



Santa Monica Daily Press

May 29-30, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 171

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

5 13 19 30 38

DAILY 3

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Evening picks: 7 6 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06 Whirl Win

2nd Place: 03 Hot Shot

3rd Place: 09 Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:49.18



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Eva Reyes, 71, the mother of convicted murderer David Maust of Hammond, Ind., said in December, upon being informed that Maust had been charged with three more murders: "I love David, but, yes, (the death penalty) would be the right thing to do for him (if convicted)."

■ Lynda Nixon, the mother of convicted double murderer Ian Huntley (Soham, England), told The Sun newspaper: "I believe Ian should not live after what he's done. I truly wish we had capital punishment" (and she went on to specify an "electric chair").



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A shore thing: Lifeguards on lookout

An estimated 52 million will hit the beaches this year

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — While summer solstice remains three weeks away, today marks the unofficial first day of summer — and that means thousands of people will flock to the sea, weather permitting.

Over the past few months, lifeguards have been busily preparing for the annual influx of umbrella-toting tourists and sun-seeking beachgoers. Stations have been pushed to the water's edge and restocked with key supplies. All 750 guards are currently being retested and recertified in

anticipation of the summer onslaught.

An estimated 52 million people visit beaches in Los Angeles county each year, the vast majority of them during the summer.

"The water has warmed up," said Garth Canning, a spokesman for Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguards. "We're currently looking at temperatures of about 63 degrees. We're getting as warm as 67, which is very warm for this time of year. Water activity has increased.

"We're getting a lot of people going to the beach."

An average of 10,000 rescues are performed on annual basis.

With severe budget cutbacks at the

See BEACH, page 5



File Photo

Each of the 750 lifeguards in Los Angeles County are being recertified in anticipation of the summer rush.

Mr. E. Photo



John Wood/Daily Press

The first person to accurately describe where this mystery photo was taken will win two free movie tickets to Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com. No one won last week's mystery photo contest — a picture of seagulls perched on poles, which are located on the beach on the Santa Monica/Venice border.

Youth yet to be served, as voting bill gets yanked

Bill allowing 17-year-olds the right to vote held up

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — A constitutional amendment that would allow 17-year-olds to vote has been pulled from the Assembly floor for fear that Republicans may be strategizing how to quash it, sources said.

ACA 25, introduced by Assemblymember Gene Mullin (D-South San Francisco), would allow 17-year-olds to register and vote in federal, state and local primary, and special elections if they will be 18 at the time of the next general election.

The bill was supposed to be heard on the Assembly floor this week, but was held up by Mullin. It may be heard next week. Sources said Mullin wants to wait to see how much support he has from Democrats, which he will gauge on Tuesday during the Democratic Caucus, said Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, a supporter of the bill.

"If all the Democrats are with him, he needs six Republicans," McKeown said, adding that he heard the bill is on what's

called a "triple star oppose status" by Republicans. That means if a Republican votes in favor of the bill, they could face political fallout from their fellow party members.

Mullin couldn't be reached for comment. The bill needs 55 percent of the vote to pass the Assembly floor before it moves to the Senate.

Some say Republicans fear that young voters lean toward the left and have much more liberal ideals than their party does. If there is an influx of young, registered voters, they could theoretically change the outcome of a primary.

Under current California law, 17-year-olds must turn 18 by the first week in March, denying hundreds of thousands of students the power to pick the nominees that will appear on the November ballot.

McKeown also said that the primary happens senior year for most high schoolers. And, if they are given a stake in the process when they still have ties to their home communities — before they go to college or leave looking for work — they are more likely to be regular voters.

For 17-year-old Victoria Toumanoff, a staff writer on the opinion page for The

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As you like it, Aries

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Work with others, even if you want to take off and do your own thing. Others need your feedback. Make calls and catch up on friends' and family's news. Reaching out makes a big difference to others. Don't allow a family member to rain on your parade. Tonight: Accept one of your many invitations.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might want to throw a party or get together with friends. Know that you could be doing a good deal of the work. Why not ask each person to bring something with them? Lessen your load. You cannot get around a serious talk. Tonight: Expect to pitch in.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Romance breaks loose this weekend. You start this unofficial first weekend of summer with fun, flirtation and romance. Just realize your limits. Don't stretch your budget too far. Realize that you don't need to impress others. Tonight: Go for what would make you happy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to stay close to home today. In fact, make it OK to vanish, as you often push yourself so hard. Be more in touch with your feelings. You don't always have to give the party or cater to others. Tonight: Do your thing.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You naturally draw others to you. Plan an outing or visit with friends. Inviting others for a picnic fills the bill. Make time for those you haven't visited with in a while. Get together and celebrate. Give up worrying. Tonight: Out and about.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Be careful with spending, even if others encourage you. Somehow, you become leader of the gang, but that doesn't mean you have to treat everyone. Take better care of yourself. A conversation might be difficult. Tonight: Enjoying doesn't need to cost.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You let go and enjoy yourself like few have ever seen. You could take off at the last minute and do something quite spontaneous. Recognize that you could disappoint an older friend or relative. Exercise your wanderlust. Tonight: As you like it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Travel could be difficult at best, with plans swiftly changing. You could become aggravated or go in your own direction. For the moment, finding a favorite person and vanishing seems right up your alley. You mysterious Scorpio! Tonight: You don't have to explain.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Friends surround you on this holiday weekend, but at the same time, don't disappoint a close loved one or child. Make him or her priority No. 1. In the long run, you will be a lot happier. This person needs your attention. Tonight: Where the party is.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others need your help and let you know it in no uncertain terms. Ask for more feedback, and you'll get others' help. Be careful with your significant other. You might not be giving him or her enough attention. Tonight: Out and about.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your mind might not be present, as you are thinking of people at a distance. Better yet, take off if you can. Your energy might be more depleted than you realize, and taking a few days off will help you recharge. Tonight: Use your imagination.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Choose to make your day special with one other person. Make plans that both of you would enjoy. You need quality time together. Perhaps then you can loosen up the atmosphere between you. Time, talks and fun can be very healing. Tonight: Cuddle.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Barbershop quartet cuts it up

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Oceanaires Men's Barbershop Chorus presents "Hooray for Hollywood" on June 5.

The Oceanaires' annual show, a nostalgic trip to the Golden Age of the movies, promises to be fun for the entire family, chorus members said.

The show will be presented at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Westwood United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. (corner of Warner Avenue).

Lovin' Tuneful, a women's barbershop quartet, is the guest attraction. The quartet was formed in 1993.

"Over the Rainbow," "Lullaby of Broadway" and "When You Wish Upon a Star" are among the songs that will be performed by the Oceanaires.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$8 for seniors and children. For tickets and group sales, call (310) 472-1382.

The Santa Monica Oceanaires is a non-profit group founded in 1976, and is an official chapter of The Society for Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Game donations help ward off boredom

By Daily Press staff

Hospital stays are seldom fun and games, except for some children and teens hospitalized at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, thanks to a donation from Activision.

The Santa Monica-based developer of interactive entertainment software donated many of its popular titles to the medical center's pediatrics unit, along with 10 television monitors and game consoles. Activision also made a similar donation to Santa Monica-UCLA's future partner, Orthopaedic Hospital in downtown Los Angeles.

Activision plans to supplement the donation with new software over time and may upgrade its donation when the new Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and orthopaedic hospital are completed and ready for occupancy in 2007.

"Our patients have really enjoyed having these games available during their stays," says Graham Fewtrell, director of women's and children's services at Santa Monica-UCLA. "The games help pass the time and can actually be therapeutic for them."



Thomas Neerken/Special to the Daily Press
Activision executive Maryanne Lataif, center, and nurse Andrea Jones watch Eric Ochoa play an interactive video game during a recent stay in the pediatrics unit at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.



