

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

The city's only daily newspaper.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

The sign above the entrance to the Santa Monica Pier advertises boating, but there has not been boat activities for decades.

Officials propose banning public sculpting activities

But proposal has sparked concerns over censorship and civil liberties

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council will soon determine if sculpting is an art form suitable for street performing.

On any given day, a handful of people can be found braiding palm leaves or strips of paper into caricatures of insects and religious symbols along the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Pier.

They sell their fare for pocket change to passersby along two of the city's busiest attractions. For their work, they must obtain permits from the city — which has long regulated outdoor performers on the Promenade and pier.

City officials are now asking the city council to remove sculpting entirely as an art form for public performances. Because the law doesn't allow selling handcrafts as a performance, many people use a sculpting permit to get around the law, city officials said.

And the practice of folding palm fronds, in their opinion, is not art because it creates a series of very similar pieces,

which can be made quickly and with materials that cost next to nothing.

"It's very lucrative to make quickly-made handcrafts," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "I don't believe that's what the council intended when they authorized artists to work there in the first place."

"I am concerned that sculpture is indeed an art-form, and I believe more could have been done to separate tacky, mass-produced crafts from the art form itself."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem

Since there are few true "sculptors" working on the Promenade or pier, and because the line between art and handcrafts is unclear, Moutrie has recommended that all sculpting be banned.

"It's hard to draw a line between hand-

See SCULPTING, page 5

Boat harbor could be in pier's future

Breakwater project could bring sport fishing back to SM Pier

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite that its entrance sign says there's yacht fishing off of the Santa Monica Pier, there hasn't been for decades. But that may change.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to rebuild the breakwater seaward off the pier, which would include a harbor and a dock for boats.

Over the past few decades, the 2,000-foot-long sea wall has slowly deteriorated, leaving now only a glimpse of it at low tide.

The Army Corps plans to repair the existing breakwater, rebuild 900 feet of it and construct a small boulder field to restore the rocky habitat. Not only will it provide recreational opportunities for the pier, but it also will protect the shoreline, said Don Spencer, project manager for the Army Corps.

The Army Corps was ready to begin the project a few years ago, but the city of Santa Monica held off on completing a state-mandated environmental review, Spencer said.

The U.S. Congress had earmarked money for the new breakwater, but

because the city delayed the project, the funding was appropriated to other projects, Spencer said.

"We've delayed it for about two years," he said. "When the (Environmental Impact Review) is complete, we'll request the federal funding."

"There are recreational aspects to it so people are able to pay money to go out and fish like they do in Marina Del Rey and Redondo Beach."

— DON SPENCER
Project manager

The federal government plans to pay \$4.7 million toward the project, with the city of Santa Monica providing \$2.5 million. The U.S. Coast Guard will contribute \$40,000.

The city has delayed the environmental review because it relates to another planned project at the pier, said city planner Jay Trevino.

Because the environmental review for See PIER, page 5

Rare hippo living in SoCal back yard seized by state

By The Associated Press

ESCONDIDO — A rare 500-pound pygmy hippopotamus that has been living in a suburb for more than a decade has been seized by state officials incredulous they haven't known about the creature.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it," state Fish and Game warden Zeke Awbrey said Friday.

"No one expects to find a giant hippo living in someone's back yard."

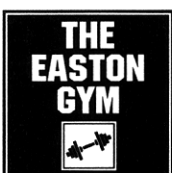
Paul Garcia, a spokesman for the San Diego Zoo, said there are 2,000 to 4,000 pygmy hippos remaining in the wild. The zoo has one in captivity.

Dr. Arthur Stehly, who owned the female pygmy hippo, declined comment. Fish and Game officials could not give details because an investigation continues on why Stehly did not have a permit for the animal.

"He loves animals and just likes collecting them," Awbrey said. "He just made a bad error this time."

The hippo, believed to be 12- to 15-years-old, was taken to the Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Ramona. On June 1, it is scheduled to be taken by truck to the Peace River

See HIPPO, page 6



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Tonight could be a long night, Sag

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Take off early if you need to do some traveling today. If nothing else, pick up the phone and contact others at a distance. Invite friends over for a spontaneous get-together, if you can, enjoying every last minute of this long weekend. Tonight: Who says it has to be an early night?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Relate to others in your customary intense style. Not everyone will respond to your thinking and actions, but most people will. Even in a group situation, focus on each individual, one at a time. You convey well the essence of who you are. Tonight: Spend time with a favorite person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use your sense of humor to get past a problem. Your sensitivity takes you in a new direction with others. Sometimes others see you as mainly witty and verbal. Focus on groups, meetings and general holiday celebrations! Tonight: The party could go on till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You're more likely to relax and enjoy those around you. Nurture others. Do whatever is necessary to help loved ones and friends put up their feet and relax. You might opt to fill in for another at work. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your creativity and sense of joy come out among those you're with. You energize others and make them feel so much happier. Still, remember you have your limits. If you need to take a break, there is no time like the present. Tonight: Slow down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Stay focused on your primary goals and don't get distracted by what is going on around you. Another might not be on the same page as you. Don't make it a big deal. Simply flow with others. Make your family and home your highest priority. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You enjoy gabbing with friends, family and neighbors. As a result, you maximize the nature of this holiday and catch up on everyone's news. You might even crash a party or two! Others welcome you with open arms. Tonight: Make a call you have been putting off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Recognize your limits when dealing with finances and expenditures. Though others might be in the mood to gab away, you certainly aren't! Do your own thing without affecting others. Close the door if you need to get a lot done. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Whatever you do seems to fit the bill. Others respond to you with ease. Plan something that appeals to you, and others will happily join in. Use your magic touch to zero in on something of prime importance. Remember, timing is everything. Tonight: Could be a long night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ You might feel more like a recluse than a player. Relax the way you want to. For once, don't feel like you have to conform to others' desires. Schedule your day according to your needs and best interests. Flow with an opportunity. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Where your friends are is where the happy Water Bearer needs to be. Express the gregarious nature of your personality. Invite your pals and friends over for a barbecue. Don't think you can change someone. Just enjoy this person for who he or she is. Tonight: Flip the burger.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Make a must appearance, and before you know it, you're having a great time. A parent or older friend requests a lot of your time. Don't make this into a big deal. Just realize how important you are to this person. Move with the moment. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

QUOTE of the DAY

“I do not take a single newspaper, nor read one a month, and I feel myself infinitely the happier for it.”

— Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Corpse Investigation coming to a close

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — An investigation involving the handling of more than 300 bodies donated in the 1990s to the University of California, Irvine for research is coming to a close with no charges expected.

Christopher S. Brown, the mortician who was running UCI's Willard Body Program, was fired in September 1999 amid allegations that bodies were mishandled. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors said Friday they lacked sufficient evidence to charge Brown.

"It's tragic and personally painful for the families who have had this happen to them," said Assistant District Attorney Bob Molko. "Whether it's a crime or not is a separate issue."

The allegations involved the sale of body parts for a profit and giving survivors the wrong ashes.

Relatives of 20 donors are suing the school.

Some of the families met Friday with a court-appointed mediator in preparation for talks with UCI scheduled for next month. The families believe those talks could lead to a monetary settlement.

"It's not the money, though," said Joe Melican, whose father's body was donated to UCI in July 1999. "It's getting them to take some responsibility."

UCI attorney Lou Marlin would not confirm the settlement talks.

Drunk driver kills church-goer

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — On most mornings for more than two decades, 75-year-old Maria De la Cruz Rodriguez walked three blocks from her home to attend mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

She died Saturday after a suspected drunken driver struck her as she walked to the church.

After the crash, a priest from Our Lady of Guadalupe came to her.

"I knelt down in the street," said the Rev. Guillermo Garcia. "She had always wanted to have a priest present at her death. She always said that."

Rodriguez was legally crossing North Milpas Street and had almost reached the other side when she was hit, authorities said.

Officers booked the driver, Moses Lueth, 24, on suspicion of vehicular homicide and driving under the influence. He was being held Sunday in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Environmentalists sued over luxury condos

By The Associated Press

OJAI — An environmental group has sued this picturesque city known as a hide-away for movie stars and spa-seeking tourists in an effort to stop the building of 23 luxury condominiums in downtown.

"I think this is about the biggest housing project we have ever seen," said Stan Greene of Citizens to Preserve the Ojai. "Basically, we think it is too massive and too intense."

The group has placed an initiative on the November ballot that would give voters authority to reject any future developments that increase traffic.

City leaders contend the initiative is an attempt to halt growth in what is already the smallest and slowest-growing city in Ventura County, one of the most growth-restricted counties in the nation.

They have sued to remove the measure from the ballot. A hearing is set for Friday in Ventura County Superior Court.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Banners displaying a waving American flag line Main Street on Sunday.

Banners depict beginning of new patriotic tradition

By Daily Press staff

This Memorial Day weekend will kick-off a new patriotic tradition in Santa Monica.

Banners displaying a picture of an American flag flowing in the breeze will don lampposts lining Main Street between Colorado Boulevard and Pico Boulevard, in front of the city's Civic Center.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the city council asked the city to recognize in a tasteful manner the new sense of patriotism and unity across the country.

The city special ordered 22 of the banners and — including putting them up and taking them down for the entire year — the entire patriotic endeavor cost the city \$3,000.

The banners will remain up during Memorial Day, Flag Day and until the Fourth of July. Then the banners will be taken down until Labor Day, when they will re-appear and be flown until Sept. 11.

Following that, all national holidays, including Veterans Day and Presidents' Day, will be celebrated in part with the banners.



The city of Santa Monica is facing an \$8 million revenue shortfall this year. City administrators have proposed slashing more than \$2 million from City Hall's departmental operating budgets. And millions of dollars in capital improvements will be cut from what was budgeted last year. That means many projects will be put on hold indefinitely.

Some residents have suggested that the city could run a much tighter ship.

City officials are meeting this week to begin figuring out how painful the cuts are going to be.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Where would you cut from the city budget?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LOCAL

The FunHog
By Dan Dunn

Pond scum adventures lead to true LA exposure

The first time I rang, after one of those just-too-long pauses, he "wasn't in." So I left a brief, casual-yet-firm message on Mr. Fong's voice mail. Eight frustrating days and four unreturned calls later, I called again and finally got someone on the line who identified herself as Mr. Fong's assistant.

"He's not available right now," she hissed, her voice dripping with contempt. "You'll have to leave your number."

"I've left my number too many damn times already," I counter-hissed, my patience wearing thinner than Billy Bob Thornton on a three-month protein diet.

"I'm sorry, who did you say you were WITH?"

"With? I'm not WITH anyone, and what difference does it ... look, could you please just explain to me WHY Mr. Fong is unfailingly unavailable?"

"Mr. Fong is in a meeting."

Sure, L.A. has its challenges. Homicidal traffic. Corrupt cops. High rent and earthquakes. Hordes of people who dress better than you. It all goes with the town. But nobody should have to take this kind of abuse.

"Mr. Fong," I told his assistant, "is always in a meeting. Everyone in this damn town is always in a meeting. Tell me — because I'm new here — is anybody in Los Angeles capable of ... of ... of doing anything without having a meeting about it first?"

"Sure," she sneered. Click.

Hey, did I mention Mr. Fong is my dry cleaner? Check that. Mr. Fong is my Hollywood dry cleaner. That does not, of course, necessarily mean that he's located in Hollywood, any more than I live "in" L.A. (Santa Monica is its own city, now isn't it?). It's a case of attitude outranking geography. But being a Hollywood dry cleaner does mean that Mr. Fong takes meetings all day long. I'm sure these include important concept development sessions with the screenwriter who drives the delivery truck, the actress who works the steam press, and the producer who parks cars at the restaurant across the street. All of whom, incidentally, would likely ignore my calls as well, if the opportunity presented itself.

