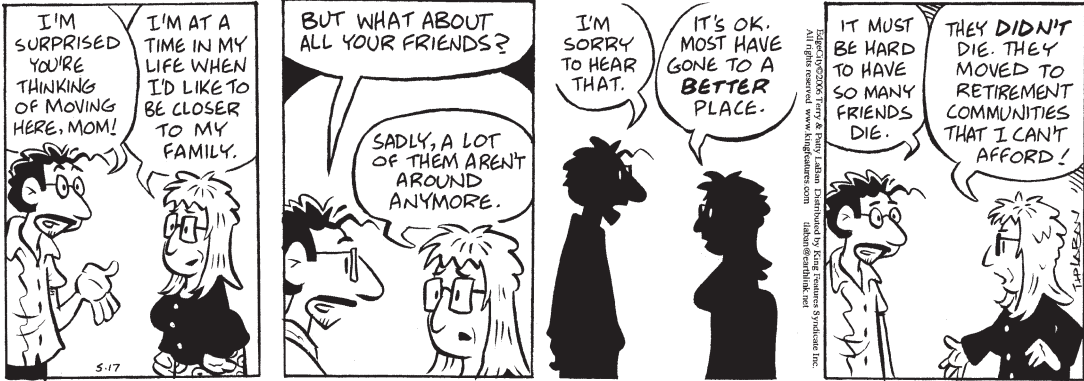


COMICS

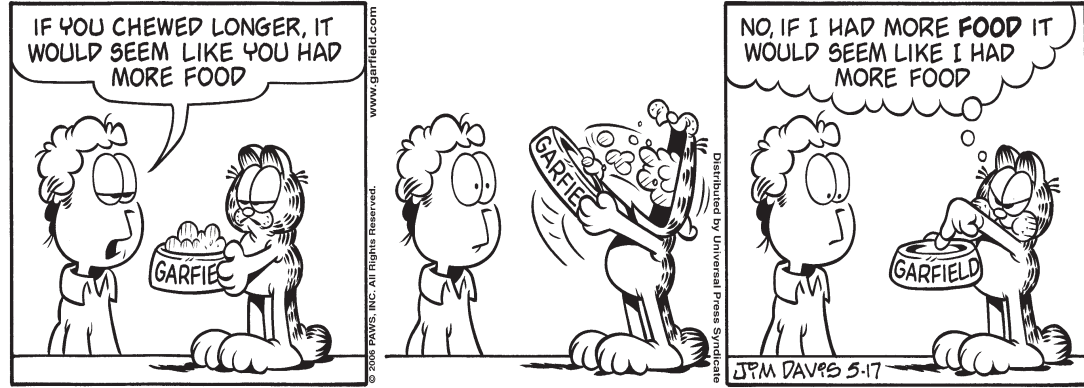
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



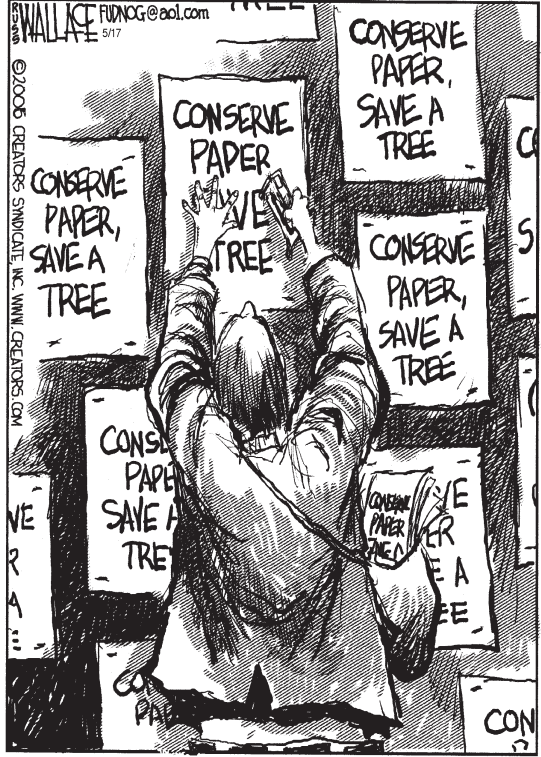
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Questions

- 1 Lawyer's job
- 5 Wine holder
- 11 Uttered
- 12 Arthurian isle
- 13 Stole stuff?
- 14 Seethed
- 15 Peculiar
- 16 Glided
- 17 Sounded sheepish
- 19 Cub Scout, e.g.
- 22 Derision
- 24 Classic Western
- 26 Prepare for takeoff
- 27 Early Peruvian
- 28 Provinces
- 30 Church leader
- 31 Word of assent
- 32 Beat
- 34 Churlish one
- 35 Switch position
- 38 Tavern
- 41 Wagon part
- 42 2002 animated film
- 43 Pencil part
- 44 Sent messages on a cell phone

DOWN

- 1 Crooner Perry
- 2 Like the Kalahari
- 3 Kids' play places
- 4 Caribou's kin
- 5 Antenna alternative
- 6 Dodges
- 7 Foray
- 8 The whole shebang
- 9 Opponent
- 10 Put a stop to
- 16 — Jacinto
- 18 Diva's song
- 29 Fall guy
- 30 Lapsee

A	U	R	A			O	C	T	E	T
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Y	A	R	D	S			L	A	W	S

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Hat carriers
- 20 Formerly
- 21 Calendar span
- 22 Order to Spot
- 23 Main-tenance
- 25 Hawaiian port
- 29 Fall guy
- 30 Lapsee
- 33 Sharp-ened
- 34 Tug or dinghy
- 36 Severe criticism
- 37 G-men
- 38 Plop down
- 39 One in a hand
- 40 "Small-village" role
- 41 Menu phrase

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5-17

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Notices

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 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 06/05/06 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of

Notices

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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 200839CA Loan No. 0695684597 Title Order No. 6270390 You are in default under a Deed of Trust dated 06/10/2005. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceedings against you, you should contact a lawyer. On 05/23/2006 at 10:30 AM, California Reconveyance Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 06/15/2005, Book --, Page --, Instrument 051401202 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: David Feddon, an unmarried man, as Trustor, Long Beach Mortgage Company, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Boulevard, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA Legal Description: The Northeasterly 1/2 of Lot 184, of Tract No. 8379, in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 113 Page(s) 54 to 56 inclusive Maps, in the office of the county recorder of said county. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$762,497.05 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 2464 Ocean park Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90045. APN Number: 4272-023-016 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". Date: 05-03-2006 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee 9301 Corbin Avenue Mail Stop: N030312, Northridge, CA 91324 (714) 259-7850 or www.fna-sap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com Deborah Brignac, Vice President California Reconveyance Company is a debt

Notices

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

DBAS

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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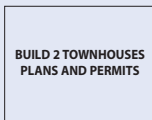
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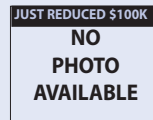
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