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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006

Volume 5, Issue 166

Santa Monica Daily Press

STREEP JUMPS AT 'RABBIT' READING
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS 19

A newspaper with issues

DOW ⊕18.97 11,117.32 NASDAQ ⊕10.41 2,169.17 S&P ⊕2.00 1,258.57

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
17 21 28 48 54
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $27M

SUPER LOTTO
7 15 22 41 45
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $40M

FANTASY 5
5 6 9 25 31

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 5 6 2
EVENING: 3 9 2

DAILY DERBY
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.59

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Red Deer, Alberta, in April, Jesse Maggrah, 20, listening through earphones to heavy-metal music while walking on Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, was hit from behind by a train moving at about 30 mph, but survived. In his hospital bed (broken ribs, punctured lung, other injuries), Maggrah said he remembers the immediate aftermath: "I thought, 'Holy crap, dude, you just got hit by a train.'" "Maybe the metal gods above were smiling on me, and they didn't want one of their true warriors to die on them."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 145th day of 2006.
There are 220 days left in the year.

On May 25, 1787, the Constitutional Convention was convened in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.
In 1810, Argentina began its revolt against Spain.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is nothing final about a mistake, except its being taken as final."

PHYLLIS BOTTOME
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1884-1963)

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SM's top cop is taking off

Police chief takes post overseeing airports' security

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON AND KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writers

Ed Burns/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. addresses more than 100 golfers on Monday during a fund-raising golf tournament for the Police Activities League that was dedicated to the memory of SMPD Officer Rick Crocker, who died in combat last year in Iraq. Butts said Wednesday that he is stepping down as police chief.

POLICE HDQRTS. — After 15 years on the job, Santa Monica's top cop is stepping down.

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. announced on Wednesday that he plans to leave the department to head up security and law enforcement at four airports in Los Angeles County.

"I'm very sad," said Butts, reflecting on his departure. "I've been here 15 years and I think we have made fantastic accomplishments in public safety, but I'm 52, and if I want to go on to do another great thing, I have to be young enough to do it."

As deputy executive director of airport law enforcement and protection services, Butts will oversee the nation's largest airport law enforcement and security organization. He will be responsible for leading the more than 1,200 sworn and civilian personnel assigned to protect and serve at Los Angeles World Airports' four airports — Los Angeles International (LAX), Ontario International (ONT), Palmdale Regional (PMD) and Van Nuys (VNY). LAX, ONT and PMD serve more than 68 million passengers a

> "I've been here 15 years and I think we have made fantastic accomplishments in public safety."
>
> JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
> **SANTA MONICA POLICE CHIEF**

See **POLICE CHIEF**, page 12

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

FECAL POINT If beachgoers knew what lurked in the sand and water, according to the latest bacterial reports issued this week, they might think twice about heading to the beach.

Report: The healing has just begun

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU PIER — While great strides have been made in improving water quality at local beaches, areas of the Santa Monica Bay continue to be plagued by high levels of toxic bacteria, according to a report by an environmental group that tracks water quality along the California coast.

Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit dedicated to cleaning up the bay, released its 16th annual Beach Report Card on Wednesday, giving out grades to more than 450 California beaches based on their levels of bacterial pollution, the majority of which comes from urban run-off.

In Santa Monica, Heal the Bay identified Will Rogers State Beach and areas immediately adjacent to the Santa Monica Pier as two of the top five "Beach Bummers" because of their poor water quality. During dry weather — when bacteria levels are typically lower because of an absence of storm water runoff — both areas still received failing grades. They also received F's during

See **BEACH QUALITY**, page 13

LOCAL

Contact high: People sign on for pot bill

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — An initiative that would make adult marijuana use the lowest law enforcement priority in the city moved one big step closer Wednesday to qualifying for the November ballot.

Members of Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy turned over to the City Clerk more than 8,000 signatures — well over the 5,580 required for an initiative to qualify for the ballot. Supporters of an initiative are required to gather signatures from at least 10 percent of the registered voters who participated in the most recent election.

Representatives from Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy said they turned in 8,395 signatures — nearly 3,000 more than what was required — because they wanted to ensure that the initiative be approved. Professional signature gatherers were hired to man busy commer-

See **MARIJUANA**, page 10

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HOUSE CALLS AND SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS

Medical Breakthrough Offers New Hope For Disc Herniation Sufferers

SANTA MONICA- A new FREE report reveals a scientifically advanced treatment is now available for people who suffer from debilitating back pain and sciatica from a herniated disc. Research has proven that non-surgical Lumbar Decompression Therapy (LDT) has an 86% success rate and no known side effects. Even with multiple herniated discs or failed back surgery, this new medical breakthrough is the most promising back pain treatment available today.

The Lordex Spine Institute, a nationwide treatment and research network, has recently made LDT available to back pain sufferers here in Santa Monica. To order your copy of this FREE medical report, call toll free, The Lordex Spine Institute of Santa Monica at **1-888-790-1933** (24 hr recorded message.)

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The cookie crumbles, Sag

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)
★★★ Extremes attack your checkbook. You could be the conduit but still have mixed feelings about what you are doing. Stop. Head in the right direction. You know the difference; now act on it. Think positively. Tonight: Greet change with a smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You have much more going for you than you realize. Don't settle any longer, and head in a better direction. Your instincts take you down a new path. Trust your judgment, and you'll come out on top. Know what makes you happy. Tonight: Special time with a special friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Knowing when to stay hush-hush could make a big difference in what goes down in your life right now. Don't hesitate to say that something doesn't work. It really might not. Good feelings develop with a special person. Tonight: Vanish early on.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your positive attitude draws opportunities to you that make you smile and feel good in general. You might not think others care, but you'll find out otherwise. Use sensitivity with associates. Meetings could change the lay of the land. Tonight: Live it up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Rather than be at the mercy of events, you can call the shots. Whether you like it or not, pressure builds to a new level. Mobilize this energy. Think positively about what you can do to change what is happening. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You hear one thing and want to do another. Honor changes that surround your life and needs. You might not be able to fight the inevitable, but the inevitable will work for you. Just step out of the way. Tonight: Take a deep breath.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Finances are up for grabs. You could be tired and overwhelmed by events and situations that toss plans into chaos. Curb spending, making as few agreements as humanly possible. You know what works. Tonight: Let someone else pick up the tab.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could get into a situation where it will take all your personality and understanding to achieve the results you would like. Push easily comes to shove. Someone you care about might make a heavy judgment. Tonight: Say yes for the sake of peace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to try something very different. You have the mental strength and perception to get way ahead. Take an opportunity to do just that and head in a new direction. Tonight: Where the cookies crumble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You need to stretch your creativity in order to get the right answers. In hindsight, you might be quite surprised by a choice you made. Your imagination takes you in a new direction. Just let it happen. Tonight: Ever playful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Others are downright difficult. Listen to the other side, and question less. You might want to think before you leap into action. No matter which way you go, or what you choose, you seem to hit a problem. Keep your opinions to yourself. Tonight: At home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Investigate alternatives with an eye to greater success and happiness. You might find that information tosses a different view on the situation than you originally anticipated. Think positively, if you can. Keep asking questions. Tonight: Strut your stuff.

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Photo courtesy

A panel of Japanese-Americans who attended Samohi in the 1940s are dropping back in.

'Relocated' students return to Samohi

By Daily Press staff

A number of Japanese-American alumni and their friends will speak to history classes about their personal experiences when they were "relocated" from Santa Monica High School to Manzanar in 1942.

On Friday, May 26, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 a.m., the event will take place in the Samohi cafeteria. History teacher Michael Felix sponsored the same panel last year, and it was deemed a great success in presenting a Living History Lesson to current students and in addressing the issue of racial profiling in today's context.

Several of the panelists belatedly were presented their Samohi diplomas at a luncheon in 2001, having waited 50-plus years for the opportunity to graduate from their high school. They are eager to relate the story of their teenage experiences in the midst of World War II to current teenagers.

A pyramid shift

By Daily Press staff

Originally going to be held at Clover Park, the city's largest food pyramid is shifting to a new location.

The Hunger Awareness Day Event scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, will be held at the Westside Food Bank warehouse, 1710 22nd St.

Students from the Art Institute of California–Los Angeles, which is located in Santa Monica, will build a large-scale sculpture made entirely of canned food to raise awareness about local hunger.

Wild Oats Markets in Santa Monica is contributing the cans to be used in the creation of the sculpture, which will be unveiled at 4 p.m. All foods used will be donated to Westside Food Bank.

Westside Food Bank supplies food to 65 social service agencies with food assistance programs in Santa Monica, Venice, Culver City, West Los Angeles, Inglewood and West Hollywood. The Food Bank's food now reaches more than 80,000 people each year, half of whom are children.

CORRECTION In the May 24 edition, there was an error in the community brief which seeks applicants for Santa Monica College's personnel commission. The commission would oversee non-classified employees.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will conduct a public hearing and adopt a resolution on the matter of a Special Tax (Proposition "Y") for 2006-07.

The public hearing will be held on June 15, 2006 at 8:00 p.m., in the Santa Monica City Council Chambers at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

Subsequent to the public hearing on June 15, 2006 at the regularly scheduled meeting, it is the intention of the Board of Education to adopt a resolution to levy the tax at the rate of $116.88 per parcel, which includes a 4.7% CPI adjustment. The CPI-U for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, base year 1982-84=100, from April 2005 through April 2006, was used to calculate the adjustment.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

Snow Conditions

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN — CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN — CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
3"	120"-144"	7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	50	7/28

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring, Corn

MOUNTAIN HIGH — CLOSED

MT. BALDY

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

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring

SNOW SUMMIT — CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY — CLOSED

Surf Conditions

Water Temp: 63°

Swell Forecast (4-7 FT)

Today the Tasman Sea SW should peak and the NW wind swell should increase as well. South-facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high sets while west-facing breaks see chest high or better.

Long Range Synopsis

Southern hemi swells due late this month into June...

Tide Forecast for Santa Monica

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:25AM	1.43FT	12:12PM	0.48FT
HIGH TIDE	6:05AM	4.06FT	6:48PM	5.40FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:23AM	0.56FT	12:54PM	0.83FT
HIGH TIDE	7:16AM	3.97FT	7:20PM	5.91FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:13AM	-0.22FT	1:32PM	1.19FT
HIGH TIDE	8:19AM	3.90FT	7:57PM	6.32FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:00AM	-0.82FT	2:11PM	1.54FT
HIGH TIDE	9:17AM	3.83FT	8:32PM	6.55FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

All the world's a stage ...

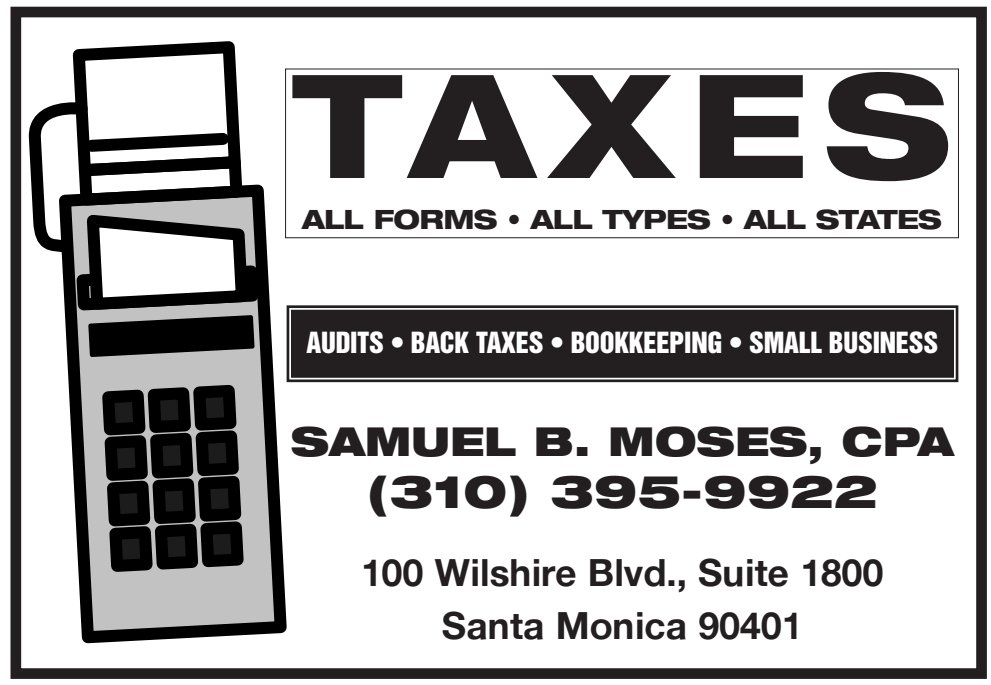
Or at least much of Santa Monica soon will be, as the Santa Monica Police Department finishes installing 123 surveillance cameras in tourist-heavy areas such as the Pier, Third Street Promenade and downtown alleys. The security system, at a price tag of $1.3 million, comes in response to a perceived terrorist threat on the pier last July.

Still, a contingent of residents views the cameras as a step toward less privacy.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

Do you have a more or less favorable image of the city in light of the surveillance cameras? Why?

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Life should be a beach for SM residents

Editor:

(This letter was originally address to the Santa Monica City Council.)

The Recreation and Parks Commission wishes to express their enthusiastic support for Santa Monica's Public Beach Club, proposed for 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Our city is the fortunate steward of the beach and the fortunate recipient of the generosity of the Annenberg Foundation.

In a rare moment of serendipity we have the opportunity to create, what we believe to be, the first public beach club in California. The 415 PCH proposed project has the potential to be of great benefit to the people of Santa Monica and to all who visit our city and the beach.

We had the privilege of holding the first public hearing on this project on Oct. 2, 2005, and to see the proposal for the design and the use of the property. We fully supported the use and we commended the designer for his sensitivity to the historic rehabilitation and to the integration of modern buildings into the design. In our official action, we moved to support the project as presented and requested that the project team pay particular attention to the following areas:

Enhance the connection between the site, the beach and the ocean.

Look at the parking lots as a shared use opportunity and as a connector to bring people onto the site.

Provide exceptional stewardship for the environment, meeting and possibly exceeding LEED standards.

Consider the comfort of the public throughout the design. For example, shade and walkways.