This pervasive snubbishness stems from the commonly-held notion that, at any given moment, one's standing in the Hollywood community can be measured in direct proportion to who you can afford to not call back. It's a brutal food chain — and the only possible reason I've not called my mom back for, wow, must be going on two weeks now.

"The call back is how you let people know what kind of leverage you've got in this town," said my friend and quasi career counselor Wendy, who was recently elevated to the rank of junior executive at a cable network. Wendy celebrated her promotion by waiting nearly three days before returning a call to former "Two Close for Comfort" star Jim J. Bullock. She likened my stints as a rather success-

ful newspaper columnist in Aspen and Phoenix to being a big fish in a little pond.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. And now that I'm in L.A., I'm just a little fish in a big pond, right?" I grumbled, making a mental note to remove the "fish" line from the dialogue in my latest screenplay, "Fun Things To Do With Mud."

She shook her head.

"No? Well, what am I then?"

"Pond scum. Don't take it personally."

"Pond scum?"

"Yes," she said in a voice reserved for telling 12-year-olds they didn't make the team. "But we're going to change all that. People are going to start calling you back soon enough. Hell, someday they'll even call without you having to call them first."

To that heady end, Wendy passed on a screenplay I wrote to an agent friend of hers — a real hotshot, who recently started his own agency after several years of grooming at UTA or CAA or ADD ... someplace like that. She told me he was going to call me, and that his name was Fisher.

"What's his first name?" I asked. "Or should I just call him Mr. Fisher?"

"No, silly. Fisher is his first name."

I tried, unsuccessfully, to suppress a giggle.

"What's the matter? Haven't you ever met a guy named Fisher?"

"I grew up in a tough neighborhood in Philly," I told Wendy. "Abandoned crack babies have a better survival rate than a boy named Fisher. With a name like that, he would have been snowballed to death in preschool."

"You best be nice to Fisher," Wendy advised. "He's big-time. He can really help your career."

No reason to ask the obvious question: If Fisher was so big-time, what the hell was he doing calling me? Perhaps his doctor told him he wasn't getting enough pond scum in his diet. It didn't matter. The only thing that did was that I had finally arrived in Hollywood. Somebody was calling me. And soon.

When the call finally came, you can bet I was doubly impressed that it came from Fisher's secretary, who then patched me through to Fisher's cell phone. Apparently, there is a sub-category in this Hollywood phone call food chain that has to do with the actual pushing of the buttons and "where" you take the call.

For instance, anyone talking "first-look" deals through a mouthful of McNuggets is likely slipping down the ladder. If, on the other hand, you get someone on the line who asks you to hold on while he adjusts the palm frond waving rate of the nubian boys in his suite at the Peninsula, well, you might be getting somewhere.

"So a couple of thoughts on your script," said Fisher, the sound of rush hour traffic in the background. "First off, my friend, you gotta lose the strip club ... why

See FUNHOG, next page

LOCAL



Having boats at pier has its advantages, drawbacks

PIER, from page 1

the breakwater will study traffic impacts, city officials decided to hold off until it designs a proposed ramp to the parking lot north of the pier.

"Much of the data for the breakwater relies on the data for the ramp to the 1550 lot," Trevino said. "The (ramp to the pier) is moving forward relatively soon and so the breakwater project is back on track."

The Army Corps had estimated that the environmental review would be completed by this July. However, it may be another year before a report is done. Spencer estimates that the project could begin construction sometime next year.

"There is a need for it," Spencer said. "There are recreational aspects to it so people are able to pay money to go out and fish like they do in Marina Del Rey and Redondo Beach."

Jan Palchikoff, executive director for the Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier, said while a boat harbor has definite advantages to tourism, it could be

too much of a draw.

"From a tourism standpoint, it could diversify the offerings there and create a lot of opportunities to use the pier, but there may be significant impacts on the pier," she said. "I think there is a lot to be looked at still."

And there could be significant environmental impacts, too. The purpose of the breakwater is to minimize the wave energy before it hits the shore, but that also means the shoreline could be affected.

PRC chairman Michael Klein said he would like to see boats dock at the pier, but he wants to make sure they don't attract too much attention.

"If the problems would be dealt with I'd be in favor of it," he said.

The sign over the entrance to the pier, which has been there since the 1940s, was given to the city by the Santa Monica Businessmen's Association and is now a historic landmark. In the 1950s, the pier's boating operation was in its heyday. But for various reasons, that activity dissipated and so did the breakwater.

Banning public sculpture on Promenade will be debated

SCULPTING, from page 1

crafts and sculpture," Moutrie said. "We suggested, because we are always trying to avoid future legal action, we recommended a prohibition against sculpture in general."

She added, "The real problem is trying to define what is art and what is not."

Many of the performers argue that what they do is art and they shouldn't be punished for making money from their craft.

"I would like the city council to go to China or Japan and ask anybody there if they believe origami is art," one performer said. "They would be laughed out of the country."

Some of the artists are starting to band together. A group has formed, somewhat spear-headed by community activist Jerry Rubin, to challenge the city's proposed changes to the performer ordinances.

The city council has asked that the performers' group meet with officials at the Bayside District Corporation — which regulates the Promenade — and at the Pier Restoration Corp., which regulates the pier.

"I am concerned that sculpture is indeed an art form, and I believe more could have been done to separate tacky,

mass-produced crafts from the art form itself," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown.

"I would like the city council to go to China or Japan and ask anybody there if they believe origami is art."

— STREET PERFORMER

The city has several ordinances in place to regulate everything from the amount of noise a street performer can make to the length of time performers can stay in one location.

The council voted 4-3 last year to ban Henna — the practice of painting designs on skin with temporary ink — because some artists were using a dangerous chemical. The controversial decision has drawn criticism from local and regional artist groups.

Learning LA phone culture

FUNHOG, from previous page

not a nice restaurant instead?"

"Well," I replied, "I set it in the strip club because ..."

"JESUS CHRIST, YOU #@%&!!\$# MORON!"

"Excuse me?"

