

Santa Monica Daily Press

'CAT' DONE WITH THAT BAG
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS **P15**

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY



7 24 40 48 50
Meganumber: 15
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12 18 22 23 25



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1st: 01 Gold Rush
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ New York state officials proposed earlier this year to evaluate the state's parole officers in part by asking parolees such questions as whether they thought their officer sufficiently "cared" about their progress (but after criticism, canceled the project).

■ The board of zoning appeals in Anderson Township, Ohio, turned down a couple's request to build a cedar fence around their yard even though the proposal was supported by neighbors and another municipal agency. Angry, according to an April Cincinnati Enquirer report, the couple instead set up 15 donated toilets as flower pots in the fenceless yard, and the zoning board apparently can't stop them.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 138th day of 2006.
There are 227 days left in the year.

On May 18, 1896, the Supreme Court endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation with its Plessy v. Ferguson decision, a ruling that was overturned 58 years later by Brown v. Board of Education.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People find life entirely too time-consuming."

STANISLAW J. LEC
POLISH WRITER (1909-1966)

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Police cameras nearly ready for their close-ups

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — The next time you walk down the promenade or stroll along the pier someone just might be watching you.

The Santa Monica Police Department is just about finished installing 123 security cameras as a protection against acts of terrorism.

An exact date for the completion of the installation was not given by the SMPD, which did not want to provide the public with a date and then not be able to follow through in the event of an unexpected development.

"Everything is right on schedule," said Eric Uller, lead public safety systems analyst for the SMPD.

The SMPD also refused to release the locations of the cameras, but Uller said they will be visible to the public and signs will be posted alerting people to their presence.

According to a city staff report, the cameras are being installed on, under and around the pier, along Third Street and in alleys east and west of the promenade.

Installation and operation of the cameras will cost the city \$1.3 million, Uller said.

See **SMPD CAMERAS**, page 10



File Photo

EYE IN THE SKY This surveillance camera was installed on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and the Third Street Promenade in November as part of a pilot program. The camera has since been removed, with another company furnishing SMPD's system.

Setting the stage



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

Jorge Herrera, 20, paints a stage prop for 'Timeless Journey,' a play geared towards deaf and hard-of-hearing children and being presented by the No Limits organization in Culver City. A pair of performances will be staged at the Magicopolis Theatre on Fourth Street this Saturday.

NATIONAL

'Almost famous' keep their day jobs

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
Special to the Associated Press

NEW YORK — The role of Barbara Giglione, Tony Soprano's younger sister on "The Sopranos," isn't a large one. But Danielle Di Vecchio, who plays Barbara, has become a familiar face to the show's fans. On weekends, she's often approached on the street by people who recognize her.

Yet each weekday morning, Di Vecchio slips back into anonymity while commuting to the corporate

job that pays her bills. Even fans who catch her eye on the subway rarely approach. "There's that moment of recognition. But they're looking at me thinking, 'She looks like she's dressed to go to work, so that can't be her,'" Di Vecchio says. "Because all actors sleep until 11 o'clock, right?"

Thousands of actors — ones you've seen on television and in movies — either can't afford to quit their day jobs or choose not to because the alternative can be a soul-killing, hand-to-mouth existence.

Resisting the open market on cable

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — A battle is brewing over legislation that could change the face of cable television statewide and potentially save consumers over \$1 billion.

In one corner stands the heavy-weights — State Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez (D-Los Angeles), AT&T, labor unions and the California Chamber of Commerce — all of whom are promising lower cable rates via competition in the open market.

In the other corner stands the challengers — the City of Santa Monica and the California League of Cities — who are concerned about the bill's lack of consumer protections, as well as the loss of local control and enforcement of operating agreements with cable providers.

The two sides are involved in an intense lobbying effort in the state's capital, with industry insiders scoring the bout in favor of Nuñez and the Communications Workers of America District 9 (CWA), a union

See **CABLE TV**, page 9



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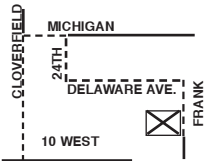
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A DEVELOPER FEE STUDY AND THE INCREASE OF THE STATUTORY SCHOOL FEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will consider input from the public on the proposed adoption of a Developer Fee Justification Study for the District and an increase in the statutory school facility fee ("Level I Fee") on new residential (from \$1.93 to \$2.63 per square foot) and commercial/industrial (from \$.31 to \$.42 per square foot) developments as approved by the State Allocation Board in January, 2006. The adoption of the Study and the increase of the Level I Fee are necessary to fund the construction of needed school facilities to accommodate growth due to development.

Members of the Public are invited to comment in writing, on or before June 1, 2006 or appear in person at the hearing at 8:00 pm on June 1, 2006, at the following location:

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board Room - 1651 16th St., Santa Monica, CA.

Materials regarding the Study and the Level I Fee are on file and are available for public review at the District Office located at 1651 16th St., Santa Monica, CA.

Dated: May 18 & 25, 2006

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HOROSCOPES

Treat another person, Cap

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★★★★-So-so ★★★★★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Though you could find that others challenge what you most love or care about, you use the "critique" to tighten up this situation. Bravo! By turning a negative into a positive, you empower yourself and others. Everyone needs a devil's advocate or two! Tonight: Find your pals.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Though saltwater taffy tastes good, it is no fun being pulled in two different directions. You can and need to rise above a tension-laden situation. Express yourself, see both sides and find an alternative solution. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Reorganize plans as new facts or requests come in. You could be tired and pushed way beyond your limits. The good news is, a walk or some downtime helps you recycle. Center, and then you can do nearly anything. Tonight: Opt for a mind treat.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You get what you want because of your ability to work with one person well. This person not only provides comfort and security, he or she is a constant source of insight and knowledge. Togetherness empowers both of you. You hit bingo. Tonight: Make nice.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others help shake you out of a negative mood. You need that; don't fight progress! Sometimes taking some time off or being a bit frivolous for even an hour can totally change your mood. Why not? Responsibility easily will be met. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Pace yourself and get as much done as possible. Dig into your visionary side and open up. New information could make your day float and get you past any problem. Be positive. Take a walk or relax in a favorite way. Tonight: Get some R and R and maybe a little extra sleep.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You find answers while others spin around helplessly. You think positively and work with others you care about. Conceptualize and realize more of what is important to you. A bond might be heating up. Tonight: Have fun.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Let others present what they want. Listening doesn't mean you agree. Think through other suggestions. You'll anchor in on what is important. You will not let go, no matter what. Allow greater happiness and flow. Let go of a need to control. Tonight: Say yes.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to stop all the constant chatter. Find a new way of handling communication rather than ignoring the overload. Pace yourself carefully. Better organization helps you clear out more than a lion's share. Tonight: Catch up with a pal. Relax and laugh.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Your finances demand your attention, especially if you are seriously considering a risk. Gambles and emotional and financial risks take on a life of their own. Investigate and think, but kick away impulsiveness. Tonight: Treat another person.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Cheer and happiness surround you. Come from a point of security and knowledge. Though impulsiveness often defines you, you might want to slow down and rethink a reaction. Zero in on your objectives. Tonight: As you wish.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Slow down and think before you take action. Pull back and get insight. Gather information through asking important questions. Be positive, even if you unearth a detail or two that might make you uncomfortable. Tonight: Say yes.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Seniors get ready to activate

By Daily Press staff

Encouraging active, better living for older adults and their caregivers is the goal of the “Westside Health and Wellness Conference 2006,” set for Saturday, May 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St.

Organized by the Older Adult Task Force, along with sponsors UCLA Healthcare, the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging and Santa Monica Commission for the Senior Community, the free conference will feature seminars, health screenings, consultations with geriatric care managers, exhibits and a resource fair.

More than 35 organizations will have exhibits with information about their products, programs or services for older adults and caregivers. The seminars will address topics such as caring for caregivers, housing and transportation options, fall prevention, stress management and spirituality.

The Older Adult Task Force consists of 20 Westside community organizations, including the Alzheimer’s Association, Center for Healthy Aging, Center for the Partially Sighted, Emeritus College, WISE Senior Services, UCLA Healthcare and the City of Santa Monica’s Senior Services. All 20 organizations will participate in the conference.

For reservations or more information, call (800) 516-5323. Light refreshments and free parking will be provided.

Stop sneezing and wheezing

By Daily Press staff

Tired of not knowing what’s triggering your allergies?

Los Angeles-area allergists will offer free screenings for people who are experiencing breathing problems, such as chronic coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. The screening will be held on Saturday, May 20, at Santa Monica Place mall.

In addition to helping identify people at risk for asthma, the screening also will provide an opportunity for people who already know they have asthma to talk with an allergist about their disease and how to keep symptoms under control. The program is supported by AstraZeneca and has screened more than 90,000 people since it first began increasing awareness of the importance of the proper diagnosis and treatment of asthma.

Remembering professor that was out of this world

By Daily Press staff

A well-respected Santa Monica College professor who died this year will be remembered this week.

The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club will honor the late Jon Hodge, who had served as Santa Monica College Planetarium director for 26 years before his death, at a plaque dedication ceremony to be held on Friday, May 19.