Look at issue areas currently not within the current scope of the project. For example, cleanup of the Palisades Bluffs. Continue to focus on the recreational use of the site. Design for alternative modes of access to the site. Continue the respect for the historic preservation of the site as the design evolves.

The project team has demonstrated their responsiveness to our concerns, and to the concerns of others, throughout the development of the scope and design. We appreciate their work and the work of the city staff.

We respectfully request that you approve the proposal for Santa Monica's Beach Club at 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

Susan Cloke
Chair, Recreation and Parks Commission

Looking for public beach club support

Editor:

I would like to encourage your readers to attend the Santa Monica City Council/Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, May 25, when they consider the 415 PCH Beach Club Project. The gift of this property to the city of Santa Monica and its residents is a wonderful opportunity to develop a place of recreation for all of us. We need public support to make this planned project a reality. Please join us at City Hall.

Kelly Greene
Santa Monica

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOEL BRAND

Rallying around beach club is rallying around community

The City Council will take a final vote tonight on the proposal to use private funding to develop a public beach club under the bluffs at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, the ramshackle site of the former Marion Davies Estate.

If this unique facility is approved tonight, the city will have seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide the residents of Santa Monica a world-class public beach club. Unfortunately, an overzealous few threaten to destroy this noble enterprise by suing the city and delaying the project indefinitely.

That would be a shame on two fronts. First, we would lose a fantastic recreational facility: a $30 million beach club with a restored historic swimming pool, volleyball courts, paddle tennis, garden terrace, locker rooms, event rooms, children's play area, picnic tables, and more, all with 24-hour on-site security.

But we also will lose the impressive spirit of compromise which has won over many nearby residents. I've been very impressed with city staff's earnest efforts to accommodate neighbors on this initiative. In the beginning of this process, several neighbors raised legitimate concerns, notably security, noise and traffic. Those concerns have been addressed in the current proposal, as the many residents near the proposed site who support the project can attest.

Yet five neighbors are continuing to raise objections to the point where the entire plan could be scuttled — which is perhaps their intent. To date, they have spent as much as $100,000 on lawyers to press demands that are impossible for the city to meet, such requiring that CalTrans approve a traffic light for the project — something the city has little control over.

They also seek a private contract giving the five opponents veto power over future changes to beach club operations. The opponents have been unable to cite a single example of Santa Monica or any nearby city signing such an operational contract with its own residents — not even for traditionally controversial facilities like a homeless shelter, trash dump, or airport.

Yet we are talking about world-class public beach facility that most Santa Monica residents would rejoice having in their neighborhood.

The beach club's many amenities speak for themselves, but in addition it is designed by one of California's premier architects, Frederick Fisher and Partners, whose work includes the Huntington Library, the Long Beach Museum of Art, and the Broad Art Foundation. The Fisher-designed jewel will replace a dilapidated eyesore that has no security beyond a chain-link fence — hardly an ideal neighbor.

The concept of a beach club is not even new. From 1960 to 1990, 415 PCH was the home to the private Sand and Sea Club. There are two other private beach clubs still operating nearby. Both have proven to be good neighbors and neither have restrictions on operating hours, event size or number of events agreed to by the city for the public beach club. Moreover, this club isn't proposed for a secluded, slow-paced residential street. The last letter in PCH stands for "highway," which is a six-lane quasi-freeway overloaded with noise, traffic and pollution — all of which will exist with or without a public beach club.

Let's be clear: The proposed beach club is not driven by a private developer seeking to turn a profit. It is for the entire community, from the young to the old, from the poor to the rich — a legacy from which our community will reap rich rewards year after year, and generation after generation. Let's not let the self-interested few veto a recreational area that will better our community and stand as a beacon on our coastline for decades to come.

Tonight, at 5:30 p.m., Friends of 415 PCH and the Santa Monica Conservancy will hold a beach party rally on the City Hall lawn to show our support for the project. Please join us and show yours. (For more about the project visit www.friendsof415.org).

*(**Joel Brand** is the Chair of Friends of 415, a committee of the Santa Monica Conservancy).*

Filling the 'Ashes and Snow' void will take creative thinking

ICONOCLAST BLAST
BY SETH BARNES

I never thought I'd say it, but I'm going to miss the "Ashes and Snow" installation down by the Santa Monica Pier. Look, I just don't have a good feel for art, especially contemporary art. Especially art so modern that it depicts humans and animals doing funny things together in the desert with a faux Lion King soundtrack blaring in the background. Call me a philistine, but when I spend a couple hours in a warehouse of dilapidated shipping containers, I need something concrete — a narrative, hot dogs and beer, a basketball game — to keep my attention.

While I didn't personally take to the exhibit, it's clear that the rest of Los Angeles was gaga over this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And I'm happy you all enjoyed it. It was good for the community and the overall vitality of the area. I'd imagine the exhibit was an economic boon, and there's no doubt that landing the sought-after artistic event increased the cultural cache of our fair city. I walked by "Ashes and Snow" on Mother's Day, at the end of its Santa Monica run, and was astounded by the hundreds, maybe thousands, of people standing patiently in line for one more chance to walk through a maze of oversized photographs and buy $100 coffee table book afterwards.

Not to mention that I'd gotten used to the ol' pile of shipping containers stacked up by the pier. On smoggy days you felt like you were smack dab in the Port of Long Beach.

So how can we keep the momentum from "Ashes and Snow" going? Obviously we need something in its vacated footprint to fill the void.

Luckily, I have some suggestions. As always, feel free to write with brilliant suggestions of your own.

1) Expand Muscle Beach: Clearly this would be a winner on the tourist front. Whenever I have friends or family in town, this is the first place I take them. You never can have too many muscle-bound freaks and freakettes gyrating and swinging around in full public view.

2) Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Fish Farm: Maybe they could throw a legit shrimping boat into the "farming" waters. Perhaps a theme ride with Forrest and Bubba at the helm?

3) Short Track Rollerblading Rink: I'm biased on this one because I've basically become a pro rollerblader the last few months skating up and down our exquisite oceanside bikepath. But how cool would it be to have a legit short track so rollerbladers could do their best Apollo Anton Ono? This would also force me to buy the wrist guards and knee pads that I definitely should be wearing on a regular basis. Demolition Derby anyone?

4) Santa Monica Boardwalk Merchants: Here's the deal. We move those lovable characters hawking their wares down in Venice up to Santa Monica a few times a month. This would provide a splash of down-home funkiness to staid, uptight Santa Monica. And think of the tax revenues we could collect from each hemp necklace or tobacco pipe sale. Those merchants turn more than 100 percent of the sales tax they collect to Venice, correct?

5) Add another storm drain: Let's just say the Pico storm drain looks, um, a little taxed lately. Every time it rains we have caution tape, bulldozers, and cesspools the next day. I think it's becoming a little much for Heal The Bay. A second storm drain might not be the most pleasant addition from an olfactory or aesthetic standpoint, but we dearly need it.

6) Used car lot: Hey, we've already had slabs of rusty metal stacked down by the pier in the name of "art." So let's put some solid American capitalism on full display. There's nothing more American than culture and commerce and we just finished a six month run of culture. And come to think of it, culture isn't an American value. Not even close.

*(**Seth Barnes** can be reached at barnesseth@hotmail.com)*

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

Judgment day recalled in afficionado fashion

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. — French and California winemakers marked the 30th anniversary of the storied Paris tasting with another sip-and-spit showdown Wednesday.

California won — and by more than a nose.

Native wines took the top five of 10 spots, with a 1971 Ridge Monte Bello cabernet sauvignon from the Santa Cruz mountains coming out on top.

Ridge's president and winemaker, Paul Draper, professed himself "delighted."

"Today was a snapshot in time and all the stars were aligned properly. We had a lot of fun," said Peter Marks, director of wine at Copia, the Napa Valley wine and arts center where the New World end of the tasting was held. A European panel of tasters met at a London wine merchant to give their rating.

The May 24, 1976 tasting known as the Judgment of Paris is considered a milestone in the American wine industry because it shattered the perception that the New World was capable only of producing cheap bulk wines.

It was put together by Steven Spurrier, an English wine merchant who owned a shop and wine school in Paris. Spurrier, now a wine consultant, also was co-organizer of Wednesday's rematch.

The tasting was in two parts, with judges re-evaluating the original reds and then tasting a variety of modern reds and whites from both countries.

Back in '76, it was a complete surprise when California wines outclassed the French. A Stag's Leap 1973 cabernet sauvignon was top red and another Napa Valley wine, a Chateau Montelena 1973 chardonnay, took top white.

Tellingly, the judges were unable to distinguish the French and California wines, although they thought they could, leading to some blissfully oblivious quotes captured by Time magazine correspondent George Taber. "Ah, back to France," one judge exclaimed after trying a Napa Valley chardonnay.

This time around, no one was in a chatty mood for the California side of the re-creation, which took place in a silence broken only by the clink of glasses and the click of photographers.

"It was pretty serious in there," Marks said. "I felt like someone should break a glass to break the ice."

The tasting gave judges a chance to savor wines that went into the bottle at a time when computers were room-sized and televisions were small.

"It's just beautiful," said Christian Vanneque, one of the judges at the original Paris tasting and was part of the Napa panel for the rematch. "It shows that these California wines ... did win also the test of time."

The 30-year anniversary tasting sparked controversy, with some wineries on both sides of the Atlantic reluctant to have their new vintages tasted blind, a high stakes game in which someone has to come out last.

In a compromise, the re-enactment tasting was blind, but the new wines were identified by country.

So, are vintners ready for a 40th rematch?

"Ten years from now either all of us or all of the wines will truly be faded," Draper said with a laugh. "Maybe we can lay this to rest."

SPIRITS OF '76

Top wines from 1976 and 2006 tastings of U.S. and French red wines:

2006
x-Ridge Monte Bello 1971
x-Stag's Leap 1973
x-Heitz Martha's Vineyard 1970
x-Mayacamas 1971
x-Clos du Val 1972
Chateau Mouton-Rothschild 1970
Chateau Montrose 1970
Chateau Haut-Brion 1970
Chateau Leoville-Las-Cases 1971
x-Freemark Abbey 1969

1976
x-Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 1973
Chateau Mouton-Rothschild 1970
Chateau Haut-Brion 1970
Chateau Montrose 1970
x-Ridge Montebello 1971
Chateau Leoville-Las-Cases 1971
x-Mayacamas 1971
x-Clos Du Val 1972
x-Heitz Cellars Martha's Vineyard 1970
x-Freemark Abbey 1969

x-California wines

Source: *Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts.*

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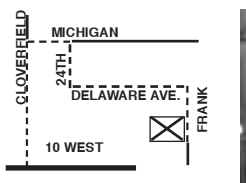

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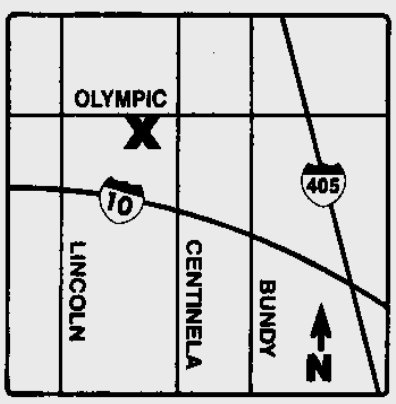

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STATE BRIEFS

More room in the pool

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California's network of freeway carpool lanes was expanded with the opening of a 5.1-mile stretch along the 405 freeway.

Carpoolers can cut time from their commutes by using new lanes that run in both directions between the 105 and 90 freeways, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said during an opening ceremony on Tuesday.

"Smart carpool commuters will be able to take advantage of this carpool lane and get to their destinations quicker and more efficiently," he said.

The $40.3-million project is the latest phase of an effort to build high-occupancy lanes along the 405 to the San Fernando Valley.

County building up for bird flu

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — County supervisors voted to spend $500,000 for antiviral drugs to distribute among health workers if there is an outbreak of bird flu.

The decision to buy 7,500 courses of the Tamiflu vaccine was made Tuesday. The drugs would be mostly for first responders. The public would get drugs expected to be provided by state and federal agencies.

The vaccine purchase is necessary because the county doesn't know if first responders would get drugs from the state quickly enough to deal with the earliest stages of a possible outbreak, county public health officer Dr. Gary Feldman said.

"We're going to have to be self-sufficient for some time," he said. "'Don't expect help too quickly' — you're hearing that over and over again."

Riverside joined Los Angeles and a handful of other counties in stockpiling bird-flu drugs.

State legislators, meanwhile, are preparing to review a disaster preparedness plan that includes $53 million for more than nearly 3.7 million doses of antiviral drugs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is amassing about 50 million treatment courses, agency spokesman Bill Hall said.

Boeing employees bid adieu

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — Employees and retired workers from Boeing's 717 aircraft plant waved goodbye to the last passenger planes to be built at the facility.

The two jets — bound for Midwest Airlines and AirTran Airways — took off amid shouts and whistles from the crowd.

The 100-seat aircraft was the descendent of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9, which had been built at the plant since 1965.

About 800 people worked at the plant early last year, when company officials announced that it would shut down.

Some 200 workers transferred to a nearby Boeing plant that builds C-17 military cargo jets.

Company officials said the 717 program failed because the aircraft didn't attract enough customers.

But worker Ruth Robertson thought Boeing officials didn't try hard enough to market the aircraft.

"I don't think (Boeing) knew what they had in the plane," she said.

Boy killed, three injured in drive-by shooting

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — A 14-year-old boy was killed and three other teens were wounded in a drive-by shooting, authorities said.

Jarred Mitchell was standing outside a house with friends Monday night when two men drove by and opened fire, police Lt. Mark Garcia said.

"It was, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop," said Jamese Reynolds, 18, who lives in the neighborhood.

Mitchell died at a hospital a few hours after the attack.

The other victims — ages 16, 17 and 18 — were all expected to survive, Garcia said.

Police suspect the shooting was gang-related, even though Mitchell and the wounded teens were not known to be gang members, Garcia said.

Police ruled to act appropriately

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — A judge ruled that Ontario police acted appropriately when they kicked down the door of a motel room and arrested a man now accused of killing his girlfriend and carrying her body in a suitcase.

A lawyer for defendant Mark Edward Thomas asked the judge to declare the search illegal because officers didn't have a warrant when they entered his room and opened the suitcase.

Superior Court Judge Ingrid Uhler said Tuesday the officers didn't need a warrant because they had a reasonable belief that a fleeing criminal was inside or that someone in the room was in danger.

