

FREE

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 169

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

4-5-34-38-42

Megamember: 23
Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

01, 15, 23, 26, 38

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 3, 4
Evening picks: 9, 4, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot
2nd Place: 11, Money Bags
3rd Place: 05, California Classic
Race Time: 1:47.03



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ (Washington Post, April 11) An animal control officer responding to a call about a snake in a bathroom reported that the snake was actually a hair band.

■ Vancouver (Wash.) A woman called 911 to say a group of 30 cannibals from Yacolt were trying to break into her house. Officers were unable to locate any cannibals.

■ (Grass Valley (Calif.) A Dorsey Drive convalescent facility reported that one Alzheimer's patient struck another Alzheimer's patient, but neither of them remembered the incident or wanted medical attention.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It wasn't exactly a divorce. I was traded."

— Tim Conway



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Sixth arrest made in Pico shootings

SMPD chief says more suspects being sought

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Police have arrested and charged two men with attempted murder in connection with last week's gang-related shootings in

an eastside neighborhood.

Marshall Lipps, 21, of Santa Monica, was arrested on Tuesday at the Santa Monica Police Department at 6:05 p.m. after investigators interviewed him regarding a shooting that occurred on May 20.

Police chief James T. Butts Jr. said on Tuesday evening that

Lipps allegedly was the driver of the car in the May 20 shooting. Police are providing few details about how many people were involved in the shooting or how many were shot at.

On Wednesday, SMPD arrested Kevin Lamarr Crosby, 24, of Englewood, for attempted murder and a parole violation relating to

last week's shootings.

After Crosby was interviewed by SMPD detectives at the police station, he was arrested at 2:30 p.m. He is being held in the Santa Monica Jail on \$500,000 bail.

Six people have been arrested as part of the SMPD's ongoing

See ARRESTS, page 7

Santa Monica City Hall pours over the red ink

(Editor's note: This is the first article in an ongoing series detailing the Santa Monica City Council's special budget session meetings held this week.)

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

City Hall managers laid out their plans Tuesday on how to save Santa Monica nearly \$4 million by cutting the fat in their departments.

Santa Monica faces a projected deficit of \$16.1 million for next year and \$20.2 million the following year.

Left alone, officials say the deficit will grow

to \$28.1 million by the fiscal year 2005-2006.

Nine department heads in City Hall on Tuesday laid out their plans to cut nearly \$4 million from next year's budget. More managers went before the City Council on Wednesday to detail their proposals, which mean more cuts are expected within City Hall's operational expenses.

The bottom line, said City Finance Director Mike Dennis, is the budget proposes to close the deficit by cutting \$5.4 million from the general operating budget, \$1.6 million from the capital improvements budget, raising an additional \$5.2 million in revenues and saving \$3.9

See PLANS, page 6

City Hall managers lay out proposed cuts

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

With City Hall facing a \$16.1 million deficit this year, nearly all departments have been mandated to reduce their operational costs by 5 percent.

The proposals on Tuesday mean the elimination of nearly nine jobs within City Hall and

See CUTS, page 6

Look into my eyes



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press
Santa Monica paramedics tend to an intoxicated homeless woman named 'Jewel' who had fallen down at the corner of Santa Monica and Lincoln boulevards.

Malibu OK's declawing of animals, calls resolution

BY BRUCE HARING
Associated Press Writer

The Malibu City Council stopped short of becoming the second city in California to ban the practice of declawing cats, calling instead for a resolution that would condemn the surgery for all animals.

The five-member council voted unanimously Tuesday night to order its staff to draft the resolution in time for the next council meeting on June 9.

Councilwoman Joan House's motion for an ordinance banning declawing did not receive a second, despite the support of about 40 people, including actor Buddy Hackett, who attended Tuesday's meeting.

Last month West Hollywood became the first city in California to ban the declawing of cats, which animal rights activists say is painful and unnecessary.

Hackett, a longtime animal rights advocate, said he had rescued many cats over the years and has noticed behavioral problems in those that have been declawed.

Veterinarian Jennifer Conrad, founder of The Paw Project, a local animal advocacy group, said her organization would continue to push for declawing bans in the cities of Santa Monica, Palm Springs and San Francisco. In the meantime, she praised the support for a resolution condemning the process in Malibu, saying it "might just be a symbolic act, but it is an act saying we do not condone the practice of declawing."

The procedure, formally known as onychectomy, costs \$100 to \$300 and removes the first joint of each toe in an animal's paw. It's typically done to prevent cats from scratching people and furniture, but opponents say other alternatives are available, including regular claw trimming, coating a cat's nails in vinyl, or teaching a cat to use a scratching post.

Declawing is banned in some European nations, and Assemblyman Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood, has proposed banning it statewide.

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June 8th is Main Street Makeover Day



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CELEBRATE MAIN STREET WEEK — June 8 to June 15 by participating in the First Ever MAIN STREET SCAVENGER HUNT.

You could win a couch from Ashland & Hill, fashionwear and activewear, dinners for two, beauty supplies and more! Clue sheets will be available at the Main Street table at the Farmer's Market Sunday, June 8, and at many stores during Main Street Week. Entry is Free.

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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 Thursday, May 29, 2003:

You have the ability to sleuth through nearly any problem if you so decide. Your ability to have conversations and gather information highlights you. Your gains could be enormous if you're willing to do the needed research. Don't kid yourself about your directions and choices. You will need plenty of downtime to think and evaluate. Often, you might be more comfortable alone this year. If you are single, you are in a very special period where meeting someone could easily happen. This person could light up your life. If you're attached, scheduling frequent getaways together might be instrumental to keeping the balance in your relationship. TAURUS reads you cold.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Friends have definite ideas, which could cost you. My, my — now what? You might be causing yourself a lot of angst by saying "no." Still, taking a strong stand might be absolutely necessary. Emphasize your security. Set your limits, and let others know. Tonight: Treat yourself.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A boss challenges you in the most unexpected manner possible. Examine what might be going on within the dynamics of family and work. Not everything is as clear as you would like. Be careful with a hot tamale that you're dealing with right now. Tonight: As you like it.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Knowing when to back off could make or break a situation. Examine what might be necessary to calm down a situation. If you must, reach out for other sources, new information and different perspectives. You'll like what comes up. Tonight: Take a break.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Know what you want, be it through groups or networking. You'll gain as a result. A partner might be on the warpath and difficult at best to work with. Do not lose sight of your long-term goals and desires. Be explicit with others. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take charge at work, especially if an associate has a way of tossing chaos in your path. You could be distracted by a personal situation, making you most uncomfortable. You cannot change anyone. Tonight: A must show.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your energy powered by irritation will help you get past an immediate problem. Don't lose sight of the big picture. Your ability to get past problems makes you the office star. A little humility goes a long way. Tonight: Hop on the computer or rent a movie.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Give each person your attention. Someone you care about — a child or loved one — could be on the warpath. Do you want to appease this person? Only you can answer this question. Do something that will make you happy. Tonight: Make nice.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Someone is in the mood to rock and roll. You could come to an understanding if you defer to a partner, but that might not be the easiest thing to do. Wildness comes from different sources, especially around the home front. A family member could create his or her share of uproar. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Make a list of what you must do, and do it. You could appear overly serious or busy to some, but you get much more done than usual. Others could be surprised by your efficiency and devil-may-care attitude. You know what you want. Tonight: Let go of the hard pace.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Someone has great ideas on how to spend your money. Are you willing to take unusual risks? Only you can answer this question. Take your time with the decision-making process right now. You're capable of finding creative solutions. Tonight: Let the wild thing in you out.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your fiery nature and willingness to tell it like it is can cause problems — as if you and others didn't know that. Stay in touch with your long-term desires, not creating uproar where you don't need to. Make security your highest priority. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for those you need to talk to, although you might not be 100 percent sure about what you want. You need to factor in some frustration on your part. You might be unusually impulsive; just keep talks open and directed. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cash raised for new hospital project

By Daily Press staff

More than \$450,000 was raised last month for the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center's rebuilding project.

The "Bravo Brazil Gala," held May 17, attracted about 450 people. Proceeds will benefit the hospital's \$260 million replacement project, currently being built around the existing facility, located at 1250 16th St.