SURF REPORT

Look for holding SSW swell and building NW wind swell today. Northern LA breaks see waist- to chest-high surf at the better exposed breaks and occasional shoulder-high sets at best breaks. South Bay spots see the wind swell for mostly below waist-high surf. Look for light winds in the morning with building W winds 8-15 knots on tap by the afternoon.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

66°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:35	1.5	12:07	0.8	6:07	3.7	6:45	5.2
SUNDAY	1:21	0.7	12:46	1.0	7:12	3.8	7:14	5.7
MONDAY	2:05	-0.1	1:24	1.3	8:12	3.9	7:48	6.2
TUESDAY	2:50	-0.9	2:04	1.5	9:08	3.9	8:25	6.7
WEDNESDAY	3:37	-1.4	2:45	1.8	10:04	3.9	9:06	6.9
THURSDAY	4:26	-1.7	3:29	2.0	11:00	3.8	9:50	6.9
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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



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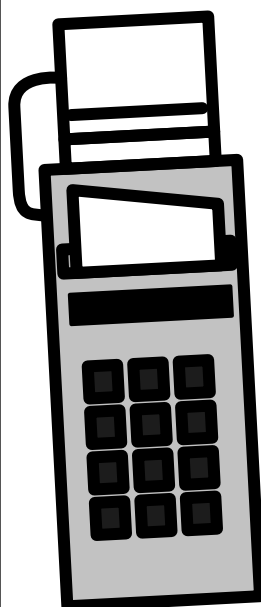
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The QLine

CITY SHOWS SIGNS OF POOR PRIORITIES

This past week, Q-line asked:

Do you agree with the emphasis City Hall is putting on code enforcement?
Here are your responses:

① “Who cares how high somebody’s hedge is? As for the signs, the signs they are going after have been up for years. There are a lot of other things we could be spending money on. Like the homeless problem and maybe enforcing vagrancy laws.”

② “I personally think the city is going too far. The City Council needs to be completely redone, take out all the people in there at present and have new people refocus their efforts. Get some people in there that actually care about the working citizens here. I say the same thing every week, something must be done about the stinking, filthy, dirty homeless people that are living in the parks, the beach, and on the promenade. Get them out of here, bus them down to Beverly Hills. Let them deal with this. Code enforcement without doing something about the homeless is for the birds.”

③ “City codes are put in place to inhibit the residents and businesses from turning the common area of a city into a slum or advertising sideshow. The common area of cities without some code enforcement would turn into a quagmire of discarded junk and worse. Mortals tend to be self-serving slobs with very little class or style and for the most part have total disregard for the aesthetics and well-being of the community. However, most people would like to leave that responsibility to another person. The other person doesn’t care either. When disregard reaches these levels, code enforcement happens.”

④ “Yes, efforts by City Hall need to be refocused. The nonsensical, nitpicky codes they are harping on now are ridiculous. If they are the slightest bit concerned about the city, they should get rid of the homeless. The city has become smelly, filthy, and scary. They need to clean up after these people. I wonder, do they ever take a look around?”

⑤ “I don’t agree with the code enforcement at all. They should be focused on the parks, the trees, the crime, and most importantly, the homeless. Where they hear the most complaint is where they should begin. I call in and respond to these questions and nothing ever happens. I cant wait to vote these people out of office.”

⑥ “Being a property owner at one time, I liked having tall hedges. If something isn’t pretty, you got to cover it up. I don’t agree that the city should be able to determine what I do with my plants.”

⑦ “Code enforcement has nothing to do with safety or education, just money. I cant imagine that City Council cares a thing about signs. Look at the street signs we are assaulted with since they took office, they outnumber the business signs by at least half. Forget the high minded rhetoric coming out of city hall and follow the money. It is as simple as that.”

⑧ “This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. I know I sound like a broken record, but we all know there is a homeless problem here. Why does the council take all this money to look at signs and hedges when they should be giving these homeless people, including the teenager this paper interviewed, take that money and give these people jobs. Give them a bath, get them medical care, give them a shot. If that isn’t good enough, give it to the schools so teachers dot have to buy books with their lousy salaries or use it for better child care in the city, give it to Planned Parenthood to help women in the city with no health insurance. There is a lot of good that could be done. Hedges? Yeah right, great idea!!”

⑨ “It takes more than beautification focus on signs and hedges to complete the process. When one visits any city, Santa Monica included, they look at the people and the buildings. All the tourists I have spoken to say they love Santa Monica, except for all the homeless. This is the biggest issue regarding beautification that has yet to be dealt with. You know what the city of Beverly Hills does with homeless people? They arrest them and bus them to other cities. If we were willing to do this, our once beautiful city would begin to change overnight.”

⑩ “I absolutely do not agree with this. In my neighborhood, we have tons of traffic and wanderers from a nearby half-way house looking into our homes. We should have a ten-foot hedge as far as I’m concerned but I cant control that I guess. I think the emphasis should be getting rid of the bums around here, they are the only people being coddled and taken care of in this city. I saw an interview with some 20-year-old twerp the other day who has a perfectly good home but he would rather live on the street here with his girlfriend. He should be sent back where he came from. The police department is being hassled by having to enforce stupid codes on hedges and signs and they get hamstrung when they try to enforce codes to keep the bums in check. Well, there you go.”

⑪ “The city is not interested in beautification. If so they would get rid of the stinking homeless people. Instead, they hassle business people and home owners because it is much easier to hassle people that actually have something to lose. Pathetic.”

⑫ “Enforcing codes for hedge-height and signage is asinine when you are not enforcing codes for public urination, defecation and loitering, camping and sleeping in parks, and panhandling. It would seem the city council has its priorities out of whack.”

⑬ “City Hall picks and chooses which codes to enforce. They don’t enforce the leaf blower law, or the fact that you are supposed to stop at stop signs, bums are just living in our parks, urinating and defecating everywhere. People just cant seem to see what a horror the city is becoming.”

OPINION

Being on best behavior should be own reward



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

If your parents didn’t teach you, then you probably learned the hard way that there is no free lunch. However, there are free airline tickets. To get them, all you have to do is something that your parents probably did teach you — be nice.

Song Airlines recently announced a program in which nice passengers will be rewarded with free tickets. Each flight attendant will have four tickets to give away at his or her discretion on each flight. Examples of behavior worthy of a free trip include helping another passenger carry a bag, assisting a flight attendant and staying ‘upbeat’ during a difficult situation. Airlines have always given things away to passengers who threw tantrums and complained loudly. Now, one is actually going to reward good behavior.

I’ve got a question about this. Aren’t we always supposed to act nice anyway? Do we need to reward people for acting the way they should? Shouldn’t we expect passengers to try not to make a difficult situation worse? Can’t we just assume that people will help other people who need assistance? I guess not.

Politeness and consideration have become more and more rare these days. Song Airlines has faced up to the fact that, well, some people just aren’t very nice — especially when they travel. Many people act as if nobody else who is traveling is important. If they need all the baggage space and all the blankets and pillows for themselves, they feel they are entitled to them. Waiting in lines and following directions are not for them. They don’t consider pushing people out of the way rude because, they’re in a hurry — not like the rest of us.

Now that rudeness is so commonplace, I won’t be surprised if airlines start giving free flights not only to people who are nice, but also to people who are just not particularly rude and obnoxious. “You didn’t get drunk and talk loudly the entire flight. Here’s a free ticket” ... “You didn’t treat the flight attendant like dirt” ... “You

didn’t elbow the passenger next to you throughout the meal. Free tickets for both of you.”

