

FREE

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 167

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Tobacco kills: A 72-year-old woman accidentally, fatally set herself on fire while filling her cigarette lighter (Somerville, Mass., February).

■ A trucking company was ordered to pay a \$2.7 million legal judgment because its only employee smoking area was across a 100-yard, poorly lighted parking lot, where a 55-year-old smoker was accidentally run over returning from a break (Pittsburgh, Pa., February).

■ A 42-year-old man died of head injuries caused when he opened the door of a moving car to spit tobacco juice and fell out (Mineral Wells, W.Va., March).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

Stimulate the heart to love, and all other virtues will rise of their own accord

— W. T. Ussery



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John Wood/Daily Press

A mother and her daughter lean down to read the grave of a fallen soldier on Monday. Nearly 200 people gathered at the Woodlawn Cemetery for the annual Santa Monica Elks Memorial Day ceremony.

Remembering the fallen

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Nearly 200 people gathered at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica on Monday to honor the men and women that have lost their lives defending the United States.

About 140 U.S. soldiers have been killed since last Memorial Day during Operation Iraqi Freedom. About 1 million U.S. soldiers have died throughout the relatively short history of this country.

Monday's event, which was sponsored by the Santa Monica Elks, began with a color guard procession by the Santa Monica Police Department Rangers and a bagpipe performance by students from

Granada Hills High School.

Representatives from the Moose Lodge, Daughters of the American Revolution, Santa Monica Historical Society, Knights of Columbus, the air force, police department, fire department and other organizations laid flowers and wreaths on the "Elk's Rest," a patch of grass that symbolizes all those who have died in the line of duty, as well as their loved ones.

Several people read poems and spoke to the small crowd, which was congregated on a sunny patch of grass near the Elks' mausoleum.

"The one thing we can always go home and remember," said Doug Randall, chairman of the Santa Monica Elks, "is that freedom is not free."

Teacher faces lay-off but remains hopeful

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

When Staci Erlandson took a job with the local school district last year, she thought she was setting down roots in Santa Monica.

She moved from her home in Valencia to a small Santa Monica apartment and set up her fifth grade classroom at Juan Cabrillo Elementary school in Malibu.

Everything changed when Erlandson, 26, was handed a pink slip in March.

If the district's financial situation doesn't improve, she'll be among 91 full-time teachers out of a job at the end of the school year.

"I've always thought that teaching was a very stable job," said Erlandson, whose mother and grandmother were both teachers. "Then you get the notice and you feel discouraged."

"I knew I was going to be getting it," she added. "But when I got the letter it was very cold, very

See TEACHER, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

Fifth-grade students, from left to right, Jara Brewer, Montana Clunies-Ross and Scarlett Tidy with their teacher Staci Erlandson, center. Erlandson, who teaches at Juan Cabrillo Elementary, was handed a pink slip in March.

City Hall deficit to be dealt with this week

By Daily Press staff

With City Hall facing the worst financial situation it's experienced in decades, officials tonight will begin the arduous task of figuring out where to find the money to close the gap.

Officials released the latest deficit estimate last week, which suggests that City Hall is facing a \$16 million shortfall this year, a \$20.2 million deficit next year and \$28.1 million in

2005-2006.

Tonight is the first of three budget sessions that Santa Monica City Council members and City Hall staff will hold to pour over the city's \$354 million budget.

The meetings will begin at 6 p.m. tonight, Wednesday and Thursday at City Hall located at 1685 Main St.

The meetings are designed to allow the city

manager and department heads to voice suggestions to the City Council before it makes a decision.

A proposed budget already has been given to City Council members by staffers in City Hall. Included in that budget are a series of proposed cuts and increased revenue sources.

The proposal includes 5 percent cuts in City

See CITY BUDGET, page 6

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, May 27, 2003:

You have unusual abilities and will demonstrate them in the workplace. Aim for success, but you do need to do your homework in order to get there. You might spend a lot of time by yourself studying, reflecting or indulging in a new hobby or pastime. You often surprise bosses and those in charge with your innate intuitiveness. Give up being overly serious and enjoy your life more. If you are single, you'll benefit from networking and social situations. You easily meet people. You might have recently met "the one." If you're attached, your relationship will flourish, especially if you share more of yourself. TAURUS reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Excessiveness is the name of the game. You might plea, beg or make a request for moderation, but you will get nowhere. Friends seem hellbent on doing what they want. Take the activity as great theater and sit back. Now, that's more interesting. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Say as little as possible, but be ready to take a strong stand. Not everyone thinks like you do. You see damages occurring where it might be best not letting them happen. Still, not until the late afternoon can you resolve this issue effectively. Tonight: In your own world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to put your foot on the brakes, but it could be close to impossible right now. You might need to let go and let others do what they must. Clearly, you're not in control here. Use the afternoon to clear up an important project. Tonight: Take a night off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might need to stop in and visit with a boss. Catch up on someone's news and take in yet another perspective. Take charge at work, but don't even think you can control others' actions. A partner is simply in the mood to go overboard. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be out of sorts with news that heads in your direction. You might not have the control you would like. Stay sure of yourself when dealing with a loved one. Think through a decision more carefully that involves a long-term desire. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Deal with another more directly. You find that direct interaction draws strong reactions. You could be delighted by news that drops on you. People are full of surprises — not exactly what you would anticipate. Go with the flow. Tonight: Take an overview.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal on a close, individual level with others. You'll get someone's OK if you swing with a matter that is close to your heart. Think in terms of making a decision that works. A co-worker or a work situation is full of surprises. Get ready. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Keep working and clearing out confusion around a project and/or domestic situation. A partner's insight, though not pleasant, does illuminate a problem. Let others put in their 2 cents. Give up a tendency to be controlling. Tonight: Play follow the leader.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Investigate and observe. A situation could be changing right before your very eyes. What you believe is happening could be very different from reality. A partner sheds light, whether you're ready to receive it or not. Tonight: Get some physical exercise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ If you can work from home, you'll get a lot more done. Confusion surrounds a financial matter, and answers might not be forthcoming right now. If you lie back, you will see your creativity come forth with answers. Trust in your abilities. Tonight: Ask more questions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might not be realistic about how vague you really are. If you get a "deer caught in the headlights" look from someone, try another way of explaining yourself. The more verbal you are, the more likely you are going to make a needed breakthrough. Tonight: Resist the irresistible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You can juggle the books all you want, but you will not get the figures to balance. You could feel pressed by a family member or roommate to get what he or she needs done. As a result, you could become most unpredictable and certainly verbal. Tonight: Join your friends.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

See the stars at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium next week will present a special feature show, "Cosmic Collisions," which looks at the "cosmic destruction derby" that occurs when asteroids, planets, stars and galaxies crash.