When completed in December of 2005, the new, seismically fitted hospital will feature a Northern Italian architectural style similar to original buildings on the UCLA campus. More than 25 percent of the hospital's campus will be devoted to green or open spaces.

The new hospital also will contain the world-class services of Orthopedic Hospital, currently located in downtown Los Angeles. Under a strategic alliance with UCLA Healthcare, the hospital will relocate many of its services to Santa Monica after the new facility is completed.

Other features of the new facility will be a 13,000-square-foot emergency center to better meet the community's emergency and urgent care needs, as well as a new labor and delivery unit, and a 16-bassinet neonatal intensive care unit, a state-of-the-art critical care unit and an expanded outpatient treatment center.

African-American holiday hits Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

The black community in Santa Monica will celebrate its heritage in style this month. The public is invited to attend the "11th Annual Juneteenth Celebration" will be on Saturday, June 21. The Santa Monica/Venice Branch of the NAACP, the City of Santa Monica, and the Juneteenth Committee, will host the event with other local organizations.

"Juneteenth 2003" will take place on the Third Street Promenade, between Arizona Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard, on June 21 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Juneteenth" is recognized as the first celebrated holiday for African-Americans in the United States and commemorates the day when slaves initially received word of their own freedom. Juneteenth and has become an integral part of African-American history and an occasion for nationwide celebrations in honor of freedom, dignity and community pride. In some states, it is a state holiday.

The event will start with a procession of West African dancers, gospel singers, musicians and dignitaries that will weave a stream of music and dance through the Promenade announcing Juneteenth, beginning on Broadway Avenue, leading to the main stage at Third Street and Wilshire Boulevard. The performers will depict African-American history from African kings and queens, through American slavery, the emancipation, the jazz era and up to the present.

Stage performances will include gospel choirs, jazz and blues ensembles. Families and friends also will enjoy a musical review including jazz artist, Phyllis Battle, Larry Robinson (North on South Central) and the 12-member, West African dance ensemble, Muffukeda Sane.

L.A.'s best African-American "soul-food" and other cuisine will be available from area vendors. African-American arts, crafts and contemporary fashions will be on display and for sale.

Fund-raiser planned for playhouse

By Daily Press staff

With the final days nearing for the Santa Monica Playhouse to raise enough money to stay afloat, an event is planned next week to bring in some much-needed cash.

Proceeds from the performance of Dear Gabby and a buffet supper on the patio at the Santa Monica Playhouse, located at 1211 Fourth St., will benefit the organization.

The event is scheduled for Friday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Seating is limited and ticket prices include the buffet supper catered by The Swanky Zebra and a special dessert provided by Zazu Cookies You Crave!

To order tickets, call the Santa Monica Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779

Prices are: 1st and 2nd rows: \$50 per seat 3rd and 4th rows: \$40 per seat

5th and 6th rows: \$30 per seat Side seats: \$20 per seat

For more info, log onto: <http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/savetheplayhouse.htm>



If you can see the waves, you can surf them. Spots all around Santa Monica were fun Wednesday morning and perhaps a little less crowded for the clouded greyness — and the morning high tide.

The waist- to chest-high waves should fade slowly through the rest of the week.

BAD NEWS: The wind swell is pretty much gone.

GOOD NEWS: Another SW will fill in today.

OUTLOOK: Fun surf into the weekend. Nothing huge, but it'll do.

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	12:11	2.1	12:03	0.4	5:31	3.9	6:51	4.7
SUNDAY	1:04	1.5	12:41	0.7	6:37	3.8	7:17	5.0
MONDAY	1:46	1.0	1:13	1.0	7:31	3.8	7:40	5.2
TUESDAY	2:22	0.5	1:40	1.3	8:19	3.7	8:03	5.4
WEDNESDAY	2:55	0.1	2:06	1.6	9:02	3.7	8:25	5.6
THURSDAY	3:27	-0.2	2:31	1.8	9:43	3.6	8:49	5.7
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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

LETTERS

Measure imperative for kids' education

Editor:

As my family drove home tonight from what might have been the last-ever instrumental music concert at our elementary school, we passed a huge placard that told us to vote against the upcoming school funding measure. I looked up the "No" Web site and was flummoxed by the logic spelled out there. First they say that Measure S will hurt the poor. Won't the poor children be hurt the most when their instrumental music, physical education staff, library services, nurses, support staff, custodians and learning specialists are taken away? They say that the city councils have chosen not to prioritize education, which is false. They have given millions. They say the school district's problems come from mismanaging its budget, which is false. It's the state that has cut us at the knees. They say that we refuse to do a district-wide fundraiser. Not only does every school raise funds to provide programs, but the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is in the process of raising a \$15 million endowment to insure the future of arts in our schools.

Please remember that to pass Measure S we will need two "Yes" votes for every "No." Please get out there and vote on June 3 and bring your neighbors and friends. The "No" campaign is politically motivated and driven by misconceptions. The truth of the matter is that if this measure fails, our school district will be poised to become a shell of what it is now. Our two beautiful cities and all our incredible children deserve better.

Miriam Billington
McKinley Elementary School mom
Santa Monica

CCSM needs to look at its tenants

Editor:

I think it's time for a class action suit against the Community Corp. of Santa Monica for failing in their responsibility to provide safe housing (and to be good neighbors) in the Pico neighborhood. Maybe that will get them off their butts and clean out the criminals in the buildings that we taxpayers pay for.

Any lawyers out there with time for some Pro Bono work?

Richard Tuttle
Santa Monica

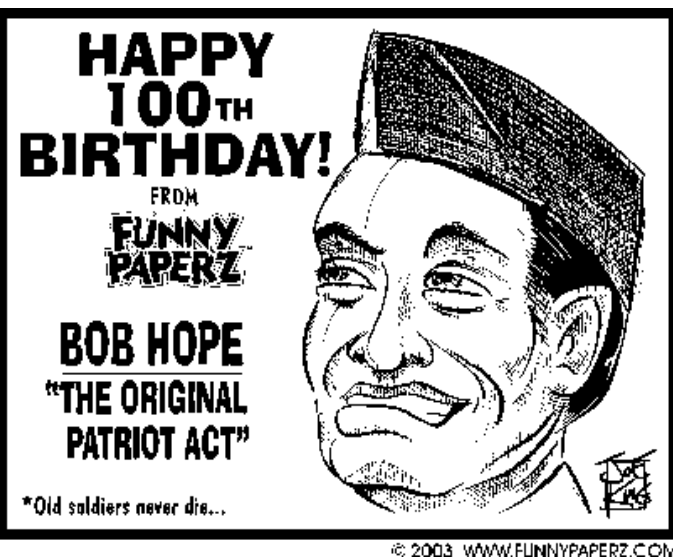
Why you vote 'yes' on S

Editor:

Our children are watching and hoping for passage of Measure S. Here's why:

- To keep from losing 91 of their excellent teachers.
- To keep them in small classes so they may receive the attention they need.
- To hold onto their elementary school music program.
- To keep their nurses, librarians and custodians on the job.
- The children who come from low- and moderate-income households are hoping

See LETTERS, page 5



Broken trust proves to be the toughest of repairs



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

The red flags were sprouting like the season's pansies and petunias, but somehow I just kept managing to ignore them. I was seething. I was frazzled. I wanted things to stop exploding under the hood of my politically incorrect SUV.

"Ya know, I could just take it back to our shop and we could work on it in the morning," the seemingly upstanding tow truck driver offered through a thick Mexican accent. "I'll give you our business card."

"We're located just over there," he said, flailing his hand in no particular direction. Sensing some evident hesitancy on my part, he looked at me with a disarming gaze. "Trust me."

He's right. Why are we so loath to trust anymore? Sure, we've never met before, but here he is coming to my aid on the I-10 at rush hour, rescuing me from my perilous perch atop an overpass. I needed help and here was a helper.

Maybe he went into this line of work because he wanted to help people, wanted to make a difference. Maybe this is how lasting relationships are forged, and interconnections among this human race transformed, by the simple acts of an outstretched hand and sense of trust to accept it. Maybe things do happen for a reason and this hero riding in on a white steel horse was about to push me in an unex-

pected and glorious new direction.

Maybe I was getting high on the busted radiator fumes.