"Sorry. Some jerk just cut me off on Melrose," Fisher said. "Look, bottom line, I think we've got something here. Maybe the restaurant won't work. But you've got 'mud' in the title, maybe we can set it in a dry cleaners."

"A dry cleaners?"

"Yeah, my development partner would love it. Great guy named Fong, runs a lit-

tle joint on the Westside. His delivery guy is a great touch-up script doctor and ..."

A better man would have hung up. Instead I told Fisher that it was sure a small town and I was tight with Fong's secretary, and in fact thought she was a bit hung up on me. I made a mental note to add that "hung up" line to the "Mud" script and listened to him until he lost signal mid-sentence near the 405.

When he called back, I let it ring five times before picking it up.

Practicing.

(Dan Dunn, a Santa Monica resident, writes for Warner Bros. Online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com.)

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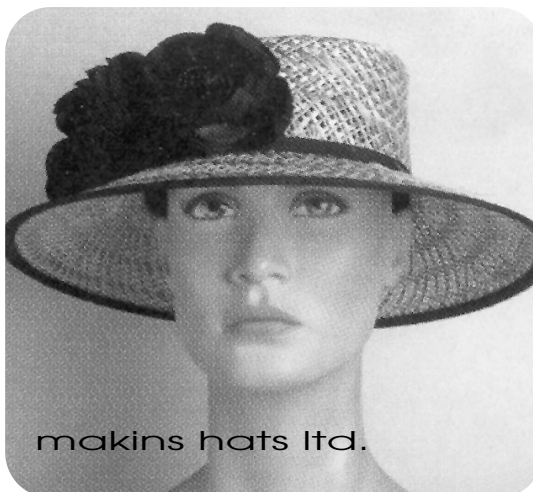
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STATE

Hippo finds new home

HIPPO, from page 1

Wildlife Refuge in Arcadia, Fla., which has other pygmy hippos, said Chuck Traisi, the Ramona center's director.

Stehly's neighbors have known about the hippo, but had never seen it.

"I know he used the hippo manure on his garden," said Bill Ritcher. "It can smell pretty dang bad."

State officials were tipped in January by a real estate agent who was showing a home for sale near Stehly's fenced 5-acre home on Park Hill Lane.

"Apparently a boy was with his father while he dealt with the agent, and the kid said, 'Hey, that looks like a hippo,'" game warden Awbrey said. "And the dad and agent said, 'That is a hippo!' The kid asked if they bought the property, if the hippo was included."

Wardens said the hippo had skin discoloration.

"Her skin was extremely dry, and portions had serious deep cracks," said wildlife rehabilitation center director Traisi. "There were open, bloody wounds because it didn't have enough water to care for the skin."

The hippo was seized Jan. 28 and taken

to Traisi's 13-acre center. Traisi said the hippo was properly fed and had fresh drinking water. But he described the living conditions as inadequate because there was no natural shade and no body of water large enough for the hippo to immerse itself.

For a week, several times a day, Traisi said, he and his staff applied moisturizing cream to the hippo belonging to Stehly.

The pygmy hippo are found along streams and in wet forests and swamps in West Africa from Sierra Leone to Nigeria.



Scott Linnett/Associated Press

A female pygmy hippopotamus moves about at the Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Ramona.

Government and Internet industry watch for terrorists

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE — In the seven months since the passage of a sweeping law to combat terrorism, Internet and telecommunications companies have seen a surge in law enforcement requests to snoop on subscribers.

Privacy advocates fear that expanded police power under the Patriot Act — combined with lax oversight and increased cooperation between the government and private sector phone network and Internet gatekeepers — may be stomping on civil liberties.

The new laws do not apply just to terrorism but to other crimes as well.

"The trend up to Sept. 11 was for more privacy protection, greater procedural safeguards, more sunshine on the process and more notice," said Al Gidari, a Seattle privacy lawyer who represents Internet and telecom companies.

"I now see all those things tied up in a box with a little bow on them and forgotten about in the corner," he said.

Law enforcers say they need stepped-up electronic surveillance to keep up with sophisticated criminals, stressing that such efforts are targeted — they're not trolling every server for e-mails mentioning Osama bin Laden.

But critics say eavesdropping requests are routinely approved, and the only public reports that detail the process don't say whether requests are overreaching.

At one major Internet backbone provider, requests for information "have gone through the roof," said a security executive who spoke on condition neither he nor his company be named.

Most requests seek to identify operators of a specific Internet address for which authorities wish to gather electronic evidence, he said.

The spirit of cooperation between Internet companies and law enforcement

was growing stronger even before Sept. 11 — a substantial change from the industry's early days, Gidari said.

The Patriot Act's surveillance provisions nevertheless allow carriers and providers to voluntarily hand over information in "emergencies."

"Everything is now an emergency," said Gidari.

Surveillance tools range from subpoenas for basic subscriber information and caller ID-type tools to searches of e-mail content and real-time wiretapping.

Under the Patriot Act, agents can subpoena customer payment records to obtain the identity of a user behind an e-mail address. They can also see where people venture in cyberspace. These clickstreams can reveal what people are reading, downloading and even purchasing.

The Patriot Act also allows law enforcers to bypass Internet providers to capture e-mail addresses — or even to read e-mail and wiretap conversations in real time. Any federal judge, regardless of jurisdiction, can now approve such warrants.

Nadel, who heads the hacking and intellectual property unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Jose, where large Internet companies such as Yahoo! and Microsoft Hotmail are located, says the point was to make investigations more efficient.

When it comes to foreign intelligence, judges meeting secretly at the Justice Department approved all 934 requests in 2001 to do surveillance within U.S. borders, down from 1,003 in 2000. However, because of streamlining, agents can now get a single order to track a suspect using multiple communications companies across the country.

The Patriot Act also broadened the 1978 law that applies to foreign intelligence eavesdropping to allow the FBI to request special warrants in investigations not exclusively focused on foreign intelligence cases.