One caveat: If rewarding good behavior on airplanes catches on, watch out for the “kiss-up factor.” Will passengers start tripping over each other, trying to help those who need assistance? Are they going to try to outdo each other with acts of kindness? Will we have to tell over-eager passengers, “Stop helping me! I can feed myself.” Soon an obsequious traveler may say something like, “If they gave a trophy for flight attendants, you’d win first prize.” And then another passenger will jump in and say, “‘Trophy?’ Are you kidding? She deserves the Nobel Prize for flight attendants. Except, she’d probably be too dedicated to her job to go to Sweden to accept.”

If rewarding niceness catches on, other businesses will probably try it. Maybe soon, if I say “thank you” to the bank teller, I’ll get some free money. “Doc, that’s the warmest stethoscope I’ve ever felt” might earn a free checkup. And we might as well try, “Thanks for showing it to me. That is the prettiest diamond I’ve ever seen.”

It’s a shame that an airline has to offer a prize for acting the way we should act. However, anything that encourages niceness and discourages rudeness is probably a good thing. Even if their motives are not pure, maybe as more and more people do nice things, they’ll get in the habit. Then, maybe they’ll act nice not because of a possible reward, but just because it’s a nice thing to do.

In that spirit, I don’t expect anything in return, but all of you may read my next column for free.

Good news! Next week, I will have counted and analyzed all the votes in the first Garver Poll. I’ll report the results here. Since I’m making up the rules as I go along, I can tell you that it is not too late to vote now.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarver-moderntimes.com).

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to 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



Lifeguards must pass ocean swim test every summer

BEACH, from page 1

county level, no new lifeguards have been hired this year to replace ones that have moved away or retired, said David Estey, another lifeguard spokesman.

"We have cut back, slightly, in our scheduling over the last couple of years just to accommodate for our budget constraints, but we will hire additional lifeguards on a daily basis if we think we need them," he said.

There are 150 lifeguard stations in LA county, from Ventura to San Pedro.

During the winter, most of them are dragged back from the water, away from the pounding surf. But in the summertime, the stations are pushed back out to the water's edge. They're also aligned properly so lifeguards can better see one another in case they need help during an emergency, Canning said.

Each tower is inspected and, if needed, repainted and repaired. Every tower is outfitted with a desk and chair, first-aid gear, flags, a closed-circuit telephone that connects with other towers and lifeguard headquarters, a

rescue "can," shovel, broom and cones.

The next, and most important, step in preparing for summer is physical. All 750 lifeguards must be recertified in CPR and first aid, and pass a 600-yard ocean swim test.

"It's a very old profession and even though we occasionally get new pieces of equipment ... our job is very basic," Canning said. "It's one lifeguard swimming out to someone in distress and bringing them back to the beach — and there's not a lot you can do to bring in technical help to do that."

The swim tests started Wednesday and will last through the beginning of July. Each lifeguard must complete the 600-yard ocean swim in under 13 minutes, regardless of conditions.

Those high standards for lifeguards mean beachgoers are safer, Canning said. Often the lifeguards will realize first when swimmers are caught in a rip tide or face

some other type of danger. Canning reminded swimmers and surfers not to overextend themselves early in the season, and advised them to stay in front of staffed lifeguard stations. If caught in a rip tide, beachgoers should swim parallel to the beach until they are out of the current, and then back to shore at a 45-degree angle.

As far as smoking, Canning said beachgoers shouldn't expect lifeguards to patrol the sand for violators this summer. Santa Monica and Malibu recently criminalized smoking on the beach, and the City of Los Angeles has done the same on its beaches — Cabrillo, Dockweiler, Venice and Will Rogers.

"The Los Angeles County lifeguards don't write citations and so we don't have the ability to enforce laws like that," Canning said. "We're always willing to help cooperate with local authorities in enforcing local laws, but our main job is to keep our eyes on the water. The more we can concentrate with keeping people safe, the better."

Eleven states currently allow 17-year-olds to have their say

VOTING, from page 1

Samohi — Santa Monica High School's student newspaper — the opportunity to vote would be welcomed with open arms. But she wondered whether her peers are informed enough to vote responsibly.

"The problem with being 17 and 18 is that you are just getting involved in politics and don't know what's going on," she said. "They don't have the knowledge yet and many of them just swallow what they hear."

Toumanoff said she is an independent. Her brother is a Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton and is on his way to Iraq for the second time. He was stationed in Iraq before the war and is headed back there.

"It's hell, you don't know what's going on because we won't hear from him for a month, and then he'll call and say he's calling from one of Saddam's palaces," Toumanoff said.

She also said she thinks most young people are liberal Democrats.

"It's harder to come out as a young

Republican than a young homosexual," Toumanoff said.

ACA 25 has been approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Elections, and the Redistricting and Constitutional Amendments Committee.

California would join Mississippi, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Nebraska, Arizona, Kansas, Virginia, Ohio, Delaware and Maryland in allowing the 17-year-old vote in primary elections. Iowa permits 17-year-olds to participate in the presidential caucuses. The United States Constitution allows states to lower the voting age.

"I'd like to see government class become a living lesson for every California high school senior" said Mullin, a 32-year high school government teacher. "Committed lifelong participation in the electoral process starts with your first vote. Young adults who are comfortable exercising their right to vote are more likely to increase their civic responsibilities."

Back Pain?

West L.A., CA — According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report".

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People & Places



(Left to right) Glenn Gritzner, president of Los Angeles County Young Democrats, Dr. Lara Brown and congressional candidate Jeff Smith at a fundraiser last week in Brentwood.

LA Dems lend support to Missouri candidate

By Daily Press staff

A young college professor — hoping to change politics in Washington — was in LA last week garnering support from the Los Angeles County Young Democrats.

Jeff Smith of Missouri is a young, Democrat running to fill Dick Gephardt's congressional seat. He spoke to a group of young Democrats at a fundraising event at the Brentwood home of Dr. Lara Brown, a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research and an education policy consultant. She also is a columnist for the Santa Monica Daily Press. The Los Angeles County Young Democrats helped co-host the event to highlight the importance of getting involved with politics.

Endorsed by former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Smith is the underdog in the 10-candidate Democratic primary to succeed Gephardt. He's up against state Rep. Russ Carnahan — the son of the late Gov. Mel Carnahan and former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan — as well as Sen. Steve Stoll.

But Smith, a political scientist, remains optimistic that he can beat both of them. He is rapidly raising money and spending less than his opponents. His campaign is at the grassroots level that puts the personal touch back into politics. On that front, he just held his 50th neighborhood coffee and aims to have 50 more in the final two months of the campaign.

When introducing Smith to the small gathering in her backyard, Brown said one of the things she liked about Smith was that he is a political scientist, something rare for a politician.

Since 2000, Smith has taught political science and public policy at Washington University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Smith, who teaches courses covering Congress, public policy, race in American politics, the immigrant experience and election campaigns, received the Washington University Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Smith has consistently worked to better his community, with special focuses on improving public education and racial equality.

When speaking to the group in Brentwood, Smith said the one legislator that inspires him the most is Santa Monica's representative, Henry Waxman.

"I thought it was great that Jeff said that Henry Waxman was his model as a legislator, and he said this without quite realizing that he was in Henry Waxman's district, the Congressional District 30," Brown said. "It's about building leadership. Representation is in some ways national, not local, especially when Congress it is about (a) who has the majority, (b) who has the seniority, and (c) who has the ideas."

Smith has a lot of ideas, and believes that it's time to get the 50- and 60-year-old politicians out of Washington and let the young people have a shot at leading the country into policies that extend beyond the next election, which usually is the only thing on veteran politicians' minds, he said.

Those interested in learning more about Smith, his campaign platform, or to lend support, log on to jeffsmith.com.