The event is part of the college's Friday night astronomy series which continues throughout June.

"Collisions" will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, June 6, 13 and 20 in the Planetarium, located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

"Visualizing the Earth in 3D," a guest lecture by Bob Crippen of the Jet Propulsion Lab, will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, June 27 in Room 140 of the Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd. Crippen will talk about his work mapping Earth from space in three dimensions.

The feature show and guest lecture are preceded by the "Janet Planet Planetarium Show" at 7 p.m. "Janet Planet" covers the latest discoveries in astronomy and space exploration and includes a unique "audience participation" tour of the constellations and solar system. The show, conducted by Shelley Bonus, is designed for the entire family.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$8 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

A photographic moment

By Daily Press staff

Eight Santa Monica College students won a total of \$850 in prizes for their winning entries in the college's annual Photography Show.

Tammie Kim won a \$200 prize for winning "Best in Show." She also received the A&I Award, provided by Los Angeles-based A&I film processing and printing company that gave her a four-foot, framed digital print of her winning image.

Other winners in the show were Lisa Ortega, "Best Black & White," Britta Pagel, "Best Color," Charlotta Sandelin, "Best Commercial Image," Frank Damon and Vitale Thomas, co-winners in "Best Digital Image," Ken Thompson, "Best Humorous," and Lindsey Schrider, "Best Slide."

The winning images were selected from a total of 1,900 submitted. The annual Photography Show is sponsored by SMC's photography department, which provides the cash prizes through private donations.

Gadget man honored for his games

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man was recently recognized for more than 100 inventions he created and the development of more than four dozen video games.

Jay Smith was one of seven alumni recognized by the College of Engineering's Committee at Virginia Tech and was named as a member of the Academy of Engineering Excellence. Smith was recognized as an outstanding contributor to the profession of engineering and to the college.

Smith, who is an engineering mechanics graduate at Virginia Tech, holds 40 patents, most of which are related to the toy or game industry.

Smith says he has always been a gadget maker. He illustrated his creative genius early on by winning science fairs in elementary school. Smith kept his fascination with toys and games, but after completing his engineering degree at Virginia Tech, he felt compelled to pursue what he considered to be a real engineering job. He joined TRW and worked on the U.S. space program.

After a few years, the toy company, Mattel, knocked on his door, and he jumped at the chance to become a kid at heart again. One day he was working on a Minuteman missile and the next day he was playing with Creepy Crawlers and bottles of black, purple and pink Plasti-Goop.

Smith and a small group from Mattel decided to take a different leap and start their own company called Innova. After a year, he moved on to become a founding partner of California R&D Center. He remained for five years and then established Smith Engineering and later Western Technologies, a successful developer of toys, entertainment software, and consumer products. His clients included Mattel, Milton Bradley and Nintendo.

After owning and operating both companies for 19 years, Wanderlust Interactive acquired Western and changed its name to Adrenalin Interactive. Smith was retained as its CEO of the now publicly owned company, and was responsible for its merger into a larger company.

Adrenalin was sold in 2000, and Smith took a break from the fast track and served as a consultant to Water Network, a new digital TV channel for water sports and recreation. He remains a director and a major stockholder of that company while he pursues his new role with Play-It-Now, a company he founded in 2001. Smith serves as the chief executive officer of the Los Angeles based media content company that develops and distributes games using the interactive technologies of cable and satellite television to provide in-home distribution.

Smith is a member of the Toy Industry of America, the Board of Advisors of Santa Monica/UCLA Medical Center, the Santa Monica Rotary Club, and he is active in several Californian service and charitable organizations.

surf report

Get some waves in before the wind returns.

There's a little bump in the water that is sending us waves from the NW at about the waist-high level, at best. There are also some minor SW pulses, but it's too weak to notice at most breaks.

Bad news: The winds will start howling again by this weekend.

Good news: NW swell is building.

Outlook: Expect a steady SW swell this weekend and a better SW early next week.

Today the
water is:

57°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:10	-1.6	4:21	1.9	11:42	3.9	10:39	6.6
SUNDAY	6:04	-1.5	5:07	2.3	(12:48)	3.6	11:26	6.2
MONDAY	7:02	-1.2	6:02	2.7	N/A	N/A	2:05	3.5
TUESDAY	8:07	-0.8	7:22	3.0	12:19	5.6	3:30	3.6
WEDNESDAY	9:15	-0.4	9:13	3.0	1:23	5.0	4:46	3.8
THURSDAY	10:20	-0.1	10:57	2.6	2:43	4.5	5:40	4.1
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The Q-Line

Last week, one Santa Monica neighborhood experienced three separate, gang-related shootings. No one was injured. The violence was nothing new to residents of the Pico neighborhood, who have struggled for decades with gang, gun and drug-activity.

Santa Monica Police arrested four people late last week in connection with the shootings. More suspects are being sought.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "What can be done, if anything, to end the cycle of violence and bring peace to the Pico neighborhood."

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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OPINION

Violence and public housing connected

Editor:

Those of us who live in the Pico neighborhood where there is an over concentration of multi-family low income housing projects have been dodging bullets for years. Bob Moncrief is responsible for the development of many of these projects. Then he raises the question is there any evidence of a connection between the low-income housing projects and the gun violence. In response, I refer everyone to a report commissioned by President Clinton.

"In The Crossfire: The impact of gun violence on public housing communities" which is online at www.hud.gov/focus/feb00/feb172000.html

The findings include the following: "Persons residing in public housing are over twice as likely to suffer from firearm-related victimization as other members of the population. There is a strong correlation between income and violent crime; thus the low income population in public housing is especially vulnerable to gun violence." The report also found "Gun-related crimes disproportionately impact ... neighborhoods near public housing developments."

Mr. Moncrief is well aware of the problems at the Cabrini-Green low income housing project in Chicago. The gang, drug and gun violence was so severe the only solution to reduce crime in the neighborhood was to vacate the building and demolish it.

Matt Millen
Santa Monica

Don't break the promise we made

Editor:

Measure S is simply the assurance that we, as a community, will keep our promises to the young people in our cities. We told them that we will take care of them, keep them safe, educate, enrich and excite them, and most important, model for them the true meaning of community.

Our state government has failed to keep its promise, our Federal government is failing to keep its promises, and we, as a community must not let our young people down. We have a covenant with youth to model, to education and to help prepare them for assuming leadership and active citizenship in our democracy. The failure of

Measure S will break this covenant.