The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. in Drescher Hall, room 205, located near the SMC Planetarium on the second floor. The college is located at 1900 Pico Blvd.

The 10-by-15-inch plaque will be mounted in a display case outside the Planetarium. Hodge died Jan. 4 at the age of 57 shortly after retiring from the college. Last fall, his colleagues in SMC’s Earth Science Department arranged to have an asteroid named after him. Asteroid 18117, now called “Jonhodge,” is located in the main asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Reaching thousands of people though his lectures at SMC, as well as at UCLA and the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, Hodge was known for his ability to turn complex subjects into understandable and interesting talks for people of all ages.

CORRECTION In the May 17 edition, a photo caption on page 7 regarding Allen Battino’s Segway was incorrect. The damage to his personal transportation device was from work he performed on it with a wrench, not from wear-and-tear, as suggested.

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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 (4-6 FT)

TODAY THE WIND SWELL SHOULD BACK OFF, AND NO SIGNIFICANT SW IS EXPECTED. WEST-FACING BREAKS ARE LOOKING AT CHEST HIGH SURF; SOUTH FACING-BREAKS WILL LIKELY ONLY SEE KNEE-HIGH WAVES.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SW DUE FRIDAY, SATURDAY...

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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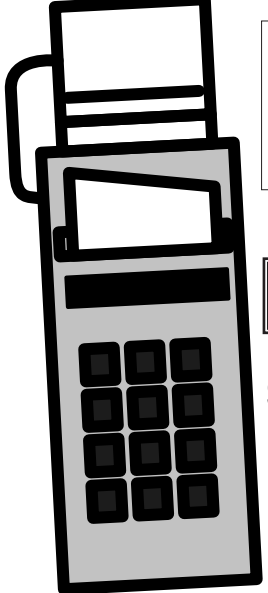
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Calling it like she sees it
Editor:

In response to a letter from Katherine K. McTaggart (SMDP, May 16, page 4)”

What a total bummer that Katherine K. McTaggart is bummed out about the word “bum.” OK, so what shall we call all of the people here that are “unfortunate enough to live on our streets?” Her offense to the word “bum” sent me right to old New World Webster’s Dictionary, in the hopes that another appropriate, but less offensive word could be found.

We can’t call them “transients” because Webster’s says that implies that they pass quickly, and are “temporary lodgers.” That’s not what they are. We can’t call them “vagrants” because Webster’s defines that as “one who wanders from place to place,” because they stay here — they don’t leave.

We can’t call them “hobos” because “hobos” were known for riding the rails (trains) and we don’t have those here in Santa Monica. We can’t call them “vagabonds” because there is a hotel chain by (close to) that name, and that could cause a whole new set of problems. We can’t call them “homeless” because Santa Monica is their home.

Webster’s defines the word bum, (adj. bummer and bummet) as: a vagrant, a loafer, a devotee, to live as a bum by begging, poor in quality, false, lame, someone out to annoy, depress, bore, etc., living as a vagrant, out of repair.

Derogatory or not, the word is correct. They are “bums,” and that’s what I will continue to call them.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

Ready for some fun in the sun
Editor:

I am thrilled that Santa Monica could become home to a public beach club.

This project reminds me of the acquisition of the Westport Country Club in Westport, Connecticut. For many decades, that country club was for members only and in the late 1990s the city of Westport purchased the facility and beachfront privileges, opening the club to all of the city’s residents.

There are many summer activities for children — golf, tennis, swimming pools and concerts — on the property, in addition to a popular and profitable restaurant. Westport’s public club has become a high selling point for real estate in that area.

A public beach club would become a tremendous asset for this community, giving everyone a comfortable place to enjoy the beach without having to spend unaffordable fees to join an existing private club.

If the neighbors are so concerned about their privacy being intruded upon by the public, perhaps they should spend their money on private security and not on lawyers to kill the project.

Fay Vasilas Lyons
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN WHITEHEAD

Kids know society’s ills

“Suicide or homicide/Homicide and suicide/Into sleep I’m sinking/Why me I’m thinking/ Homicidal and suicidal thoughts, intermixing/My life’s not worth fixing.”

This poem, written by a young man before he entered a school and began shooting, is not merely a suicide note. It is a cry for help. As the incidents of bomb threats and shootings increase, one thing is clear: Something more sinister than disgruntled students is afoot in America’s schools. For example, just last month, police in the state of Washington arrested a 16-year-old who supposedly had crafted an elaborate plot to shoot his classmates before taking his own life. This young man said he planned “to go out in a blaze of hatred and fury.”

Being a young person in America today is often overwhelming. Everywhere we turn, life is chaotic — continuing wars, violence, environmental crises, oil depletion and terrorism, to name a few. On a daily basis, children are confronted with issues, images and material of all sorts — abortion, drugs, alcohol, pornography, sexual predators, ad infinitum — that were once the province of adults only. In other words, our children have been adultified, and childhood is disappearing.

But it is more than that. “In short, the sense of a so-called disappearance of childhood is, in actuality, about the loss of a stable, seemingly natural foundation for social life,” writes professor Stuart Aitken, “that is clearly linked not only to laments over the lost innocence of childhood, but also a growing anger at and fear of young people.”

Much of this fear and anger stems from school shootings, most notably the massacre at Columbine High School in April 1999 that still lingers over us like a death shadow. This is reflected in how troubled students — some of whom are in grade school — are treated: instead of psychological counseling, they are often jailed and treated as hardened criminals.

Several years ago, after interviewing students who had planned and executed school shootings, the U.S. Secret Service released a report on school violence. Their first and very important finding was that there is no profile for a school shooter. Shooters come from many types of families, from all incomes, races and academic backgrounds. And there are no easy explanations — such as mental illness, drugs, video games — for their actions.

Since no profile exists, this means that to many school officials anyone walking the hallways is a potential shooter. Thus, paranoia often saturates the school environment where, through the use of zero tolerance policies, a child who mistakenly brings her nail clippers to school is treated as harshly as the youngster who brings a gun.

This attitude is one reason why school shooters continue to go undetected. By suspecting everyone and punishing kids for innocent mistakes, the shootings are bound to happen for the simple reason that school officials are focusing on the wrong individuals.

This leads me to the next point. Unlike the girl who mistakenly brings nail clippers to school, the shooters plan their shootings in advance. As the Secret Service report

found, the killers “did not snap.”

Moreover, according to the report, most shooters also told their friends what they were planning. However, the friends neither reported what they had been told nor tried to stop the shooters. And when the Secret Service asked former school shooters what they would have done if a teacher had asked them what was wrong, the shooters said they would have told the adult the truth, including their plans.

Our young people are trying to tell us something, but they don’t believe adults are listening. As one school shooter recalls: “Most of them don’t care. I just felt like nobody cared. I just wanted to hurt them.”

It is not just the teachers but parents as well who often fail to listen. And the older extended family — mom, dad, sib-

Our young people are trying to tell us something, but they don’t believe adults are listening.

lings, grandparents, aunts, uncles — has dissipated, along with local communities that once kept watch over children.

Children spend a large portion of their waking hours at school, which means that the parental task has been largely replaced by public school officials. But the schools, where any religious references have been removed, cannot give badly needed moral guidance. No school can be a true substitute for the humanizing effect a loving family can have on a child.

There are conditions — such as peer pressure, low self-esteem, childhood abuse, etc. — that can play a triggering or facilitating role in violent behavior. However, they speak to the deeper societal and cultural influences that come into play when young people elect violence as their response to the chaotic and stressful conditions that surround them.

In particular, we have to take into account, along with the loss of stable family institutions, the dehumanizing nature of modern society. Schools that often resemble prisons with barbed wire and police play a factor. Graphic and violent images bombard our children on a continual basis. Lurid pornographic images proliferate on the Internet, as pedophiles stalk the young. The list goes on, and it gets worse.

Our young people know something is dreadfully wrong. But many of us adults hurry through the hectic day, reaching for success in our materialistic society. And when the kids scream for help, we often don’t hear.

Young people mirror adults. And as the old adage goes, what one generation learns in school (and from society in general) is the philosophy of the next. Sounds frightening, doesn’t it?

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.)



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Gotta pay to play with the city

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Officials passed a living wage ordinance that will require companies contracted by the city to boost the pay of many employees.

The City Council on Monday unanimously approved the new law that requires the employees to receive a minimum hourly salary of \$12.50 without medical benefits and \$9.75 cents if benefits are offered.

Members of the Ventura County Living Wage Coalition has pushed for wage standards since 1998.

Advocates said the area's high cost of housing, combined with soaring health expenses, make such laws a necessity for workers.

The law applies primarily to companies that contract with the city to provide services such as gardening and janitorial work.

The council passed the measure after the Chamber of Commerce got behind it.

In return for the chamber's support, wage advocates agreed to abandon a ballot proposal that would have set pay even higher.

Living wage laws have been adopted in more than 100 cities around the nation, including Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Forest Service wary of engines that couldn't

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST — Federal plans to reduce staffing on fire engines this summer could cut initial fire attack capability by as much as 50 percent at some times, U.S. Forest Service officials said.