Lee Salem Photography, Inc./Special to the Daily Press

(Above) Academy Award-winning actor Anthony Hopkins was honored on May 21 at the annual Saint John's Health Center Caritas Award Gala. The black-tie event, held at the Regent Beverly Wilshire raised \$700,000 for the Emergency Department at Saint John's Health Center. Pictured are Caritas Gala chairman Su-z Schneider, Anthony Hopkins, Stella Hopkins and Irene Dunne Guild President Carla Hummer.

(At left) Anthony Hopkins poses with Health Center CEO Bruce Lamoureux.

STATE



Environmental groups not breathing any easier over EPA clean-up effort

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — A plan to clean up the Central Valley's air of a dangerous form of pollution has been challenged in court by environmental organizations that say it will not result in the changes mandated by law.

Earthjustice filed the action against the Environmental Protection Agency in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of Latino Issues Forum, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air and the Sierra Club.

The organizations are challenging the plan's ability to rid one of the nation's worst air basins of particulate pollution. These pollutants are called PM 10 because they are made of particulate matter smaller than 10 microns, or less than the width of a human hair.

PM 10 can be diesel exhaust, dust, soot, animal waste or smoke. This fine dust lingers in the air and sinks deep inside the lungs. Medical research has linked it to premature deaths, asthma, strokes and heart attacks.

The Central Valley missed its last deadline to rid the air of the harmful particles, and activists argue that under the current plan, the area will miss its next deadline — 2010 — as well.

"This plan is not as aggressive or as comprehensive as it could or, or should be," said Susan Britton, with Earthjustice. "The San Joaquin Valley is a serious nonattainment area, and the plan should provide for the implementation of the best available

control measures. It doesn't do enough."

A court order from an earlier lawsuit on the same issue required the agency to come up with a plan to regulate particulate matter in the air by August 2004 if the regional agency did not do so in time.

But the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District came up with a plan last year that proposed cleaning the air within six years, at a rate of 5 percent a year. The federal agency approved that plan Wednesday, saying it met Clean Air Act requirements and would lead the valley toward attainment on time.

The EPA still has not received a copy of the new lawsuit, but officials said they're confident the plan's provisions will clean the valley's air.

"We believe the agency addressed all the issues they've raised in our approval," said Lisa Fasano, a spokeswoman for the EPA. "We stand by our action."

Members of organizations involved in the suit argue that measures proposed are not tough enough, and six years from now, the valley will miss another clean-up deadline.

They cited in particular an alleged failure to adequately regulate agriculture, an important source of particulate matter. The air district has asked farmers and ranchers to reduce pollution in each of five types of agricultural activities that raise dust, like preparing the land and harvesting. But many of those measures are not new, advocates said, and will not result in a significant decrease of microscopic dust in the air.

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Developers don't dig it

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Relieving traffic congestion with an 11-mile tunnel through Cleveland National Forest is a bad idea.

The proposed Lake Elsinore-to-Irvine subterranean highway, carrying 150,000 vehicles daily on six lanes between Riverside and Orange counties, would be risky and costly, according to a report commissioned by the Irvine Co. development firm. Tolls could run \$20 per car.

The main concern is the tunnel's proximity to an active earthquake fault.

The report also noted the tunnel wouldn't be completed until 2020 and would cost more than \$6 billion, considerably higher than the previous \$3.5 billion estimate.

"The planning, design and construction of such an enormous infrastructure would create some major challenges," the report said. "In our opinion, and using a very cautious approach, (we) cannot recommend the construction of a tunnel of that size in this general area."

Irvine Co. spokesman John Christensen said it commissioned the study to help transportation officials sort through alternatives for reducing traffic. The development firm is opposed to the tunnel.

"Our position on the tunnel hasn't changed and we have strong reservations about that alternative from an environmental and fiscal point of view,"

Christensen said.

Riverside and Orange county transportation experts haven't endorsed the tunnel, but they have started an 18-month, \$3.3 million study to examine options that include the tunnel, widening Ortega Highway and adding a second deck to Highway 91.

Deputy did it right

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — County prosecutors ruled the October shooting death of an unarmed man by a sheriff's deputy in the rural Meiners Oaks area was justified.

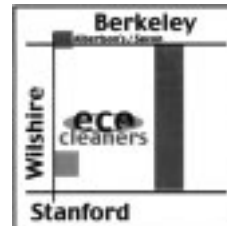
A district attorney's office determined Deputy Christopher Payton believed Pierre Reed was armed and posed a deadly threat to deputies and deadly force was necessary to prevent death or great bodily injury, according to a 21-page report released Thursday.

Deputy Darin Rich, who was with Payton at the time, said he too believed that Reed was about to shoot.

Reed, 43, was shot outside his Maricopa Highway home on Oct. 24 as he came out the back door. Payton believed Reed had a rifle in his hand and was raising it to a firing position and shot him, investigators said.

Although Reed was carrying a weapon earlier, no weapons were found near his body.

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STATE

Hope diamond: Couple looks to make EightStar a cut above all the rest

BY CAROLYN SAID
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ROSA — Alison von Sternberg thinks of herself as cutting diamonds from the inside out. It takes a Zen state of mind.

In her Sonoma County workshop, the bright-eyed 43-year-old sat serenely behind her scaife, a diamond-cutting wheel that looks like a record turntable, albeit one that spins at 3,800 rpm. Coated with diamond dust and olive oil, it abrades the side of a diamond to create a facet.

"You have to be with the diamond all the time," von Sternberg said. "I think of it as sculpting because I'm making a work of art. Every diamond is different, so it doesn't get boring."

Alison and her husband, Richard von Sternberg, 58, say they have perfected a method of cutting that makes a diamond leap incandescently to life, shot through with brilliance (white light) and fire (colored light). Under a special viewing mechanism called a Firescope, it shows a distinctive eight-spoke pattern.

The couple named their cut and their company EightStar. They say their techniques could revolutionize diamonds — but it's not clear whether the diamond industry will receive them with open arms or a cold shoulder.

Last year, a Swiss diamond enthusiast who has a 25 percent stake in the company bought a spectacular, \$2.3 million diamond to be recut to EightStar proportions. An EightStar cutter reduced it from 14.89 carats to 13.42, lopping off a quarter-million dollars' worth of weight.

"Every little bit of weight that comes off makes people sick to their stomach," Richard said. "People who heard we were going to do this thought we were nuts." But the new cut made the light dance and the colors vibrate inside, he said.

EightStar turns out about 2,000 diamonds a year, a 10th of the volume of bigger companies.

Richard von Sternberg said annual sales are in the millions of dollars. He declined to specify the profit margin, although he said it's low because the cutting process is so labor intensive.

The von Sternbergs were dealers of colored gemstones until a theft wiped out their inventory. They stumbled into EightStar when an acquaintance opened a diamond-cutting factory in Sonoma County using techniques that a Japanese expert had spent years perfecting. They bought the company in 1991 for less than \$1 million when their acquaintance decided it was too overwhelming an enterprise for him.

EightStar cutters spend an average of 32 hours to cut a single diamond. Cutting factories in Israel and India crank diamonds out like widgets at the rate of one every 45 minutes.

EightStar diamonds cost about 40 percent more than those mass-produced gems, but some jewelers say they're worth it.

At E.R. Sawyers Jewelers in Santa Rosa, owner Doug Van Dyke laid out three diamonds against black velvet. One seemed clearly larger and more dazzling.

"That's the EightStar," he said. "It's three-quarters of a carat. The other two are each one carat. The cut makes the

EightStar look bigger."

The American Gem Society and the Gemological Institute of America, the two major labs that grade diamonds, have begun to recognize cut as a critical factor.