About 30 minutes prior to Jose's arrival I was making my way westward towards Santa Monica with one eye fixed on my dashboard temperature gauge. I was using body English in attempts to keep that needle from swinging all the way to the big "H" atop that damned warning-orange marking. The stereo wasn't helping. I needed to keep focused here, watching the road and needle in equal turns while wondering aloud if I had given the engine enough time to cool down after it overheated on Highland Avenue.

I didn't.

"Boom!"

Something exploded beneath my hood and green coolant fluid washed up over my windshield like I was hitting the pool at the bottom of a log flume ride at Magic Mountain. The fun was fleeting, however, as I swerved and pulled over at the worst possible spot along the I-10, where every passing car made the highway bounce and sway. All I could think of sitting on the shoulder there, buckled in and bracing, was those police videos where a car is pulled over and unsuspectingly a truck or something barrels into the stopped vehicle. I called for a tow staring out my rear window. At least I'll see my demise coming.

The red flags continued to sprout on the ride back to my apartment. After alluding to the fact that I'm a writer and I work in a television-related field, a light bulb seemed to go off in my rescuer's head.

"Television! You must make a lot of money," he told me, more than asked me.

"Um, I'm not exactly driving a Mercedes back there," I replied, pointing

to my vehicle chained to his flatbed.

"So where do you live? I'll drop you off," he asked.

I had a sinking feeling watching him pull away from my modest one-bedroom apartment. His excitement was only fanned by the fact that I lived in Santa Monica.

"Wow. You must be doing really good," he said.

This wasn't the ride I had hoped he would take me for. I hoped I would be reunited with my disabled car again. I wanted to hug it good-bye as the two of them drove off to God knows where.

Two days later I got the call from one of the mechanics that there is some bad news — clogging in the radiator caused the hoses to explode.

"Let's see the radiator, hoses, labor, blah, blah, blah. We're looking at \$352 ... but I can knock it down to \$320 if you pay in cash."

Red flag. Still, what else was I gonna do? They had it and I couldn't drive it and Allstate wasn't gonna pay to have it towed again. So I bent over the proverbial barrel and said, "Sounds good."

There's no bliss in car ignorance!

Told my car would be done the following morning, I called out of work and hopped a Big Blue Bus down towards the airport to find this place, if it, in fact, existed.

Walking down Aviation Boulevard at 5 p.m., a man smoking a cigarette suddenly darted back inside the garage upon seeing me. Not good. My SUV was sitting there unattended, hood up, parts still lying across the engine and on the ground.

Soon after, in the waiting room, I hear one of the mechanics getting cursed out on the phone by another dissatisfied cus-

tomers. There were enough red flags going off around here to hold a May Day parade through the streets of communist Moscow.

"Trust me," I kept hearing echoing through my mind.

"Are you the owner of the Isuzu Rodeo?" asked a man in a fancy silk shirt and worn sneakers. "It looks like there's some problems with your engine. We're gonna have to keep it overnight."

By now my face was as red as those flags. They wanted to dismantle the engine and probe a little deeper. We were looking at another \$2,000 or so in repairs. I wonder if they wanted it in cash. Maybe I could place it in a briefcase and make the drop at an airport terminal just for effect.

I told them to finish the radiator and I was getting the hell out of Dodge.

"I wouldn't risk it," the garage owner warned. "Trust me."

In the end, the car seems fine without further probing. I guess three days of probing wasn't enough for this outfit. I am currently in search of a mechanic I can trust and build a relationship with. A mechanic, I am finding out quickly, is like a good doctor — find one you trust and hang on to them, because blind trust can only lead to disappointment.

Trust, unfortunately in this day and age, is something that must be earned. Still, we mustn't deny others the opportunity to earn it. Yes, I regret having my car towed to that particular garage, but I don't regret giving a new acquaintance the benefit of the doubt, for that is still the only way we will ever learn to trust one another.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, e-mail to tooroam@aol.com.)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

to keep their pre-school programs from being eliminated.

Without Measure S, our schools will be devastated. We grown-ups also are watching and keeping faith in the voters in this election to keep our community healthy, vibrant and strong — something we cannot do without high quality schools.

That's why Measure S has the support of a huge bi-partisan coalition of renters and homeowners, teachers and parents, business and labor organizations, senior citizens and youth organizations, and many others. We are united in the effort to help our schools through this funding crisis.

Please vote "Yes" on Measure S.

Rochelle Lewis-Fanali

Co-chair, legislative committee, Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs

Don't listen to the naysayers

Editor:

I did something important this morning. I voted YES on Measure S.

I voted for our schools. I voted for our kids. I voted for our democratic way of government. I voted.

I will be in Sacramento on June 3, election day for Measure S. I will be lobbying legislators directly on issues related to the state budget, accountability, the importance of accurate data for research and intervention programs, and the impacts they have on cities and school districts. But that is more long-term.

So I cast my absentee ballot today. Measure S is now.

Voting yes on Measure S is one of the few ways I as a voting citizen can help assure an ongoing, stable source of revenue for "my" local school district. It is one of the few ways I can take matters into my own hands while legislators in Sacramento continue to argue among themselves and continue to spar with the governor.

Will Measure S resolve the school district's revenue shortfall? Will it generate enough money to hire back all the teachers, restore all the programs, bring back all laid-off classified staff? Will it generate enough money to support the quality of schools we, as Santa Monica and Malibu residents want for our children? No, of course not and no one claims it will.

Look carefully, listen carefully. Measure S is an essential part of a multi-prong approach to making sure our schools remain strong.

Look carefully, listen carefully. Voting YES on S is good for homeowners, renters and business alike. It serves not only our students and community in general, but specifically serves our home values and our business climate. We became homeowners in Santa Monica 20 years ago because of the excellent reputation of our local public schools. A yes vote is a vote for the desirable quality of life Santa Monica and Malibu are known for.

Look carefully, listen carefully. Don't be distracted by the empty arguments of perennial gadflies who put forward agendas of convoluted thought.

Look carefully, listen carefully, think clearly. It takes two-thirds of the vote to win.

Look carefully, listen carefully, think clearly. Every vote counts, your vote counts.

Don't let someone else speak for you. Use your own voice.

Speak out. Vote yes on S.

Barbara Inatsugu

Past president, League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

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

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LOCAL

Tuesday's proposed cuts total nearly \$4 million

CUTS, from page 1

cutting employee's overtime hours.

Here are the department head's suggestions:

■ The capital improvements projects, which commands a \$71 million budget, proposes taking away from funds meant for a seismic retrofit of City Hall, extending the time frame for replacing city computers and vehicles, delaying the alley revitalization project and borrowing money for City TV, the city's cable television channel. The total proposed cuts amount to \$1.6 million.

■ In an effort to save \$20,000, officials propose cutting the City Council's back-up staff by reducing the hours of two positions who work for council members.

■ The city manager's office, which commands a \$6.8 million budget, proposes cutting \$230,000 by eliminating a vacant full-time public safety position and a part-time vacant administrative post.

Staff in the city manager's office also plan to share resources with the City Council's office, reduce the number of new City TV programs, eliminate the Public Electronic Network, cut expert services on communications projects and reduce the amount of dedicated technology the police department uses.

■ Records and elections services proposes to cut \$59,000 from its \$1.8 million budget, mostly by limiting equipment and supply expenses, including finding less expensive paper contracts. The city currently is locked into an agreement for paper with a 50 percent recycled content. Arrangements with a different vendor or a lower content of recycled paper could be less expensive, said City Clerk Maria Stewart. The department also proposes removing the public copier from City Hall.

■ The city attorney's office, which

oversees a \$6 million budget that is 94 percent salaries and wages, proposes saving \$257,000 by cutting a vacant relief receptionist position and shifting the salary for another worker to a different fund.

■ The finance department proposes scaling back its \$4.3 million budget by \$200,000 by cutting a vacant auditor position, cutting overtime and reducing the amount of money spent on supplies and expenses.

■ Human resources recommends shaving \$93,000 off of its \$2.1 million budget, mostly by cutting two technician positions and limiting supply expenses.

■ The police department, which controls a \$46 million budget, proposes reductions of \$438,000 by cutting the equivalent of 1.8 positions. Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. said the cuts will effect support staff in the vice and narcotics division, as well as the mounted police unit.