Officials staffed 25 engines seven days a week last year. But this year, tighter finances will limit staffing to 15 engines on weekdays and 20 engines on weekends, with as few as 12 engines staffed at times, forest fire Chief Mike Dietrich said Monday.

"Our national preparedness budget's been relatively constant since 2001," Dietrich said. "It translates to less resources to cover staffing all our needs."

The reductions come as fire season approaches in the nation's most urbanized mountain forest. The San Bernardino National Forest is home to roughly 100,000 residents.

Former forest supervisor Gene Zimmerman warned the cutbacks will place mountain residents and their homes at greater risk.

"It's a fire-prone forest with millions of tons of fuel ready to burn," he said. "This is not the forest to cut funding on."

The initial fire-preparedness budget for fiscal year 2006 is \$13.8 million, said Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes. Additional severity funding will be available.

The initial budget in fiscal year 2005, combined with severity funding, amounted to \$15.1 million.

"We feel comfortable with our staffing," current supervisor Jeane Wade Evens said.

The reductions come as San Bernardino County has increased staffing at 10 fire stations in and near the mountains.

Council agrees to a show of force

By The Associated Press

BARSTOW — The City Council narrowly approved a raise for police officers that backers said was needed to keep people from leaving the force.

Monday's 3-2 vote boosts starting hourly pay for officers to \$25.88 from \$20.71. Hourly pay after six years of service increases to \$32.39 from the current \$25.91.

The raise is necessary to keep officers from moving to better-paying law enforcement agencies as the city faces increasing homicides and gang activity, Councilman Joe Gomez said.

"My main concern is our public safety," he said.

Fourteen experienced officers have left the now 33-member force over the past two years, said Roger Martin, chairman of a political action committee working for public safety interests.

Opponents of the pay hike agreed that officers deserved a raise but said the approved increase will cost taxpayers \$724,000, an amount that's more than the city can afford.

City avoids bus strike

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — The city narrowly averted its first bus strike when its transit agency reached a tentative contract agreement with drivers and mechanics minutes before a work stoppage was to begin.

More than two dozen union members had gathered to begin picketing Tuesday when the breakthrough was announced.

"None of us wanted to strike," driver Linda Lloyd said.

Transit and union officials didn't disclose details of the contract, but union treasurer Adolfo Soto said that "wages came out well" and there were improved benefits.

"You guys will all be very happy," union leader Steven Bennett told employees who had gathered to picket.

The deal came a week after union members rejected a three-year contract offer by the agency that followed more than eight months of talks.

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Working-class heroes keep their souls intact

WORKING ACTORS, from page 1

that are touted in the tabloids.

A "real" job, like the one Di Vecchio has at an executive search firm, can be the key to making life more comfortable for the not-quite-famous. But it can also keep actors from pursuing their careers fully, leaving them haunted by the feeling that the occasional skipped audition or turned-down tour could have catapulted them into a Reese Witherspoon-like existence.

Di Vecchio recently turned down a commercial because it conflicted with her day job — a decision unthinkable for her 10 years ago.

"I used to jump at anything," she says. But today, "I need to put bread in my mouth. I'm over 35. I'm not going to bite one hand to feed the other."

Many actors struggle over which route to take. Justin Mortelliti, a handsome twenty-something actor and singer who recently moved from New York to Los Angeles, has an agent and has met with major record labels about recording contracts. But several nights a week, he serves drinks at the Hard Rock Cafe.

"I've seen so many of my friends who are great actors get (non-acting) jobs that are paying real money, and then that's all they're doing," Mortelliti says. "But then you see a lot of your friends from home getting nice cars and buying houses. They have real lives. And I'm like, 'I can't even buy a new shirt.'"

It helps that those childhood friends let Mortelliti know just how glamorous his life appears from the outside.

"They'll say, 'We're really proud of you for doing what you always said you wanted to.' But it's scary, because if I keep doing this, trying and trying to be an actor, and it's not happening in five years ..."

Crystal Noelle, an actress a year or two older than Mortelliti (both were vague about their age), wrestles with the same concerns. Though she works fairly steadily in regional theater, she's living on unemployment insurance between acting jobs.

"In some ways, being an actor is like being a gambler," Noelle says. "You pray your number's going to come up each day."

With a graduate degree and college loan debt, she sometimes gets frustrated with the uncertainty. "I don't want to end up on a psychiatrist's couch over this," she says. "So if I get to be 40 and I'm still under this kind of stress ..."

Her voice trails off just as Mortelliti's did as he contemplated the same scenario.

A student graduating from one of the country's top acting programs can incur six-figure debt. Even if they land work immediately, paying back those loans is a challenge.

"If you want to work on stage, most of the work in New York is off-Broadway, meaning they're earning under \$400 a week — barely enough to cover their expenses, let alone paying back loans," says Victor Pappas, associate chair of the prestigious graduate acting program at New York University, where tuition runs about \$35,000 a year plus expenses.

"We've had some who are really, really lucky, who have managed to go to LA and start careers in a relatively short time." But the rest are left to face medical-school-sized debt on a waiter's salary.

Some actors manage to find the perfect balance. Greg Skura spends about 25 hours a week at the investment banking firm Bear Stearns, earning enough to cover a studio apartment in Manhattan. The job precludes touring, but is flexible enough to accommodate auditions and days spent filming commercials.

"In the interview room, I said, 'I am an actor first and foremost, and there will be days I can't come in at all,'" Skura says. His bosses are on board, though they occasionally suggest he consider a full-time spot.

So far, he's not tempted. "I still wake up every morning happy that I do this," he says. Skura has been working steadily on stage in New York, and a recent play he co-produced drew large audiences. "But it's not like there was that agent in the audience who said, 'That's the guy. I'm gonna take him.'"

In recent years, a growing number of colleges and universities across the country have added acting programs to their liberal arts roster, swiftly multiplying the number of new actors seeking work. In the weeks to come, thousands will arrive on the streets of New York and Los Angeles, fresh from these programs.

Their first task will be figuring out how to support themselves while auditioning — a challenge their schooling may not have prepared them for.

Jared Watterworth, graduating from Emerson College, plans to pursue his fame in Los Angeles. A production company suggested he contact them about a full-time day job when he arrives, but he plans to turn down the offer in favor of "something that will just let me survive pretty much," he says. "I'm 22. It feels very adventurous."

That mindset may be the best asset Watterworth can bring to his acting career.

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NATIONAL



Maloof is 'all in' with Palms resort

Tycoon-in-training keeps raising star wattage

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LAS VEGAS — George Maloof Jr. steps out into the hallway away from a raucous party where his luxurious Sky Villas have just been opened to the public.

The marble-encased villas' infinity pools jut out from the futuristic tower and offer a panoramic view of the Las Vegas Strip to the east. In one two-story villa, more than 100 guests are celebrating, among them Paris Hilton, actor Jeremy Piven, and Maloof's ex-girlfriend, Tishara Cousino, Playboy's May 1999 Playmate of the Month.

Maloof, whose family owns the Sacramento Kings, is plowing \$650 million more into what will be a \$915 million casino, resort and condo development known as the Palms.

The newest addition, the 40-story Fantasy Tower, includes the six Sky Villas, which span up to 10,000 square feet and can go for \$40,000 a night. By September, the Palms' second tower will be topped by the first Playboy Club to be in operation in 25 years.

The wide-ranging expansion is a risk for the grandson of a Lebanese immigrant known for pushing the limits in a city that seemingly has none.

But Maloof, 41, is used to winning big. He parlayed an \$8 million family investment in a neighborhood casino back in the mid-'90s into what is now a nearly \$1 billion resort less than a mile from the Strip.

"As they say, 'All in,'" says Maloof, a former late-night gambler in his college days at UNLV. "We're all in on this. We're all in."

By some accounts, Maloof is a visionary tycoon-in-training, following in the footsteps of billionaire Steve Wynn, who raised the level of opulence on the Strip with The Mirage back in 1989.

Maloof's main contribution to Las Vegas, though, has been to up the star wattage in what has increasingly become a celebrity playground.

Maloof had his eyes set on the Hollywood glitterati even before the Palms burst into the public eye when it hosted MTV's reality show "The Real World" in 2002, and later two seasons of Bravo's "Celebrity Poker Showdown."

In October 2001, a month before the Palms hotel-casino opened, Maloof hosted a party at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles with his blackjack dealers enticing celebrities and the media to take a hit with play money.

"He made it known that he was going to court the hip L.A. crowd," said Anthony Curtis, president of LasVegasAdvisor.com, who attended the event. "And this was easy for him to do because of his family's background in sports and entertainment."

The sighting of celebrities and pro athletes is now a cottage industry in Las Vegas, providing plenty of grist for gossip columnists, magazines and a permanent bureau for the entertainment TV show "Extra."

Maloof is credited with helping set the trend, especially with his courtship of the MTV generation.

"'The Real World' was an absolutely staggering hit for all of those involved: MTV, the cast, and most importantly George Maloof and the Palms and then Vegas," says TV personality and AOL blogger Robin Leach.