Peter Yantzer, director of the grading laboratory for the American Gem Society, agreed that cut affects perception of size.

"A well-cut diamond can out-sparkle and appear larger than a poorly cut diamond of more carat weight," he wrote in an e-mail. "Additionally, because of their brilliance, well-cut diamonds also can mask a diamond's imperfections in color and clarity."

As for EightStar, Yantzer wrote: "They cut to a very high degree of precision, and their diamonds fit the parameters of AGS' top grade. Like many other firms worldwide, this is an ideal situation for cut."

Until recently, cut was the least noticed of the four Cs of grading diamonds — cut, color, clarity and carats — even though it is the only factor that humans can influence.

Now, diamond companies have begun to market cut as a way to differentiate their products. Signature cuts such as Tiffany & Co.'s Lucida command premium prices. At the same time the upper end gets more rarified, diamonds are going further down market; Wal-Mart is now the country's biggest seller of the gems.

To the layperson, "cutting" a diamond seems like a misnomer. Strictly speaking, what appears to be going on is grinding, one facet at a time, interspersed with meticulous checking through a jeweler's loupe and with an optical viewer to ensure that the angles are perfectly aligned.

Despite being the hardest known substance in the universe, diamonds can shatter in the hands of an inexperienced cutter.

Some diamond experts question whether branded cuts are worth the extra money or are just a marketing gimmick.

"I think EightStar puts out a wonderful product that is overpriced and overpromoted," said Robert James, a gemologist in San Antonio, Texas.

"If you have to carry an ideal (viewing) scope around with you to explain to friends why you paid so much more for your diamond than theirs ... you have paid too much for your diamond," he wrote in an online discussion. He wrote that the party test — how a gem looks out in the real world — is the best gauge.

The von Sternbergs say that the diamond establishment has shied away from endorsing their techniques because it could have huge ramifications for big companies in the multibillion-dollar industry. If the EightStar cut really is the best, other diamond merchants are holding bags of rocks that suddenly may be worth a lot less.

"We're the pariah of the industry," Alison said. "We're trying to promote something new that threatens everybody. It's been an uphill climb to get any recognition."

Gregory Sherman, an independent jewelry consultant who teaches gemology at the California Institute of Jewelry Training in Carmichael, says EightStar's ultimate role is as a boutique cutting firm that produces superior stones.

NATIONAL



More drivers are getting naughty with the nozzle

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — The suburban Airway Heights Exxon station doesn't suffer much crime. It's only a block from the police station and patrol cars often fill up at the pumps.

But the rising price of gasoline has created a mini-crime wave at this and a number of other gas stations in Washington, as clerks report more motorists filling their tanks and driving away without paying.

"We're seeing it more and more," said Laine Davis, a clerk at the station.

At the Holiday gas station in suburban Spokane Valley, manager Brian Tabert said drive-offs have increased recently from three a month to three per week.

Jim Larson has noticed a 20 percent jump in people stealing fuel at his Exxon Food Mart in north Spokane.

While there are no statistics to prove that fill-and-flees are on the rise, Tim Hamilton of the Automotive United Trade Organization (AUTO) in Olympia said owners of the 500 independent gas stations in the group are filing more complaints about the drive-offs.

The thieves tend to be people who are out of gas and money, and need fuel to get to work, or people who are angry at oil companies and trying to punish them, Hamilton said.

"All they are doing is smacking the independent retailer, who is hurting at this moment too," Hamilton said.

Washington has the fourth-highest gasoline prices in the nation, averaging \$2.30 per gallon for unleaded regular, according to AAA. In Spokane, gas aver-

aged \$2.17 a gallon, compared to \$1.52 a year ago, and \$1.93 a month ago.

But gasoline sells on very low profit margins, perhaps 8 to 10 cents a gallon, with the low margin used primarily to lure customers into convenience stores to buy higher-profit items like beverages and food, Hamilton said.

The sharp spike in gasoline prices cannot be entirely transferred to consumers, so station owners are already seeing their profits reduced, Hamilton said. Drive-offs make that even worse.

A motorist who drives away without paying for \$60 in gas can wipe out all the profit from 1,000 gallons of sales, Hamilton said.

"This is one of the reasons why a couple of years ago we passed a law in Washington that takes away your license if you try to steal gas," Hamilton said. Washington is one of 25 states with such a law.

The solution to drive-offs is to require consumers to pay at the pump with credit cards, or to come in the station to prepay for gas, Hamilton said.

But paying at the pump means many customers won't come into the store to buy high-profit items. And customers forced to prepay often consider it a big inconvenience and become irritated, he said.

The National Association of Convenience Store Owners contends drive-offs cost stations \$112 million per year nationally.

In larger cities, police do not have the time to pursue drive-offs. Spokane police spokesman Dick Cottam said officers in this city have not chased drive-offs in years because it is considered a low-level property crime.

Lawmakers: Government can ease gas prices in West, but will be too little, too late

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

HENDERSON, Nev. — The federal government can take steps to ease skyrocketing gas prices across the West, but those measures will take time and will not help motorists hitting the roads this holiday weekend, a group of lawmakers said Friday.

The lawmakers conceded during a House subcommittee hearing held at the Henderson Convention Center that there are few short-term fixes and higher gas prices can be expected over the next few months.

"Absent some changes in the perspective of decisionmakers, we are on a path of higher and higher fuel prices," said Rep. Doug Ose, R-Calif., chairman of the subcommittee on energy policy, natural resources and regulatory affairs.

Titled "Easing Pain at the Gasoline Pump: Finding Solutions for Western Woes," the hearing was attended by state officials from California, Nevada and Arizona, along with representatives from the oil industry and citizens' groups.

The committee heard testimony that average gas prices in the United States climbed nearly 50 cents from January to May and the most dramatic increases were seen in the West, where prices in Arizona, California and Nevada long ago exceeded the \$2 per gallon mark.

Gas prices in Arizona and Nevada have increased because of their reliance on California's supplies. The Golden State has seen prices over the \$2 mark because of crude oil price increases, refinery closures and its mandate for cleaner-burning fuel.

A number of Republican lawmakers at the hearing said the first thing the federal government can do to improve the situation is pass a national energy policy pushed by the Bush administration.

But committee member Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., argued President Bush should first cease filling the nation's petroleum reserves, which was created after the 1973 oil embargo to counter supply disruptions. Some Democrats believe increasing the reserves drives up the fuel costs.

"That would send a powerful message," Tierney said.

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NATIONAL

The heat is on: Summer temperatures expected to be warmer than usual

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Western drought will probably spread this summer, government forecasters said this week, and warmer than normal temperatures are expected in both the East and West.

The long-term forecast for June, July and August anticipates above normal temperatures for much of the West, the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain states, the southern Alaskan coast, the Southeast, Ohio Valley and the Northeast, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Drier-than-average weather is forecast for the Pacific Northwest. That is likely to mean that Washington and parts of Oregon see drought develop during the summer, the agency said.

Douglas LeComte, drought specialist at the agency's Climate Prediction Center, noted that recent rains have caused flooding in the Midwest and South, with rivers in 13 states either above flood stage or expected to rise above flood stage as of

last Thursday.

Various parts of the eastern half of the nation have experienced intense flooding at this month.

Meteorologists expect drought improvement in the Upper Midwest and gradual drought relief in the Southeast. They called the outlook in these areas "prudently optimistic."

Not so for the West.

"Meanwhile, long-term drought is affecting every western state and many areas in the High Plains states," said LeComte. "Clearly the major concern, as we move into summer, is in the West."

The forecasters are expecting continued drought through the summer.