■ The Santa Monica Fire Department, whose \$16.2 million budget is 93 percent salary and wages, proposes cutting \$85,000 from next year's budget, including the elimination of a fire safety coordinator position. Fire Chief Ettore Berardinelli said the cuts will mean the discontinuation of several outreach and education programs sponsored by the fire department.

■ The budget for non-departmental expenses, which oversees employee benefits for the entire city, will grow from \$8.5 million in 2002-2003 to \$15.8 million in 2003-2004, largely due to increased retirement and health care costs. Still, the department will cut roughly \$800,000 from its budget, mostly by freeing up funds that were being held if the living wage ordinance had passed last year. City Hall would have been required to pay all of its employees \$10.50 an hour with benefits or \$12.50 without benefits if the ordinance had passed last November, which it didn't.

SM City Council works toward a balanced budget

PLANS, from page 1

million through various policy changes, such as taking more of the revenue from hotel bed taxes for the city's general fund.

"We have a difficult few years ahead, but ... this is a survivable situation," said City Manager Susan McCarthy, adding that "the worst possible approach to the situation we face would be denial."

McCarthy said that's what is happening in Sacramento right now, where legislators are playing the shell game with various funds. In the end, McCarthy said Santa Monica and local governments throughout California will have to deal with a mounting series of take backs from the state.

Officials currently estimate a shortfall of \$4.1 million in state funding for next year.

As parking fines and meter rates continue to climb, residents will likely be asked to approve a series of tax increases to help bail out the city, McCarthy added, signaling increases in hotel bed taxes, sales taxes and business license fees.

Then there are the cuts.

The good news, McCarthy said, is that of the 31 positions the city proposes to cut, only four are currently occupied. And of

"We have a difficult few years ahead, but ... this is a survivable situation."

— SUSAN MCCARTHY
City manager

those four positions, one worker is retiring, one is transferring to a different department, one is being promoted and the other plans to resign and return to school.

But McCarthy said another 19 positions will probably have to be cut the following year, and raises for employees, which are currently not budgeted for 2004-2005, will have to be reinstated at some point in order to keep city jobs competitive.

Tuesday's meeting was the first of three special budget study sessions at City Hall this week. The second session was held on Wednesday night and the last meeting will begin at 6 p.m. tonight.

Council members are expected to adopt next year's budget at their June 17 meeting.

LOCAL



Santa Monica Police hone in on shooting suspects

ARRESTS, from page 1

investigation into four shootings that occurred this month in the Pico neighborhood, a troubled area of Santa Monica that has been riddled with gang violence and drug dealing for decades. None of the recent shootings resulted in injuries.

Other suspects are being sought by the SMPD in connection with last week's shootings, some of which are Pico residents and are on active parole, Butts said.

Lipps, who doesn't live in the Pico neighborhood, was booked into the Santa Monica Jail and is being held on \$500,000 bail.

Police served search warrants at three different apartments late last week in connection with the shootings. Those searches resulted in the arrest of three Santa Monica residents who police allege were involved in one or more of the shootings. They have been identified as Terrence Brown, 23, Richard DeLa Cruz, 30, and Richard Hernandez, 19.

Another man, Ashia Boldwar, 20, was arrested on a robbery warrant. Police allege he is connected to one or more of the shootings.

Boldwar's mother, Constance Washington, told the Daily Press on Tuesday that Boldwar had nothing to do with the shootings. Boldwar was released from the Santa Monica Jail on Tuesday.

Brown, who was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and outstanding warrants, also was released from the Santa Monica Jail on Tuesday.

After Brown's arrest, SMPD issued a warrant and searched his apartment, where police recovered a firearm and about 100 bullets, authorities said.

Charges against the two men are still active, police said.

"Charges can be filed at anytime as part of the investigation," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

DeLa Cruz, who was arrested and charged with pro-

"Charges can be filed at anytime as part of the investigation."

— FRANK FABREGA
SMPD spokesman

bation violation after police found evidence in his apartment that allegedly links him to the shootings, remains in the Santa Monica Jail. His bail is set at \$12,500.

Hernandez also remains in Santa Monica Jail. He was arrested for a felony parole violation and has no bail. Police say they searched Hernandez's apartment where they found evidence allegedly linking him to the shootings.

The neighborhood has been plagued with gang violence and drug dealing for years. Most of the tension is territorial — between the Graveyard Crips and the Santa Monica 17th Street gang — as well as racial. One gang is black, the other Latino.

The suspects arrested are black, Latino and white. Three of the six arrested live in the Pico neighborhood.

For the past decade, most of the gang activity has been in a relatively small section of the neighborhood — 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. And many of the gang members are youth and young adults who are on parole or probation, police said.

The May 20 shooting was the third incident in as

many days in the neighborhood.

Residents called the SMPD to report shots being fired in the alley on the 1800 block of 17th Street. No one was injured.

The day before, at about 4:50 p.m., SMPD responded to a call from residents in the 1900 block of 20th Street, who said they heard shots fired and then saw two black men fleeing the scene in a small vehicle. No other details could be provided by witnesses, police said.

On May 18, a group of people were shot at in broad daylight at the corner of 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. SMPD officers responded to the call at 1:55 p.m. from residents who reported that a group of men standing at the intersection were the victims of a drive-by shooting.

SMPD officers spoke to several witnesses who said two male Hispanics drove by the group of three or four men and fired several shots. The car, described as an older model Chevy Suburban with alloy rimmed wheels, headed south on 17th Street after the shooting, police said.

Another shooting occurred on May 9 in the 1800 block of 17th Street. In that incident, a stray bullet went through two walls and hit a dresser in a bedroom of Maritza Casillas' home.

Casillas lives on 17th Street with her four children. Casillas brought pictures to a recent neighborhood meeting that showed how the bullet traveled through her home.

Evidence, including bullet casings, has been recovered from all of the scenes. That evidence will be matched up with what was recovered at the three locations searched by police. More suspects are being sought in connection with the shootings and SMPD is working closely with Los Angeles County probation officials and state probation authorities.

DID YOU KNOW?: Elvis was an avid gun collector. His collection of 40 weapons included M-16s and a Thompson submachine gun.

"If Measure S fails, the consequences will be devastating. With so much at stake, please vote Yes on Measure S."

"Measure S is critical for our children, their schools, and our quality of life."

— SHANE TALBOT, PRESIDENT,
SANTA MONICA POLICE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

"Measure S, the school funding measure on June's ballot, is critical to protecting our children's future. But it is also critical to protecting our own quality of life. Please vote Yes on S to protect our children and our community-at-large."

— BETTY MUELLER, CHAIR,
RENT CONTROL BOARD

"Teachers support Measure S because it is the only way to prevent our schools from deteriorating overnight. If Measure S fails, we will no longer be able to provide our children with the education they deserve."

— HARRY KEILEY, PRESIDENT
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU
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"Measure S is good for the entire community. Strong schools enhance our quality of life. We can count on complete taxpayer accountability because Measure S requires a Citizens Oversight Committee with independent annual audits to ensure that all funds are properly spent."

— KATHRYN B. DODSON, Ph.D., PRESIDENT
AND CEO SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

"I support Measure S because it will save our excellent schools and give our children opportunities to keep them involved in school and off the streets. Excellent schools and safer communities usually go together."

— POLICE CHIEF JAMES BUTTS

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— JANE SURE, SANTA MONICA
COMMISSION ON OLDER AMERICANS

"Santa Monica and Malibu PTAs strongly support Measure S because it is the only way we can protect our children from devastating state funding cuts."

— CHERI ORGEL, PRESIDENT, SANTA
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STATE □ NATIONAL

L.A. approves plan for new 20,885-home development

BY ROBERT JABLON
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County supervisors have cleared the way for the largest subdivision in county history to be built 35 miles north of downtown, dashing the hopes of environmentalists opposed to urban sprawl.

By a 4-1 vote, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a revised environmental impact report on a plan to build 20,885 homes on 12,000 acres of oak- and sage-covered hills in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Supervisor Michael Antonovich, whose district includes the development, said it is expected to create 19,000 jobs and seven new schools.

"You're going to see that as the economic stimulator for the entire county," he said.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who cast the lone dissenting vote, cited the development as another example of urban sprawl that has steadily eaten away at rural edges of the county.

"When is enough enough?" he asked. "We are on a course that is demonstrably wrong."