NATIONAL



Internet scam artist ordered to pay victims

BY D. IAN HOPPER
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — An elusive Internet scam artist has been ordered to pay almost \$1.9 million back to victims and stop a scheme that used thousands of misspelled Web addresses to trick Internet users into seeing adult advertisements, federal regulators announced Friday.

Federal Trade Commission lawyers sued John Zuccarini of Andalusia, Pa., last October to stop the scheme. Zuccarini set up Web sites that contained misspellings of popular names like the Backstreet Boys, Victoria's Secret, Bank of America and The Wall Street Journal.

Visitors that inadvertently misspelled a site's name, like victoreasecret.com instead of the lingerie retailer, went to Zuccarini's site and were barraged with a hailstorm of pop-up ads for Internet gambling and pornography. The new windows returned to the screen even after they were closed, the FTC said.

"After one FTC staff member closed out of 32 separate windows, leaving just two windows on the task bar, he selected the 'back' button, only to watch the same seven windows that initiate the blitz erupt on his screen," FTC lawyers said in the complaint.

FTC investigators said Zuccarini makes from \$800,000 to \$1 million per

year by charging advertisers whose ads appear on the browser windows.

Companies targeted by Zuccarini's scam have filed scores of complaints with regulators and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, an oversight body that handles Internet addresses. The FTC said Zuccarini has lost 53 state and federal lawsuits and has had about 200 Web addresses taken from him and transferred to copyright holders.

Many of the Web sites target kids, including 15 variations on the Cartoon Network's Web site, and 41 variations on the name of pop singer Britney Spears.

It is unclear whether the FTC will be able to collect the money, which is earmarked for consumer redress.

Zuccarini never appeared on his own or through a lawyer in the Pennsylvania federal court handling the case, even though witnesses testified that he was notified of the suit.

He did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment. Florida lawyer Howard Neu, who once represented Zuccarini, said he had "not the foggiest" idea where Zuccarini is.

Zuccarini does business under many company names, including 22 names using the word "Cupcake." Victims of the scam should contact the commission at 1-877-382-4357 and use the FTC's case name, "Cupcake Party."

Study disputes claim about earliest evidence of life

BY PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — A conclusion that a 3.85-billion-year-old rock contains evidence of life may be in error, according to a study that suggests the rock formed at temperatures too torrid to make life possible.

A study published in 1996 concluded a band of rocks on the Greenland offshore island of Akilia contained a high ratio of the isotope carbon-12, which was interpreted as evidence for the presence of microscopic life billions of years ago.

But the new study, by Christopher M. Fedo, a George Washington University geologist, and Martin J. Whitehouse of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, concludes the Akilia deposit was formed from superheated melted rock and that the enriched levels of carbon-12 could have been caused by chemical action, not by some life form.

"Our conclusion is that the rock came from a source that was molten, like a volcanic fountain," said Fedo, first author of the study released Friday in the journal Science. "The temperatures of molten rock would be far in excess of anything living. Therefore, any carbon in there got there by some other process."

The original study suggested that the rocks were sedimentary and therefore formed at temperatures cool enough to permit life. The interpretation that the rocks contained evidence of life was based on the ratio between carbon-12 and carbon-13. Living things, such as microbes, extract carbon from the environment and tend to concentrate carbon-12 instead of the heavier carbon-13. As a

result, deposits that once contained life may be enriched with carbon-12.

But Fedo said geologists are now recognizing non-biological actions can enrich rocks with carbon-12, which means that, by itself, the isotope cannot be absolute proof for the evidence of life.

"These non-biological processes are consistent with the kinds of rocks exposed on this island," said Fedo. "The rocks are not sedimentary and were formed from a molten state. Any carbon trapped in there would have come from a later process. Also, we know that carbon-12 occurs in this type of rock."

Fedo said that if his interpretation is accepted, it will mean that a sedimentary rock formation on the mainland of Greenland may contain the oldest known evidence of life on Earth.

That formation, located at Isua, has been dated at 3.7 to 3.8 billion years old, only slightly younger than the formation on the island.

"The sedimentary origin (of the rocks at Isua) is important because that is consistent with the temperature range of liquid water, and liquid water and life are closely linked," said Fedo.

Gustaf Arrhenius of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California, San Diego, a co-author of the 1996 study, said his team is doing a new examination of the Akilia rock formation and "believe there is much basis for a careful reconsideration."

"If it is true, as Fedo interpreted it, then it is a mystery still how the isotopic ratio was achieved," said Arrhenius. He conceded, however: "It is not impossible that there are non-biologic mechanisms."



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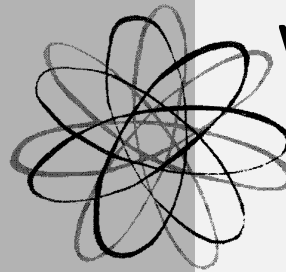
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SPORTS

L.A. Lakers rally, beating Sacramento Kings to tie series

BY GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Whenever the Los Angeles Lakers are down to their last gasp, Robert Horry knows his place.

The Lakers trailed by two in the closing seconds as Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal missed shots, but Horry never moved from the top of the 3-point arc. Horry ended up with the ball, as he always seems to do — and as he's done so many times before, the Lakers' cardiac specialist did something remarkable.

Horry hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer Sunday as the Lakers rallied from a 24-point deficit for a thrilling 100-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings, tying the Western Conference finals at two games apiece.

It was pure Hollywood — and it kept Hollywood's favorite team in good shape for another title.

"I wanted the 3 all the way," Horry said. "I stayed right where I could get it. When it came rolling out, it was like, 'Oh, look what I got.'"

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Sacramento, with Game 6 back at Staples Center on Friday night.

Horry scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers willed themselves to an amazing victory in a game they badly needed to keep their championship hopes alive. They made it as dramatic as possible, falling behind by a huge margin as the Kings played an outstanding first half.

But nobody in the Lakers' locker room was overly surprised at the fortuitous blind tip by Vlade Divac that put the ball in Horry's hands for the shot that capped their comeback.