In addition to the Northwest, the seasonal drought outlook says there is also a high potential for drought development in Oklahoma and North Texas where hot, dry weather already in progress is rapidly depleting topsoil moisture.

"For the fifth year in a row drought will be on the forefront of minds of many in the West again this summer," said LeComte.

Take two: Lewis & Clark find history repeats itself

BY JIM SUHR

Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS — While not as harrowing as Lewis and Clark's sojourn westward two centuries ago, the river journey by modern-day re-enactors has been anything but smooth sailing.

Five days into their Missouri River voyage on Friday, the re-enactors were on schedule. But their three vessels — one sprawling 55 feet in length — have been buffeted by violent storms.

Torrential rains have swelled the river and sped up the current, sending debris downstream like torpedoes that the three 19th century-style boats have so far managed to dodge.

"We went through the heaviest debris field this morning, but we had fair weather," Scott Mandrell, a school teacher portraying Meriwether Lewis, said Friday by cell phone on the river.

Lightning Wednesday night apparently

hit one of the group's two canoelike pirogues, but no one was injured and there was no damage.

"We took a hit and felt a little tingle from it, but it just kind of added to the drama of our own expedition," Mandrell said.

Despite it all, he said, the re-enactors were pressing on, in fine spirits and even "exceeding our plans," having covered 98 miles since shoving off from St. Charles outside of St. Louis on Sunday.

"There's been a lot of weather, and that's all part of this adventure," Mandrell said. "That's why we've been training for eight years."

Lewis and William Clark undertook a 28-month trek through what was then the Louisiana Territory, braving broiling summer heat and occasionally violent thunderstorms as well as rattlesnakes and grizzly bears, ticks and insects.

The re-enactment crew includes Bud Clark — William Clark's great-great-grandson.

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NATIONAL



Go West: Americans making the trek this summer

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — By plane, auto and gas-guzzling RV, more Americans likely will travel across the West this summer, drawn to California beaches, scenic hiking trails in the Rockies and even whale-watching off the coast of Washington.

Although there are lingering concerns about the ongoing war with Iraq and the threat of a terrorist attack, most industry officials say the big question for the summer's success is how high gas prices will climb.

Some believe the cost — topping \$2 a gallon across much of the West — will persuade many travelers to juggle budgets, stay fewer days or travel a shorter distance. They don't believe trips will be canceled, figuring most people put a priority on enjoying leisure time.

"The thought of prices getting higher is disgusting, but what can you do?" asked Scott Schramm of Maple Valley, Wash., on a recent day in Seattle. "People need to go places. If prices get to \$3 per gallon, that might change some stuff."

Sherri Hice of Colorado Springs, Colo., recently packed her two adult children, Tiffany and Jonathan, and her parents into a rambling RV for a trip to Florida. She said they may have reconsidered if gas prices had jumped before she made reservations. Now, she will find extra gas money within her budget. "You just have to spend it in different ways," Hice said.

Leisure travel is expected to climb 3.2 percent nationwide this summer, the Travel Industry Association of America said.

The summer is expected to start with nearly 37 million Americans traveling at least 50 miles from home this Memorial Day holiday weekend, which would set a record, the American Automobile Association forecast.

"The reality of summer travel is most of it is drive traffic. It remains to be seen what impact this will have on people," AAA spokesman Justin McNaul said. "People's itch travel is stronger than their financial limitations."

Across the West, tourism officials are hoping for a good summer.

At Lake Havasu City on the Arizona-California border, thousands are expected for the three-day weekend, primarily from Phoenix, Las Vegas and Southern California, Jarrod Lyman of the Lake Havasu Convention and Visitors Bureau said.

He does not expect higher gas prices to deter many, although he has seen more visitors sharing hotel rooms. "They might not cruise up and down the lake 10 times, but five or six times," he said.

California parks and beaches are dealing with a double-whammy of gas prices and fees rising between 37 percent and 92 percent for families, including a 150 percent jump for premium beach sites with sunset views.

Still, officials hope to match or exceed the 85 million visitors to parks and beaches recorded in 2003. "We were

anticipating we might have a drop-off in camping reservations with increasing fees," said Roy Stearns, deputy director of California State Parks. "It has been just the opposite."

Disney has said attendance at the Disneyland Resort's two parks in Anaheim, Calif., increased 8 percent in the first quarter. Universal Studios Hollywood, which will open a new high-tech roller coaster, also is expecting double digit attendance increases.

Off the coast of Washington, Stuart Baker of the Orcas Island Chamber of Commerce said crowds have steadily increased since Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "All in all, it looks like we are coming into one of our better seasons," Baker said.

The National Park Service does not forecast summer visitors, and its officials have differing views of summer prospects. Some Park Service officials in Washington, D.C., say they expect fewer visits to destination national parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Teton or Glacier. However, officials at some of those parks say they already have seen an increase in visitors this year, including Yellowstone.

From January to April, Grand Canyon National Park

reported a 10.5 percent increase in attendance. "We've been surprised by the number of visitors that we are seeing despite the fact that gas prices are high," park spokeswoman Maureen Oltrogge said.

Kaci Guthrie, front desk manager at Marina Cay Resort in Bigfork near Glacier National Park in Montana thinks gas prices will affect her business, but doesn't believe the higher cost will prompt many to change their plans.

The gas prices are worrisome for some, including Bruce Howard of Grangeville, Idaho, who runs a white-water rafting service.

"The customers who are coming in are going to have the airline surcharges," he said. "I don't have many people coming in RVs, but at five miles to the gallon, that would be very tough."

RV industry officials say they have seen no effect in reservations because of gas prices. "Realistically, most people aren't going to cancel their trip over \$50," said Chris Satch of RV America in Wheat Ridge.

James Williams of Denver figures travelers just have to deal with price fluctuations. "You've got to go with the flow," he said. "There's really not much you can do."

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2004-05 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2004-05 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2000-05) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2000. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed One-Year Action Plan.

Copies of the Proposed FY 2004-05 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending June 15, 2004. To obtain a copy of the Proposed FY 2004-05 One-Year Action, please contact:

Human Services Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
tel (310) 458-8701

Please send your written comments to the above address by June 15, 2004, or you may present your comments verbally at the public hearing on that date.



NATIONAL

Activists hope to make Hispanic voters key players in Colorado

BY JON SANCHE

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — In a tiny office inside his Denver tamale shop, longtime Colorado political activist Paul Sandoval is busy coordinating efforts to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the November election.

He is targeting fellow Hispanics, one of the nation's fastest-growing ethnic groups and one typically underrepresented at the polls. Fewer than half the Colorado Hispanics who were eligible to vote in the last presidential election did so, according to census figures.

Sandoval hopes to funnel money into voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts statewide. The former state lawmaker is a Democrat, and he believes getting Hispanics to the polls will help Democratic candidates.

It is an effort that is under way across the country.

The San Antonio-based Southwest Voter Registration Education Project has planned nonpartisan voter participation efforts in 14 states, most of them in the West. Among the targets are 12 Colorado counties with large numbers of Hispanics.

Just this week, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials fund predicted 1 million additional Hispanics will take part in the presidential election over 2000. In Colorado, the group said it expected an 8,000-voter increase, bringing the 2004 turnout to 166,000.

If Sandoval and others get their way, Hispanics will play a key role not just in the presidential election but in high-profile congressional contests like those in Colorado:

—Attorney General Ken Salazar, a Democrat, is running for the Senate seat being given up by GOP Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell. The GOP primary features beer magnate Peter Coors and former Rep. Bob Schaffer.

—Salazar's brother, Democratic state Rep. John Salazar, is running for the House seat of retiring GOP Rep. Scott McInnis. The GOP field will be narrowed down next weekend.