"That opened the floodgates for celebrities. So you've got to give George that."

Maloof also has been instrumental in helping Las Vegas inch closer to its dream of permanently hosting a professional sports franchise.

The city has long been shunned by leagues afraid of the taint of legalized sports betting.

But a little more than a year ago, Maloof received a call from his brothers who run the Kings, Joe and Gavin, with news the NBA was interested in bringing the All-Star game to Sin City. He called around to casino executives.

"I asked them if we had the opportunity to get the NBA in Las Vegas for the All-Star game, would you consider taking the game off the book?" Maloof recalls. "And everybody said, 'Absolutely.'"

When they brought the proposal to Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, Goodman says he was skeptical. But after a call to the league commissioner and after an order was given from the state gaming commission not to accept bets for the event, the game was quickly OK'd.

"He was the brains behind the outfit," Goodman says. "Without George and the Maloofs, this wouldn't have been a twinkle in my eye."

Observers note that the influence of the Palms belies its size — by the end of September it still will have only 711 rooms, qualifying it for "boutique" status in the land of 3,000-room megaresorts. Its planned 599-unit condo tower, with buyers from pending celebrity divorcees Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey to race car drivers Michael and Mario Andretti, won't be finished until around the end of 2007.

"It's not on the Strip, and it's not downtown, and it's not the biggest casino," says David Schwartz, coordinator of the UNLV Gaming Studies Research Center. "What Maloof has been great at is using synergy. You know, things that are culturally very significant, things like MTV, things like the NBA. He's able to kind of tie that all together."

Maloof's next great branding exercise is the Playboy Club. Set to open in three levels atop the Fantasy Tower, the club is pushing the boundaries in Nevada, besides being the only one to operate anywhere in more than two decades.

Maloof persuaded state legislators and regulators to change rules that will for the first time allow gambling inside a club with a cover charge.

"We're reinventing the Playboy Club," says Maloof, who adds the casino will pay the adult entertainment giant a licensing fee to operate.

Despite constant parties in which he plays late-night host, Maloof says he's never stayed in bed past 8 a.m. "Las Vegas (hospitality) is the most competitive industry in the world. You can't sleep. You can't rest. You've got to be in the game all the time."

He looks back at the party.

"My fantasy is this. This is it. This is a dream."

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NATIONAL

Senate supports citizenship, triple fences

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate endorsed a chance at citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants Wednesday but also voted to build 370 miles of triple-layered fencing along the Mexican border in increasingly emotional debate over election-year immigration legislation.

Taken together, the votes gave fresh momentum to legislation that closely follows President Bush's call for a major overhaul of the nation's troubled immigration system.

The vote was 66-33 against a proposal that would have removed provisions giving an eventual chance at citizenship to illegal immigrants who have been in the country more than two years.

A few minutes earlier, the Senate had voted 83-16 in favor of construction of the fence and 500 miles of vehicle barriers, the first significant victory in two days for conservatives seeking to place their stamp on the measure.

The developments unfolded in a volatile political environment. The White House struggled for a second day to ease the concerns of House Republicans who contend that

Bush favors amnesty for illegal immigrants, and demonstrators massed a few blocks from the Capitol demanding immigrant rights.

Construction of the barrier would send "a signal that open-border days are over. ... Good fences make good neighbors, fences don't make bad neighbors," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. He said border areas where barriers already exist have experienced economic improvement and reduced crime.

"What we have here has become a symbol for the right wing in American politics," countered Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. He said if the proposal passed, "our relationship with Mexico would come down to a barrier between our two countries."

The Senate labored to complete work by next week on immigration legislation that generally follows an outline Bush set out in a nationally televised speech this week.

The measure includes provisions to strengthen border security, create a new guest worker program and crack down on the hiring of illegal immigrants.

Most controversially, it offers an eventual chance at citizenship for many of the estimated 11 million to 12 million

SEE RELATED STORY

■ Mexicans watch 'militarization' of border

Page 14

illegal immigrants already in the country. Senate Republicans staged an impromptu, occasionally emotional debate over whether that amounted to amnesty.

Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana said it did. "Surely this is a pardon from what present law says must happen," he said of provisions in the bill that require immigrants to undergo background checks, pay back taxes and take other steps before they can become citizens.

Sens. John McCain and Chuck Hagel replied heatedly it was not amnesty.

"Let's stop the nonsense," said Hagel, addressing fellow Republicans. "You all know it's not amnesty." Said McCain, addressing Vitter, "Call it a banana if you want to ... to call the process that we require under this legislation amnesty frankly distorts the debate and it's an unfair interpretation of it."

Vitter sought the last word. "Methinks thou dost protest too much."

The clash erupted after Vitter sought a change in the legislation to strip out provisions of the bill that would allow for guest worker programs and give some illegal immigrants a chance at citizenship.

Supporters of the Senate measure credited Bush's prime-time Monday night speech with giving fresh momentum to the effort to pass long-stalled legislation.

Across the Capitol in the House, the story was different. Republicans pushed through a border security bill last year, and several members of the rank-and-file have criticized Bush for his proposals. To calm their concerns, the White House dispatched Karl Rove to their weekly closed-door meeting.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, an outspoken opponent of the Senate bill, derided the effort. "I didn't see it was a persuasive event. If it was about Karl Rove seeking to convince members of Congress after debate that he's right and we're wrong it would have been better not to have the meeting," he said.

King said Rove told lawmakers Bush is sincere about enforcement. But, he added, "The president doesn't want to enforce immigration law because he's afraid he'll inconvenience someone who wants to come into the country for a better life."

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., agreed that Rove did not seem to have been persuasive. "It's not the kind of issue you can compromise on; either you're giving amnesty to people who are here illegally or you aren't."

At the White House, press secretary Tony Snow defended Bush against criticism. "The president is actually taking a more aggressive role on border security than the House itself took," he said. "That is the sort of thing that is going to answer a lot of the complaints that we have heard."

The National Capital Immigration Coalition organized the afternoon demonstration on the National Mall a few blocks from where lawmakers debated the issue they cared about.

"This is a critical moment. We oppose the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border," said Juan Jose Gutierrez, one of the event's organizers.

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LOCAL



Santa Monica unreceptive to cable bill

CABLE TV, from page 1

with considerable clout in Sacramento.

However, that hasn't deterred City Hall, as elected officials last week announced their unanimous opposition to Assembly Bill 2987, the "Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006." Councilmembers expressed concern that gains made with the city's current cable provider, Adelphia, would be lost if the bill is approved and signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"You don't grant sweetheart deals to companies and make consumers less off by stripping away protections and by taking away local (authority to ensure quality service,)" said Kate Vernez, City Hall's manager of government relations, who was directed by the council to coordinate with other cities to stop AB 2987.

The bill, which is expected to go before the Assembly by the end of the month, opens the door for telephone companies to enter the cable television market by allowing them to expand their networks over a specified period of time instead of being forced to provide universal service to an entire community all at once, which is currently done in Santa Monica.

By allowing providers to expand at a pace that's commensurate with their bottom lines, phone companies wouldn't be required to spend a considerable amount of capital investment up front. As it stands now, a company that wants to enter a specific market would have to extend its network throughout the entire city. Phone company representatives argue that it puts them at a disadvantage because, not only do cable companies control a considerable share of the market, but they also have made previous investments in infrastructure.

In Santa Monica, Adelphia has created that network and, as a result, the monopoly on cable services. However, residents can still choose a satellite provider over cable.

The bill is seen by supporters as a way to lower cable rates, which have increased three times the rate of inflation, while simultaneously creating the infrastructure to handle new technology that can deliver more information faster.

"Our current system was designed in the 1960s and has put our state well behind the curve in increasing our broadband capabilities," said Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for Nuñez.

Organized labor sees the bill as a chance to push non-union cable companies out and pro-union telephone companies in.

"Competition should be based on superior technology and service ... not based on which company pays lower wages or benefits or disregards labor laws," read a statement from the CWA.

The bill also centralizes the franchise process, taking power away from local governments to negotiate operating agreements with cable providers and putting it in the hands of the state Department of Corporations.

If the bill was passed, companies would still be required to pay a franchise fee to cities and offer the same number of public access channels as the current cable provider, but instead of having to negotiate 500 separate franchise agreements, the company would need to apply just once.

"This bill will still provide cities with the same amount of revenue," Maviglio said. "But what it doesn't give them is the sole ability to enter into a contract with cable companies in which they are able to squeeze the companies for everything

A head of the market



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

Lenny 'Good' shows off the massive head of organic cabbage he purchased at the Farmers Market recently for four dollars.

they're worth."

Under City Hall's current operating agreement with Adelphia, the cable provider is required to offer six public access channels, which air programs created by citizens, as well as rebroadcasts of City Council, school board and planning commission meetings. Adelphia also must provide a public access facility and training for the community at no charge, allowing residents to produce studio-quality shows.

Adelphia, at a discount, also agreed to build a fiber-optic ring around the city that links all government buildings, Santa Monica College and the school district.