As you know, the state government has several years of grave funding shortfalls ahead and we have lost \$13 million in programs next year alone.

While the current proposed budget by our "Education Governor" calls for fewer new cuts, it does not restore any of the cuts we have made for next year. Funding for 207 employees is gone, among them 91 teachers, five nurses, 11 custodians, 10 physical education providers, 12 administrators, seven facilities and grounds positions, 12 district office clerical workers, 14 school site classified positions, nine elementary library coordinators and three library assistants.

Measure S will provide funding to restore a critical portion of these cuts. I am not sure what I will say to thousands of students on June 4 if it fails, and I would not know how to explain the results of failing to support them. I also do not know what I will say to the hundreds of dedicated and remarkably talented adults who will be unemployed if Measure S fails. My fervent hope is that we will not have to face this situation.

I believe we have choices. I trust in our community. I trust we will chose to keep our promises.

John Deasy

Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu School District

Arrestees live in public housing

Editor:

Robert Moncrief, Santa Monica's manager of housing and redevelopment, took the Daily Press to task in his letter to the editor, Friday, May 23. Moncrief indicated that Daily Press editor, Carolyn Sackariason, did not have "any evidence that recent shootings (in the Pico neighborhood) have anything to do with residents of publicly funded low income housing in the area."

Moncrief chides Sackariason for her "irresponsible journalism" and accuses her of "personal bias against low income people who live in publicly funded housing."

I'm sure that Mr. Moncrief will not be pleased to learn that two of the four alleged shooters arrested by Santa Monica Police on Thursday night and Friday were residents of Community Corp. of Santa Monica.

See LETTERS, page 5



Recent White House departures will change nothing



Evelyn Jerome

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer is leaving "to spend more time with his family."

What that really means is he's cashing in and joining corporate America.

It must be hard to be the official spokesman for a guy who can't string two sentences together coherently. For the last three years, Ari Fleischer has been the face and the voice of a White House filled with really smart (conservative, but really smart) people. Unfortunately for all of them, the one at the top is fairly unintelligible.

Fleischer's job has been mostly mopping up and interpreting what President

George W. Bush said but really meant. He's kind of the White House maid. And he's become renowned for "sounding evasive," notes columnist Michael Kinsley of the Slate, even when he's not actually being evasive. And the Bushies poked fun at Baghdad Bob.

Maybe it's too much to ask to make sense of a president who consistently says one thing (and says it not very well) and does another.

Fleischer sits atop the world's best spin-meisters for explaining away the president's former disdain for the concept of "nation-building," a policy for which Bush heavily criticized the Clinton administration, and in which he is now heavily involved in Iraq.

Take a look at the job he's been charged with. Even though every single

guest who Clinton invited to the White House during his eight years was public information, Fleischer was charged with convincing the American public that the list of people who attended a policy meeting, at the request of Vice President Dick Cheney, in the White House, was classified. Fleischer has given Orwell's "double-speak" new meaning.

Kinsley says that Fleischer has "a rock-solid commitment to the lack of information," which means that though he gives two daily briefings, he doesn't really say much of anything.

Consider the two biggest consistencies of this White House and it's easy to see why a few years would be enough as the press guy. The president is consistently deceptive on policy matters — ANWR, arsenic, energy policy, taxes, education,

you name it, he's told you a lie about it. And the president has difficulty in expressing himself verbally.

Is it coincidence, then, that Fleischer and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman quit one day apart? Now that the administration has morphed into Bush's political re-election machine, we'll see who can brag about Bush's first term while keeping a straight face.

Obviously Fleischer decided he can't.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is the past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

Christie Whitman is leaving the EPA. So, what are we to do? Should we be saddened by the loss of a "reasonable" voice within an otherwise frightening administration? Or should we bewail out a chorus of "ding-dong, the witch is dead?"

I, for one, am unmoved. How great WAS Christie Whitman, really? Yes, the former "moderate" New Jersey Governor turned "moderate" EPA Administrator may have been lightly "outspoken" about the president's destructive plans for the Clean Water Act. But what else did she really do for the environment? She certainly wasn't a champion for clean air.

For two and a half years, the American

people basically suffered the equivalent of Wimpy guarding its hamburgers, instead of assigning the Hamburglar to do it. Either way, we didn't eat much, regardless of how we judged the culprit's otherwise harmless demeanor.

Pundits would have us assume that the brave "moderate" Ms. Whitman was privately giving President Bush "the what for." But am I supposed to be comforted by the assumption that Christie Whitman was PRIVATELY "fighting" for the environment, when a progressive-minded President would likely have appointed someone to PUBLICLY fight for it, and under orders no less? I'm a little tired of settling for "it could've been worse." The public deserves "good" and "getting better," especially with regard to the environment.

I don't often find myself this ambiva-

lent, but does it really matter who President Bush next appoints to head the EPA? Won't he and his "B.E.W.A.R.E." crowd (Build Everything Without Any Regard for the Environment) just find someone else who, even if an assumed "moderate," will simply carry out this administration's agenda to pave and pollute most of the planet?

Think I'm exaggerating? Most who have not been paying attention to the left hand — while this administration has been wowing them with war and other adventures using the right hand — may not have noticed the president's attempts to gut every single mainstream environmental law we hold dear. We're not talking about nitpicky regulations on small business, either. We're talking about the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the New Source Review of new or

upgraded power plants. The big stuff.

No, the decision surrounding Bush's new appointee to the EPA is not the "big political test" most pundits describe it. Regardless of who is appointed, the public will lose because it is George W. Bush doing the appointing. So, see you later, Christie. Your departure doesn't even matter.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a former steering committee member of the Human Rights Watch "Young Advocates," and a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

OPINION



LETTERS, from page 4

Since the May 1, 1998 grand opening of my new building, I have been a tenant in a low-income CCSM building. I've seen for myself the criminal and anti-social behavior perpetrated by some of my fellow tenants and their visitors. Since 1998, the Santa Monica Police Department has compiled several hundred type pages of crime incidents. Most of the crimes have gone unreported by the owner and by the tenants. The SWAT team has been at my building a couple of times. Mr. Moncrief, CCSM and the City Council refuses to admit that the official HUD Crossfire Report which says massive criminal activity comes with residents of publicly funded low income housing.

Repeated complaints to Moncrief's office and CCSM executive director, Joan Ling, have either been ignored or refuted. Mr. Moncrief's and Ling's head-in-the-sand attitude toward the criminal activity that occurs in and around many of the city's low income projects does nothing to make them safer and further endangers tenant and neighbor alike.