Observers believe the candidacies of the brothers Salazar could encourage fellow Hispanics to vote for the first time.

"I'm really counting on that," said Pete Gomez, chairman of the Alamosa County Democratic Party. "As Hispanics, they're tremendous role models for the Latino community, and I think it will help to bring out that sense of accomplishment and that sense of pride."

No candidate can count on ethnicity alone to gain support of any particular group. Scott Russell, the political director of the state GOP, said Hispanics will probably identify with Ken Salazar on some issues, but that doesn't necessarily translate into votes.

Sandoval, who worked on Salazar's campaigns for attorney general and Federico Pena's Denver mayoral campaigns, said Hispanics are like everyone else: They look past party affiliation and vote based on whether they feel they can trust a candidate.

He pointed out that Campbell won a large percentage of the Hispanic vote in his first Senate race in 1992, when he ran as a Democrat. That percentage grew in Campbell's second race in 1998, when he ran as a Republican, Sandoval said.

Campbell, the only American Indian in the Senate, is from Ignacio in southwestern Colorado, an area with a large Hispanic population. Many Hispanics continued to support him after he switched parties because his views were aligned with theirs on immigration, bilingual education and other issues, Sandoval said.

"There's no question they were not looking at party affiliation," Sandoval said.

Both major parties in Colorado are planning campaigns to encourage Hispanics to vote, and other nonpartisan groups will be doing the same.

"They (political candidates) need to listen to us, they need to listen to what we have to say because our (population) is a growing number," said Tom Sena, director of the Colorado Latino Voting Project. "At the local and national level, both sides of the aisle are excited about finding a way to galvanize Latino voting."

Many Hispanics in Colorado are new residents who are younger and make less money than average — all important factors in determining levels of political activity, analysts said.

In 2000, Hispanics made up about 17 percent of Colorado's population, but only 10 percent of state's overall voter turnout in the presidential election. Of 349,000 Colorado Hispanics eligible to vote that year, 158,000 — 45 percent — said they cast ballots.

In 2000, 60.2 percent of non-Hispanic whites in Colorado eligible to vote cast ballots, and 62 percent voted nationally.

"This is not a population that tends to vote heavily," Denver independent pollster Paul Talmey said. "Many are new migrants into Colorado, many are not citizens."

The Salazars' ethnicity is relevant to the election only because the issues Hispanics care about are largely the same as what other Coloradans care about, said Rosalind Gold, senior director of policy, research and advocacy at the Latino officials fund.

"The ability of Mr. (Ken) Salazar to win this election will be his ability to articulate the issues that are important to everyone," Gold said. "This will help groups get their foot in the door and get the attention of Latino voters, but his candidacy won't be enough to fully mobilize voters and have them vote for him. It can be a catalyst."

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NATIONAL



Drivers are fighting uphill battle heading to mountain hideaways

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

VAIL, Colo. — David Castillo was puzzled: After being pulled over near Vail on Interstate 70, all he got was a warning ticket and a plea to slow down from a local cop. No State Patrol. No sheriff in sight.

For weeks, residents of this posh resort have been sending out Vail police to target drivers like Castillo. They are also adding air conditioning in the cool mountain air to help muffle the sound of vehicles roaring through the shoestring-thin Vail Valley.

The problem is that I-70 — the main artery to the nation's busiest ski resorts and a lifeline for tourist-dependent towns like Vail — is becoming more congested every year. Hundreds of thousands of Colorado skiers, hikers, backpackers and families are vying with tourists to get to resort towns.

In Vail, where the average home costs more than \$1 million, retreating from the hurly-burly of urban life is becoming much more difficult. Summit County Commissioner Gary Lindstrom, who spent 31 years in law enforcement, puts it this way: "The mountains have become an

attractive nuisance."

I-70 is an engineering marvel in places, winding its way through canyons and steep valleys deep into the heart of the Colorado Rockies. It climbs approximately a mile between mile-high Denver and the Eisenhower Tunnel, where it knifes under the Continental Divide.

In 1985, some 15,000 vehicles passed through the tunnel every day. In 2001, the number had risen to 28,000 and planners predict there will be a daily average of 41,200 by 2025 and 63,000 on Saturdays.

A number of ski areas are within minutes — and sometimes eyesight — of the interstate, including Loveland, Keystone, Copper Mountain and Vail. Winter Park and Breckenridge depend heavily on I-70, and so do farther-flung resorts such as Steamboat Springs and Aspen.

All of them feel the pain when things go wrong.

An overturned tanker or string of SUVs and cars bowled over in a blizzard can block the four-lane highway for hours. An avalanche can close it for days. In several stretches, there is no frontage road to use to get around in the narrow mountain canyons.

Stop-and-go traffic is not uncommon on Sunday afternoons during the ski season or busy summer holiday weekends. It is a pain for resort-bound tourists and no bundle of joy for people who live along the highway.

"I-70 is our Main Street. People can't get to their jobs serving the people who are stuck. You can't get from one end of the county to the other," said Harry Dale, a Clear Creek County commissioner.

Vail Mayor Rod Slifer, a real estate developer, came to Vail in 1962 when the first chairlift was being built and the only road to Denver, 100 miles away, was a blizzard-prone, two-lane highway over 11,992-foot-high Loveland Pass. He said he worries about the viability of Vail and other Colorado resorts along I-70.

"In 15 or 20 years I think the situation will be untenable," he said, fearing tourists will go to areas where getting there isn't such a hassle.

It took years and hundreds of millions of dollars to ease I-70 congestion in Glenwood Canyon, west of Vail. Slifer and other community leaders along the interstate believe trying to add more lanes between the resorts and Denver isn't the answer.

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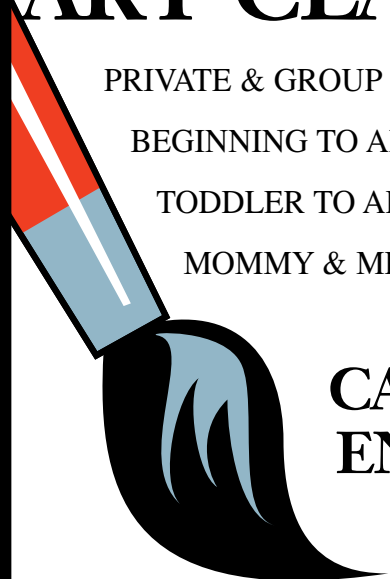


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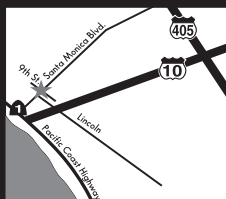
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NATIONAL

Aid for Afghanistan up, but warlords pose threat

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Donor countries are showing more generosity lately toward Afghanistan, but the international largesse may prove meaningless unless the country's continued violence can be controlled.

American officials are pleased with the trend in assistance promises. Privately, however, they are critical of Arab countries for reneging on aid pledges made more than two years ago.

Most worrisome for U.S. officials and congressional leaders is the continued threat posed by regional warlords and their heavily armed militias.

"Without bringing security to Afghanistan, nothing else is possible," says Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mark Schneider of the International Crisis Group, a research foundation, says security in Afghanistan "affects everything from elections to reconstruction. ... This is not a post-conflict situation; an unrelenting battle continues in Afghanistan."

More than 2 1/2 years after the demise of the Taliban rule, regional warlords battle constantly over turf and narcotics trafficking.

In Washington, there is strong bipartisan support for helping Afghanistan, which spawned al-Qaida and the Taliban, so it does not descend into an anarchic haven for terrorists again.

President Hamid Karzai says the first national elections, set for September,

could be jeopardized unless the private militias that control much of the country are disarmed.