After two championships and more dramatic finishes than they can count, the Lakers have come to expect outrageous turns of fortune as a matter of course.

"I didn't draw it up like that, so don't ask me," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said with a grin. "But we got the shot we wanted."

The Kings led by eight points with less than four minutes left, but Horry pulled the Lakers within three with another 3-pointer with 1:39 left. O'Neal, who finished with 27 points and 18 rebounds, hit two free throws to make it 98-97 with 26.9 seconds left.

Divac made one of two free throws with 11.8 seconds to play. In the final seconds, Bryant missed a layup and

O'Neal missed a tip-in, but Divac swatted the rebound out to Horry, who buried the wide-open shot from straightaway before being mobbed by his teammates.

Horry hit the final shot, but an outstanding second half of defense kept the Kings from grabbing control of the series. Now, the Kings are wondering what forces beyond the game they must conquer to knock off the Lakers.

"Just a lucky shot, that's all," said Divac, who had 23 points. "You don't have concentration. He just threw it up. If it goes in, it goes in."

But as the confidence on his face showed, it wasn't Horry's first time as a long-distance postseason hero. In Game 3 of last season's NBA Finals, his 3-pointer with 47 seconds left finished off Philadelphia.

Earlier in the spring at Portland, he hit a decisive 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left. In the conference semifinals against San Antonio, Horry's 3-pointer with 56 seconds left finished off the Spurs.

The Kings blew out Los Angeles in Game 3 Friday night. Faced with the prospect of a 3-1 series deficit — which the Lakers haven't rallied to overcome in 31 years — Los Angeles got another dose of the magic that seems to follow this franchise.

Sacramento roared to its second spectacular start at Staples Center, scoring 40 points in the first quarter and

taking a 14-point lead to halftime. But the Kings fumbled through the second half with poor shooting and turnovers, and Divac missed a free throw with 11.8 seconds left.

It might be a crushing loss for the Kings, who had several opportunities to finish off the Lakers in the fourth quarter but couldn't complete their sixth straight road victory in the postseason.

"We were one lucky play away from winning," said Chris Webber, who had 20 points. "We just have to come back and not worry about this, because we feel we have the better team."

The Kings, still playing without injured All-Star Peja Stojakovic, had every reason for a letdown on Sunday. They already had reclaimed homecourt advantage in the series, and everyone expected the Lakers to be roused from the funk that enveloped them in Game 3.

Instead, Sacramento opened Game 4 with its most spectacular quarter in some time. The Kings hit 12 of their first 15 shots, made a 14-5 run and led 40-20 on Mike Bibby's jumper with 2.2 seconds left in the quarter.

It was the Kings' most prolific quarter of the postseason, and it left the Lakers dumbfounded.

Sacramento led 50-26 at one point, but the Kings tightened up as Bryant shut down Bibby, who scored 18 points in the first half but just three in the second.



National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE FINALS — EDT (Best-of-7)

Saturday, May 18

L.A. Lakers 106, Sacramento 99, Lakers lead series 1-0

Sunday, May 19

New Jersey 104, Boston 97, New Jersey leads series 1-0

Monday, May 20

Sacramento 96, L.A. Lakers 90, Series tied 1-1

Tuesday, May 21

Boston 93, New Jersey 86, Series tied 1-1

Friday, May 24

Sacramento 103, L.A. Lakers 90, Sacramento leads series 2-1

Saturday, May 25

Boston 94, New Jersey 90, Boston leads series 2-1

Sunday, May 26

L.A. Lakers 100, Sacramento 99, Series tied 2-2

Monday, May 27

New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m., if necessary

Wednesday, May 29

Boston at New Jersey, 9 p.m., if necessary

Friday, May 31

New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, June 2

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
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- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

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INTERNATIONAL



Pakistan tests missile, causes international tension

BY KATHY GANNON

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan test-fired a second missile capable of reaching neighboring India, as world leaders tried Sunday to contain the rising tensions between the two nuclear-armed countries.

India has downplayed the missile tests, but Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee renewed his concern about terrorist attacks from Pakistan-based fighters, saying "the infiltration of militants into India has to end."

In Paris, President Bush said the United States had expressed to Pakistan its concerns about the tests. But he said he is more interested in seeing Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf take action to prevent attacks in Indian-controlled Kashmir, where Indian soldiers and civilians have been killed.

India says the attacks are the work of Pakistan-based Islamic militants waging an insurgency.

"I'm more concerned about making sure ... that President Musharraf show results in terms of stopping people from crossing the line of control," Bush said Sunday after meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. "Stopping terrorism. That is more important than the missile testing."

The day before in Russia, Bush urged Musharraf to make good on a January promise to curb Islamic militants. In January Musharraf banned five groups, which have vowed to take their revenge and are blamed for brutal attacks on foreigners in Pakistan.

Pakistani officials said the military conducted the first-ever trial of a new short-range missile, the Hatf-III or Ghaznavi. With a range of 175 miles, it could reach India's border regions, where hundreds of thousands of soldiers face

Pakistani troops in a standoff.

The launch came despite international pleas for the two countries to ease tensions and followed what Pakistan said was the successful test-firing Saturday of a Ghauri missile with a range of 900 miles, far enough to reach deep into India.

Both missiles are capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads. Fear of a major conflict between India and Pakistan is heightened because both have developed nuclear weapons since their last war, in 1971.

The Ghaznavi missile was "indigenously developed and the test-firing was the culmination of years of hard work..." Pakistan's army said in a statement Sunday.

Pakistan says the series of missile tests ending Tuesday have nothing to do with tensions with India. India says it was informed of plans for the tests and, while "not impressed" with the timing, is not concerned about them.

Indian and Pakistani soldiers have been exchanging small arms fire for more than two weeks — leaving dozens of villagers dead. Indian police said Sunday that five civilians were killed and four others wounded on the Indian side of the frontier overnight.

Vajpayee said Sunday that world opinion supports India's position "that cross-border terrorism has to stop."