Thomas has pleaded not guilty to murder. Jury selection in his trial is set to begin Thursday in West Valley Superior Court.

Police arrested Thomas on Sept. 21, 2004 after receiving a report of a robbery at the motel. Officers said they entered the room because they thought a robber was inside and feared he had a hostage.

Prosecutors allege Thomas choked his girlfriend to death at another motel a day earlier, possibly during a sex act.

NFL to spend $5M apiece on LA, Anaheim proposals

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

DENVER — The NFL is spending $10 million to help Los Angeles and Anaheim with their plans for bringing the league back to the nation's second-largest media market.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue announced the decision on Tuesday after a day-and-a-half of meetings focused on the desire to put a team in the area vacated by the Rams and Raiders after the 1994 season.

That was part of a series of moves that became known as "franchise free agency."

Tagliabue said the decision to spend the money puts the NFL as close as it has been to getting back to Los Angeles since 1999, when the league owners approved a resolution to put an expansion team into the area. That plan fell through when two conflicting groups in the Los Angeles area could not agree on a site and financing.

The NFL also wanted to get Houston businessman Robert McNair into the league. When he upped his bid to $700 million — some $150 million more than either of the Los Angeles groups offered — for the new team and a new stadium the league's owners awarded Houston the expansion franchise.

The Texans began play in 2002, replacing the Oilers, who had moved to Tennessee and become the Titans. The NFL is believed to favor the downtown Los Angeles site, presumably at a renovated Coliseum, where the Raiders played from 1982-94.

But it has earmarked $5 million for each of the two sites. The Anaheim facility would be adjacent to where baseball's Angels play, a stadium used by the Rams for the latter part of their tenure in the area.

"This is far and away the most progress we have made at any time since 1999," Tagliabue said.

The NFL money is expected to go toward design and engineering studies at the two proposed sites.

Getting a team back in the Los Angeles area is not imminent. No team has been designated, nor has a decision been made whether Los Angeles will get an existing franchise that relocates or an expansion team.

Expansion is probably a long shot. New York Giants co-owner Steve Tisch noted that adding a 33rd team would lead eventually to a 34th.

Dallas' Jerry Jones was more emphatic.

"Expansion does not make sense for the NFL at this juncture. It just doesn't." Jones said. "It just doesn't. We don't improve anything by expanding, we water it down."

Both league officials and members of the 11-owner committee that have been working on getting the league back to Los Angeles acknowledged they're still trying to ensure that the two cities involved can get business support for suites and other backing that would help defray the $600 million to $850 million a new stadium might cost.

"We really have to ask ourselves how expensive this will be," said Tisch, a member of the committee and a former Southern California resident.

LA park is an innovative marriage of recreation and runoff filtration

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A small pocket of land on the banks of the Los Angeles River is working overtime, providing both recreational space to a crowded urban area and acting as a filter for garbage that would otherwise end up in the water.

"Too much of our urban junk, too much of our poisonous runoff gets into our L.A. river," Joe Edmiston, executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, told a Wednesday dedication ceremony for the $3.2 million Marsh Park.

The spit of land, not far from Dodger Stadium, is the first park in Los Angeles to be laid out in such a way as to keep garbage out of the river.

Storm runoff will be naturally filtered through a large, grass-covered water detention basin. From there, the water will seep slowly through the ground, which will separate it from trash and other debris before it reaches the river.

Previously, such runoff would flow straight from the streets to the river, carrying whatever garbage it collected along the way.

Marsh Park is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which was established by the state Legislature in 1980 to preserve parkland in urban and wilderness areas. Funds from Proposition 13, a $1.97 billion water bond passed by voters in 2000, were used to buy the land and build the first phase of the park, which sits on a half-acre of land.

Two more phases are being planned. And two similar projects up the river are scheduled to be completed later this year.

"The people I represent need parks and they also need clean water," said City Council President Eric Garcetti.

The basin is designed to handle the runoff of a standard storm — one that brings 3/4 of an inch of rain. Under those conditions, it will take 48 hours for all the water to seep through the ground, said Martin Kammerer, the fluvial geomorphologist who designed the park.

Grass and organisms living in the top soil will break down the pollutants left behind, said Kammerer, a physical geographer and hydrologist who specializes in streams. In the event of a larger than normal storm, any excess water would overflow into the river, which sits between 10 and 15 feet below the basin.

The length of time it takes the water to seep into the ground will also help reduce the risk of flooding during major storms.

"This is going to be the new standard," Kammerer said. "You can clean up the water, and at the same time you have a park amenity."

The Los Angeles River flows for 51 miles from the western edge of the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach. It drains an area of about 825 square miles.

Most of the Los Angeles River was lined with concrete for flood control between 1935 and 1959. An estimated $110 million has been spent so far on revitalizing the river.

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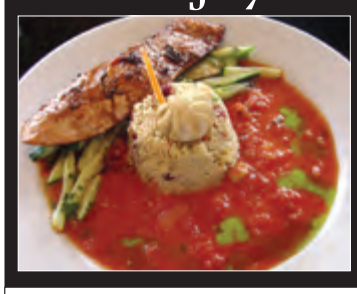
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Gardens can be managed to reduce or eliminate all of these impacts and composting is an important first step. Let this workshop be your guide to creating a healthier landscape and environment!

Justice Department gathering up e-mails

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Justice Department prosecutors intend to use hundreds of e-mails to paint a picture of corruption in the first trial in the Jack Abramoff influence-peddling scandal, a case in which the evidence is a paper trail rather than the lobbyist's own testimony.

Government lawyers apparently won't call confessed felon Abramoff to the witness stand as they try to convict David Safavian, the Bush administration's former top procurement official, of lying and obstruction.

A jury of 10 women and two men was to hear opening statements starting Wednesday in what is anticipated to be a two-week trial in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman, a 1994 appointee of President Clinton.

A five-count grand jury indictment says Safavian concealed from investigators Abramoff's efforts to acquire part of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Silver Spring, Md., and to lease a downtown Washington landmark, the Old Post Office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The constant e-mail traffic between the two men will put Abramoff's aggressive tactics on display, showing how he badgered Safavian for information about the properties while showering his longtime friend with invitations, including a trip to Scotland that Safavian accepted.

Abramoff wanted the Maryland property for a private school he founded. He sought a lease of the Old Post Office for some of his Indian tribal clients who wanted to develop it.

At the time, Safavian was chief of staff to the administrator of the General Services Administration, which oversees federal property. He later moved to the White House and became administrator of the office of federal procurement policy.

With several members of Congress under investigation, prosecutors appear to be holding Abramoff back for bigger cases they are trying to pull together. Keeping Abramoff away from the courtroom for now also means the disgraced lobbyist won't be subjected to cross-examination by Safavian's lawyers, who are unlikely to take the risky step of calling Abramoff themselves.

> The defense team says prosecution excesses began early in the probe when investigators were looking for Abramoff associates who might be able to implicate the lobbyist in wrongdoing.

While prosecutors try to bury Safavian in the e-mails he exchanged with Abramoff, Safavian's lawyers plan to depict the Justice Department as overreaching in bringing charges against the procurement official.

The defense team says prosecution excesses began early in the probe when investigators were looking for Abramoff associates who might be able to implicate the lobbyist in wrongdoing.

Prosecutors believe Safavian was in that category, so they brought a weak case against him in an effort to pressure him into turning on his old friend, the defense has said.

Safavian chose to fight rather than cooperate. And his possible cooperation against Abramoff became a moot point when the lobbyist entered guilty pleas early this year in Washington, D.C., and Florida.

Abramoff is now the government's main weapon in an investigation aimed primarily at Capitol Hill.

A former aide to Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, is expected to testify this week about a suggestion from Safavian for inserting language into legislation that would have conveyed to Abramoff GSA-controlled property in Maryland, federal prosecutor Peter Zeidenberg said at a pretrial hearing.

Neil Volz, Ney's former chief of staff, has pleaded guilty to conspiring to corrupt the congressman on behalf of Abramoff. Ney, who has denied wrongdoing, also is to be investigated by the House ethics committee.

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Qwest agrees to consider popular directors

BY CATHERINE TSAI
AP Business Writer

DENVER — A group of Qwest Communications International Inc. shareholders failed to get enough support Wednesday for a proposal requiring directors to win election by a majority rather than a plurality, but CEO Richard Notebaert said the board would review the idea.

Three other shareholder proposals on corporate governance and executive compensation were rejected at the company's annual meeting, but the proposal on director elections won the most support, with 45 percent of outstanding shares in favor.

Qwest said 53 percent of the votes cast supported the proposal, but 80 percent of total outstanding shares would have had to approve it to change company bylaws, as the proposal requested.

"It's a strong message," said Scott Adams of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which submitted the proposal.

"The election of directors is one of the few means by which the owners of a public company can hold boards of directors and the executives they hire accountable for their performance and pay," said Qwest retiree Mary Ann Neuman.

During the meeting, several shareholders expressed support for Notebaert, who earlier this month announced Qwest's first quarterly profit, excluding any asset sales, since mid-2000. Notebaert replaced former chief executive officer Joseph Nacchio in 2002.

However, retirees expressed concern for health care, the pension fund and the disparity between retirement packages for chief executives and rank-and-file employees.

Jack Beattie of the Association of U S West Retirees said he paid no health care premiums when he retired but now pays about $300 a month, a charge he said was probably reasonable but not what he expected when he was working.

Beattie praised Notebaert for not plunging the company into bankruptcy before its turnaround, as Qwest in 2003 faced allegations of improperly inflated revenue, falling revenue and $20 billion in debt.

But Beattie said it was Qwest employees who kept the company afloat so Notebaert had something to save.

Notebaert thanked Beattie for the praise, then said the pension fund was fully funded. Notebaert also agreed with a shareholder who said paying for health care is a national problem.

The retirees association supported two of the rejected shareholder proposals.

One sought to recover performance-based pay to executives if financial restatements indicated the reward wasn't warranted. Retirees first proposed it after Qwest agreed to pay $250 million to settle civil charges that alleged it artificially inflated revenue.

"If you didn't earn it, you must return it," said retiree William Eckhardt, of Fountain Hills, Ariz.

Qwest said 68 percent of shares that voted were against it.

A separate proposal by retirees, requiring shareholder approval of retirement benefits for executives that go beyond what other managers receive, was defeated by 78 percent of the shares cast.

Only 16 percent voted to support a measure splitting the duties of chairman and chief executive officer, roles now held solely by Notebaert.

The meeting came two weeks after revelations that Qwest had refused a request by the National Security Agency to turn over phone records of its customers. One speaker at the meeting commended Notebaert for the company's decision. Notebaert said after the meeting that he could not comment.

Notebaert touted pending settlements of lawsuits including a class-action shareholder suit that had brought uncertainty to Qwest's future, plus improvements in customer service, relations with legislators and regulators, revenue and in providing customers access to broadband speeds of at least 3 megabits per second, and in some cases, 7 Mbps.

The first wave of Guard soldiers head to border states next week

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The first wave of about 800 National Guard soldiers will head to the U.S-Mexico border next week, including planners and leadership personnel who will stay longer than the planned 21-day missions, the National Guard chief told lawmakers Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum said 200 soldiers are preparing to go to each of the four border states — California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico — around June 1. He said the initial troops will be part of a longer-term force of project managers who will stay on the job over time to provide continuity in the new border program.

The troops represent the launch of President Bush's plan to dispatch up to 6,000 National Guard members to states bordering Mexico to support the Border Patrol and help stem the flow of illegal immigrants across the border.

It was not clear whether the initial influx of Guard members would come from the four border states or from other units across the country. Blum said the Guard troop that will be deployed longer than three weeks are volunteers.

Under the plan, most of the troops would spend about 21 days, which includes their normal annual two-week training mission, working along the border. The Guard troops would be used for engineering, road and fence building, transportation, logistics and surveillance and reconnaissance.

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Blum and Paul McHale, assistant defense secretary for homeland defense, repeatedly told members of the House Armed Services Committee that the guard members would be armed for personal protection, but would not do significant law enforcement duties.

And they said the two-year plan — which calls for using up to 6,000 troops at a time in the first year, and no more than 3,000 in the second year — will not overtax the guard or impair troops' ability to train or prepare for combat.

Some committee members echoed complaints from critics who have suggested that the border plan would overburden a National Guard that is already stretched by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. But Blum said the border program, coupled with the approximately 71,000 Guard members deployed overseas, still leaves more than 350,000 Army and Air Guard available for other homeland defense or disaster assistance.

David Aguilar, chief of the Border Patrol, also told lawmakers that the plan will be augmented with additional, strategically located fencing, as well as an increase of about 6,000 Border Patrol guards by some time in 2008.

Congress members, including committee Chairman Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., urged officials to use more fencing to stop the flow of illegal immigrants.

Firefighters encouraged by diminishing winds in fight against Western wildfires

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Wildfires have scorched thousands of acres across desert land and high-country timber in New Mexico, but firefighters are making progress as the windy conditions that hampered earlier efforts subsided.

The Adobe fire southeast of Animas in New Mexico's bootheel has burned about 8,000 acres of heavy grass and brush. The west side of the fire was burning up the slope of Animas Mountain, but state Forestry Division spokesman Dan Ware said mild weather allowed firefighters to conduct burnout operations to keep the flames in check.

The lightning-caused blaze was 10 percent contained. No structures were threatened, Ware said.

One of the largest fires — 5,500 acres burning in grass and some ponderosa pine in northern New Mexico — was started by lightning Monday night and whipped by winds. By Tuesday, the threat to several structures was over and the Cerro fire was 70 percent contained, Ware said.

In Arizona, a lightning-caused wildfire north of Tucson was 85 percent contained after charring 760 acres.

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More out on slippery slope

By The Associated Press

DENVER — The number of skiers and snowboarders in the United States reached a record 58.8 million last season, up 3.3 percent from a year ago, according to preliminary data from the National Ski Areas Association.

Industry growth is being spurred by the popularity of skiing and snowboarding with a younger crowd and equipment improvements that allow aging baby boomers to stay on the snow longer, NSAA President Michael Berry said Tuesday.

"It's a multigenerational phenomenon," he told The Denver Post. "Baby boomers, their children and their grandchildren are all out there skiing. The resorts have become true multigenerational gathering places."

The association represents 325 alpine resorts nationwide.