Adelphia also is required to pay a 3-percent franchise fee, a 10-percent utility tax and a business license fee in exchange for permission to install and operate equipment in what is known as the public right of way, Vernez said. City Hall will receive an estimated \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2005-06 from those fees and taxes.

If the bill passes, Vernez said those kinds of concessions would be lost, along with the power to enforce them.

For example, City Hall has twice sued Adelphia for failing to meet obligations under the franchise agreement. The suits have netted close to \$4 million for City Hall's coffers. The settlement money has been used for the extension of the cable network and Internet access throughout the city.

If the bill were to pass, Vernez said, the authority to sue would lie with the Department of Corporations, which is overburdened and underfunded and, therefore, can't be trusted with that responsibility. The department is a state-funded regulatory agency that oversees private businesses, franchises and licenses.

Maviglio countered that the bill provides adequate funding to ensure proper staffing levels.

Opponents also worry that if the bill passes it will allow for companies to discriminate against certain communities — in particular, low-income households — similar to charges of redlining in the insurance industry.

Supporters of the bill said there are protections against discrimination.

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LOCAL

Residents fearful that cameras will equal loss of privacy

SMPD CAMERAS, from page 1

The need for enhanced security became apparent across the nation following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. However, concerns were heightened locally when police received a report in July of last year that three suspicious men of Middle

Eastern descent were seen videotaping the pier, including police access roads and the department's substation.

In response to that incident, the SMPD added four over-time police officers and reconfigured the observation posts at the pier. Bomb-sniffing dogs were also brought in and protective buoys placed around the pier to restrict boat

access. Random vehicle checkpoints were established along with traffic flow restrictions.

There is some concern by residents that the cameras, while a possible deterrent against crime, could infringe on people's right to privacy and would turn Santa Monica into a police state, where everyone's actions are recorded by "Big Brother."

In deciding to move forward with the cameras, City Council members said they had to weigh the public's concerns about privacy against the need to protect their well-being.

Councilman Kevin McKeown was concerned that the footage collected by the SMPD could be used by federal agencies he doesn't necessarily trust.

According to an information item on the issue, footage will be stored for only 90 days before being deleted. Those with access will be limited to employees approved by the chief of police. They will receive training on how to use the system and will need some type of code or key card to access the system.

Images stored can only be viewed with permission from the chief or the watch commander and only in response to public safety emergencies, and internal or criminal investigations. Video that is not used as evidence shall not be reproduced nor distributed or provided to any other people without the approval of the chief or pursuant to a court order.

The system will only be used for purposes directly related to public safety and investigations. Cameras will not be used to track individuals arbitrarily or based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or other classifications protected by law.

City Council members said they had to weigh the public's concerns about privacy against the need to protect their well-being.

Jurassic parking spot



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Gap 'roadies' play beach ball in front of their 'Mobile Gap Store' at the Third Street Promenade on Wednesday. The Mobile Gap, with features that include dressing rooms, will be touring the southwest.

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America losing the money war



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

The globe is lop-sided. Everywhere we look, things are out of kilter, like a house of mirrors, where nothing quite looks the way it should. We have to check our glasses to make sure it isn't us.

And, recently, we also felt ... deserted ... alone ... abandoned by our friends.

Stephen Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, threw in the towel. He was the last bear standing on macroeconomics matters, according to the Guardian. (The Guardian editors do not spend much time in the woods).

Like us, for many years, Roach lamented and bemoaned the "unbalanced" world economy, which he saw becoming more and more unbalanced as time went on. But recently it seems that it is Roach himself who has become unbalanced; yesterday, he imagined balance being restored by the coordinated efforts of bureaucrats at central banks all over the world.

Actually, the relationship between East and West is not so much imbalanced as it is parasitic. One side makes; the other side takes. One saves; the other borrows. One grows rich act-

ing poor; the other grows poor believing itself rich.

In the West, people live beyond their means and expect to continue doing so at least until the Second Coming. Their top economists tell them that they have nothing to worry about, no day of judgment. Savings? Who needs that? We have something better — credit!

But where does the credit come from, without a pool of savings from which to draw? Well, it comes from the East — where people do save. Here, the Wall Street Journal weighs in with some facts. Developing nations already hold reserves — mostly in dollars — of \$2.9 trillion. China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia are laying in huge supplies of capital — earned from the export of oil and manufactured goods. Most of this money was once owned by Americans. Now, it is owned by foreigners. Every day, more than \$2 billion, net, shifts further from one end of the teeter-totter to the other — from the chunky spenders down to the skinny savers.

China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia may not be the world's most developed nations, but they weren't born yesterday. And, what they don't know between them — about mismanaged economies, political corruption, incompetence, and worthless paper money — is probably not worth knowing. Sitting there, surrounded by trillions of dollars, they are likely to wonder what each one is actually worth. And then, they are likely to turn their gaze to the country that issues them — and wonder again.

"What is behind the dollar?" they will ask themselves. Just faith, comes the answer. But faith in what? Is it in the finan-

cial future of the United States? Talk about unbalanced; no nation in the history of the world has ever had such a big gap between what it earned, and what it spent. U.S. public and private finances are out of whack, and on the evidence, becoming more and more out of whack with each passing day. What faith can you have in its paper currencies? Its notes? Its bonds? And then, the foreigners turn to the Middle East and wonder even more.

In Mesopotamia, the Americans' war against "nobody-in-particular" is also lopsided. The United States is the world's only superpower, and probably the most powerful nation that ever existed. Against the most sophisticated fighting force ever assembled, the "nobodies" on the other side can launch no planes, field no tanks, assemble no armies, and dispatch no ships. An estimate from the Pentagon is that they have no more than 10,000 partisans, most of them neither seriously armed, nor seriously trained, nor seriously led.

Still, it is an incredibly expensive war — but only on one side. The United States will spend about \$120 billion this year alone; the enemy, whoever he or she may be, spends peanuts. Yet, despite the imbalance, "nobody-in-particular" seems to be winning.

That these imbalances will eventually be resolved, we do not doubt. But they are likely to be settled more or less as they were created — by agile individuals and flat-footed official intervention.

(For more insight and analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com.)

Financial preparedness is key to weathering disaster



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

Even if you weren't glued to the constant news coverage, you're probably well aware of the tragedies that have unfolded throughout our nation and around the globe as a result of natural disasters. All of those catastrophic events have served as a reminder that we can be significantly affected by unexpected events at any time. Whether a major disaster, or even a fire in your home strikes, it's important to be prepared financially ahead of time for such an event.

Preparing for something like that involves two major steps. For starters, you'll want to create an inventory — either a video recording or a list — of your important documents and a record of your possessions. You should also make sure to secure those documents and recordings once they have been compiled. In addition to your inventory, your other major effort should involve properly insuring against the possibility of losses in the event of a disaster. It will help your family recover financially, and get you back on track sooner.

To help keep important papers organized and secure, many people rent safe deposit boxes at the bank. But it's also a good idea to keep photocopies of your important papers in an emergency kit that you can carry with you as well. Some of them will be useful — if not absolutely necessary — to help you recover from a disaster. Birth certificates, Social Security cards, property deeds and car titles are just a few of the many documents you will want to secure.

With regard to your investments, you also may be storing things such as stock certificates in your safe deposit box. Generally, it's a better idea to have your brokerage firm hold those certificates for you in "street name." Having the firm keep them prevents your certificates from being lost, stolen or destroyed. It also makes it easier for you when it comes time to sell your shares. What's more, you may even help lower your anxiety by reducing the burden of keeping track of it all, which is probably one of the last things you want to worry about in a disaster.

In addition to helping you get organized, planning for a disaster gives you a perfect opportunity to review and update your insurance coverage. First, you'll want to make sure you have adequate homeowner's insurance. You also may need flood and/or earthquake coverage, depending on where you live. In addition, you should also consider other insurance that would provide for you and your family following a disaster.

Life insurance. It's important to have sufficient life insur-

ance coverage to protect your family should the unthinkable occur. You also should make sure to keep your coverage current as your family situation changes over the years.

Disability insurance. If you become disabled for any reason, your family would be struggling with the loss of your income at the same time that your medical expenses would be going up. Disability insurance can help to replace lost income and provide funds to cover medical expenses.

Long-term care insurance. A disaster also could leave you unable to care for yourself either permanently or for an extended period of time. Long-term care costs for nursing home care or even in-home care can be expensive. Fortunately, you can purchase specific coverage to help alleviate some of the burden of these expenses.

While we hope that we will never have to put a disaster plan into action, it's important to at least have that plan in place should you ever need it. Careful preparation can help you limit the financial burden on you and your family in the event you face such a difficult situation.

(This article is provided by Brian Hepp of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. Hepp is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

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 BUSINESS BRIEFS

RAND adds doctors to the house

By Daily Press staff

Michael Toman has been appointed director of the RAND Corporation’s Environment, Energy and Economic Development program, and Martin Wachs is the new director of the RAND Transportation, Space and Technology program.

The appointments were announced this week by Debra Knopman, vice president and director of the RAND Infrastructure, Safety and Environment Division.