The development would be built in an area rich in local history. Prehistoric Indian sites were discovered there and the valley has been the site of filming since Hollywood's earliest days.

Opponents said they may sue to halt the development.

"The county just made that the only option," said Barbara Wampole, of the group Friends of the Santa Clara River. "They made the wrong choice again."

But the developer said all environmental issues were addressed.

"We're obviously very pleased," said Marlee Lauffer, of Newhall Land and Farming Co. "There was not one single issue brought up today that we have not

heard and addressed in the past."

She said it will be at least 2006 before the first homes are built.

The development would be built over about 20 years in the northwest corner of the county, already one of the fastest-growing regions in the state. The project would create five "villages" and 350,000 square feet of commercial and industrial space near the Santa Clara River.

Half of the 12,000 acres would be permanently set aside as public wilderness and recreation land and would include 50 miles of walking trails.

The original environmental report was revised to include additional water supplies for the 70,000 people expected to live in the development. It also reduces the size of the original project by 730 homes and sets aside a 64-acre reserve to protect the endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower, which was found on the property.

Supporters of the project noted the need for housing in a state where the population is expected to increase by about 6 million people over the next decade.

"We need to build 25,000 homes a year to meet our demand," said Ray Pearl, executive officer of the Greater Los Angeles-Ventura chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California.

The project was first proposed in 1994 and the Board of Supervisors approved it in 1999. But neighboring Ventura County and environmentalists sued to block it. They argued that developers had failed to protect endangered habitat and that the project lacked sufficient water supplies.

In 2000, a judge ordered developers to address those issues in their environmental report. The revised documents still need the judge's approval, and county planners and supervisors also must approve specific building plans for each phase of the project.

Boy burned by friend in stunt mimicking 'Jackass' movie

By The Associated Press

GAHANNA, Ohio — A 13-year-old boy who wanted to make his own version of "Jackass: The Movie" threw a cup of boiling water on his best friend as he slept, causing second-degree burns, police said.

Collin Gaffney was charged with felony assault.

Police Lt. Jeff Spence said Gaffney videotaped the May 19 incident and others in earlier weeks. The boy told police he planned to make his own movie of pranks similar to "Jackass," a movie version of the defunct MTV show.

Gaffney and other boys from this Columbus suburb appear throughout the hour-long video of pranks and stunts. Spence said no one was hurt in the rest of the tape. The MTV show and movie included a warning against trying stunts at home.

Gaffney's mother, Bernadean Decicco, said she didn't know that the boys were imitating "these stupid TV shows."

"They did many stunts that Collin could have been killed at. Fortunately, he didn't get hurt," she said.

The maximum penalty he could receive in juvenile court is confinement in a youth detention center until age 21.

The father of 14-year-old Shaka Townsend said Collin has apologized, but the Townsend family still decided to press charges.

"We felt that grounding was not appropriate to handle this," Townsend said. "We thought the authorities needed to handle it, that it needed to be official."

**FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN TODAY'S
HOROSCOPES ... PAGE 2**

Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE □ NATIONAL



Supporters of media ownership rules speak out

BY DAVID HO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Supporters of media ownership restrictions are making a final push to warn of the dangers of more media mergers ahead of an FCC vote that stacks 3-2 against them.

The Federal Communications Commission is to consider on Monday eliminating many of the restrictions on a single company owning combinations of newspapers and TV and radio stations in the same city. Another proposal would raise a cap preventing one company from owning TV stations that reach more than 35 percent of U.S. households.

Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, the two Democratic commissioners at the FCC, want to keep the restrictions in place. They are lined up against FCC Chairman Michael Powell and the commission's two other Republicans.

Copps and Adelstein joined on Tuesday with about two dozen groups opposed to the deregulation.

"Absent a change of direction in the chairman's office, we will likely have dramatically altered our nation's media landscape," Copps said. "At stake is who will control the gateways to the media, who will control the content of the media and for what purposes."

Critics say relaxing the decades-old rules governing ownership of newspapers and TV and radio stations will kick off a merger frenzy and put a few corporations in control of what people watch, read and hear.

The collection of consumer groups, small broadcasters, religious organizations, writers and musicians spoke before a backdrop of mail baskets filled with about

250,000 post cards sent by National Rifle Association members opposed to eased ownership rules.

Powell, who conducted a series of one-on-one interviews with The Associated Press and other media, said adjustments to the rules are needed to reflect a market changed by cable TV, satellite broadcasts and the Internet. He also said if the FCC fails to act, outdated rules will be swept away by court challenges.

"At stake is who will control the gateways to the media, who will control the content of the media and for what purposes."

— MICHAEL COPPS
FCC Democratic commissioner

"What I worry about is that all of the rules will be eliminated — not by us, but a judicial regime," he said. "If you don't do surgery on this patient, it is going to die. Free over-the-air TV is going to die. The rules are going to die."

Powell agreed that some limits are needed. He said the FCC's new rules will protect competition and diverse and local viewpoints while permitting beneficial mergers.

He said the changes also are needed to protect media sources people take for granted.

"We're trying to make sure that quality content does-

n't continue to flee to pay television," Powell said.

Adelstein disagreed with Powell's reasoning, saying, "Free over-the-air television is alive and well."

"Is it the job of the FCC to make sure every big television network in this country makes a lot of money?" he said. "I think our first job is to make sure the American people get a diversity of viewpoints."

Critics worry television could become like radio: deregulation in 1996 allowed companies to amass hundreds of stations and cut costs by replacing local shows with national programming.

Powell said that example is misleading and that deregulation was a good thing for radio.

"The radio industry was dying," he said. "When there was a proper amount of consolidation permitted, a lot of it restored health to the radio industry."

Smaller broadcasters and network affiliates worry that networks will gobble up more stations and limit local control of programming. Critics also say mergers will lead to more sensationalism and lower standards.

"Maybe instead of giving more control, steps should be taken to take some of it away from those that are blatantly offending the American family," said L. Brent Bozell III, president of the Parents Television Council.

Powell said FCC research shows that network-owned stations produce more and higher quality news and that the FCC will change rules "in a manner that will foster the promotion of additional news content."

Powell also rebuffed concerns that a ban on joint ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations is needed to so those outlets can monitor each other. He said competition in the media serves that need and "our rules are designed to continue to promote competition."

Palo Alto librarians, police chief protest Patriot Act

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

PALO ALTO — Librarians plan to shred documents and delete computerized records of patrons' reading habits as part of their battle against the U.S. Patriot Act, the federal anti-terrorism law that eases the way for the FBI to view library records.

The Palo Alto librarians, saying it's all part of an effort to protect reader privacy, have agreed to destroy the computer records within six days of any transaction.

The librarians say paper records, including inter-library loan requests, book reserve lists and sign-up lists for the

library's public computers, are being shredded immediately after use.

"We've had a longstanding policy of confidentiality of library records, and in light of the passage of the Patriot Act, we're reviewing and tightening our business practices," said Diane Jennings, the acting city librarian.

The Patriot Act makes it easier for the FBI to pursue confidential information against individuals they suspect may be involved in terrorist activity.

In a separate move, Palo Alto's police chief is supporting a resolution before the City Council next week that would pro-

hibit her department from aiding the FBI in Patriot Act searches, interviews or surveillance without evidence that a crime has been committed.

"We take an oath to uphold the Constitution and that's the bottom line for us," said Chief Lynne Johnson. "We believe we are still able to protect the people of this community, but won't do so by violating people's constitutional and civil rights."

The resolution was approved by the city's human relations commission last week.

More than 100 communities nationwide, including San Francisco and Marin counties in California, have passed resolu-

tions protesting the Patriot Act. The city of Arcata, on California's north coast, has passed a new city ordinance imposing a fine of \$57 on any city department head who voluntarily complies with investigations or arrests under the Patriot Act.

Library associations have expressed great concern about the Patriot Act, which makes it significantly easier for the FBI to obtain records and offers libraries no opportunity to resist.

A report released last week by the Justice Department showed that FBI agents have obtained records from 50 libraries throughout the country.