The six-state Rocky Mountain region, which includes Colorado, saw a 5.8 percent gain in skier visits, or more than 1.1 million people, to finish at 20.8 million skier visits for the 2005-06 ski season. The state's 25 ski resorts may top 12 million skier visits for the first time this season, though those numbers are still pending.

"If I were a betting man, I'd bet yes," said Jeff Hanle, spokesman for Aspen Skiing Co., which saw about a 6 percent increase at its four resorts.

Success still depends greatly on snowfall patterns. In the Northeast, skier visits declined by 9 percent amid below-average snowfall, Berry said.

The final NSAA report is scheduled to be released in July.

Swans are bird-flu suspect number-one

BY JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Swans traveling along the Pacific flyway are the most likely bearers of the deadly bird flu virus among wild migratory birds but an even bigger worry is the prospect of the virus arriving by illegal animal trade, Interior Department officials said Wednesday.

"Swans are the starting point" for possibly finding the H5N1 bird flu virus, H. Dale Hall, the Fish and Wildlife Service director, said in an interview with The Associated Press. But, he added, "I am more concerned about the illegal smuggling."

Patrick Leahy, the U.S. Geological Survey's acting director, told the AP a variation of influenza in birds, H5N2, was found last year in two of 100 birds sampled in North Dakota. To prepare for this year, the agency sampled 1,318 nationally, including 719 in Alaska.

He said the first samples taken from migratory birds in Alaska that could be carrying the H5N1 virus will arrive for testing later this week at the USGS laboratory in Madison, Wis.

The Pacific flyway runs from Alaska and western Canada to Mexico. It covers the Western states, from the West Coast to western portions of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

Final testing will be done by the Agriculture Department in Ames, Iowa, to determine whether highly pathogenic H5N1 has arrived in the United States. The virus has spread from Asia to Africa and Europe, killing at least 124 people.

No one knows whether the virus will reach the United States or develop into a strain of deadly flu that can be transmitted easily by humans.

ON THE NET

Fish and Wildlife
http://www.fws.gov

USGS
http://www.usgs.gov

Police dismiss pot initiative

MARIJUANA, from page 1

cial locations, some making as much as $5 per signature.

"This measure offers a sensible alternative to the failed federal war on drugs," said Luciano Hernandez, campaign coordinator for the initiative. "Santa Monica citizens don't want our police to waste their time and our tax dollars arresting, jailing and prosecuting nonviolent marijuana users.

"It's clear from speaking with voters over the course of the signature drive that most people would rather see local police focus on violent and serious crime."

City Clerk Maria Stewart said her office must certify the signatures in no more than 30 working days upon receiving them. Her staff plans to send the signatures to the Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder today so the verification process can begin without delay.

Stewart said initiatives must be approved no later than August 11 to make the November 7 election.

If ultimately approved by Santa Monica's voters, the initiative would require the Santa Monica Police Department to make investigations, citations, arrests, property seizures and prosecutions for private, adult marijuana use the lowest law enforcement priority.

The proposed measure would prohibit police from working with federal officials investigating adult marijuana use, and the SMPD would be required to file a report with the City Council within seven days of an arrest, citation or seizure for any adult marijuana offense.

Those who feel officers violated the lowest priority measure could then file a grievance with City Hall.

The proposed measure would not apply to the public use of marijuana or when someone is caught driving under the influence. "Adult" is defined as someone over 21 years of age, according to proponents of the measure.

The effort here is being duplicated in other cities across the state, including West Hollywood, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz, as part of a larger campaign by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, which seeks to decriminalize marijuana use by adults.

The cities of Oakland and Seattle have already passed laws similar to the proposed Santa Monica measure. The Seattle version, passed in 2003, has led to a 75-percent reduction in marijuana arrests, according to supporters of the initiative.

SMPD Chief James Butts and the Santa Monica Police Officers Association are strongly opposed to the measure. Butts is concerned it would weaken an officer's ability to sniff out more serious crimes if they were unable to investigate incidents of marijuana use. He also said the initiative is vague when it comes to defining "lowest priority."

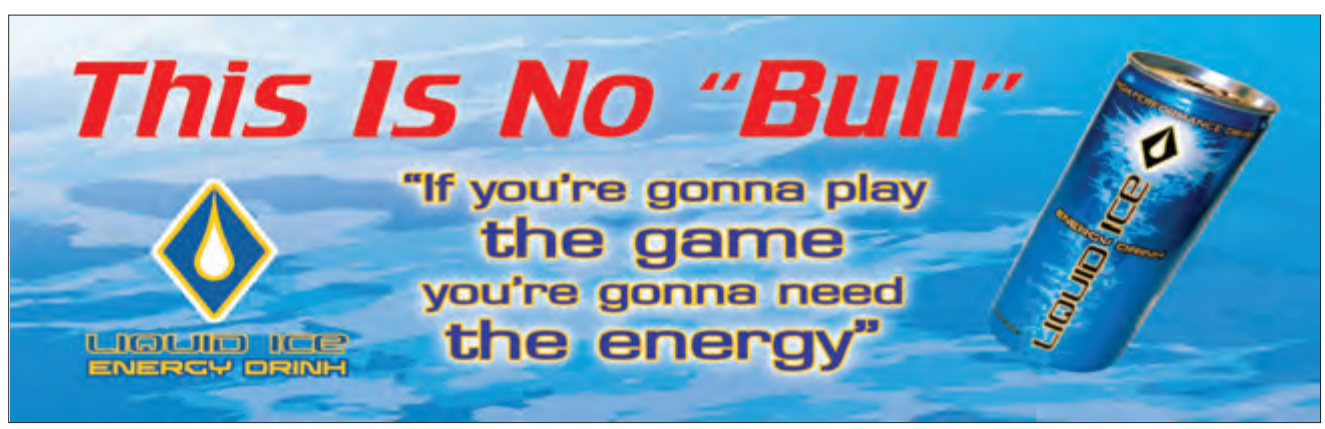
In recent months, the chief said, officers were able to arrest suspects for growing large quantities of marijuana or who were in possession of harder drugs because the officers smelled the presence of pot. If the measure were to pass, Butts said those arrests may not have been possible.

Sgt. Greg Smiley, president of the officers' association, said members are prepared to campaign against the initiative if it qualifies for the ballot.

"We truly don't want to have to spend money on this, but we will if we have to," Smiley said.

Butts and Smiley contend the initiative is not needed, as adult marijuana use is already one of the lowest priorities of the police department.

See **MARIJUANA**, page 12



Maui's Fleming Beach is tops in nation

BY JAYMES SONG
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Fleming Beach Park, a mile-long crescent white sand beach on Maui's western shore featuring spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and the rugged shores of Molokai Island, was named America's best beach Wednesday in an annual list.

International beach expert Stephen Leatherman, also known as "Dr. Beach," lauded Fleming for its year-round sunny weather, scenic views, pristine waters, and amenities such as showers, grills for barbecuing, snack bar, picnic facilities and ample parking.

"The west side of Maui always has beach weather. It's one of the sunniest places in the world, so it's hard to beat that," Leatherman said in a telephone interview. "What you call winter there everybody else calls a nice day."

Leatherman said visitors to Fleming, however, must use caution during the winter months when the surf and currents pick up.

"They have lifeguards there all the time, but if you're not a big-time swimmer and a big-time surfer, stay close to shore when the big waves are coming in," he said.

Fleming, in the posh resort town of Kapalua, was one of three Hawaii beaches to make the Top 10 list compiled by Leatherman, director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Coastal Research.

"If you could do a picture postcard of what people perceive Hawaii to be like, Fleming Beach is a prime example," said Marsha Wienert, Hawaii's tourism liaison and the former executive director of the Maui Visitors Bureau. "It's got everything that you could ask for, quite honestly."

Caladesi Island State Park in Florida was the runner-up to Fleming, followed by Ocracoke Island in North Carolina; Coopers Beach in New York; Kauai's Hanalei Beach; Main Beach in New York; Coast Guard Beach in Massachusetts, Coronado Beach in California; Maui's Hamoa Beach; and Barefoot Beach Park in Florida.

A Hawaii beach has claimed the top spot on Leatherman's list for the 11th time in the study's 16-year history, including nine in the past 11 years.

"Let's face it, Hawaii is our tropical paradise for America," he said. "It's where the mountains meet the sea. It's idyllic. The scenery there is fantastic."

Florida beaches earned the No. 1 spot for five years. California has yet to claim the top spot.

Leatherman said his national winners are retired from his list, so other great beaches will have a chance to share the limelight. He's not worried about running out of beaches.

"We have enough great beaches in America, we can give the praise around."

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Butts' legacy will include drop in crime

POLICE CHIEF, from page 1

year, while VNY is the world's busiest general aviation airport.

Butts will start his new job later this summer. A nationwide recruitment for a new SMPD chief is expected to be launched in June and an executive search firm will be retained, according to city officials. Butts, who is currently making $177,000 a year as police chief hasn't decided whether his departure will be in the form of a retirement, which would include a pension. He declined to say how much he will be making at LAWA because the compensation package isn't final.

Butts will lead the LAWA police and security forces assigned to the airports, as well as assume a pivotal role in collaborating and coordinating law enforcement and security duties performed by more than 4,000 federal and local officers. The largest of those outside agencies include the Transportation Security Administration, which includes 2,000 transportation security officers, and Customs and Border Protection, which has 800 sworn officers.

Butts was approached in January by headhunters Bob Murray & Associates of Roseville, Calif., a leading search firm for high-profile law enforcement positions. Forty-eight applicants representing a wide range of law enforcement, security and aviation backgrounds were considered.

"After a six-month nationwide search, we found the most qualified law enforcement professional for this important position right in our backyard, in the neighboring community of Santa Monica," said LAWA Executive Director Lydia H. Kennard "We believe Chief Butts' commitment to the concept of community-based policing combined with his outstanding record in public safety, recruiting, training and harnessing technology makes him the ideal choice for this position."

FIXING WHAT'S BROKEN

Beyond ensuring the safety of travelers, Butts will be responsible for bringing 1,200 personnel under one umbrella in the organization, a challenge he welcomes. His master's degree in business administration and his experience in administrative leadership will help in changing the culture and fixing systems within the LAWA, Butts said.

"It is a management and leadership issue," he said. "The reality is that most officers want to be respected and want to do a good job, and they want to receive the direction and leadership of where to go."

During Butts' tenure, violent crime in Santa Monica has reached its lowest recorded level since 1957. Additionally, the crime rate has been reduced 63 percent since 1993 and continues to decline.

Still, for some Santa Monica residents, a lower crime rate doesn't translate to feeling more at ease, particularly in the Pico neighborhood, where most gang-related shootings occur and violence continues to plague an eight-block pocket east of Woodlawn Cemetery, south of Michigan Avenue and north of Pico Boulevard.

"Tell the mother of a young man who was killed that crime is down," said Oscar de la Torre, an outspoken critic of Butts who runs the Pico Youth & Family Center, a non-profit organization. "The Pico neighborhood is still a victim of youth violence and all of the statistics will never heal the pain."

Despite saturation patrols and beefed-up enforcement, the Pico neighborhood is still the site of intermittent shootings among gang members who live both inside and outside of the city.

Compared to Los Angeles, Butts said Santa Monica's gang violence doesn't rise to the same level.

"I do not buy into the hypothesis that we have a gang violence issue," he said Wednesday. "We have a problem in that we live in region where bad things happen and there are bad people. We have a problem with violence."

Butts admits homelessness has been a major issue facing Santa Monica's population, a problem that has adversely affected the quality of life for residents.

de la Torre, who is also a school board member, thinks Butts has done a good job in some respects, but feels more work needs to be done in the area of community-centered policing, which for the SMPD is referred to as "Neighborhood Centered Policing" and has been a top priority for Butts.

"I think he came up short on that commitment," de la Torre said. "But he has put more people of color in positions of power in the department and that's a plus."

MORE HIGHS THAN LOWS

Even though de la Torre has criticisms for Butts, he also believes he has character. The two adversaries met a couple of months ago to discuss racial tensions at Santa Monica High School and de la Torre walked away confident that their relationship had reached a new level of understanding.

"I wish him well," de la Torre said. "The bottom line is that his retirement opens the door to a real community dialogue in what we need for a chief of police."

Butts brushes off critics of the SMPD by highlighting the gains made. He is proud of the department's track record and doesn't apologize for the policies, programs and deployment tactics that have been instituted under his leadership.

He said the high point of his career in Santa Monica has been making the community safer.

"It's knowing that I participated with the men and women in this department, in partnership with the community, in making Santa Monica as safe as it's ever been," Butts said.

The lowest point of Butts' career came on May 26, 2005, when one of his officers, Ricardo Crocker, was killed in Iraq while serving as a Marine reserve.

Those who have served under him believe the SMPD is a stronger organization than it was before Butts' arrival in 1991.

"If this was a company that you bought stock in 15 years ago, you would be a rich man today," said Sgt. Greg Smiley, president of the Santa Monica Police Officers Association. "I have nothing but good things to say, and I think the entire union would have nothing but great things to say. He was the reason I came here from the LAPD. My brother was here and I came here when I heard some of the things the chief was doing. It's hard to summarize everything he's done."

One of candidates the association would back as Butts' replacement is Smiley's brother, Capt. Mark Smiley. The other two are Capt. Jacqueline Seabrooks and Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez. The association will push for City Manager Lamont Ewell to promote from within the department.

Santa Monica Mayor Bob Holbrook said he and Butts started in public service about the same time. He said he will miss their working relationship.

"I called him this morning and it was hard to say goodbye," Holbrook said. "I think he helped change the character of the department so that it became more reflective of the community.

"As you know, he has maxed out his retirement benefits," Holbrook added. "When people do that, it doesn't make much sense to stay on the job. Evidently, he has found another job and now he can start a new phase of his career."

Before accepting his current position at Santa Monica in 1991, Butts served nearly 20 years at the Inglewood Police Department as a police officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief. He has 12 years experience in SWAT as an operator, team leader and commander.

Masters of disaster

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

John Pacheco (left), executive director of the Santa Monica Red Cross, discusses the next plan of action during a real-time emergency drill. Red Cross staff, volunteers and board members played out possible scenarios, including a tsunami hitting Ocean Park.

Supporters seek more control over drug enforcement

MARIJUANA, from page 10

According to Smiley, the measure is flawed in that it does not define "personal use." The measure also includes "all parts of the cannabis plant … (and) resin extracted from any part of the plant," which Smiley said includes hash and hash oil — the possession of which is a felony.