“Michael Toman and Martin Wachs have a wealth of experience in their respective areas of energy and the environment, and in transportation, and urban planning,” Knopman said. “Their knowledge and expertise will strengthen RAND’s capacity to assist public and private sector clients as they seek innovative, efficient, and environmentally sound solutions to difficult problems.”

Toman comes to RAND from the Inter-American Development Bank, where he was a senior economist. He earlier held positions at Resources for the Future, where he conducted research on a number of topics, including climate change policy, environmental strategies for sustainable development and energy security.

Toman also served on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers in the White House from 1994 to 1996 and was a visiting economist at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies Johns Hopkins University, and the University of California in Santa Barbara.

Luxury hotel gets new executive chef

By Daily Press staff

Jean-Claude Plihon has been appointed executive chef at The Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

He will oversee the culinary aspect of the operation overseeing the property’s 25,000 square feet of banquet space and restaurant venues including the Koi Pond Lounge, The Grille, and in-room dining.

“Having such a skilled culinarian such as Jean-Claude join our team, is very exciting,” said Desmond Acheson, general manager of the 302-room seaside property. “He brings a wealth of gastronomic knowledge coupled with hospitality industry experience. I am confident he will lead our culinary team to new heights.”

Plihon has more than 26 years of experience in the food and beverage industry with nine of those years with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. With a solid culinary background and a roster of awards, Plihon’s term during the mid-1990s with the Alexander Hotel in Miami Beach, positioned the hotel’s restaurant as one of the top three dining establishments in South Florida, as voted by Condé Nast travel magazine.

“The key to excellent food is maintaining simplicity — taste must come first; one must be true to the flavors. I hope to gradually introduce new and exiting food concepts at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel,” Pihon said.

Casual cafe coming to Main Street

By Daily Press staff

After 25 years building the Houston’s brand with signature dishes he created, Bob Lynn is now putting his stamp on a group of restaurants that embody his own vision to develop “food projects” in landmark locations, including Santa Monica’s Main Street.

The founder and President of La Grande Orange (LGO) Hospitality (www.lgohospitality.com) has signed lease agreements to develop new restaurants with LGO’s signature recipes in a 4,300-square-foot space, including an outdoor patio, on the corner of Main Street and Bicknell Avenue in Santa Monica. Lynn also is opening a restaurant in Pasadena.

The hard-to-come-by location along Main Street in Santa Monica will be a casual café with homemade pizzas, salads and sandwiches. Both restaurants will feature a format similar to La Grande Orange, a popular neighborhood deli and funky market LGO created in Phoenix.

The Santa Monica restaurant is expected to open in about 18 months.

Lynn left the \$250 million Houston’s Restaurant chain last December as the second-in-command, overseeing 6,000 employees.

Meeting of the minds

Gathering the group for brainstorming need not be ‘waste’

BY CHRISTINE ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

“Not another meeting.”

It’s the rare employee who hasn’t grumbled on the way to the conference room. But why, after centuries of opportunity to perfect the process, do meetings remain what humorist Dave Barry calls “the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential”?

Too many meetings are unfocused, unproductive or unnecessary.

“The biggest waste of time is meeting for meeting’s sake — meaning, we have this meeting every week, so that’s why we’re having it,” says Kara DeFrias, an instructional designer at a West Trenton, N.J.-based insurance company. “If there’s nothing to talk about, cancel the meeting.”

And think twice about who’s required to be there. Meetings that waste even one person’s time waste money, consultants warn. When a meeting’s purpose is simply to share information, then e-mail or the company intranet may be better options.

If you can identify specific objectives that require collaboration, go ahead and gather the group. But experts offer some guidelines to make sure everyone leaves with a sense of accomplishment:

SCRAP THE TRADITIONAL AGENDA.

Before the meeting, circulate a list of “desired outcomes” — not just vague discussion topics, says Linda Dunkel, president and CEO of Interaction Associates, in Cambridge, Mass. That gives participants a better opportunity to arrive prepared.

“The more shared responsibility we can get, the higher the odds of success,” she says.

For groups that will meet over a long period, try rotating leadership responsibilities, suggests Barbara Streibel, author of “The Manager’s Guide to Effective Meetings” (McGraw-Hill, 2002) and a senior consultant at Oriel Inc. in Madison, Wis. Not only will participants find more value in the meetings, but the technique may cut down on side conversations and other disruptions by people who don’t feel involved in the process.

THERE’S NOTHING WRONG WITH A 20-MINUTE MEETING

“I think it’s in the mindset of corporate America” that meetings must be scheduled for a half-hour or an hour, DeFrias says.

But a meeting that’s longer than necessary invites off-track discussions and frustration.

“Ask yourself, ‘Would we be spending this much time on this matter if it was 4:30 on a Friday afternoon?’” advises John Sleigh, a meetings facilitator in Sydney, Australia.

Jobseekers find help on bookshelves

BY DOLORES BARCLAY

Associated Press Writer

Dianna Tingg had just finished a London internship and was living with her parents in Seattle. She needed a job but didn’t know what career to pursue. So she turned to a 36-year-old guide, “What Color Is Your Parachute?”

“The book was very inspirational to me because it helped me realize what I wanted to do and where I wanted to do it,” said the 26-year-old, who applied for 20 different public-relations jobs in New York. She posted her resume on Craig’s List, was contacted the next day by her current boss, bought a one-way ticket to Manhattan, crashed on a friend’s air mattress and landed the job at a small PR firm.

Katie Thomas, 23, had just graduated from college but did not want to pursue her majors of psychology and English. She knew it would be difficult persuading interviewers of job skills in other areas, so when a friend recommended “Sweaty Palms: The Neglected Art of Being Interviewed,” she snapped it up.

“I honestly felt like I benefited so much from reading ‘Sweaty Palms’ that interviewing afterward felt almost like cheating — as if I had an unfair advantage over others interviewing for the same position,” said Thomas, a development coordinator.

Millions of job seekers look for help in books, from the general (“Knock ‘em Dead,” “Monster Careers”) to the specif-

Should an employee step in when a leader is unable to keep a meeting on point?

That depends on the employee’s approach and the manager’s sensitivity, Streibel says. “If it gets into a power struggle, it’s obviously not going to help anybody.”

BE PREPARED FOR “VIRTUAL” MEETINGS

Make sure those taking part by phone or videoconference feel included. It’s up to the meeting leader to check equipment, require new users to receive instruction, and involve everyone in each discussion and decision.

Those outside the room still can miss important facial expressions, body language and tone of voice, notes Theodore Rosen, a professor at George Washington University’s School of Business. He suggests that when a team will be working together long-term, gathering everyone in person early on builds trust.

That may be expensive if the group is spread across the nation or the globe, Rosen acknowledges, but greater trust often yields greater results for the company.

IT’S OK TO HAVE FUN

Dunkel suggests allowing time at the beginning of each meeting for participants to answer a question about themselves, for instance, “What song is playing in your head today?” The short exercise provides “a little bit of relief from the stress of the work but ties them together as human beings,” she says.

And don’t forget an occasional celebration of individual or team milestones.

“Part of team development and cohesiveness is that you do celebrate those things and that people have a life outside the workplace,” Rosen says.

CHART YOUR PROGRESS

An “outcomes record” distributed soon after a meeting should detail decisions, assignments and due dates, Rosen says.

As for evaluating the meeting itself, Dunkel suggests ending with a brief discussion of whether the desired outcomes were accomplished, whether the group is working well together and how to be more effective next time.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Once you’ve established a meeting structure that works for your business, be careful not to slide back into old habits. Have clear and consistent expectations, says Carolyn Fischer, director of learning and organizational effectiveness for the northern division of Comcast, in Manchester, N.H.

That way, she says, “people can relax and bring their best thinking forward in a meeting, knowing there’s a beginning and an end and that it’s not going to spiral out of control.”

ic: “Vault Career Guide to Accounting,” “The ECO Guide to Careers That Make a Difference,” “Guide to Homeland Security Careers.” There are volumes about resume skills, interviewing technique, fashion sense.

The mack daddy of all career guides remains Richard Nelson Bolles’ “What Color Is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers.” Since 1970, it has sold 9 million copies, said publisher Ten Speed Press.

“So many of the guides out there today really take a reader through something quick and down and dirty. ... This is more than that. It’s a study that asks, ‘Hey, what do you want to do with your life?’” Dave Hathaway, buyer of business books for Barnes & Noble, Inc., the nation’s largest bookstore chain.

Rich Feller, professor of counseling and career development at Colorado State University, said “Parachute” has “a life of its own, and the metaphor is wonderful.”

“It’s clearly a self-help book that allows people to take action and reflect in a narrative way on their own stories, which pulls them into thinking about who they are and how they apply that to add value to their particular career options.”

Bolles, who was an Episcopal priest for 50 years, got the idea for “Parachute” after he lost his post at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco during budget cuts. He took a job with the diocese interviewing ministers at college campuses and found that cutbacks threatened many priests, who did not know how to make a career change. Bolles did some research.