It's why I suggested that CCSM do criminal background checks on prospective tenants as part of the tenant evaluation process. A suggestion that has been dismissed by those in charge as "unnecessary and cumbersome."

Mr. Moncrief owes Ms. Sackariason and the fine editors at the Daily Press an apology.

Pro Se
Santa Monica

Measure S will help save education

Editor:

Is Santa Monica's Measure S good for business? You bet it is and it should be strongly supported by Santa Monica businesses as well as by the city's residents.

Although I am a parent of two children who are products of the SMMUSD and a long-time resident, I am writing this letter as one of the owners of a small Santa Monica business and as someone who has been active in the business community for several years.

Young people are the future of local business as well as of the community in general and they will be unable to compete for quality jobs and careers if they lack the fundamental skills traditionally taught by public schools. State budget cuts are certain to be substantially more severe than were expected last year when Measure EE was proposed. If we fail to pass the modest parcel tax called for by Measure S, we will unquestionably compromise the ability of our schools to teach these skills.

While businesses are rightly skeptical of new taxes, Measure S will impose a very modest increase of less than \$1 per day for many businesses but, at the same time, will represent a start in replacing the lost state funding and will, in the end, prove to benefit everyone, businesses included.

Measure S, of course, is not the end of the road. The SMMUSD administration and school board need to make sure that all available funds are spent wisely and the Santa Monica City Council should substantially increase its funding for local schools as an absolute top priority.

But it is imperative that we pass Measure S and I am pleased that the business community, acting through the Chamber of Commerce and other sources, has played a major role in this effort.

Tom Larmore
Santa Monica

A student's plea

Editor:

(Editor's note: All students in a local elementary school class were asked to write a letter to whoever they wanted. Brianna Green chose Gov. Gray Davis. Teachers and the principal picked that letter to show to school board May 15. She read it that night.)

Dear Mr. Governor Davis,

My name is Brianna Green and I live in Santa Monica. I attend McKinley Elementary School. This letter is regarding the drastic cuts in public education funding. With these cuts public school music programs may very well be eliminated. Can you imagine how this will hurt our children's education?

Without public school music programs, children will lose a huge part of their education. I strongly feel music is just as important as any other subject in school and it should not be taken away from children. So many kids could be musically gifted, but without music class they won't know if they are or get the chance to go further with their talent.

I do understand that the state of California gives money to hospitals and fire departments which is great and helpful. So if money goes to those places I think more money should be put in public education funding as well. Music is such a wonderful privilege and I'm sure that every child that is involved in music at school loves it, including me.

Not only will the loss of music programs effect children, but it will also effect the music teachers. Our fantastic music teachers could be laid off. They all really enjoy their job and I don't think they would want to see children without a musical education.

Well, after reading this letter I hope you will think about what I said and take it into consideration. As I said, so many children love music and it is crucial that children have music now and in the future.

Brianna Green
Santa Monica



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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US DURING THIS CELEBRATION!



LOCAL

Pink-slipped teacher faces uncertain future

TEACHER, from page 1

legal. It was hard. I started crying."

In her first and only year with the district, Erlandson assumed the role of union representative for Juan Cabrillo, a small elementary school of 327 kids that sits above Zuma Beach in Malibu. Now, she is the only full-time teacher there facing unemployment.

"Sometimes you feel alone," Erlandson said during a lunch break last week. "But when you see everyone wearing the ribbons you feel very supported."

Hundreds of school district supporters have been wearing pink ribbons for the past few months to honor those employees who are facing lay-offs this summer.

Vicki Chapman, a librarian in her fourth year at Juan Cabrillo, wandered into Erlandson's class during lunch. Chapman said it's sad Erlandson is targeted because she quickly made a name for herself at the small school by pioneering the Oceanography Club and other popular activities.

Chapman said she knows how Erlandson feels. Like more than 100 workers, librarians, and physical education and music teachers in the district, she too received a pink slip in March.

Chapman's situation is slightly different because she has a family and provides their health insurance through her employment at the district. Chapman, whose son suffers from juvenile diabetes, said she doesn't what she'll do come this summer.

"My life will change drastically," Chapman said plainly. "It's one of those holding patterns we both feel we're in."

Erlandson's only chance to keep her job is if Measure S passes on June 3. She said she'll wait to see what happens with the election before deciding what to do next. Erlandson has thought about pursuing other teaching jobs available at private, charter schools in California.

Like Erlandson, Chapman also hopes Measure S, which would levy a \$225 flat tax on every parcel of land in Santa Monica and Malibu, will pass June 3. If it

does, the measure would generate about \$6.5 million annually for the cash-strapped school district and many of the laid-off teachers could be rehired.

But Erlandson said there is a lot of certainty from both sides of the measure, which makes her uncertain. While the measure seems at times sure to pass, other times people seem convinced of its failure.

"I want my sister to have Ms. Erlandson. She's nice."

— AIMEE HAMEL
Fifth grader

Opponents of the measure say the tax is unfair because it would levy the same flat fee on large businesses and renters. They say schools should find their own funding and not ask taxpayers to lift them out of the \$13 million shortfall in spending from the state.

In Erlandson's classroom things go on as usual. The politics of the election — now just one week away — seem miles removed.

Erlandson appears to stay positive. And busy. Her walls are adorned by cardboard paper cut-outs of jelly bean jars that keep track of the books her students have read. "American lanterns" hang from the ceiling, which are six-sided paper mobiles that have keywords from U.S. history.

But despite appearances, Erlandson's class of 32 students does know about the upcoming election. And the students know that their teacher's job is in jeopardy. They used the same word to explain the situation as Chapman did — sad.

"I want my sister to have Ms. Erlandson," said Aimee Hamel, whose little sister is a second grader at Juan Cabrillo. "She's nice."

City non-profit organizations may see fewer dollars this year

CITY BUDGET, from page 1

The proposal includes 5 percent cuts in City Hall's operating budgets, which include lay offs, city services and capital improvement projects throughout the city.

Department heads throughout City Hall, with the exception of police and fire, have been asked to lay-off 5 percent of their employees this year and another 5 percent next year.

The lay-offs will save the city between \$4-\$4.5 million this year, said City Manager Susan McCarthy.

Residents and visitors also can expect proposals for increases in business license and development fees, sales taxes, transit taxes, parking fines and meter rates.

Major revenue sources for City Hall's budget includes user utility taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, hotel bed taxes, business license fees, parking fines, tickets and fees.

About 66 percent of the city's expenditures are used for salaries and wages, including retirement, and medical and worker compensation benefits.