There is also concern among officers about the oversight component of the measure, which would require them to spend more time preparing reports instead of being out on the street.

Supporters of the initiative contend they are not anti-police, but merely want more control over the enforcement of drug policies in their neighborhoods. They claim they are tired of seeing resources wasted on locking up non-violent marijuana users.

The group remains confident that Santa Monica voters will approve the initiative, based on results from a poll conducted in December by Evans McDonough, a public opinion research firm that has conducted polls since 1989.

The poll found that 87 percent of voters agree that tax dollars and police resources should be focused on crimes that are deemed more serious than adult marijuana offenses. Another 76 percent felt the laws and regulations for marijuana use should be no more strict than laws and regulations for alcohol use.

Eighty-one percent of respondents said the war on drugs has failed, according to supporters of the initiative.

Marijuana will still be illegal under federal law if the initiative passes.

"We feel the time is right for this initiative," said Hernandez. "George Bush has made marijuana the number-one priority, and as a result, there are over 700,000 people arrested each year in the U.S. on marijuana charges. By passing this initiative, Santa Monica voters can help to create a sensible alternative to the war on drugs."

City just might pay for its poor grades

BEACH REPORT, from page 1

wet weather months.

A poor grade means beachgoers face a higher risk of contracting illness, such as stomach flu, ear infections, upper-respiratory infections and skin rashes.

"The city takes water pollution as serious as any other city in the entire state, unfortunately, they still have major problems," said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay.

This is bad news for City Hall, which could face penalties as high as $10,000 for every day those areas do not comply with strict water quality standards approved by the Water Quality Regional Control Board. Those standards go into effect July 15.

Representatives from the agency said fines are highly unlikely, given this is the first year the new limits will be put into effect. Santa Monica has also shown good faith towards compliance, having made significant strides in improving water quality, such as the installation of an urban runoff collection and treatment system, said David Nahai, chair of the Los Angeles control board.

"The city of Santa Monica has traditionally been a leader in water quality … and I think we can expect them to continue to perform strongly," Nahai said. "However, we'll have to be diligent in monitoring so that we make sure everyone is in compliance."

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

DIRTY BIRD **Seagulls are one culprit for the failing water quality grade near the Santa Monica Pier, officials say.**

NO CLEAN SLATE

The beach report cards and reviews ripe for improvement come on the heels of a recent study done by UCLA researchers that found sand also plays a surprising role in determining a given beach's water quality. The study took multiple samples from beaches across LA County, and found that those known for poor water quality also typically had high levels of fecal bacteria in their sand, containing pathogens that can cause illnesses.

The worst of those tested, according to Heal the Bay scientist Mitzy Taggart, were those beaches tucked behind breakwalls with calm, shallow waters that sit stagnant for longer periods.

"The study indicates that even if you clean up the water, the sand can still act as an incubator of bacteria, storing it and helping it to develop," said Taggart. "This means we may have to clean up the sand as well."

The correlation between beaches with poor water quality and tainted sand samples proves the necessity for more studies akin to the one performed at UCLA, Taggart suggests.

In addressing the poor water quality at the pier and at locations near storm drains, Neal Shapiro, City Hall's urban runoff management coordinator, said a study will begin in the coming weeks that will look at the urban runoff treatment system to see if there are gaps that have lead to some of the poor grades given by Heal the Bay.

In addition, Shapiro said pier garbage collection has been moved off the pier to guard against possible leakage over the waters.

City staff will look at ways to reduce pollution around the pier as well, Shapiro said, including a program that might keep the large bird population in check by warding them off via decoys. Shapiro said there is also a problem with the homeless defecating underneath the pier, and something may need to be done about that.

"We are very confident that with the measures in place, we will be able to meet the requirements set by the water quality control board," Shapiro said.

The news wasn't all bad for Santa Monica and the rest of Los Angeles County. According to Heal the Bay, vast expanses of California beaches got a letter grade of A, including the South Bay of Los Angeles County, Palos Verdes, and the stretch from Seal Beach to Huntington Beach.

In Santa Monica, areas just west of Montana Avenue, a previous hot spot for bacteria, received a letter grade of A during dry weather, and a B during wet weather. Those are the same grades received by areas west of Wilshire Boulevard and at Strand Street.

'BUMMERS', DUDE

To calculate grades, Heal the Bay used measurements collected by the Los Angeles County Health Department and the City of Los Angeles, both of which began within the past year monitoring the mouths of storm drains and other sources of urban runoff. These agencies were previously monitoring 25 to 50 feet from the source, which Gold said resulted in diluted levels of bacteria, which in turn did not give accurate readings of bacteria in areas where many people swim.

The new monitoring may explain why so many of Los Angeles County beaches were listed in Heal the Bay's "Beach Bummers.'

Fourteen new monitoring sites in the Santa Monica Bay were added within the past year, which also may account for the higher number of beaches there being listed in the top 10 worst beaches, Gold said.

"This beach report card demonstrates that just because you go to the beach in a multi-million dollar neighborhood doesn't guarantee it is safe for swimming," Gold said. "Beach water quality knows no geographic or economic bounds."

For a copy of the report, go to www.healthebay.org.

As Gold was giving his report, surfers were lined up just outside the breakwaters, 300 yards north of the Malibu Pier, an area where recent rains have caused harmful bacteria to rise to unsafe levels, forcing lifeguards to post signs warning against swimming in the area.

A.J. Mason and his friend Ben Aylesworth, both surfers, said they didn't pay much attention to the warnings and were about to join the 20 or so surfers already in the water. And even if they did, there are some stretches of beach with such good waves that surfing is worth the risk.

"I've never gotten sick," Mason said. "But I do think pollution is a major problem that is not getting nearly enough attention."

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More investors letting pros handle things

MIND YOUR BUSINESS
BY KIRK G. AGUER

It seemed that all anyone needed was a modem and a point of view just a few short years ago, when the stock market was reaching all time highs and stock valuations were out of whack. Alas, valuations were recalibrated. Investors are abandoning the self-directed approach to investing in favor of a more disciplined investing strategy. In fact, the total volume of online trades fell to 50.6 million by mid-2001, from a high of 82.3 million in mid-2000, a decline of 39 percent.

What's next? Many investors are turning to customized professional money management. Until recently, professional portfolio management was reserved only for institutional investors and the super-wealthy. Now, with $100,000 or more to invest, you can gain access to the talents that have managed the wealth of Fortune 500 CEOs and endowment and foundation boards.

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THE SMA ADVANTAGE

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*(**Kirk Aguer** is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. To reach him, call him at his Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5220.)*

A time for caution as world markets keep wobbling

THE WEEKLY RECKONING
BY BILL BONNER

World markets have begun to wobble.

Over the last 10 days, emerging markets have had the longest stretch of selling since 1998. India's Sensex Index collapsed 10 percent in a single day — officials had to close the market.

The story was the same throughout the world, with only a few exceptions — notably China.

What goes up must come down. And leading the way down were commodity producers. Commodities — especially copper — have soared this year; a correction was inevitable. Silver has given back nearly 20 percent of its value. Even gold is headed down, though stuck for now around $655, a loss of about 10 percent.

In the developed world, stock markets are shuddering too. The Dow took a big hit last week and so far has not managed a bounce. But neither has it fallen further. Here in London, the FTSE shed another 2 percent this week, bringing the total damage over the last two weeks to nearly 10 percent.

What next? We're waiting to find out.

While we wait we note that markets go down as well as up. Usually a lot faster. And usually as much down as they went up — if you strip away the inflation.

Gold goes down too, even when it is in an uptrend. During the 1970s, for example, gold rose from $35 to $200. Then, just when newspaper headlines and ordinary investors were beginning to take notice, a correction began. The metal corrected over a 19-month period, losing 50 percent of its value. That shook the gold coins out of the grasp of weak and wobbly holders. It also set the stage for the next phase of the bull market, in which the metal shot up to $850 an ounce in January of 1980.

We suspected gold was ready for a major correction when we noticed Britain's major newspapers urging readers to buy it. The mainstream press is almost always wrong about gold. It only catches on when the bull market is nearing correction or completion. It comes to the conclusion that nothing can stop the metal's rise — just about the very moment the rise has come to an end. Then, when the bear market is finally over, it boldly announces that gold is a "relic of the past ... worthless from an investment point of view." This is precisely what the British press — and the American press too — was saying in the late '90s, as gold hit its lowest point in half a century. The Financial Times wrote a famous editorial entitled, "The Death of Gold," in December of 1997.

Britain has the added distinction of having a central bank led by wits as dim as those in its financial press. As gold bottomed out, the Bank of England sold. If it had gone back 100 years it could not have found a worse time to do so. And if it had gone back 1,000 years, it couldn't find a worse reason. The BOE wanted to replace gold — a tried and true financial reserve for thousands of year — with paper money. Had no one at the central bank bothered to review even the sorry history of its own paper currency since the gold backing was removed? Did they not notice that the pound has lost nearly 99 percent of its value?

What set off the worldwide market frisson is anyone's guess. It appears that the same central bankers who missed the run-up in gold were becoming alarmed by it, after they finally read about it in the newspapers. They decided that it was the bud of inflation needed nipping. So, they talked up the dollar — raised rates — and tightened liquidity. Newspaper headlines tell us now that speculative money is headed into cash, particularly the dollar, as a refuge. We don't see much evidence of it. The greenback has barely risen against the euro, and gold remains above $650.

We don't know what happens next. But we wouldn't mind a stronger correction in gold — so we can buy more at a better price.

Still, we feel we should repeat our caution: In the short run, markets are voting machines. They can deliver any fool result the voters want. It is only in the long run that fundamentals matter and that vox dei is heard.

And we deliver another caution at no extra price: We're not at all convinced that the inflation theory is correct. That is, the central bankers might be wrong about the cause of rising commodity prices, just as they are wrong about so many other things. Deflation may still be the greater danger. And clipping liquidity now might be just the thing to bring it on. American debtors might not sink in a sea of too much cheap currency, in other words. Instead, they might not have enough of it to stay afloat. More on this as we figure it out. In the meantime, buy gold on dips and sell stocks on rallies. And watch the headlines. Whatever they urge readers to do, do the opposite.

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

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The ambitious head to dark side

BY SHEILA NORMAN-CULP
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The young and ambitious used to be told "Go west, young man." Now it could be "go weekend."

Odd shifts — weekends, nights and overnights — are no longer limited to police, firefighters, medical workers and a handful of other jobs. As the U.S. economy becomes increasingly connected to the global one, and as workers seek new ways to cope with the demands of education, child care and career advancement, a whole new generation is taking a look at the dark side.

"Best thing about it is grocery shopping on Tuesday instead of Saturday," joked Margy Schilling, a nurse at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, N.J., who has worked odd shifts for more than 20 years.

Unusual working hours can offer serious benefits, especially for hard-working twenty-somethings and for parents.

"Young people want to sleep until 2 p.m. anyway," said Schilling, a mother of three.

"When the kids were in school, they went to school and I went to bed. When they got out, I was getting up. I didn't miss much of their lives."

Nearly 22 million Americans — about 18 percent of those with jobs — work nights and weekends, according to 2004 figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Men worked alternative shifts more than women, and blacks were more likely to work odd hours than whites, Hispanics or Asians. People with part-time jobs worked more nights or weekends than those with full-time jobs.

Some occupations require more alternative shifts than others. Half of those working full-time in the security field (police, firefighters, guards) worked nights, overnights and weekends, along with 40 percent of the food industry and 38 percent of tourism-related jobs, according to the labor bureau.

"If you work at a hotel, you know that hospitality is a 24-7 job. You are going to have to work some work nights and weekends," said Kendra Walker, spokeswoman for the Hilton family of hotels, which employs about 90,000 workers in more than 2,300 U.S. hotels.

"Most people on the night shift have requested it for one reason or another," she added, citing students who need to take daytime classes, people working several jobs or parents with child care issues.

Employees also may opt for night or weekend shifts because they want to work at a certain hotel where no day jobs are open, she said.

And working unusual hours can allow new employees to bring their skills up to speed as they gain some seniority.

"Managing the front desk is quieter in the evening," Walker noted. "They need to warm up to handle the more hectic pace of the day."

Night shift experience is essential to advance in some job categories, such as front desk employees and security experts, she said. Those involved with event planning and catering know that weekends are going to be full of conferences and weddings.

Other industries that rely heavily on alternative shifts include transportation, shipping, mining, utilities, health care and journalism. And don't forget creative deadline types: Video game programmers, graphic artists and advertising whiz-kids are famous for pulling more overnighters than the college crowd.

Even traditional employers like law firms and banks may have graveyard shifts for support workers. Mark Hubble, 43, works a 12.5-hour overnight shift three days a week in Manhattan editing documents for Davis, Polk & Wardwell, an international law firm.

The father of a 1-year-old girl, Hubble is among many new parents seeking more quality time with their kids.

"This can work," he said. "I've been able to spend a lot more time with Lucy than I would if I had been 9-to-5."

And the arrangement saves money: He hasn't had to pay yet for child care, even though his wife, Marnie, works part-time.

Delta flight attendant Lesley Larson has worked odd shifts for 18 years, but really began to appreciate the option when her daughter was born four years ago.

"I try to limit the time my daughter has to spend at a baby sitter," she explained. "I mostly work around my husband's somewhat normal schedule."

Other young parents plan on checking out the night shift as soon as they can master the chaos of their day. Gina Caroddo, a freelance writer in Brooklyn with a 3-month-old son, often used to work late into the night anyway meeting deadlines.

"I would love to work nights," she said. "A happy parent will be a better parent, and if that means working, then you should do it."

Plan, plan ... and leap; tips for mid-life career changes

BY MEG RICHARDS
Associated Press Writer

Fluorescent lights, cubicles and office politics are things of the past for Cindy Oman. A freelance technical writer, she says being laid off from her corporate job three years ago was one of the best things that's ever happened to her.

Oman now works out of her house, spends more time with her husband, a stay-at-home dad, helps home-school their 7-year-old son and takes 10 weeks off a year. Perhaps best of all, she makes more money than she did before, and her former employer is now one of her clients.

"The biggest thing is, I am a grown-up. I am free. No one tells me when I can take vacation or go to a doctor's appointment or anything," said Oman, 39, of Mesa, Ariz. "Will I ever go back to the gray cubicle where it's so depressing? I don't think so. I'd have to be at the point of losing my house."