"When the world is fighting terrorism and American forces are in Afghanistan fighting the forces of terrorism, then how and for how long can India tolerate terrorism?" he said in Manali, a hill resort 250 miles north of New Delhi where he is vacationing.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday he would invite Musharraf and Vajpayee to meet during a gathering of Asian leaders in Kazakhstan early next month.

Musharraf is to make a nationally tele-



K.M.Chaudary/Associated Press

Anti-India protesters march holding a models of Pakistan-made missiles at a rally Sunday in Lahore, Pakistan. Pakistan and India are on high tension over the decades-old Kashmir dispute.

vised address Monday evening.

Pakistan says it is ready to talk. India says it first wants Pakistan to end cross-border incursions by Islamic militants waging an insurgency in Indian-ruled Kashmir, demanding independence for Hindu-majority India's only mostly Muslim state or a union with Islamic Pakistan.

Kashmir, a Himalayan province divided between Pakistan and India, has been the flashpoint of two wars between the uneasy neighbors, in 1948 and 1965. Their 1971 war was over Bangladesh, then called East Pakistan.

Relations between the neighbors have been troubled since independence from

Britain in 1947, but tensions soared in December after a deadly terrorist attack on India's Parliament that India blamed on Pakistan-based Islamic insurgents. Fourteen people, including the five terrorists, died in that incident.

Both countries amassed troops along their border, and India conducted its own missile tests, heightening the tension.

Musharraf made his pledge in January and outlawed five militant Islamic groups, but India says attacks by Pakistan-based guerrillas continue, including a recent assault on an Indian army camp that killed 34 people, most of them wives and children of soldiers.

Bush worried more about terrorism than missile tests

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — President Bush urged Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to do more to end acts of terror in Indian sections of disputed Kashmir, suggesting Sunday they were more worrisome than the two missile tests Pakistan conducted over the weekend.

Bush and French President Jacques Chirac agreed to press the war against terrorists on many fronts.

"They'd like to strike again. These are cold-blooded killers," Bush said with Chirac at his side.

At a joint news conference at the French presidential palace, Bush appeared to soften earlier criticism of Pakistan's missile tests to put more emphasis on terrorism.

"I'm more concerned about insisting along with other world leaders ... that President Musharraf show results in terms of stopping people from crossing the Line of Control," Bush said, referring to the cease-fire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Tensions between the two nuclear-armed nations escalated after an attack last week killed 34 people on the India side of the line.

Bush said it's up to Musharraf to do more to prevent Pakistani militants from carrying out such assaults.

"That's what's more important than the missile testing, that he perform," Bush said.

Other Bush administration officials took the same tack Sunday as Pakistan launched its second medium-range missile test in as many days.

"Well, I would rather they hadn't done that," Secretary of State Colin Powell said on CNN's "Late Edition." But, he added, "it doesn't seem to have caused the crisis to get any worse."

"The timing is not particularly good," Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, told "FOX News Sunday." She called on Musharraf "to live up to the obligations ... to stop cross-border infiltrations across the

Line of Control."

France was the third country on Bush's weeklong tour of Europe. On Monday, he will visit the beaches of Normandy for a Memorial Day ceremony honoring soldiers killed in the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion during World War II.

Several thousand people marched through central Paris on Sunday to protest Bush's two-day visit to France. Some chanted, "Bush, you are the terrorist," and burned American flags.

"The fact that protesters show up, that's good. I mean, I'm in a democracy," Bush said when asked about the street protests here and during his visits last week to Germany and Russia.

Vatican says papal trips may be curtailed due to pope's ailing health

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria — The Vatican acknowledged for the first time Sunday that it may have to curtail Pope John Paul II's future travel because of his feeble condition, suggesting that planned stops in Mexico and Guatemala in July could be dropped.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the 82-year-old pope will go to Toronto to mark the Roman Catholic Church's World Youth Day, but suggested the

other stops on the proposed 11-day trip could be canceled.

"Toronto is clear. For the others, we shall see," Navarro-Valls said. "No decision has been made yet. Everything that has been confirmed is confirmed." But he added: "Something that has been confirmed can be unconfirmed."

Underscoring how sensitive the issue is to the Vatican, Navarro-Valls later issued a statement stressing that no decision on the Mexico and Guatemala legs had been made.

As recent as Saturday, the Vatican had insisted that no changes would

be made to the pope's travel schedule despite persistent questions about his ailing health and flagging strength.

On Sunday, John Paul's hands trembled and his voice was heavily slurred — symptoms of Parkinson's disease — as he wound up a stamina-testing four-day trip to Bulgaria. Although he has been wheeled around on a special cart, Navarro-Valls denied there were any plans to use a wheelchair on future trips.

As he has throughout the Bulgarian visit and his first stop in Azerbaijan, he read only a portion of his homily, turning it over to a priest to finish.