Iranian leader rejects European incentives

Offer reportedly includes light-water nuclear reactor

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday rejected a possible European offer for incentives, including a light-water nuclear reactor, in return for allaying fears about his country’s nuclear program by giving up uranium enrichment.

“Do you think you are dealing with a 4-year-old child to whom you can give some walnuts and chocolates and get gold from him?” Ahmadinejad told thousands of people in a speech in central Iran.

European nations have weighed adding a light-water reactor to a package of incentives meant to persuade Tehran to permanently give up uranium enrichment.

Senior diplomats and EU government officials said Tuesday that the tentative plans were being discussed among France, Britain and Germany as part of a possible package to be presented to representatives of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and Germany at a meeting in London. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the information.

The London talks were postponed Wednesday until next week to allow more time for phone discussions of what should be included in the package of incentives and penalties to be offered to Tehran, said a diplomat, requesting anonymity for the same reason.

U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack declined to say Tuesday whether a light-water reactor would be offered in the package. But he insisted that Iran would be required to halt its program of enriching and reprocessing uranium on Iranian soil, saying the United States and others “do not want the Iranian regime to have the ability to master those critical pathways to a nuclear weapon.”

In his speech broadcast live on state television Wednesday, Ahmadinejad said Iran “won’t accept any suspension or end” to its uranium enrichment activities.

He said Iran trusted the European Union in 2003 and suspended its nuclear activities as a gesture to boost negotiations over its nuclear program, only to have the Europeans eventually demand Iran permanently halt its uranium

enrichment program.

The 2003 deal called for guarantees that Iran’s nuclear program wouldn’t diverge from civilian ends toward producing weapons. Iran agreed to the request, but negotiations collapsed in August 2005 when the Europeans said the best guarantee was for Iran to permanently give up its uranium enrichment program.

Iran responded by resuming uranium reprocessing activities at its uranium conversion facility in Isfahan.

“We won’t be bitten twice,” Ahmadinejad said.

“We recommend that you not sacrifice your interests for the sake of others,” he said in an apparent warning to the European Union about supporting the position advocated by the United States.

Ahmadinejad reiterated his threat to pull out of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if international pressure to give up uranium enrichment continued.

“Don’t force governments and nations to renounce their membership in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty,” he said asserting that Iran had the right to a civilian nuclear power program.

With Iran’s nuclear program now before the Security Council, the Americans are at the forefront of efforts to introduce a council resolution that would demand Iran give up enrichment or else face the threat of sanctions. Washington seeks to make such a resolution militarily enforceable, something opposed by Russia and China, which continue instead to favor talks meant to persuade Tehran to compromise.

In the latest sign of persisting differences, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday that Beijing and Moscow will not vote for the use of force in resolving the nuclear dispute.

In a gesture to Tehran, Lavrov also said Ahmadinejad will attend a summit next month in Shanghai, China, of leaders from Russia, China and four Central Asian nations.

“We cannot isolate Iran or exert pressure on it,” Lavrov told reporters. “Far from resolving this issue of proliferation, it will make it more urgent.”

A light-water reactor is considered less likely to be misused for nuclear proliferation than the heavy water facility Iran is building at the city of Arak, which will produce plutonium waste.

Light-water reactors are not proliferation-proof, because they are fueled by enriched uranium, which can be processed to make highly enriched “weapons-grade” material for nuclear warheads.

Mexico closely watching “militarization” of border, fears troops in vicinity

BY WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press Writer

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico — Mexicans dismiss U.S. plans to send National Guard troops to the border as a futile effort that will only fuel the booming drug-and migrant-smuggling industry.

And with heavily armed Mexican soldiers in this violent border city, some worry the U.S. troop buildup could spark confrontations in an area where it is often difficult to tell where Mexico ends and the United States begins.

Gilberto Areola, who lives about 20 feet from the border in the Mexican city of Nogales, near Arizona, said he will feel uneasy with soldiers patrolling the other side.

“It makes me a little scared,” said Areola, 54, looking at the walled border as he stood in his doorway. “A stray bullet could affect us since we live so close to the line. I think this could cause more violence.”

Tensions in both countries have been rising over increased violence spawned by drug battles, the human-smuggling industry and recent border scuffles.

Blanca Estela Aguilar, a 24-year-old party services saleswoman in Nuevo Laredo, said that with the introduction of National Guard troops she believes clashes between the two sides are likely.

“We are going to see a confrontation between troops over there and police here,” she predicted. “It could be in the long or short term, but it will happen. And many people are likely to die.”

Ken Roth, executive director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, told reporters in Mexico City that he was “deeply concerned about the idea of militarizing the border.”

“Whenever you introduce troops — and the National Guard are troops — you risk abuse,” he said. “The Bush administration has not been terribly good at giving signals to the military about the proper treatment of people in custody.”

While Mexico has stepped up efforts against drug, weapons and people smugglers, it leaves migrants alone; its citizens have the right to walk up to the border, and once they cross they are out of Mexican territory.

In many areas, the border isn’t clearly marked, especially in remote stretches of desert from New Mexico to California where many migrants cross.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has estimated that Mexican soldiers cross into the United States about 20 times a year, mostly by accident. Mexican authorities sometimes complain of U.S. officials crossing the line.

In January, Texas authorities hunting drug traffickers came across heavily armed men dressed in Mexican military garb and chased them back across the border. The Mexican government said the men were drug smugglers disguised as soldiers.

While troops are common in Nuevo Laredo, much of the Mexican side isn’t patrolled, aside from the occasional military checkpoints set up to search for drugs and weapons.

Mexican President Vicente Fox has expressed concern about the U.S. plan, telling President Bush in a weekend phone call that he would like to see a more “comprehensive” reform that respects human rights and allows for the orderly, legal movement of people across the border.

Fox’s government said this week it will file lawsuits in U.S. courts if Guard troops detain migrants. But presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar said Wednesday that Mexico respects the U.S. decision to send the soldiers and that “it’s not about militarizing” the border.

Roberto Madrazo, one of three main presidential candidates, disagreed.

“We aren’t going to solve the migration problem with the army,” he said during a campaign appearance Tuesday. “Militarizing the border seems like another bad idea by the U.S. government. It’s just going to slow the delivery of a lot of goods.”

Nuevo Laredo City Council member Jose Francisco Chavira said he’s considering organizing a boycott of U.S. goods to protest the plan.

“Whenever you introduce troops you risk abuse.”

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Berry wants ‘Cat’ out of bag

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Halle Berry wants to hang up her superhero costume.

After playing Storm in three “X-Men” movies and the title role in 2004’s “Catwoman,” the 39-year-old actress says: “I think I’m done. I’m fresh out of superheroes at this point.”

Berry was in Mexico City Monday for a screening of her new film, “X-Men: The Last Stand,” which opens May 26.

The movie is the third in a series based on the X-Men comic books about mutant superheroes and villains whose special abilities make them feared by the world’s human majority.

Berry said she wanted to depict a strong woman in her portrayal of Storm, who has the ability to control the weather.

The actress said she fought to keep faithful to the comic book version of Storm, which she felt was stronger and more interesting than in the original screenplay.

“If I’m only on camera for five minutes, that’s fine, but let it be five meaningful minutes,” said Berry, who won an Oscar for 2001’s “Monster’s Ball.”

“It’s not fun to play a woman that does nothing.”

MADRID, Spain — Pedro Almodovar has been awarded one of Spain’s highest honors — the Prince of Asturias prize — for his contribution to Spanish film, and the director said he was overwhelmed by the honor.

“It’s one of the most important prizes I’ve ever received,” said Almodovar at Madrid’s international airport Wednesday, just before boarding a flight to Cannes, France, for the annual film festival. “I feel overwhelmed.”

Almodovar was chosen “both for his expertise and the honesty of his work, and for the joy and vitality of his scripts, and above all for implanting his roots, which are ours, too, into the society of a planet on the verge of a nervous breakdown and which straddles two centuries,” said the jury that awards the arts prize.

His films include “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown,” “Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down,” “All About My Mother,” which won the Oscar for best foreign film in 2000, and “Talk to Her,” which won the Oscar for best original screenplay in 2003.

Almodovar’s latest movie, “Volver,” starring Penelope Cruz as a feisty young woman whose mother comes back from the dead to tie up loose ends, will compete at Cannes for the coveted Palme d’Or.

The Prince of Asturias awards are also given in the fields of writing, social sciences, scientific research, communications and humanities, international cooperation, public service and sports.

Named after Crown Prince Felipe, they are presented each fall in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo, capital of the Asturias region. The awards carry a cash prize of about \$62,000.

NEW DELHI — Aishwarya Rai has become a regular at the Cannes Film Festival in recent years.

The Bollywood beauty has attended the annual festival in France since 2002, when her movie “Devdas,” a remake of an Indian classic, was shown. She has also been a jury member.

“Coming to Cannes is a great high. ... It’s a beautiful city with great people and films,” The Times of India newspaper quoted Rai as saying in Wednesday’s editions.

“I don’t get to visit many (film) festivals, but Cannes is truly one event I do try to attend each year,” she said.