Oman, who spent almost two decades on a corporate payroll, is among a growing number of workers who are questioning their career choices and taking dramatic steps to change their lives. Whether motivated by an unexpected job loss, a freshly emptied nest or a final mortgage payment, the thing mid-life career changers seem to crave most is that sense of freedom.

"The words I hear over and over again are flexibility, balance and control. People want control over their own time and life," said Valerie Young, a career counselor in western Massachusetts. "There's a lot of lip service in the corporate world about balance and being family friendly, but the reality is, you go to leave at 5 p.m. and people say, 'half day?'"

A former cubicle-dweller herself, Young abandoned her marketing job _ and 90-mile commute _ in 1995 to found Changing Course, a career counseling service. The decision to switch gears is rarely easy, she said. To do it successfully requires careful planning and, often, a leap of faith.

Waiting until you can't take it anymore isn't smart, she said, because there are no overnight solutions. Most of us can't afford to just quit our jobs, so you'll probably have to keep plugging away while you make your transition.

"I don't encourage people to just leap off career bridges," Young said.

"It takes time and effort."

When you're really unhappy in your job, an honest self-assessment is critical, said Randall Hansen, an associate professor of marketing at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., who runs a Web site called Quintessential Careers.

"If you love what you do but you hate your boss or co-workers or company, you may not need a career change. Maybe you need a job change," Hansen said. "If you like your co-workers but hate what you're doing, it may be time to change your career."

At his Web site, Hansen hears most from people age 18 to 25 who are just starting out, and from those over 40 who are considering radical career changes. Some unhappy workers started out doing something they loved but shifted into jobs they never planned on as they moved up the ladder, he said. This might be true of a teacher who winds up as a school administrator, or a writer who becomes an editor. Others stayed in jobs they hated out of a sense of obligation.

"There are a surprising number of people who sort of come to a mid-life career crisis," Hansen said. "They reach that final straw, whatever it is, and say, 'I need to do something for myself now.'"

If you're among them, here are some practical tips:

PLAN AHEAD.

If your new career requires updated skills, training, certification or an advanced degree, you might need to start the process while still in your old job. Before taking the leap, consider doing an internship or seeking part-time work to see if you really like the field. And prepare yourself financially by socking away extra savings.

DUST OFF YOUR RESUME

If it's been a long time since you looked for work, a couple mock interviews with a career coach could be helpful. You might also seek the advice of a resume doctor. Older workers might keep in mind, Hansen said, that a resume should not necessarily document every job you've ever held. Many experts suggest including just 15 years of experience. And consider removing dates from the education section; they're not relevant.

ON THE NET

Quintessential Careers
http://www.quintcareers.com

Changing Course
http://www.changingcourse.com

3. ELIMINATE ATTITUDE.

In interviews, show flexibility and a willingness to learn new things. "There's a big stereotype about older workers _ that you can't teach an old dog new tricks," Hansen said. "If the job seeker comes off as a know-it-all, they're not going to get the offer."

4. CONSIDER A "PORTFOLIO" CAREER.

Instead of trying to replace your entire income with one job, look for several. "It's much easier to find three $25,000 income streams than one $75,000 job," said Young. You may have to provide your own health insurance, noted Hansen, but you'll probably enjoy greater flexibility.

5. DON'T GO IT ALONE.

"Career change is dramatic, and if you're not successful initially, it can be pretty ego-bruising," Hansen said. Find someone to lean on.

Be aware, however, that the people who love you most may be the least supportive, because they don't want to see you get hurt. "Fear goes with the territory," Young said. "But if you start doubting yourself, this isn't going to work."

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Bridging the divide

Lawmakers look for common ground in passing immigration bill

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate supporters of landmark immigration legislation looked ahead Wednesday to passage of a measure along lines set by President Bush, but they also signaled a willingness to seek common ground with conservatives whose House version would be far tougher on millions of men and women in the country illegally.

With Senate approval assured on Thursday, Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said, "Does anybody have a better approach? Not yet. But we're still open for business."

"If there are some unneeded and unwanted complexities in this legislation, they could probably be smoothed out," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. He said it was good news that new suggestions were coming from the House.

The Senate bill's passage, long assumed, was assured with a decision to limit debate. That 73-25 vote set the stage for final approval Thursday in what will be a bipartisan ratification of legislation that calls for increased border security, a new guest worker program and a shot at citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

By contrast, legislation passed last year by the Republican-controlled House is generally limited to border security. It would expose all of the estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country to felony charges, and it contains no guest worker program.

Contentious compromise talks seemed sure as supporters of the Senate bill beat back the last in a long series of potentially lethal challenges to their handiwork.

An attempt by Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to scuttle the bill on grounds it violated spending limits was turned aside. The vote was 67-31.

For a second consecutive week, the White House dispatched top presidential aide Karl Rove to meet with rank-and-file House Republicans. Officials said his mission was to reassure critics by emphasizing Bush's commitment to stanching the flow of illegal immigrants across the Mexican border. Asked as he departed the Capitol whether he had made progress, he replied, "Could be."

Whatever impact Rove had, supporters of the Senate bill said at a news conference they did not underestimate the difficulties ahead as they seek an election-year compromise.

Numerous conservative House Republicans have denounced the Senate measure as conferring amnesty on lawbreakers. Some have demanded that House leaders refuse to enter compromise discussions with the Senate, and they have warned that giving too much ground could cause conservatives to stay home this November and spell defeat for the party in midterm elections.

> "Regardless of what the president says, what he is proposing is amnesty. I don't think anything is a deal-breaker."
>
> REP. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, R-WIS.,
> **CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and the man who would lead House negotiators, has a reputation for hard bargaining.

Nor is it clear how widespread support is among Democrats for a compromise. Some party strategists argue that Republicans would bear the brunt of public dissatisfaction if Congress failed to act on immigration. In this view, GOP lawmakers would be saddled with defending the votes they cast last winter to millions of Hispanic voters eager for an overhaul of existing law.

On the other hand, Senate Democrats are likely to provide more votes for passage of the measure than Republicans. And one lawmaker from the House, Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., spent time in the Senate recently during debate on a provision for a new program of jobs for migrant farm workers, signaling his interest in having legislation emerge from Congress.

McCain and others said they saw signs of flexibility among House Republicans. They also claimed public support was on their side and said the party would benefit in the fall if the president and the GOP-controlled Congress could agree on legislation.

"The politics of solving this problem is better than the politics of doing nothing," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

McCain, of Arizona, a likely presidential contender in 2008 as well as a key architect of the Senate bill, re-enforced the view. "The American people accept a comprehensive solution," he said. "The president supports one."

"We've had conferences with Chairman Sensenbrenner in the past," said Specter, noting that earlier this year Congress passed a compromise anti-terrorist Patriot Act after particularly contentious negotiations.

In the House, prominent Republicans have sent mixed signals in recent days.

"Regardless of what the president says, what he is proposing is amnesty," Sensenbrenner said last week. He repeated the contention on Sunday, at the same time saying, "I don't think anything is a deal-breaker." Appearing on CBS, he said, "We can't have legal proceedings to deport 11 to 12 million people, that is evident."

A prominent House conservative, Mike Pence of Indiana, added a new dimension to the debate this week, proposing what he called a "real rational middle ground."

He outlined an approach that calls for securing the border, creating a guest worker program to "efficiently provide American employers with willing guest workers who come to America legally" and ordering tough sanctions on employers who hire illegal workers. In remarks at the Heritage Foundation, he added, "The only way to deal with these 12 million people is to insist that they leave the country and come back legally if they have a job awaiting them."

A tale of two bills

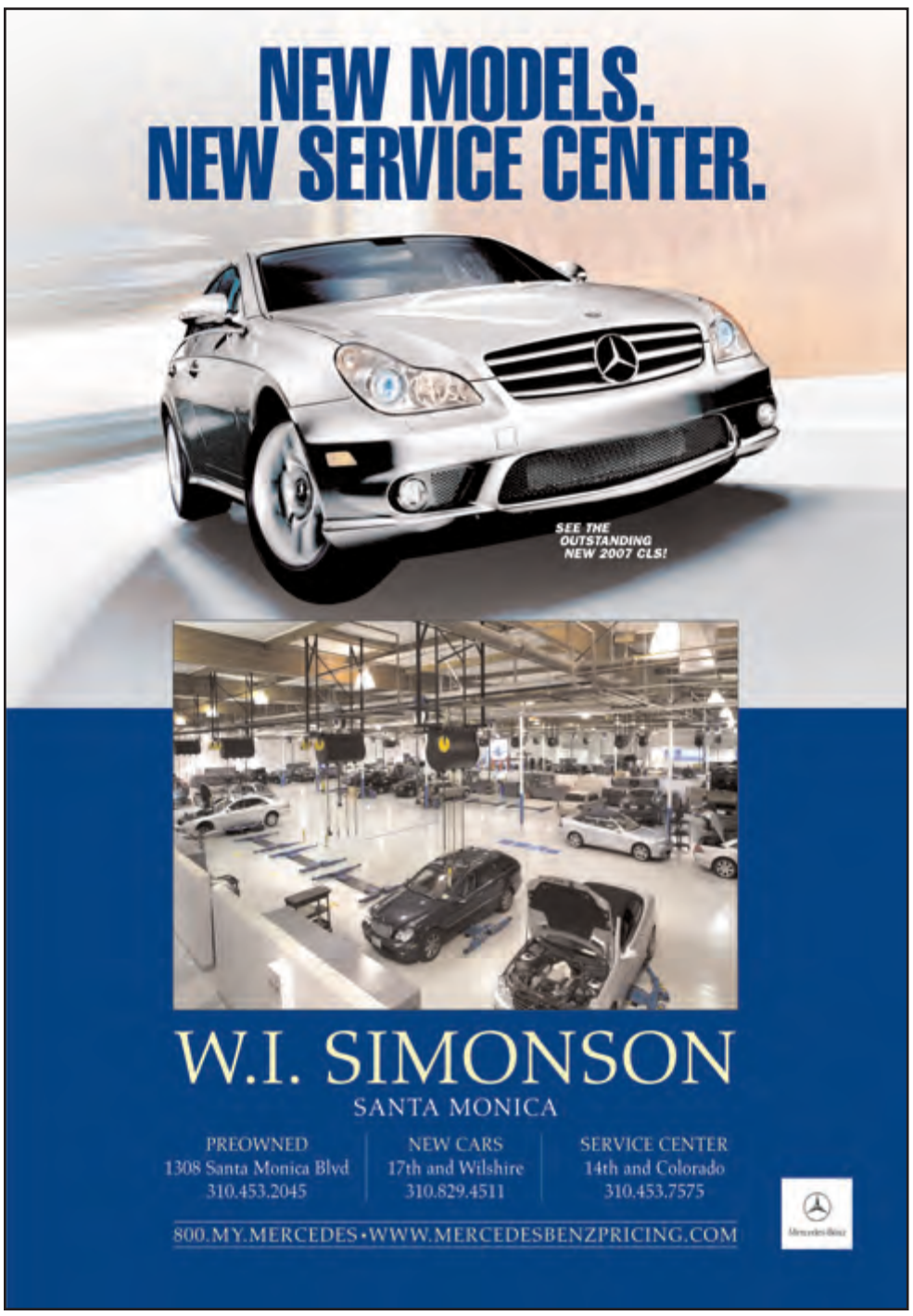
Highlights of immigration and border security bills, one pending in the Senate and another already passed by the House.

Senate bill:

- Allows illegal immigrants who have been in the country five years or more to remain, continue working and eventually become legal permanent residents and citizens after paying at least $3,250 in fines and fees, back taxes and learning English.
- Requires illegal immigrants in the U.S. between two and five years to go to a point of entry at the border and file an application to return.
- Requires those in the country less than two years to leave.
- Illegal immigrants convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors would be deported no matter how long they have been in the U.S.
- Creates a special guest worker program for an estimated 1.5 million immigrant farm workers, who could also earn legal permanent residency.
- Provides 200,000 new temporary "guest worker" visas a year.
- Authorizes 370 miles of new triple-layered fencing plus 500 miles of vehicle barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Authorizes hiring an additional 1,000 Border Patrol agents this year, for a total additional 3,000 agents this year.
- Authorizes additional detention facilities for apprehended illegal immigrants.
- Requires employers and subcontractors to use an electronic system within 18 months to verify new hires are legal. Increases maximum fines to employers for hiring illegal workers to $20,000 for each worker and imposes jail time for repeat offenders.
- Delays by 17 months, until June 1, 2009, a requirement now in law that Americans reentering the U.S. after cruises or short visits to Canada and Mexico show a passport or high-tech identification card.
- Declares English the country's national language.
- Increases the number of H1-B visas for skilled workers from 65,000 to 115,000 annually, beginning in 2007. Immigrants with certain advanced degrees would not be subject to the caps, which could rise by 20 percent depending on labor market demands.

House bill passed in December:

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



Fox: U.S. and Mexico must manage policies on immigration together

BY SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — Mexican President Vicente Fox touched down in the heart of Washington farm country Wednesday, greeting Gov. Chris Gregoire with a kiss on the cheek before heading off to visit a Latino-owned fruit orchard in the nation's leading apple-producing state.

Fox's visit to the agriculture-rich Yakima Valley marked what is believed to be the first visit by a Mexican president to Washington state. It is part of a three-state swing through the Western United States amid an extended national debate over immigration reform.

The two-day visit to Yakima and Seattle will include trade talks and meetings with Hispanic and business groups. It comes as the U.S. Senate considers legislation to strengthen border security, authorize new guest-worker programs and give an eventual chance at citizenship to most of the estimated 12 million people already living illegally in the United States.

Gregoire specifically pressed Fox to stop in Eastern Washington, where thousands of Hispanic workers — many of them illegal immigrants — labor in the agriculture industry, planting and harvesting crops and packing and processing food.

Agriculture remains the state's top industry. As a result, Hispanics comprise up to 90 percent of the population in some farm communities.

In Yakima, Fox planned to tour a 700-acre cherry, apple and pear orchard and an apple-packing warehouse owned by Rene and Carmen Garcia. Their operation, G&G Orchards, is believed to be the only Hispanic-owned apple warehouse in Washington state.

Rene Garcia said he wanted to press Fox for duty-free apple exports in Mexico, where U.S. shippers pay a 46 percent tariff. Mexico is the nation's top export market for apples.