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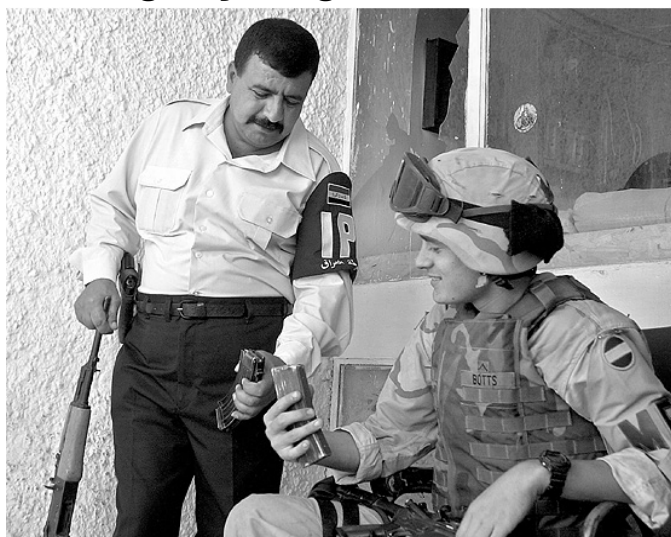
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INTERNATIONAL

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Samir Mizban/Associated Press

U.S. Military Police Pvt. John Botts of Nashville, Tenn., right, compares his ammunition with those of an Iraqi police officer, with his newly-delivered armband and assault rifle, at a police station in Baghdad, Wednesday.

Arrests announced of militants related to Riyadh bombings

BY DONNA ABU-NASR
Associated Press Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi officials arrested an al-Qaida figure suspected of masterminding the Riyadh bombings, a newspaper reported Wednesday, and the U.S. ambassador warned that militant cells are likely still plotting attacks in the kingdom.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef announced new arrests, saying the hunt had intensified for those involved in the May 12 suicide bombings in the Saudi capital, which killed 34 people, including eight Americans.

Saudi newspapers said that among those arrested were five people in the eastern city of Medina — including Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi, who U.S. officials say is one of al-Qaida's top figures in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Ghamdi, captured along with two others at an Internet cafe, is suspected of plotting the Riyadh blasts, the daily Al-Watan reported. Al-Watan, like most Saudi papers, is privately owned but government guided.

Nayef declined to give details in his announcement, saying only that "a number of people were arrested some days ago and (Tuesday) in Medina," the state-run Saudi Press Agency said.

Saudi officials have detained about 100 people since the Riyadh car bombings, which targeted three residential compounds housing many Westerners. Still, U.S. officials worry about more attacks.

"There is no indication that this was one-time ... attack," U.S. Ambassador Robert Jordan said, adding that al-Qaida remained "a very real and persistent threat here in the kingdom."

"There are very likely others out there planning parallel activities, perhaps not even in direct communication with each other, and so our concern ... goes far beyond the ability of one or two who may have escaped the attack of May 12 to

carry out something else."

Nine Saudi attackers were among the 34 people killed in the Riyadh bombings, but others escaped.

"You have a number who have fought in Afghanistan who are hardened terrorists," Jordan told reporters at the U.S. Embassy, "you have some others who are sometimes brought into these organizations and these cells, and then you have a broader group of people who have varying degrees of sympathy for what al-Qaida has done."

Saudi Arabia says it will seek the extradition of any Saudis who may be among al-Qaida members held in Iran and could have had a role in the bombings.

Jordan said the United States was not involved in any Saudi extradition effort. Washington has accused Iran of harboring al-Qaida suspects linked to the Riyadh bombings, charges Iran denies.

Saudi Arabia extradited to neighboring Yemen four Yemeni al-Qaida suspects wanted in attacks on the USS Cole and a French oil tanker, a Yemeni security official said Wednesday.

The four did not appear to have been among the 10 men accused of being key planners of the Cole bombing who escaped from a jail last month in Aden, Yemen.

Al-Ghamdi, the militant reportedly captured in the latest arrests, was among 19 men wanted in connection with a weapons cache found May 6 near the site of the Riyadh bombings. The 19 were believed to be receiving orders directly from al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and may have been planning to attack Saudi royal family members and U.S. and British interests.

Just before his capture, al-Ghamdi met two companions at the Medina Internet cafe, and they performed their noon prayers, Al-Watan quoted witnesses as saying. Police surrounded the cafe and arrested the three as they left, the witness said.

Hu calls for multipolar world, Russian, Chinese companies strike oil deal

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday called for a "multipolar world" and a strategic partnership with Russia to counter U.S. dominance, and oil executives signed a preliminary deal for pipeline to carry Siberian oil to China.

"The trend toward a multipolar world is irreversible and dominant," Hu said in a speech at a Moscow university specializing in international relations.

A joint call for a "multipolar world," the term Russia and China used to describe their shared ambition to offset U.S. global dominance, has cemented the post-Soviet friendship between the two former rivals.

On the sidelines of Hu's visit, China National Petroleum Corporation and Russia's Yukos oil company signed a preliminary agreement on shipping Siberian oil to China by a \$2.5 billion, 1,400-mile pipeline that would link Angarsk in eastern Siberia and Daqing, China.

Along with the Chinese route, the Russian Cabinet considered a rival, Japanese-backed proposal that would first lay the pipeline to Russia's Pacific port of Nakhodka. But the Cabinet now appears to favor building the Chinese section first with the route to Nakhodka to come later. A final decision is expected in the next few weeks.

Under Wednesday's deal, Yukos would ship about 5.1 billion barrels along the new pipeline to Daqing over 25 years

beginning in 2005. The deal is estimated to worth more than \$150 billion.

Hu chose Russia for his first trip abroad after replacing Jiang Zemin as president in March. He hailed a friendship treaty that Jiang signed with Putin in 2001, saying it had created "political guarantees for the long-term and steady development of Chinese-Russian relations."

The treaty became the first such document since 1950, when Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong created a Soviet-Chinese alliance that slid into rivalry and then hostility in the 1960s.

Hu said that warmer ties have helped to clear border disputes and increase bilateral trade from about \$6 billion in the mid-1990s to \$12 billion last year.

Without naming the United States, Hu assailed unilateralism in world affairs and condemned the use of force in settling disputes. "Peace can't be achieved through using force," he said.

On Tuesday, Hu and Putin issued a joint declaration urging North Korea to relinquish its nuclear ambitions, but also voiced support for the North's demand for security guarantees and warned against using force to resolve the crisis.

On Thursday, Hu and Putin will take part in a Moscow summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a six-nation group that also includes four former Soviet Central Asian republics. Hu also is scheduled to attend weekend festivities marking the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Russia's former imperial capital.

Hillary unhappy with Everest conditions on 50th anniversary

BY LAURINDA KEYS
Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal — On the eve of the 50th anniversary of his historic ascent of Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary scolded the legions of climbers partying at base camp, saying he doesn't consider "knocking back cans of beer" as mountaineering.

There were about 1,000 people at base camp with "a booze place for drinks and all the other comforts," Hillary said at a news conference Wednesday.

"Just sitting around in a big base camp, knocking back cans of beer, I don't particularly regard as mountaineering," he said.

As he spoke in Katmandu, a helicopter with eight people aboard crashed near the main Everest base camp at 17,380 feet. Two Nepalese — a flight attendant and a Sherpa guide — were killed, officials said. The six others on board and a German trekker on the ground were injured.

The helicopter crashed as it tried to land near where hundreds of climbers had gathered to mark Thursday's golden jubilee of the first known ascent of the 29,035-foot summit by Hillary and his Sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay.

Also marring anniversary celebrations was a clash between police and anti-government protesters in Katmandu, the capital.

Officers used tear gas and batons to disperse 5,000 opposition supporters angered that the nation's king last year

dissolved the elected Parliament and set up a royally appointed Cabinet.

In the past few days Hillary, 83, has been lauded as a hero in Katmandu. At his news conference he said he appreciated his warm welcome in Nepal as well as the interest in his feat.

However, the famed mountaineer from New Zealand expressed concerns about the future of Everest, which he wants closed to new expeditions.

Many of those at the celebration arrived at an airfield that Hillary built to bring materials for hospitals and schools for the Sherpa community after his ascent on May 29, 1953.

"For a while," Hillary said, "I wondered whether I had done a bad thing, made it too easy for foreigners to come up." But he felt the Sherpas' culture was strong enough to withstand the outside influences, "although they are tempted by our Western money, as we are."