Voters could be asked in November 2004 to increase sales taxes and possibly business license fees, which haven't been raised since the 1990s, McCarthy said.

She added that if at least two new revenue sources aren't established, City Hall will face much greater departmental cuts in the future.

The city's capital improvement budget for the next three years, which totals 39.2 million, could be drastically slashed to shore up City Hall's deficit.

After public hearing on June 17, the council will adopt a budget for 2003-2004, which begins on July 1.

City Council members can expect an outpouring of community activists urging them to save their coveted projects and programs as they make tough choices in adopting the budget.

STATE



Online guru sees a nation of Web cam watchers

BY RACHEL KONRAD

AP Business Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Jay Walker jump-started an online shopping craze by inventing Priceline.com, the Web site that lets people bid on airplane tickets and hotel rooms.

Now Walker is hoping his newest brainchild revolutionizes a completely different field: national security.

The premise behind Walker's USHomeGuard is simple: America has 47,000 power plants, airports and other "critical infrastructure facilities."

Walker believes a terrorist can get within 100 feet of most of them, unchallenged and undetected, and kill or injure thousands.

But if onsite cameras beamed photos to the World Wide Web, Americans could monitor these sites from home. If they spied a potential attacker — a masked man trying to scale a power plant fence, or a van parked next to a reservoir — they could alert security agents with a click of the mouse. Agents would call local authorities and help avert disaster.

Walker envisions spotters getting up to \$10 per hour, paid by the government agencies and companies that need protecting. He wants to sell USHomeGuard to the federal government for \$1, then charge fees to run the system.

Critics dismiss USHomeGuard as a doomed scheme that exploits Sept. 11 paranoia. Others question the effectiveness of a security system built on the Internet — itself vulnerable to hackers, power outages and congestion.

David Wray, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, said federal officials have not done any "serious evaluation" of the project, adding that the agency isn't contemplating a defense strategy that hinges on Internet surveillance.

Despite such skepticism, more than 10,000 people have visited USHomeGuard's new Web site, and Walker said he could get hundreds of thousands of Americans to sign up for home-based, work-when-you-can jobs.

"We like to think of USHomeGuard as a digital victory garden," Walker told a recent tech conference, referring to vegetable patches Americans planted to help ease food rationing during World War II. "It lets people be part of the solution."

USHomeGuard is a twist on distributed computing, an idea that captured imaginations in the 1990s, when thousands plugged their PCs into the SETI project to scour radio telescope signals for extraterrestrial communications.

Walker wants to distribute surveillance across thousands of computers and the people who use them. He says spotters could register online and get paid for clicking through photos and sending data back to USHomeGuard's central database.

The spotters answer a simple question about each image: Does it contain a person or vehicle? If yes, local authorities could be notified in as little as 30 seconds.

Walker said it's possible to guard against errors and attempts to foil the system.

For example, as many as one in 10 photos may be traps. If a spotter clicks "no" on a photo of a masked man airbrushed into a reservoir photo, the software suspends him for three minutes — without pay. He must requalify by clicking correctly through several test photos.

If a spotter clicks "yes" on an unstaged

photo, he triggers a first-stage alert. Software automatically routes the same photo to other spotters, and Web cams mounted near the site of the potential attack site beam more photos to more spotters.

When many spotters click "yes," they trigger a second-stage alert. Security supervisors at a data center review photos from all the Web cams and analyze video from the site.

Supervisors who see a suspicious person can speak to him through the Web cam: "Why are you approaching the reservoir?"

If the trespasser is toting a rod and says he's going fishing, the agent might simply ask him to depart. If he doesn't, the security agent may alert local authorities, who could arrive within minutes, depending on the location.

"People get suspicious easily, and this could quadruple our call volume. The idea is really good. But the timing is really bad."

— JOE CARRILLO

Capt. of the San Jose Fire Department

Walker, who has so far funded USHomeGuard with his own money, says he could quickly muster the volunteers needed to guard as many as 3,000 sites by the end of the year.

But it's unclear whether airports, chemical plants and other sites would buy it. Security experts say recognition software can spot potential attacks more economically and with more accuracy than thousands of Americans getting paid \$10 per hour.

"Asking people to make a determination of human or not human based on static images is going to be extremely difficult," said Gary M. Lauder of Atherton, Calif.-based Lauder Partners, who heard Walker's business pitch in February. "A computer could probably do a better job."

Bruce Schneier, co-founder of Counterpane Internet Security Inc., praised Walker's fresh approach. But he noted that USHomeGuard could not have prevented the World Trade Center attacks or the recent spate of overseas bombings.

"Like every security product, it would do some good against some evil," Schneier said. "This has nothing to do with suicide bombers in crowded markets or airplane terrorists. This would work in no man's land but nowhere else."

Firefighters, police officers and others who investigate scenes worry that such a system would generate too many false alarms and require computer upgrades and extra employees.

Capt. Joe Carrillo of the San Jose Fire Department, which protects dozens of technology and defense laboratories in Silicon Valley is bothered by the expense.

He said California's worst budget crisis in a generation will doom the idea.

"People get suspicious easily, and this could quadruple our call volume," Carrillo said. "The idea is really good. But the timing is really bad."

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check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ... page 2

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

Tips on how to keep your baby free from illness

Guest Commentary

By Jeffrey Penso, M.D.

QUESTION:

The SARS scare has me worried. How can I help prevent my newborn from catching any infectious diseases?

ANSWER:

Practicing good hygiene, including careful hand washing, is rule number one when caring for newborns. Most people don't wash their hands often enough, resulting in the spread of germs and viruses through personal contact. It is especially important to wash your hands after contact with bodily fluids such as after blowing your nose or using the bathroom.

Most diseases, such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), are spread primarily by close person-to-person contact. This includes touching

the skin of other people or objects that are contaminated with infectious droplets and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth. By washing your hands often and well, as well as covering your mouth and nose with tissue when you sneeze or cough, you can help prevent the spread of these infectious droplets to other people.

A newborn's immune system takes between 60 to 90 days to develop sufficiently to guard against illness and infectious diseases, so it's important to use extra caution until your baby is at least three months old.

By exercising common sense, such as not allowing family members or friends to kiss the baby if they have a cold, you can avoid spreading colds and viruses to your infant.

During flu season, it is also advisable to keep newborns out of public places like restaurants and shopping centers, thereby lessening their possible exposure to sick people.

Because babies are so susceptible to infectious disease prior to 2 months old, be sure to immediately report any infections or fever to your physician. These types of illness can pose serious life-threatening consequences for newborns and need to be treated with appropriate antibiotics as soon as possible.