Given the timing of the visit, though, immigration will be the topic of interest at each stop. In Yakima, farmers are worried about a shortage of workers this year amid a border crackdown.

Garcia said he doesn't have any illegal workers, but estimated that 90 percent of farm laborers in the Yakima Valley are in the country illegally. He said he's concerned about a labor shortage.

"Right now, so far, we're looking for a bigger crop this year, and I'm getting nervous," Garcia said. "We're not seeing the people circulating around looking for jobs."

Six busloads of farm workers, farm owners and others selected to welcome Fox assembled for his arrival.

Enrique Diaz, 67, a farmworker originally from Colina, Mexico, has lived in the central Washington city of Pasco for about 30 years. He said he came here to make a better living and has been a citizen since 1976.

Diaz said he hopes the main message Fox walks away with is immigrants' need for amnesty.

"There's a lot of pressure. They're both suffering — people who aren't residents and people who are," Diaz said.

Police set up an area for protesters to gather in a field likely to be on the route Fox will follow from the Yakima airport to the orchard. During his visit to Salt Lake City, several dozen people opposed to offering illegal immigrants amnesty demonstrated outside the Utah Capitol.

While in Yakima, Fox also is scheduled to meet with Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski before flying to Seattle for a town hall meeting with Mexican-Americans and a dinner hosted by Gregoire.

He was greeted at the Yakima airport Wednesday by dignitaries and a pair of local children, Victoria Morales, 9, and her brother Marques, 4, who presented Fox and his wife with flowers.

On Thursday, Fox will attend a breakfast with Washington business leaders in Seattle, visit a community health center, and lunch with other business groups before moving on to California for an address before California lawmakers and meetings with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Earlier Wednesday in a speech to the Utah Legislature, Fox said Mexico does not support undocumented migration and that his country must expand economic growth so it is not necessary for people to seek work and benefits outside his country.

U.S. backs borders

BY AMY TEIBEL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In a policy shift, the White House is praising Israel's plan to set its borders with the Palestinians and is convinced those boundaries could create side-by-side states if a negotiated solution proves elusive.

The course that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert outlined to President Bush is detested by the Palestinians and avoids the contentious issues that have made peace and establishment of a Palestinian state unrealized goals.

Olmert, continuing his rounds in Washington with a speech Wednesday to a joint meeting of Congress, pronounced himself "very, very pleased" with both the atmosphere and the content of his talks with U.S. officials.

Likewise, the president said in a news conference after his White House meeting with Olmert that the Israeli leader had "bold ideas" for unilateral action should talks founder on the internationally backed "road map" peace plan.

Before Olmert arrived Sunday, the Bush administration had urged him to negotiate with the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and bypass the new Hamas leadership. Hamas, branded a terrorist group by the U.S., rejects Israel's right to exist and has refused to renounce violence.

A negotiated solution is the preferred route both for Bush and Olmert, though the president found merit to the prime minister's alternative approach.

"These ideas could lead to a two-state solution if a pathway to progress on the road map is not opened in the period ahead," Bush said.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, an Abbas ally, welcomed Bush's call for negotiations. But he rejected the notion of an imposed solution.

"President Bush said the first option is negotiation," Erekat told The Associated Press. "There is no other option."

Olmert, making his first visit to the U.S. since winning election in March, said he intended to "exhaust every possibility to promote peace with the Palestinians according to the road map."

"I extend my hand in peace to Mahmoud Abbas, the elected president of the Palestinian Authority. I hope he will take the necessary steps which he committed to in order to move forward," Olmert said.

He warned, "We cannot wait indefinitely for the Palestinians to change. ... If we come to the conclusion that no progress is possible, we will be compelled to try a different route."

In Jerusalem, a senior Cabinet member close to Olmert said if Hamas does not recognize Israel and renounce violence within six months Israel will move ahead with plans to unilaterally draw its final borders by 2010.

"If these things don't happen, we won't wait for years, but rather we will wait until the end of this year," Haim Ramon told Israel Radio. "This will be a year of diplomacy."

"First negotiations, and after the negotiations, if it doesn't succeed and it becomes clear that there is no (Palestinian) partner, we will move ahead with the consolidation plan," Ramon said.

Olmert gave Abbas a tall order, saying after six hours of meetings and dinner with Bush that Abbas would have to disarm Palestinian militant groups; the Palestinian government would have to recognize Israel; and previous agreements would have to be fully put in place.

Fighting has intensifying between Abbas loyalists and Hamas gunmen, and Hamas has refused to moderate its stance on Israel, raising questions about the Palestinian president's ability to deliver.

Abbas refused to disarm Palestinian factions even before Hamas swept to power in January parliamentary elections, fearing that would provoke civil war. Hamas has rejected international demands that it lay down its guns, recognize Israel and honor previous peace agreements.

Olmert told reporters he would meet with Abbas, but did not say when.

In his appearance with Bush, Olmert reaffirmed his ideas for Israel's final borders: The major Jewish settlement blocs on the West Bank where most of the 250,000 settlers live would become part of Israel, with most other settlements dismantled.

A senior U.S. official said the administration became more comfortable with the unilateral alternative because it grew convinced Olmert was serious about trying to negotiate with Abbas. It also thinks that if efforts to negotiate fail, then Olmert's ideas could be compatible with the ultimate goal of a viable Palestinian state, even if the Palestinians had little hand in creating it, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was describing private talks.

The Palestinians are pressing for a full withdrawal from the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

In addition, Olmert's plan does not begin to tackle the complex issues that have doomed peace talks before, including the status of Jerusalem. Israel claims as its capital; the Palestinians mark its eastern sector as the capital of their future state.

On Capitol Hill, the House voted Tuesday to ban U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority and to bar diplomatic contacts with Hamas. The Senate is considering a less restrictive bill. Bush opposes the legislation on the ground that it goes too far.

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Trains late on arrival

BY KWANG-TAE KIM
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Wednesday abruptly canceled groundbreaking test runs of trains across its highly guarded border with South Korea, citing an atmosphere of confrontation.

Thursday's scheduled test runs along rebuilt railroads would have been the first time trains crossed the Korean border in more than a half-century, and were a high-profile part of efforts at a detente between North and South Korea since a pivotal summit of their leaders in 2000.

Train service between the Koreas was halted in June 1951.

South Korean Vice Unification Minister Shin Eon-sang described the last-minute, unilateral delay as "very regrettable" and said South Korea would take necessary steps in response, though he didn't elaborate.

"The responsibility for the collapse of scheduled trial runs lies in North Korea," Shin said. "The government urges North Korea to take sincere steps to ensure that test runs of trains can be made at the earliest date."

North Korean official Pak Jong Song informed the South on Wednesday that "it is impossible to conduct the trial operation" as scheduled because of the failure of the two Koreas to reach a military agreement on the trains' operations, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

In a message sent to his South Korean counterpart, Pak also criticized "pro-U.S., ultra-right conservative forces" in the South for burning the North Korean flag and "pushing the situation in Korea to an extreme phase of confrontation and war."

"We will wait for an appropriate time to come for the trial train operation between the North and the South after a military guarantee is provided by the military authorities of both sides and the situation in the South returns to normal," said Pak, the head of the North's group on the rail and road issue.

Tensions between Washington and Pyongyang are party to blame for the delay, said Paik Hak-soon, a research fellow at South Korea's independent Sejong Institute. He said the North's military was slamming the brake on inter-Korean relations. Washington denies it has any such plans.

"The North's military has no choice but to flex its muscle amid growing danger," Paik said.

At high-level military talks between the Koreas last week, the sides failed to come to an agreement on a military protocol to guarantee travelers' safety during cross-border travel via the reconnected rail and road links.

South Korean news reports had said the test runs would go ahead under the 1953 armistice agreement that halted the Korean War and a 2003 tentative agreement on travel across the border.

South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung called for a meeting with his North Korean counterpart, saying more cooperation between the two countries' militaries was necessary. Such a meeting was held once in September 2000, but the North has never agreed to a second one.

Exchanges "on the military issue are a little unsatisfactory," Yoon told reporters in Seoul. "There should be exchanges on all fronts between the South and the North if we are to sustain peace on the Korean Peninsula or work toward a peaceful unification."

Every day, some 500 people travel from the South to Kaesong, a joint industrial park just north of the border, while about 1,000 South Koreans a day visit North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort using two road links running parallel with the railways, according to the Unification Ministry.

Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Il at the June 2000 summit, is planning to travel to the North next month and had pressed to travel there by train.

Shin said North Korea should honor its commitment to allow Kim Dae-jung to make the trip, but it was unclear whether he would travel by rail.

Despite the strides in relations between the Koreas since 2000, further cooperation has been hampered by the North's refusal to heed international calls to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Border Patrol seizes more marijuana as drug runners join migrants

BY MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press Writer

SASABE, Mexico — Weighed down by 50-pound sacks of marijuana, they hike through the desert for days to reach remote drop-off points in the United States, then sneak back across the Mexican border.

They are seldom illegal immigrants, but drug runners, physically fit and able to carry heavy loads for long distances. In some cases, it's been the family business for generations.

Lately, they're getting caught running more drugs than ever — often over the same desert routes used by undocumented migrants — with the U.S. Border Patrol reporting a sharp increase in the amount of marijuana seized.

The Border Patrol's Tucson, Ariz., sector confiscated almost as much marijuana in the first 7 1/2 months of this fiscal year as it did all of last year, and seizures are up all along the border.

"These are often second- and third-generation smugglers. This is what they do for a living, and once they deliver a load, they simply go back" into Mexico, said Gustavo Soto, a spokesman for the Tucson sector.

Agents seized 441,482 pounds of marijuana between Oct. 1 and May 17 in the sector, compared to about 489,000 pounds for all the preceding fiscal year ending in September. Across the entire border, the Border Patrol has seized 957,638 pounds of marijuana this year, up from 755,914 pounds in the same period last year.

That figures include drugs smuggled into the United States in vehicles driven into the desert, but increasing border security measures like fences and vehicles barriers appear to be making that more difficult.

Soto said the backpackers — known as narcotics "mules" — "wander in the desert for anywhere from two to possibly even four days until they get to their destination."

The drug runs are so difficult that Steve Robertson, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency special agent who has worked along the Texas border, says the average migrant couldn't make them.

Soto attributes the rise in seizures to increased border security, including sensors, cameras and a variety of desert vehicles.

But Mexico's Attorney General, Daniel Cabeza de Vaca, said cartels are also becoming more reliant on income from marijuana.

"We know that marijuana is becoming more and more important (for the cartels) and that cocaine is on its way down," he said.

Changing U.S. drug habits — like the increasing popularity of synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamines — also have cut into cocaine's profitability, experts say.

On Monday, Mexican federal agents announced one of the biggest marijuana seizures in recent memory: 8.4 tons of pot, packed among fertilizer inside a truck bound for the U.S. border.

Border Patrol cocaine seizures are down to 5,260 pounds so far this fiscal year, from the 6,406 pounds seized in the same period last year.

The figures do not include drugs seized at formal border crossing points, which are the responsibility of U.S. Customs. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Todd Fraser said the surge in marijuana seizures may be short-lived, and may force traffickers to use other tactics.

"In the short term, you may see an increase," he said, "but I think over the long term there may be a decline, as these drug trafficking organizations say 'Hey, they're intercepting our loads. It's not worth it smuggling over these traditional routes.'"

The recent discovery of smuggling tunnels under the border may be a sign of the traffickers' desperation, he said.

"We look at this as a success," Fraser said. "We're literally forcing these people underground."

The two phenomena — illegal immigration and marijuana smuggling — may overlap only in geography and tactics, officials say.

"We have no evidence that (drug traffickers) are getting involved in migrant smuggling," Cabeza de Vaca said. Soto noted that only on "rare occasions" are immigrants found carrying drugs, in some cases as a way to pay the fees smugglers charge for guiding them through the desert.

But drug traffickers and immigrant smugglers both are increasingly likely to attack U.S. personnel who try to detain them, U.S. officials say.

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'Bigger Bang' takes lumps

By The Associated Press

LONDON — The Rolling Stones have postponed the first 15 dates of their European tour as guitarist Keith Richards recovers from a head injury.

Stones publicist LD Communications said Wednesday the European leg of the band's "A Bigger Bang" tour, which had been due to start Saturday in Barcelona, Spain, would now begin in July at a venue and city to be announced.

The postponed gigs were scheduled for Barcelona and Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium; Paris; Bergen, Norway; Horsens, Denmark; Gothenburg, Sweden; St. Petersburg, Russia; Brno, Czech Republic; Warsaw, Poland; Vienna, Austria; Milan, Italy; Athens, Greece; and Zagreb, Croatia.

The postponement of the two Paris shows on June 3 and July 2 was announced Tuesday by French organizers.

Richards, 62, was injured April 27 in Fiji. News reports variously claimed that he fell out of a palm tree or from a jet ski. Richards later had surgery in New Zealand to relieve pressure in his head.

The Stones' official fan Web site said in a statement Monday that Richards had returned to the United States — he has a home in Westport, Conn. — and was "feeling great."

LONDON — Elton John has accepted $188,000 in libel damages from a newspaper over allegations that he had asked guests not to approach him at a charity ball.

Associated Newspapers Ltd., which publishes The Daily Mail, paid the damages, according to John's attorney, Hanna Basha. The Sunday Times, which reprinted the Mail article, agreed on a confidential settlement earlier this year, Basha said Wednesday.

The allegations surrounded the 59-year-old pop star's behavior at his annual Tie and Tiara charity ball.

The Mail claimed in its June 24 article that John had issued a "bizarre" edict for guests not to approach him.

NEW YORK — Meryl Streep is narrating a pair of children's classics, "The Velveteen Rabbit" and "The Night Before Christmas," that will be released later this year as audiobooks at Starbucks coffeehouses.

"This is continuing our commitment to providing customers with compelling family entertainment titles," Starbucks Entertainment President Ken Lombard told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The audiobooks feature musical accompaniment by George Winston, the Edwin Hawkins Singers and others. After an initial four-month run at Starbucks, Random House Inc.'s Listening Library will give the recordings a general release.

Starbucks Corp. has been expanding its entertainment offerings over the past few years, releasing CDs by Ray Charles and the Rolling Stones, among others, and promoting the movie "Akeelah and the Bee."

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — An English-language version of Ingmar Bergman's official Web site went online this week.