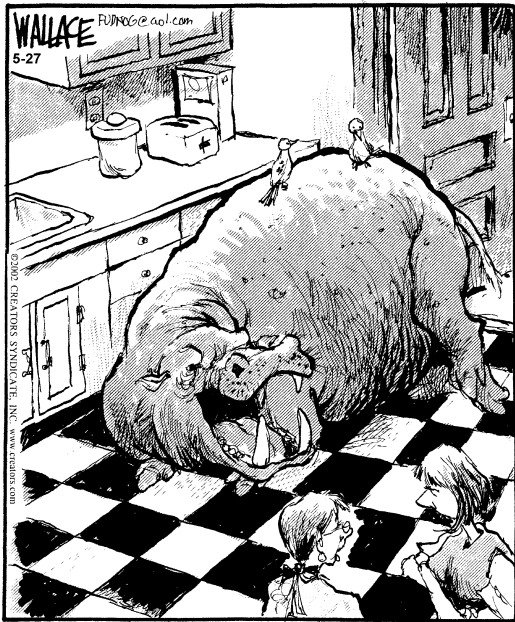


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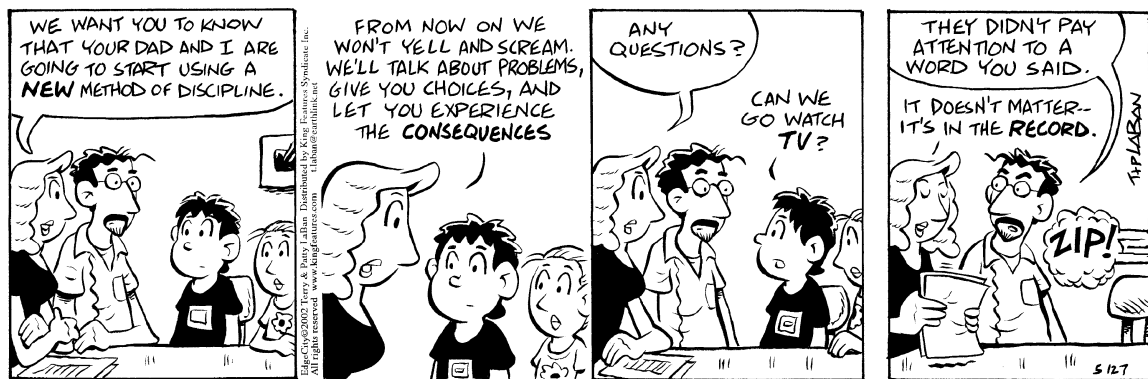
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 - 37 Convene
 - 40 Epoch
 - 42 Frank McCourt book
 - 43 Count start
 - 44 Sty, e.g.

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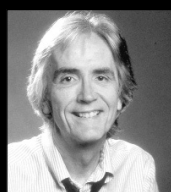
Saturday's answer

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45						46			
47						48			

5-27

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Woman finds her 15-year marriage a farce

Juanita Konold-McIntosh, 55, testifying on behalf of her "husband" of 15 years, Eduardo G. McIntosh, who was on trial for fraud in Boston in January, said she is still devoted to him and hopes they can turn their lives around together. Konold-McIntosh had just heard the government introduce solid evidence that McIntosh (to her surprise) is not an Air Force general; that he is not legally married to her (because of a still-valid earlier marriage); that the reason he had spent only one night a week with her during their marriage was not because he was on secret intelligence missions; that the reasons for thousands of dollars in and out of her bank account during their "marriage" was to serve his real family and various scams; and that the reason she had not heard from him during a four-month period in 1994 was because he was in prison.

Firm hands out signs plugging the company to panhandlers. -News Item



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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

A graduating class of one

By The Associated Press

DAYVILLE, Ore. — On senior skip day, Matt Sagaser was the only one who took the day off. On graduation day, he'll be the only senior to be handed a diploma.

Matt also is the only senior at Dayville High School. "We have the smallest graduating class in the nation, or at least we're tied," said Lori Chapman, the school secretary.

It's been years since Dayville High, with 19 students this year, had more than a handful of graduating seniors. Last year, there were five; the year before six; the year before that five. But never just one.

When Matt enrolled in the seventh grade, there were 14 students. Gradually, the others moved or transferred to other schools. As a junior, it was just Matt and an exchange student from Mexico.

Matt said he's enjoyed his high school years, especially the camaraderie in such a small student body. It was also nice being the runaway choice as senior class president and most outstanding senior.

There have been drawbacks, too: He went alone to the senior prom, held with senior classes from five other small eastern Oregon schools.

\$100 campaign nets 8,783 votes

By The Associated Press

WEST FINLEY, Pa. — Bob Domske didn't spend a lot on his campaign, but he still gave his opponents a run for their money.

The West Finley steelworker and farmer earned 8,783

votes and came in third for the Democratic nomination for the 18th Congressional District in Tuesday's primary.

He thinks that's an accomplishment, considering he spent \$100 on his campaign.

His biggest expense was the tape and markers he used to update the political signs he had when he ran for U.S. Senate in 2000 as a Reform Party candidate. Domske taped over the word "Senate" and wrote in "Congress" for this year's campaign.

Now that the election is over, Domske is collecting his campaign signs, which he plans to use again in his next political campaign.

"I pulled 8,000 votes on \$100. If I had \$10,000, what would have happened?" Domske said. "I guess we'll never know."

Jack Machek won the primary with 28,430 votes and Washington County Sheriff Larry Maggi came in second with 23,428 votes.

Two holes in one on same day

By The Associated Press

GOLDEN VALLEY, Minn. — After a spectacular round of golf the other day, a dentist has a riveting story to tell everyone who sits in the chair for a filling.

Jim Scheller, 63, made two holes in one during a single round.

Scheller knocked in the aces at the Golden Valley Country Club on Sunday. He nailed No. 14 from 170 yards. Scheller then bagged his second hole in one on No. 17, when his 175-yard tee shot landed in front of the pin and rolled in.

He had aced both of the par-3 holes before, but never

like this.

"It was like a dream sequence," said Scheller, who won the 1990 State Senior Open and the 1991 State Amateur. "The first one happened so quick it startled me. Then when we got to 17, (playing partner) Dick Kenny said to me, 'Here's your chance to get two.'"

The National Golf Foundation estimates the odds of two aces in one round at 67 million to one.

That helps explain why Scheller said his unlikely story has been a hard sell among some friends.

"I called a couple of guys," he said. "One of them said I must have been drinking. The other hung up on me."

Woman gives birth at airport

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Talk about arriving ahead of schedule.

A woman from London who was seven months pregnant gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Thursday shortly after her flight arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Five police officers assisted in the birth.

Sola Adeoye, 35, arrived at the airport shortly after midnight aboard a Virgin Atlantic flight and said she was experiencing severe abdominal pain, said spokesman Steve Coleman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

With help from five Port Authority officers, Adeoye delivered her second child at 12:17 a.m. in the arrivals area of Terminal 1.

Adeoye had come to town with her 15-month-old daughter to visit friends in Brooklyn, Coleman said.

Adeoye was taken to a hospital, where she and her son were "doing fine," Coleman said.

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