Two common childhood viruses are RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and Rotavirus.

RSV can result in bronchitis and pneumonia, while the Rotavirus leads to vomiting, diarrhea and gastroenteritis. Newborns typically catch these viruses from older siblings, who bring the virus home with them from school, so it's important that siblings and other family members wash their hands frequently before touching or picking up the baby.

At 2 months old, newborns should receive their first set of immunization shots to protect them from seven different diseases, including diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, hepatitis B and meningitis. Then, at 4 months old, they receive the second series of the seven antigens.

During flu season (winter months), flu shots can also be administered to children over 6 months old.

Once newborns reach six months old, their immune systems are well developed and they are less susceptible to disease.

However, it is still a good idea to continue practicing good hygiene regardless of your child's age to help keep your child as healthy as possible.

(Jeffrey S. Penso, M.D., is a pediatrician and chair of pediatrics at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, call (310) 829-5511 or visit www.stjohns.org.)

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Pump Station — see calendar

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Rie Parent Infant Awareness Classes

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SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling Libraries

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr. olds with parent. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Lap Time - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequeños - 10am - April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.
School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other
Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling Libraries

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding

Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm
The Pump Station, Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other
Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

THURSDAY

Storytelling Libraries

Main Library
Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Toddler Story Time - May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9

8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other
Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

FRIDAY

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Classes
Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd, SM, 310-826-5774
HOT TOPICS FOR MOMS with babies 6-12 months - 1:00 - 2:30pm, \$15, no pre-registration required, space is limited. May 30th - Play and Stimulation: Melissa Idelson, OT

Other
Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (May 3, 10, 17, and 24)
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13
Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396-4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other
Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 10:30am - 4:30 pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 1 - 4:30pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

June 1

McCabe's Kids' Concerts presents Jody Prusan - 11:00 a.m., 3101 Pico Blvd.
 A joyous troubadour for children, Jody's material celebrates family, sharing, brotherhood and diversity. Tickets on sale now - Adults \$6, Kids \$3, Kids under two are free.

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library (programs for the

Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) **Lap Time** for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132
Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - **Toddler Story Time** - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm

June 2

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) - Solstice Canyon (Malibu) - 10am Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org



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INTERNATIONAL

Tribute to the unknowns



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

President Bush pays his respects at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on a rainy Memorial Day in Arlington, Va., on Monday. He is escorted by Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, commander of the Military District of Washington, center, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, right.

Offshore companies do \$1B in business with U.S. government

ABY JONATHAN D. SALANT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Companies that reduced their U.S. tax bill by incorporating overseas did \$1 billion worth of business with the federal government last year, an Associated Press computer analysis of federal contracts showed.

The Bermuda-based consulting company Accenture Ltd., a spinoff of the former Big Five accounting firm Arthur Andersen, was the biggest federal customer. It received \$662 million in contracts between Oct. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2002, mostly from the Transportation Security Administration.

The engineering firm Foster Wheeler Ltd. received \$293.2 million. Ingersoll-Rand Co. Ltd., which boasts that its equipment helped carve Mount Rushmore, received \$7.6 million.

During the federal fiscal year that ended in September 2001, companies with offshore headquarters received \$846 million in federal contracts, according to the House Ways and Means Committee's Democratic staff.

"It's outrageous that we would do business with these folks," said Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., who has introduced legislation to continue taxing companies that move their headquarters overseas. "They are shirking their citizenship."

The process is known as corporate inversion: A company moves its headquarters — sometimes nothing more than a post office box — to a low-tax enclave such as Bermuda or the Cayman Islands while leaving its operations and employees in the United States.

The Senate twice has passed legislation to prevent the new Homeland Security Department from doing business with companies that relocate overseas, but both times the provision was removed from the final bill by House Republican leaders.

Jonathan Grella, a spokesman for

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said the issue should be addressed as part of an overhaul of the tax system. Republicans have blamed high U.S. taxes for the problem.

Corporations that have moved overseas spent \$5 million to lobby Congress and the federal agencies and donated \$1.2 million to campaigns in 2001 and 2002, according to an AP analysis of data from Political Money Line, an Internet site.

To fight legislation restricting their ability to move offshore, the companies have assembled an all-star team of lobbyists, including former Sens. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., and Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz.; former House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas; and former House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-La., according to disclosure forms filed with the House and Senate.

Company officials said the tax breaks that result from moving their headquarters overseas keep them competitive.

"We felt that American companies, based upon the tax laws that are written today, are clearly put at an economic disadvantage to foreign companies," said Victoria Guennewig, a spokeswoman for Cooper Industries Ltd., a company that makes electrical products and tools. It moved from Houston to Bermuda in 2002 and received \$3.6 million in government contracts last year.

Lawmakers estimate corporations that have moved to low-tax countries cost the U.S. treasury \$4 billion a year.

"People should be screaming to the rafters about the hypocrisy involved in corporations moving offshore and then coming back to the taxpayers for a handout in the form of government contracts," said Charlie Cray, director of the campaign for corporate reform at Citizen Works, an advocacy group affiliated with consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Americans handing out \$1M daily in Iraq and auditors are on the way

BY PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. dollars are flown to Iraq by the plane load. An Army clerk pays Baghdad electricians from a footlocker full of cash. Soldiers string barbed wire at the site where Iraqi retirees get their pensions.

"It doesn't instill a lot of confidence," the CATO Institute's Christopher Preble says of reconstruction finances so far in postwar Iraq.

American troops and officials are handing out \$1 million a day in Iraq, according to the Pentagon-led Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance.

That spending is in addition to multimillion contracts awarded by the State Department and the roughly \$1 billion a week it takes to keep U.S. troops in Iraq.

Officials say they're developing an efficient and well-controlled system for getting money back into the country's economy again. But financing reconstruction in Iraq is a hugely complicated affair, with money coming in from at least a half dozen sources and going out in everything from tiny cash payments to contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Defense Department, infamous for its long-standing money management problems, will soon send a dozen auditors to oversee the spending.

Two months into the campaign in Iraq, the Bush administration has declined to say what reconstruction might cost or how long it thinks occupying forces might stay there.

"When is the president going to tell the American people that we're likely to be in ... Iraq for three, four, five, six, eight, 10 years, with thousands of forces and spending billions of dollars?" Sen. Joseph Biden asked Pentagon officials last week in a hearing.

"It is very difficult to predict" how long it will take, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz responded.

It is also unclear exactly how much they'll have to spend. But the finances will be "frighteningly difficult and legalistic," said one treasury official privately, partly because the pool of money to be spent is a mix of money that belongs to Iraq and has been frozen by the United Nations, the United States and other countries; money that might be pledged by coalition members; money Congress appropriated in the defense budget, and huge caches of dollars, gold and other assets found hidden around the country by the former regime.