The site, which includes thousands of photographs, video clips and texts about the famed film director and his work, was launched in Swedish in September.

Bergman, whose "Fanny and Alexander" won an Oscar for best foreign film in 1984, will turn 88 on July 14. He has stopped making films and retired from the stage. He now lives on a small island in the Baltic Sea and seldom appears in public.

The Web site, which is run by the Ingmar Bergman Foundation, focuses on his internationally famous works in film and television, his less well-known radio plays, theater and opera productions, and his books and essays, said Jon Asp, the site's chief editor.

In 2001, Bergman donated his collected archives to the Swedish Film Institute, which set up the Ingmar Bergman Foundation to administer, preserve and provide information about his collected artistic works.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Clumsy but lovable as a single mom on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," Teri Hatcher has signed on to voice quite a different mother in the new animated feature "Coraline."

Hatcher will voice both the mother and the "other mother" of a young girl (voiced by Dakota Fanning), The Oregonian reported in Tuesday's editions. The "other mother" is a sinister reflection of Coraline's real mom.

"Coraline" will be the first feature film from Nike Corp. chairman Phil Knight's Portland animation studio, Laika Entertainment. The movie will be adapted from the children's novel by Neil Gaiman.

Last week, Laika Entertainment announced that it will partner with Focus Features to distribute the movie, expected to be released in 2008.

NEW YORK — Some Sept. 11 relatives are angry that another family member allowed film crews to shoot footage in a private mourning room for Penn & Teller's Showtime television show.

The Family Room was set up at the Lower Manhattan Development Corp.'s offices in 2002 as an interim memorial to those killed in the 2001 terrorist attacks. A sign posted outside the room bans "members of the press" from entering.

In February, a film crew went into the room with family member Anthony Gardner. Gardner said Monday he wanted to show the producers a photo of his brother Harvey.

Some footage appeared in the comedy-and-magic duo's "Penn & Teller: Bulls---!" in an episode about rebuilding at ground zero that aired May 1.

Santa Monica Daily Press MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006

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

Da Vinci Code
11:00am
Goal! The Dream Begins (PG)
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Just My Luck (PG-13)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
RV (PG)
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30
United 93 (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

An American Haunting (PG-13)
7:30, 9:40
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20
Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
12:30, 1:20, 3:20, 4:10, 6:10, 7:20, 9:00, 10:20
Poseidon (PG-13)
11:30am, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:30
Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
12:00am
See No Evil (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Da Vinci Code, The (PG-13)
12:20, 1:30, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50, 10:30
Keeping Up With the Steins (PG-13)
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Over the Hedge (PG)
12:10, 1:00, 2:35, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

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

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

Down in the Valley (R)
4:30, 9:50
Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Sketches of Frank Gehry (PG-13)
12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55
Wah-Wah (R)
1:45, 7:20
Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: **calendar@smdp.com**

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1844, the first telegraphed news dispatch, sent from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, appeared in the Baltimore Patriot.
In 1895, playwright Oscar Wilde was convicted of a morals charge in London; he was sentenced to prison.
In 1935, Babe Ruth hit the 714th and final home run of his career, for the Boston Braves, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.
In 1946, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, King Abdullah Ibn Ul-Hussein.
In 1961, President Kennedy asked the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.
In 1968, the Gateway Arch, part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, was dedicated.
In 1976, U.S. Rep. Wayne L. Hays, D-Ohio, admitted to a "personal relationship" with Elizabeth Ray, a committee staff member who claimed she'd received her job in order to be Hays' mistress.

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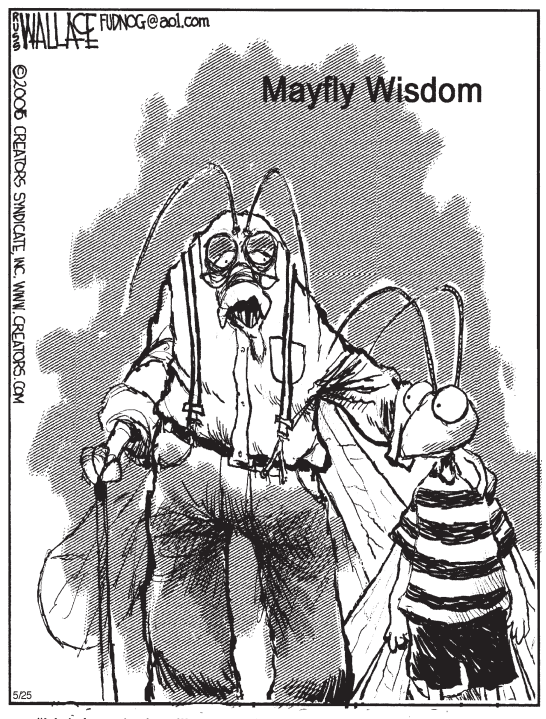
By Russ Wallace



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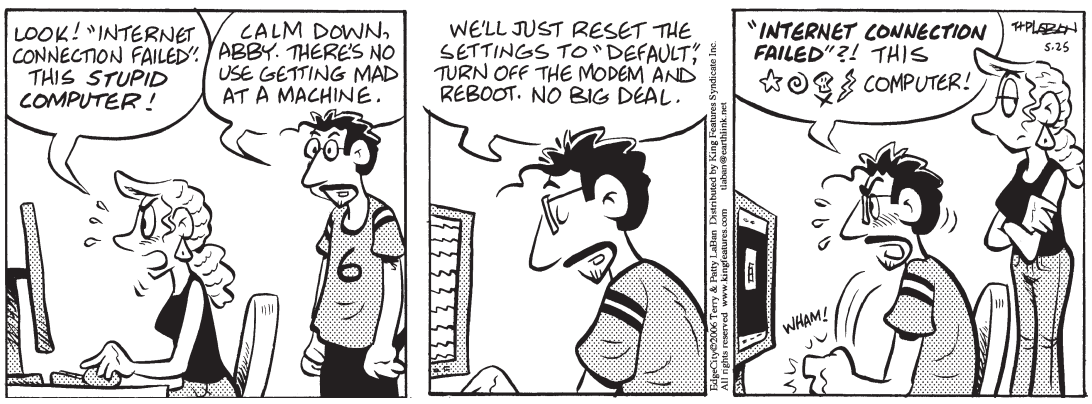

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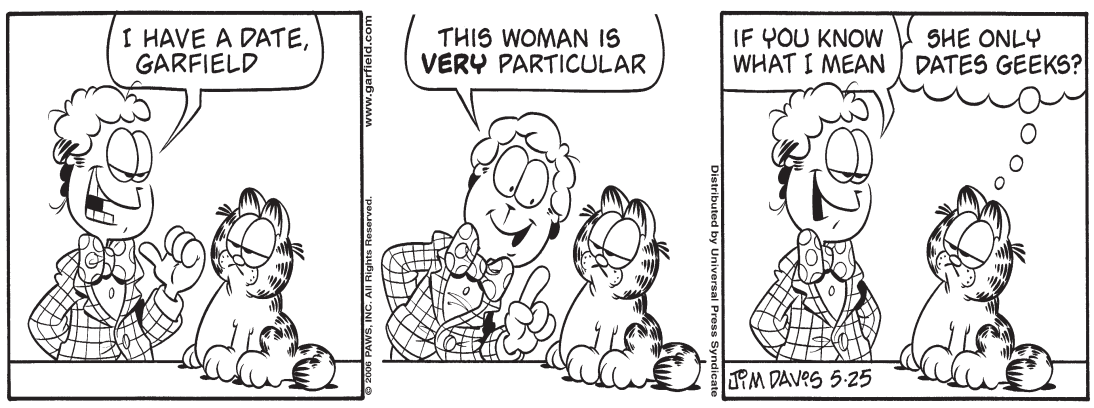

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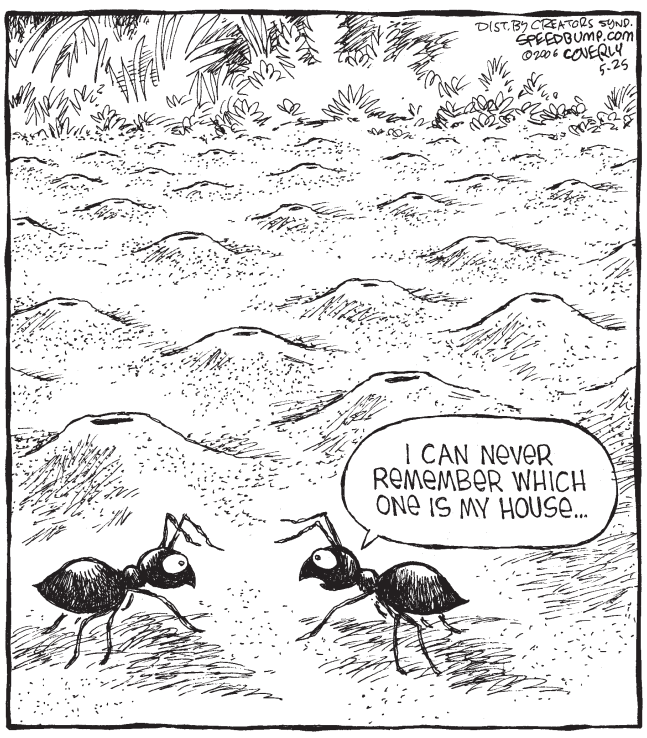

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Not barefoot
5 South African coins
10 Move slowly
11 Overeat
12 Singer Fitzgerald
13 Indifference
14 Kept in reserve
16 Like a hot rod
20 Yacht lot
23 GI-entertaining org.
24 Epps and Sharif
25 Purloined
27 Piper of myth
28 Café, e.g.
29 Added excitement to
32 Prepared to play
36 "King of the Trumpet"
39 Mystique
40 Grands, e.g.
41 Lobster part
42 Giuliani and Vallee
43 Pipe bends

DOWN

1 Beholds
2 Sentry's order
3 Capital on a fjord
4 Letter opener
5 Shred
6 Clearly stunned
7 Canceling word
8 "Well, that's obvious!"
9 Hog home
11 Petruchio's town
15 Millennia
17 High noble
18 Manual reader
19 Race runner
20 Janitors' tools
21 "Do I need to draw you —?"
22 Indian princess
25 Stretched
26 Serene
28 Does copy work
30 Gary Sinise series
31 Franc replacers
33 Boring
34 Russian river
35 Hound's hands
36 Spr. mo.
37 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
38 Suffered from

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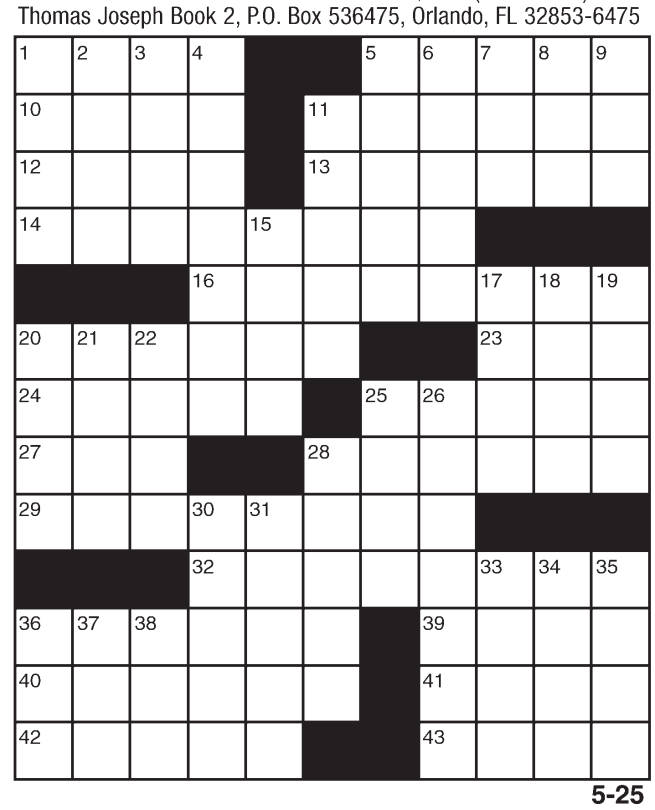

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SANTA MONICA $1350/mo 2bdrms/1Bath, No pets, New Carpets, Parking, laundry, stove, paid water/trash/gardner (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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SANTA MONICA 1244 11th St. unit d 2+1.5 bath upper unit, stove blinds carpet on-site laundry, balcony, parking, no pets $1750/mo (310) 393-6322 jkwproperties.com

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Classifieds

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* As of January 11, 2006
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ESTATE SALE: Everything must go! Pacific Palisades. 450 Wynola St. Sat. May 27th 8am-sundown. Fully furnished 4 bedroom, art, major appliances, tools, etc.

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Notices

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 PRO-BATE requests that Mark J. Saladino, Public Administrator be appointed as personal representa-tive to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal repre-sentative 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 ap-pear 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
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
CN754571 WILEY May 18,19,25, 2006

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(UCC Sec. 6105)
Escrow No. L-023043-GK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) is/are: JULIE A. KIM, 500 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
Doing business as: CAFFE DIVINE
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: NONE
The location in California of the Chief Executive Office of the seller is: SAME
The name(s) and business address of the buyer(s) is/are: SOON WHA CHOI, 2242 TERRAZA PLACE, FULLERTON, CA 92035
The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, EQUIPMENT, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS and is located at: 500 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: TOWER ESCROW INC, 3600 WILSHIRE BLVD #426, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010, ESCROW NO. L-023043-GK, ESCROW OFFICER: GINA KIM and the anticipated sale date is JUNE 13, 2006
The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: TOWER ESCROW INC, 3600 WILSHIRE BLVD #426, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010, ESCROW NO. L-023043-GK, ESCROW OFFICER: GINA KIM and the last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be JUNE 12, 2006, which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above.
Dated: MAY 11, 2006
SOON WHA CHOI, Buyer(s)
PCTS LA118699 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 5/25/2006

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 0930337 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CATALYST FOR CHANGE PRODUCTIONS, 830 CHILDS WAY, #513, LOS ANGELES, CA 90089. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JAMES P. GLEASON, 830 CHILDS WAY, #513, LOS ANGELES, CA 90089 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/18/2006. /s/: JAMES P. GLEASON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/27/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 5/25/2006, 6/1/2006, 6/8/2006, 6/15/2006

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Santa Monica Daily Press

***Terms and conditions.** Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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