Her new movie “Provoked,” directed by Jagmohan Mundra, was to screen at the festival Thursday. Mundra said the film is a departure from Rai’s usual boy-meets-girl movies.

In “Provoked,” Rai plays the role of Kiranjit, a woman who kills her husband after suffering torture at his hands for 10 years.

A former Miss World, Rai is a big star in India and has appeared in more than 30 movies. She starred in Gurinder Chadha’s “Bride & Prejudice” in 2004.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Donald

Trump has hit a rough spot in his quest to change the name of Ocean Trails Drive, which leads to his \$250 million ocean bluff golf course.

He wants it renamed Trump National Drive. But some residents are already teed off about the billionaire’s impact since The Donald moved in and named his luxury golf retreat Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles.

Some have suggested other names for Ocean Trails Drive, such as “Ego Aisle” or “Narcissism Lane.”

“I think Trump is trying to take over everything,” Marcos Dela Cruz said. “Ocean Trails is an actual spot. We were hiking there the other day. The name Ocean Trails said it all.”

Although Trump’s bid would violate city street-naming guidelines, city officials said they were willing to grant the street change if Trump renames his golf course — substituting Rancho Palos Verdes for Los Angeles.

The 261-acre oceanfront links should be called Trump National Golf Club Rancho Palos Verdes because it’s within the city’s boundaries, some 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, city officials said.

“I’m very hard to extort, if they’re looking to do that,” Trump said.

HONG KONG — Jackie Chan and Jet Li — two of the biggest names in action films — plan to co-star in a new movie, a news report said.

A formal announcement will be made at the Cannes Film Festival in France, the Chinese news Web site Sina.com said Tuesday. The festival, which opened Wednesday, runs through May 28.

Chan and Li are still brainstorming about the plot for their first collaboration, which will begin shooting next year, the Web site said.

Publicists for the actors didn’t immediately return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The actors made their names as action stars in Hong Kong before moving on to Hollywood. Trained in Peking Opera, Chan pioneered his own comedic fighting style. Li is a former martial arts national champion in China.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

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

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310)289-4262

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 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded.

In 1804, the French Senate proclaimed Napoleon Bonaparte emperor.

In 1920, Pope John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland.

In 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, Calif.; she reappeared a month later, claiming to have been kidnapped.

In 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority was created.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces finally occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle that claimed some 20,000 lives.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a North American F-86 Canadair over Rogers Dry Lake, Calif.

In 1969, astronauts Eugene A. Cernan, Thomas P. Stafford and John W. Young blasted off aboard Apollo 10.

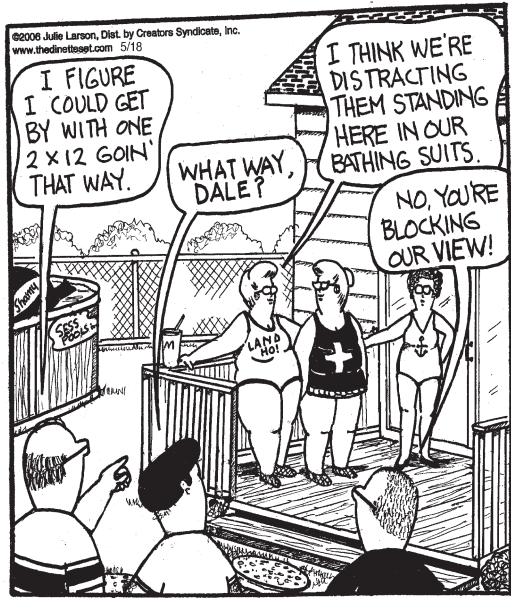
In 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

The advertisement features a blue background with a subtle pattern of ice cubes. In the top left corner is the Liquid Ice logo, a blue diamond shape with a yellow outline and a white drop inside. Below the logo, the text "LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. In the center, the phrase "This Is No 'Bull'" is written in a large, red, italicized serif font. To the right of this text is a can of Liquid Ice Energy Drink, tilted diagonally. The can is blue with a yellow and white logo and the words "LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK" printed on it. At the bottom left, the text "If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy" is written in a large, yellow, sans-serif font.

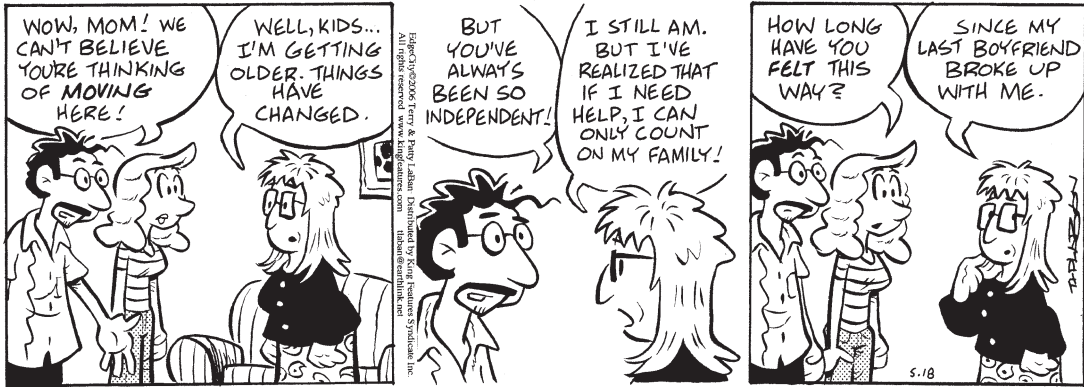


COMICS

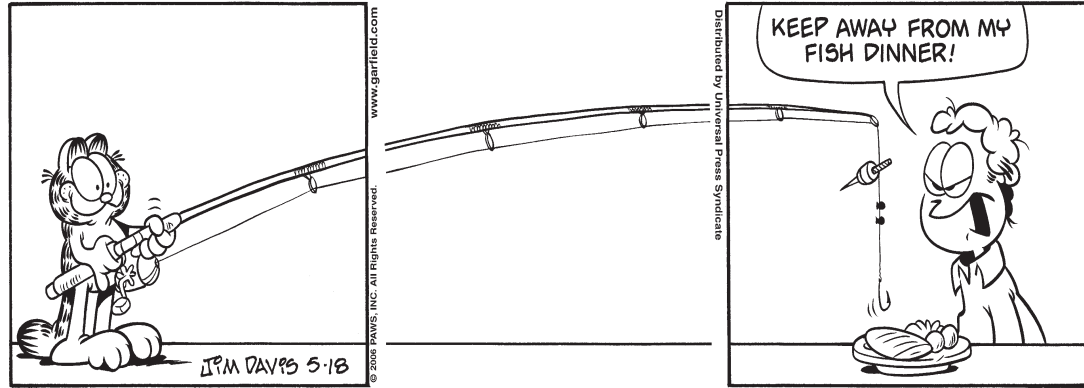
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edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 River to the Colorado
- 5 React to a monster
- 11 Hotel unit
- 12 Florida product
- 13 Resting on
- 14 Car part
- 15 Order from Captain Picard
- 17 Louvre fill
- 18 Dutch symbol
- 22 Foot parts
- 24 Gem
- 25 Bordeaux buddy
- 26 Kin of assn.
- 27 Lawn aids
- 30 Heavy spears
- 32 Contest setting
- 33 Nest-egg acct.
- 34 2000 Juliette Binoche film
- 38 Outcry
- 41 Rancor
- 42 Rugged range
- 43 Heater
- 44 Entreaty
- 45 Speech copy

DOWN

- 1 Small mass
- 2 Small amount
- 3 Ringer
- 4 Current unit
- 5 Cushy
- 6 Wave tops
- 7 Expired
- 8 Break off
- 9 History bit
- 10 Sea, to Simone
- 16 "— Not for Me to Say"
- 19 "Pay attention!"
- 20 Memo heading

C	A	S	E		C	A	R	A	F	E
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M	I	N	K		B	O	I	L	E	D
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I	C	E	A	G	E		L	E	A	D
T	E	X	T	E	D		A	S	K	S

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Tees, e.g.
- 22 Poet
- 23 Poet
- 28 Concert cry
- 29 Caravan site
- 30 Snapshot
- 31 2004 Will Smith movie
- 35 Test type
- 36 Baseball's Rodriguez
- 37 Revival setting
- 38 Mex. neighbor
- 39 Card spot
- 40 Agent, briefly

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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44							45			

5-18

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
LESLIE HYDE
CASE NO. SP006732
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LESLIE HYDE.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BRUCE CHARNAS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BRUCE CHARNAS 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.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 07/07/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. A located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice

Notices

form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner In Pro Per
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JAMES DONALD WILEY aka J. WILEY, JAMES D. WILEY
Case No. BP098346
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JAMES DONALD WILEY aka J. WILEY, JAMES D. WILEY
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Mark J. Saladino, Public Administrator in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Mark J. Saladino, Public Administrator be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 30, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should 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

Notices

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:
RAYMOND G FORTNER JR
COUNTY COUNSEL
GREGORY A MCCARTHY PRIN DEPUTY
350 S FIGUEROA ST STE 602
LOS ANGELES CA 90071
Santa Monica Daily Press
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