He acknowledged that Nepal had changed during the past half century, with bustling streets and cars in the capital. Some Sherpas earn enough money to send their children abroad for education.

The lives of the Sherpas in the Khumbu region around Everest had improved with schools and health centers built by his Himalayan Trust, Hillary said.

Hillary refused to comment on the Nepal political situation, saying he preferred to avoid discussion of politics and religion.

SPORTS



Agassi rallies to avert upset bid by Croatian teen

BY STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS — Andre Agassi lost the first two sets and trailed in the third, rallied to take the lead, blew one chance to close out the match and finally beat 19-year-old Mario Ancic at the French Open on Wednesday.

Twice down a service break in the third set, Agassi finally found his groove and won 5-7, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5. It was this close: 148 points for Agassi, 147 for Ancic. The second-round marathon lasted 3 hours, 13 minutes.

"You never know what kind of story is going to unfold," Agassi said. "Today was a tough one. I got off to a slow start and got myself in a hole."

It was the fifth time Agassi has won after losing the first two sets. He did it to beat Andrei Medvedev in the 1999 French Open final, and again at Roland Garros in the fourth round last year to overtake wild-card entry Paul-Henri Mathieu.

On Tuesday, defending champion Albert Costa staged a similar rally, the first of his long career, to edge Sergio Roitman.

Agassi nearly wasted his comeback. Serving for the victory at 5-3, he reached match point and then hit a double fault, only his second of the match. On a second match point, he hit a backhand long, and then he double-faulted twice more to lose the game.

After each player held, Ancic served at 5-6 and fell behind 0-40. The Croatian saved two more match points, then buried a forehand in the net, and Agassi had the hard-earned victory.

"I managed to settle down and still get it done," he said.

What was the primary sensation as he walked off the court in the



Michel Euler/Associated Press

Left: Andre Agassi returns to Croatia's Mario Ancic during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris Wednesday.

Right: Defending champion USA's Serena Williams returns the ball to Switzerland's Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian during their second-round match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday. Williams won 6-3, 6-2.

twilight to cheers from the crowd?

"Hunger," Agassi said with a grin. "I haven't eaten since 12 o'clock."

In women's play, American Ashley Harkleroad advanced to the third round of a Grand Slam event for the first time, beating No. 9-seeded Daniela Hantuchova 7-6 (2), 4-6, 9-7.

The 18-year-old Georgia native won despite blowing a 5-1 lead in the third set and losing five consecutive games. The letdown left her on the verge of defeat, and her eyes glistened with emotion.

"I was so tight and wanting it so bad, I guess," she said. "I said, 'OK, Ashley, you're not going to lose this. You're going to fight.' I tried to breathe and relax."

She did, and after 3:08 of tennis, Harkleroad earned the first match point. When Hantuchova sailed her final shot wide, Harkleroad

squealed, dropped her racket and sprinted to the stands for a celebratory hug from her agent.

Another marathon involved 1996 champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who was eliminated in the 30th five-set match of his career. Flavio Saretta outlasted the No. 17-seeded Russian 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 6-7 (0), 6-4 in three hours, 55 minutes.

Defending champion Serena Williams won with much less drama. She overcame 32 unforced errors and extended her Grand Slam winning streak to 30 matches, beating Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian 6-3, 6-2.

Agassi was in trouble from the start, falling behind 3-0. On the ropes, he had to break serve three times to win the third set, which he won by lofting a lob over his 6-foot-4 opponent.

With that, the momentum

began to turn.

"It wasn't that I made some stupid mistakes," Ancic said. "He's such a great player. He picked up the game. He just earned it. It wasn't that I gave it."

Remarkably fit despite being the oldest player in the men's field at 33, Agassi showed no signs of fatigue. And by the fourth set, he had Ancic on the defensive — including two knockdowns on a single point.

The youngster hit a lunging volley and then rolled in the dirt, rose, then dove again but couldn't intercept an Agassi winner. Ancic rose to cheers, his back covered with clay.

A tall, big-swinging Croatian, Ancic (pronounced an-CHICH) has drawn comparisons to compatriot Goran Ivanisevic. He's new to Roland Garros — his only previous French Open win

came Monday when opponent Marcelo Rios retired.

But Ancic, ranked 74th, reached the round of 16 at this year's Australian Open and has been touted as an emerging star. He looked like one for 2 1/2 sets, playing serve-and-volley and matching groundstrokes with Agassi.

Harkleroad beat Hantuchova at Charleston, S.C., in April, but her latest win came on a much bigger stage. Hantuchova, who had reached the quarterfinals in the last three major events, contributed to her defeat with 106 unforced errors.

"Sometimes I was going too much for it and doing too many mistakes," Hantuchova said. "In the end, it was just a couple of points that decided the match."

American Laura Granville, seeded 31st, beat 1997 champion Iva Majoli 6-1, 6-2. No. 11 Anastasia Myskina, No. 21 Lisa Raymond and No. 23 Anna Pistolesi were also eliminated.

Clarisa Fernandez, a semifinalist last year, was beaten by Barbara Schett 6-4, 5-7, 6-1. Schett will next play Williams.

Other second-round winners included No. 4 Justine Henin-Hardenne, No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 8 Chanda Rubin, No. 14 Eleni Daniilidou, No. 16 Ai Sugiyama, No. 18 Meghann Shaughnessy and No. 19 Patty Schnyder.

On the men's side, No. 22-seeded Wayne Ferreira, playing in his 50th Grand Slam event, beat David Ferrer 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-3. No. 4 Carlos Moya, No. 7 Guillermo Coria and No. 11 Rainer Schuettler also won.

No. 27 Mikhail Youzhny, Russia's Davis Cup hero at Paris last December, lost to Attila Savolt 3-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Devil of a time: Mighty Ducks dealing with adversity

BY ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ask Martin Brodeur about the New Jersey Devils' 1-0 lead in the Stanley Cup finals and his own superlative play, and it sounds as if he's talking about a preseason practice or a trip to the dry cleaners.

"I've been here before," he says, with the matter-of-fact tone of an athlete accustomed to being three victories away from winning hockey's biggest prize.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks haven't been here before, however, and that is the unknown factor going into Game 2 Thursday night. The Ducks talked confidently Wednesday of being more competitive than they were in their 3-0 loss Tuesday in Game 1, of knowing what they did wrong, of understanding what they must do right.

But they also know it's tough to predict how they will react to adversity, since they have experienced so little of it in these playoffs, never trailing in a series until now. They haven't seen goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere outplayed before, haven't dealt with the urgency of winning a game they probably can't afford to lose.

Their two most experienced players, Adam Oates and Steve Thomas, used the same word Wednesday to describe the Ducks' introduction to the series many wait an entire career to play. It wasn't a flattering one, either.

"I was a little overwhelmed," Thomas said. "It was very intense, and we need to have the same kind of passion and emotion they have."

Oates spent much of his career in the Eastern Conference, so he is familiar with the commitment the Devils bring to a suffocating defensive system that is neither fan-pleasing nor television-friendly but can be numbingly effective.

He also understands that the Ducks, who looked in Game 1 just like a team that hadn't absorbed a hit or thrown a check in 10 days, cannot hope to play that way again Thursday unless they plan to go home down 2-0.

"Maybe it was a little mental," Oates said of the Devils' superiority. "Maybe we were a little overwhelmed. But we will bounce back."

That frustration and confusion of which Oates and Thomas spoke is much like that felt by heavily favored Detroit

and Dallas after they fell behind 2-0 to Anaheim in the Western Conference playoffs. Those teams didn't react positively, so there is no telling how a team with as little playoff history as the Ducks will respond if they suddenly find themselves down two games.

The numbers certainly are against the Mighty Ducks now: nearly 80 percent of the teams that win Game 1 go on to win the finals; the Devils have lost only once in 10 home playoff games this spring; and they have won the last seven playoff series they led 1-0, including two finals (1995, 2000).

"They're not an easy team to play against," the Ducks' Steve Rucchin said. "It's definitely what happened with the other teams against us. So I guess now I know what it's like to have the shoe on the other foot."

What's different is no Western Conference power that plays a system like the Devils do. The Minnesota Wild, eliminated in the minimum four games by the Ducks, are the closest thing to a New Jersey West — the Wild's coach, Jacques Lemaire, won the Cup with the Devils in 1995, and they still incorporate some of

his style and substance in their game.