Money taken from each of those pots comes with its own rules on how it can be spent — and all the rules aren't yet clear, officials said.

Cash used so far comes from \$1.7 billion of Iraqi money frozen by the United States under sanctions since 1990, Pentagon and Treasury officials said. Transferred at the war's start into an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, it's shipped to Iraq as needed.

About \$200 million has been drawn

down so far.

That's singles, fives, tens and \$20 bills, fluttered through an accounting machine, weighed, shrink-wrapped in stacks and flown on pallets to Iraq with two guards who stay awake and in line of sight at all times during the flight.

Some \$31 million had been handed out as of Friday to pensioners, police, teachers, electricians and other civil servants. It's a huge and important effort since a large percentage of Iraq's jobs came from the socialist and repressive former central government.

In just two examples, 6,500 port workers were each given \$20 — for a total of \$130,000 — to help reopen the southern port of Umm Qasr; troops of the air assault 101st Airborne Division paid \$142,000 to health ministry workers in the northern city of Mosul.

Money has also been spent for clearing away garbage accumulating on streets for two months since the war started; to repair decayed infrastructure and to replace office furniture and equipment in government ministries that were bombed during the war or looted afterward and have to get up and running again, officials said.

For instance, the 7th Marine Regiment recently wrote a contract for improvements at 180 schools in the central city of Najaf. At \$500 for each school, that's \$90,000.

Besides monitoring the river of cash flowing into Iraq, the new auditors will advise and help officials on contract issues.

So far, the State Department has awarded some \$1 billion in contracts and grants, mostly to American companies, to rebuild infrastructure, improve health and education and manage the port and airports.

Several officials stressed the Pentagon is particularly concerned about avoiding criticism later, wanting the spending above board and true to the promise that all frozen and found Iraqi funds will be spent on the Iraqi people.

What accountants envision sitting behind desks in Washington isn't easy to pull off in Iraq, where the banking system is broken, so many transactions are in cash, corruption is ingrained and some of the troops don't think this is a job U.S. soldiers should be doing, defense and congressional officials said.

In the only publicly disclosed incident so far, several soldiers were being investigated for allegedly trying to steal some \$900,000 from more than \$650 million in bills found stashed in a palace compound.

Auditors are to leave sometime around June 1 and stay three to six months. They include representatives from the Pentagon's inspector general, comptroller and joint chiefs of staff; the congressional investigative General Accounting Office; and the White House Office of Management and Budget. The Treasury already has a team of 22 people working to verify Iraqi government payroll lists, rebuild and reform the banking system.

SPORTS



Serena Williams opens French Open with easy win



Francois Mori/Associated Press

USA's Andre Agassi strikes a forehand to Slovak Republic's Karol Beck during their first round match of the French Open Tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Monday.

BY STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

PARIS — Serena Williams warmed up with sister Venus on center court at the French Open, then barely broke a sweat in her opening match against Barbara Rittner.

The younger Williams began her bid for a fifth consecutive Grand Slam title by beating Rittner 6-2, 6-1 Monday.

The victory was Williams' 29th in a row at a major tournament, a streak she began at Roland Garros a year ago. She's trying to become the first player since Steffi Graf in 1988-89 to win five straight Grand Slam titles.

"I think players generally believe that I'm the player to beat in any tournament, especially the Slams, because I like to kick it up to a new level," Williams said. "This is what I play tennis for mostly — to be remembered."

Andre Agassi, the 1999 champion, double-faulted twice on match point before finishing off Karol Beck 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

"I'm here because I believe I can win," said Agassi, at 33 the oldest player in the men's draw. "I've still got a chance."

There were three early upsets on the men's side. Eliminated were No. 5-seeded Roger Federer, No. 10 Paradorn Srichaphan and two-time French Open runner-up Alex Corretja, seeded 16th.

James Blake won a showdown of young Americans, beating Taylor Dent 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Williams warmed up 90 minutes before

her match with Venus Williams on the same court where they played last year's final.

"It was really fun to be back out where all the magic began for me last year," Serena said.

Venus, who has lost the past four major finals to Serena, plays her opening match Tuesday against Samantha Reeves.

Serena Williams looked nervous early, even with the stadium mostly empty on a sunny, 60-degree morning. In the first three games she over-hit several volleys and committed 10 unforced errors.

When she blew an easy overhead in the next game, Williams slumped over with a rueful smile. She soon settled down, won eight games in a row and closed the victory in 54 minutes.

"You always have the feeling like she can put another gear in, and then that's it," Rittner said. "She's very strong. It makes you feel like you have no influence on the game."

Other winners in women's play included No. 4 Justine Henin-Hardenne and No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo. Henin-Hardenne beat Patricia Wartusch 6-3, 7-5, and Mauresmo swept fellow Frenchwoman Virginie Razzano 6-3 7-5.

Ashley Harkelroad, an 18-year-old American ranked 52nd, made a successful debut at Roland Garros by beating Saori Obata 6-4, 6-2.

Another American, Meghann Shaughnessy, needed 2 1/2 hours to rally past Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 7-5, 11-9. Mary Pierce, the 2000 champion, lost to

2002 semifinalist Clarisa Fernandez 6-2, 6-3.

Federer was ousted in the opening round for the second straight year, committing 82 unforced errors and losing to Peru's Luis Horna 7-6 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (3).

"It's a big disappointment," said Federer, who leads the men's tour with 38 match victories this year. "Very sad to leave so early. I should have played better."

Horna, the 1997 juniors runner-up at Roland Garros, had never previously won a Grand Slam match.

"This is the most wonderful feeling I've ever had throughout my life," he said. "The fact that I was going to play Federer the first round, I was a bit nervous."

Paradorn was eliminated by Dominik Hrbaty 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 7-5. Corretja lost to fellow Spaniard Galo Blanco 5-7, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5.

Carlos Moya, the 1998 champion, beat Filippo Volandri 7-6 (7), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. Mark Philippoussis rallied past American qualifier Alex Kim 2-6, 6-7 (1), 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Defending champion Albert Costa opens Tuesday against lucky loser Sergio Roitman.

The French Open is the only title for Costa in his past 88 events, dating to August 1999. He has won just three Grand Slam matches since his remarkable showing at Roland Garros, which included an upset of three-time champion Gustavo

"You always have the feeling like she can put another gear in, and then that's it. She's very strong. It makes you feel like you have no influence on the game."