But the Devils are more talented than the Wild, especially in goal, where Brodeur was widely viewed as the best in the game even before Patrick Roy retired. Brodeur handled everything the Ducks threw at him in Game 1, which wasn't very much, only 16 shots and not many good scoring chances, but he understands he will see much more in Game 2.

"There's room for improvement because we know they will be better," he said.

Ducks coach Mike Babcock's assessment: There must be improvement, and in a hurry.

"Now we're in a situation we haven't had," Babcock said. "It's going to stretch us. We're going to find a way to react positively and get better."

Of course, the Devils are aware the series could shift dramatically with an Anaheim victory that would provide the Ducks with a perceptible jolt of confidence and momentum as they head home for Games 3 and 4 at the Pond.

"It's a huge game," said Jeff Friesen, who scored two of the Devils' three goals in Game 1. "You have to do what you have to do to win."

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ACROSS

- 1 Sneaker feature
- 5 Indian prince
- 10 Goffs
- 11 Spot
- 12 Tons
- 13 Doting one
- 14 "That explains it!"
- 16 Not any more
- 20 Like some kicks
- 23 Dedicated verse
- 24 Pocket breads
- 25 Gave a hoot
- 27 Compass pt.
- 28 Saucer occupants
- 29 "Never mind!"
- 32 Hardly an inconvenience
- 36 Per —
- 39 Com Belt state
- 40 Ready to go
- 41 Ham or lamb
- 42 Howled
- 43 Dame of comedy

DOWN

- 2 Woody's son
- 3 Field pest
- 4 Latvia neighbor
- 5 Country contest
- 6 Squirrel's treat
- 7 Mayo buy
- 8 Stout
- 9 That girl
- 11 Soup server
- 15 Auction bids
- 17 Also-ran of 2000
- 18 Perfect place
- 19 Ohio team
- 20 Ready for business
- 25 Gave a hoot
- 27 Compass pt.
- 28 Saucer occupants
- 29 "Never mind!"
- 32 Hardly an inconvenience
- 36 Per —
- 39 Com Belt state
- 40 Ready to go
- 41 Ham or lamb
- 42 Howled
- 43 Dame of comedy

GEMS	COIN
OMAHA	CANOE
MODES	IRENE
ETC	KATYDID
REALITY	GAY
SPENT	HEN
AGILE	
IMP	MILLS
AGO	PENPALS
SUNRISE	TIE
SADAT	UTICA
ENACT	PANEL
TAYE	BOSS

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Barrio boy
- 22 Goblet
- 25 "Pinocchio"
- 26 Broadcast
- 28 Up, in a way
- 30 Ouzo flavor
- 31 Carried
- 33 Did a garden chore
- 34 Actor
- 35 Pro —
- 36 Truck
- 37 As done by
- 38 Layer

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DOWN

- 1 Not fatty

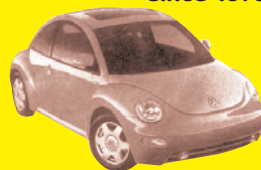
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Obituaries

DONNA E. WHITE, long time Santa Monica resident, passed away April 29, 2003. She was 79. Memorial Services will be held Saturday, May 31st, 3pm at The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church.

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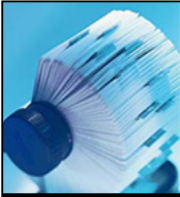
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BACK PAGE

Cheaper, simpler, online divorce grows in popularity

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Offering a simpler and cheaper path to divorce, an ever-growing array of dot-coms, computer-savvy lawyers and state court officials are encouraging unhappily married Americans to arrange their breakups online.

For fees ranging from \$50 to \$300 — a small fraction of what most lawyers charge even for an uncontested divorce — couples are being provided with the appropriate forms and varying degrees of help completing them.

The phenomenon is spreading. Rival firms CompleteCase.com and LegalZoom.com each say they have served 20,000 clients nationwide in less than three years of operation. Hits on the divorce section of the California court system's do-it-yourself Web site soared from 6,800 in May 2002 to about 15,000 last month.

"It's similar to the growth of online travel services and online stock trading," said Brian Lee, president of Los Angeles-based LegalZoom. "People are learning they don't need a travel agent or a stockbroker or a lawyer — they can do it themselves."

Many clients may still have to appear in court, but — in theory, at least — they will have all required paperwork with them and will be able to represent themselves.

"For me, it was a purely economic decision," said John Chang, 33, of South Pasadena, Calif., who paid LegalZoom \$300 to help him obtain an uncontested divorce last year.

"I filled out the forms in the course of a night — it took three hours — and saved \$2,000," he said. "When you don't have children or a lot of assets, it's the way to go."

But reactions to the trend vary. Some religious leaders are dismayed that divorce can be made even easier. The American Bar Association wants to ensure that dot-coms

don't engage in the unauthorized practice of law, and is studying how its members can serve divorcing couples without high fees.

"A lot of what's happening is a very understandable rebellion against how expensive it is to go through the court process," said Sandra Morris, a San Diego lawyer who is president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

"When you don't have children or a lot of assets, it's the way to go."

— JOHN CHANG
South Pasadena resident

"Divorce lawyers view online services the same way doctors view self-help health books," she said. "If it's a minor problem, maybe it's OK to use over-the-counter remedies. But if there's any possibility of it being more complicated, it's a substantial risk to do it yourself."

The do-it-yourself services acknowledge that online divorce doesn't work when spouses disagree on any substantive issue. Linda Elrod, a professor at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan., said couples who have children, complex finances or even a pension plan to be divided should consult a lawyer.

Even in a supposedly uncontested online divorce, each spouse should be cautious, Morris advised.

"Very often in a marital relationship, there's not a complete balance of knowledge and power," Morris said. "In an effort to settle in an amicable way, they may be settling more in one person's way than the other."

Some dot-com services simply provide forms for clients to fill out — MyLawyer.com, for example, charges \$49.95 for most state divorce forms. CompleteCase gathers information from clients through its own questionnaires, and its employees then complete the official forms for \$249.

"When it comes out of your computer, it looks like a lawyer prepared it," said CompleteCase CEO Randy Finney. The major online companies all state on their Web sites that they are not law firms and don't sell legal advice.

However, the ABA's eLawyering Task Force has questioned whether some online clients may falsely conclude — based on sales pitches — that their divorce forms will undergo substantive review by a lawyer.

Richard Granat, a Maryland attorney who founded MyLawyer.com, says the ABA should encourage its members to provide less expensive, divorce-related services that can compete with non-law online companies.

Trying to force online divorce outfits out of existence will just reinforce the "negative image of the legal profession," he said.

Finney, an attorney himself, said traditional divorce lawyers shouldn't be worried by competition from companies like his CompleteCase.

"The bread and butter for divorce lawyers is the contested case, where the fees start at \$3,000, \$4,000," he said. "A little uncontested case is not that big a piece of the action."

For leaders of the Marriage Movement — a coalition of religious and other groups seeking to promote strong marriages — online divorce is part of a lamentable trend.

"Almost everything we've done in the last 20 years has made divorce easier," said Mike McManus, founder of a Potomac, Md., organization called Marriage Savers. "You want to slow down the process, not speed it up."

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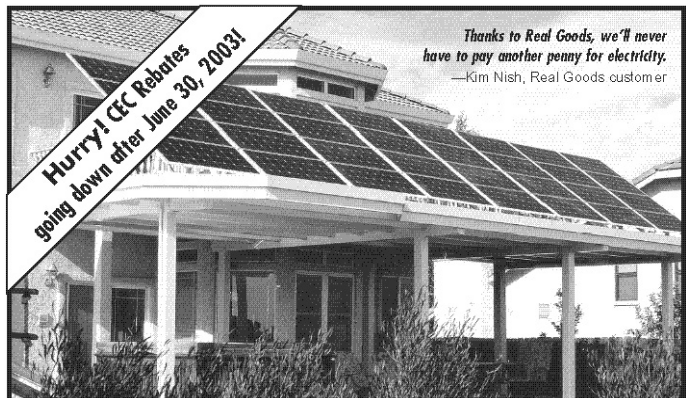


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