— BARBARA RITNNER
Tennis pro

Kuerten and a win over Spanish compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero for the title.

With 15 wins and 11 losses this year, including a modest 7-5 record on the clay surface he prefers, Costa again begins the tournament as a long shot. While he acknowledged that he's not playing as well as at the start of the tournament a year ago, he said he's more relaxed.

"I don't know if the people think I'm not going to repeat," he said Sunday. "I don't mind."

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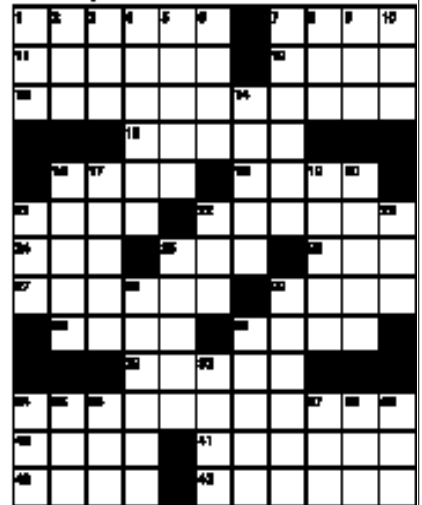
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - Goose egg
 - Horse heeler
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- 20 They offer child support**
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- 39 This clue, in a way**

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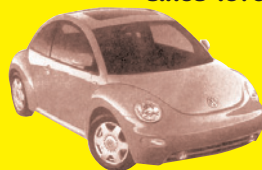


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VENICE BEACH \$900.00 Very charming Craftsman cottage. Single w/full kitchen, private patio, great location, close to Abbot Kinney + beach. 1 year lease, no pets.

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"THE FIRST day I put my laptop for sale in your paper. I got several offers and sold it that day! Thank you Daily Press!" Jamie Schuler, Santa Monica.

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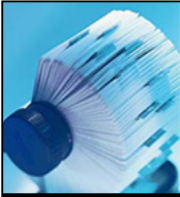
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BACK PAGE



They got someone's goat

By The Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Someone tried to get the goat of Waukesha police with a bizarre missive.

A goat was attached to a lamp post downtown, along with a message scrawled on an orange piece of paper:

"I stole a goat you (expletive) cops. I stole a goat and dropped it on this block. Let it run, let it play," the message read in part. "It's just a goat, be glad of that, next time a person be sure of that."

But the thief may have left a clue.

Waukesha Police Officer Doug Sandner said a diagram of a one-bedroom apartment was on the back of the note.

He said police have contacted several downtown apartment owners to see if the layout matches, "but this is what we call slim evidence."

Employees of a nearby restaurant found the goat tied up around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, but apparently no one saw the culprit leave it there.

The black and white pygmy goat, about the size of a young Labrador dog, was taken to an animal shelter. So far no one has claimed it, said Laurie Christopherson of the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County.

"We have gotten four or five calls from people wanting to adopt it," she said. "(The goat) has no health problems and is doing fine. ... The goat gets along great with people and with other animals."

A literal open door policy

By The Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — It would be hard to break the new Las Cruces mayor's prohibition against closed door meetings in his City Hall office. There isn't a door to close.

Removing the door from the mayor's office was one of Bill Mattiace's first official acts upon taking office in March.

Now, anyone can walk into the mayor's office to chat if he's available. Mattiace said the policy has been working.

"It's definitely a literal example of my intent to promote open government," Mattiace said.

But he admits it took a little time to get used to the no-door policy. Several people didn't want to meet with the mayor unless it was more private.

He said one developer who came into the office looked for a door to close, saying he had something private to discuss with Mattiace.

"I told him there wasn't any door, and if he really needed to say it then he could go ahead and say it without a door," Mattiace said. "He left, and I heard him muttering, 'There's no door, there's no door.'"

Mattiace is a relative newcomer to politics. He was elected to the City Council in 1999 and voted mayor in a special March election after former

Mayor Ruben Smith left to take a job with the state.

Before that, he was a substitute high school teacher, assistant college tennis coach, sales manager at an automobile dealership and vice president of a travel agency owned by his wife.

"It's been a learning experience so far, but something I've welcomed," Mattiace said.

A Groucho line-up

By The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — East Lansing High School sophomore Joe Kavanagh always wanted to break a world record, so he gathered 800 sets of black glasses with fuzzy eyebrows and mustaches.

About 800 students and faculty members who donned the disguises Thursday in an effort to break the Guinness World Record for Most People in One Place at One Time Wearing Groucho Marx Glasses.

The previous mark was 522 people. Participants at the 1,180-student school had to wear the glasses for 20 minutes to break the record.

"I didn't think that many people would actually do it," Kavanagh said. "I'm relieved and excited."

Kavanagh compiled signatures and photographs of the event, which he will send to Guinness representatives in the hopes of making the record official.

June 8th is Main Street Makeover Day



ENTER THE MAIN STREET MAKEOVER CONTEST

Win gift certificates to beauty and nail salons, fitness stores, spas and clothing boutiques for men and women on Main Street.

Main Street Santa Monica, the only historic shopping and dining district a block from the beach, will celebrate its post-street construction makeover by **giving away prizes.**

All you have to do to enter is fill out and mail in the entry form below, or go to www.MainStreetSM.com, click on the Makeover entry link and follow the instructions.

Win Makeover prizes! donated by Ambience, Betsy & Tracy, Bey's Garden, Black + Blue, Colorful Nails, The End, Gioia, Jeanie Madsen Design/Monkie, Main Attraction, Next, Pebbles, Piero, Relish, Salon Blu, Suji, Splash Bath & Body, and more!

Yes, I want to enter the Main Street Makeover Contest!!

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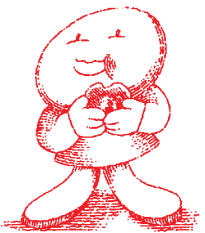
**Mail to: Main Street Merchants Association,
501 Colorado Ave., Ste. 150, Santa Monica, CA 90401**

Only one entry per person per address. Contest ends May 28, 2003 at midnight. Winners will be selected by drawing and will be contacted to be awarded their prizes at the June 8, 2003 Makeover Day Celebration.

...and join us for the 3rd Annual Main Street Summer SOULstice Festival & Sidewalk Sale, Sunday, June 15, 11am - 6pm, featuring Live Music, Pony Rides, Art Show, Petting Farm, Fashion Shows, Scavenger Hunt (with BIG prizes), Children's Playground, and more!

DID YOU KNOW?: The first TV interview was made with Irish actress Peggy O'Neil in April 1930.

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