On the plus side, donor countries pledged \$8.2 billion for Afghanistan at a conference last month in Berlin. A U.S. commitment of \$2.2 billion for 2004 was supplemented with promise of \$400 million by Japan over two years, \$391 million from Germany over four years, \$850 million from the European Union for 2004 and \$900 million by Britain over five years.

That is more than was pledged at a similar conference in Tokyo two years earlier, said Barnett Rubin of the Center on International Cooperation at New York University.

"If the pledges are fulfilled, it will go a long way toward correcting the financial neglect from which Afghanistan has suffered," Rubin said.

But James Dobbins, an analyst at the Rand think tank and a former State Department expert on nation-building, is less impressed.

He says \$8.2 billion over three years "works out to \$100 per Afghan per year — not bad — but Kosovo got four times more after just 11 weeks of bombing, and Bosnia seven times more after two."

Dobbins points out that various Afghan wars have lasted for more than 20 years.

U.S. officials cite the accomplishments of outside aid: 25 million school textbooks distributed, 203 schools constructed or rebuilt, 140 health clinics rehabilitated and 4.26 million children vaccinated against measles and polio.

FBI, Justice Dept. at odds over need to warn public of imminent terror attack

BY CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The FBI and Justice Department insist that warning the public about a possibly devastating terror attack in this country was justified by intelligence and may avert a repeat of the Sept. 11 attacks. Some lawmakers aren't so sure.

Some members of Congress with access to the same intelligence reports said the announcement by Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller was overblown and caused unnecessary public worry.

Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., who is chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said the Ashcroft-Mueller news conference on Wednesday mistakenly led some to believe the nation's threat level had been increased.

He called it "regrettable" that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, who made a round of television appearances Wednesday, did not join Ashcroft and Mueller.

"Their separate public appearances left the impression that the broad and close interagency consultation we expect — and which the law requires — may not have taken place in this case," Cox said.

Ridge said Friday that there is no turf war or disagreement between his agency and the Justice Department over threat warnings.

"We communicate every day. We talk every day. We collaborate our efforts every day," Ridge said after signing an agreement with the European Union on sharing of air passenger information. "Whatever we can do to put that unfortunate story to rest, we need to do it immediately."

Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse reiterated Thursday that his agency has not seen any change in the "steady stream of threat reporting."

"We do not have any new intelligence or specific information about al-Qaida planning an attack," he said.

Cassandra Chandler, assistant FBI director for public affairs, acknowledged intelligence about the threat has been coming in for some time. However, she said it now is being backed by a higher degree of corroboration and that its sheer volume was noteworthy.

She said the announcement was intended to demonstrate to Americans and the world that the FBI was focused on trying to thwart an attack. "This clearly demonstrates our commitment to prevention," Chandler said.

WORLD BRIEFLY

It's alive! It's alive!

By The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A hospital worker preparing a drowned 2-year-old for a funeral home noticed the boy was breathing.

Logan Pinto apparently wandered away from his baby sitter Thursday and fell into a canal near his home in Rexburg, about 275 miles east of Boise. He was submerged for nearly 30 minutes before police found him a half-mile downstream, said Rexburg police Capt. Randy Lewis.

Though an officer gave him CPR and emergency workers did everything they could to revive him, Lewis said, the boy was pronounced dead when it appeared the effort had failed. After giving the boy's mother and stepfather — Debra and Joe Gould — some time to say goodbye, Madison Memorial Hospital nurse Mary Zollinger began to prepare Logan's body for the funeral home.

When she looked at the boy, she noticed his chest was slightly moving and realized that Logan was alive.

The boy was flown to Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, where he was listed in critical condition Friday. Late Thursday, he was breathing on his own and his color had returned, but he was placed back on a respirator Friday, Lewis said.

"I'm just amazed and overwhelmed with what took place," Lewis said. "They aggressively worked on him for quite a bit of time, and of course it's a bad situation when you have to let the parents know that their son has passed away."

Convicted killer gets bounced

By The Associated Press

DANVILLE, Ill. — A man who claims he was wrongly convicted of stabbing a newlywed couple to death walked out of prison Friday after 17 years behind bars.

Gordon Randall Steidl, 52, was released from the Danville Correctional Center after prosecutors sent a motion to a county judge Thursday asking him to dismiss the case because they couldn't meet a deadline for retrying him.

Prosecutor David Rands said charges could still be refiled later.

Steidl became the 18th person since Illinois reinstated the death penalty in 1977 to be freed because of a questionable conviction after serving time on death row.

He thanked his lawyers and his family, "especially my mother for the last 17 years. This is a lady of steel."

He was convicted of stabbing Dyke and Karen Rhoads to death and setting their home in Paris ablaze in 1986. Steidl's death sentence was reduced to life in prison without parole in 1999, but the conviction still stood.

Pinochet prime for punishment

By The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — A court ruled Friday that former dictator Augusto

Pinochet can be sued for a bloody wave of repression in the 1970s and 80s, after a TV interview in which he appeared lucid raised questions about Supreme Court rulings that he is unfit for trial.

The 14-9 vote by the Santiago Court of Appeals startled lawyers on both sides of the case, as well as victims' families. Prosecution lawyer Juan Subercasseaux called the ruling "a miracle."

"We receive this with deep surprise but also with deep pride," said chief prosecution lawyer Francisco Bravo. "This ruling makes the relatives of the victims and the whole of Chilean society again trust Chile's justice."

The decision, which lifts the immunity Pinochet enjoyed as a former president, could pave the way for him to face human rights charges. His lawyer said he would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, which has repeatedly said the 88-year-old Pinochet cannot stand trial because of poor mental and physical health.

A 2002 report by court-appointed doctors stated that Pinochet suffers from a mild case of dementia. He also uses a pacemaker, has diabetes and arthritis, and has sustained at least three mild strokes since 1998, when he was arrested in London.

In November 2003, however, Pinochet appeared in an interview with a Miami-based Spanish-language television station, saying he sees himself "as a good angel" and blaming the abuses of his regime on subordinates.

Iran shaken by massive quake

By The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A strong earthquake shook central and northern Iran on Friday, killing at least 23 people — some buried by landslides on a mountain road — and seriously damaging more than 80 villages, the Interior Ministry and state-run media said.

More than 100 others were reported injured by the 6.2 magnitude earthquake, which struck at 5:08 p.m. and was centered about 45 miles north of Tehran, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Eight provinces in central and northern Iran were affected by the temblor, with the worst-damaged villages near Alamout, about 80 miles west of Tehran, Interior Ministry spokesman Jahanbakhah Khanjani told The Associated Press.

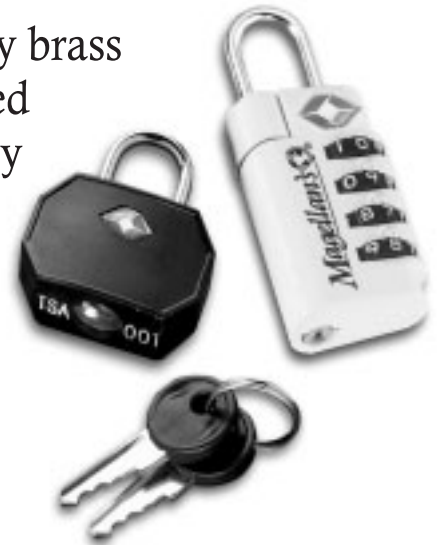
The quake unleashed landslides and falling boulders that killed 16 people and injured 70 others by burying them in their cars along the mountainous Tehran-Chalous road, state-run television reported.

Five people were killed in Mazandaran province and two in Qazvin province, Tehran radio said. The quake also damaged homes, buildings and telephone lines in the region.

In Tehran, the quake broke windows in parts of the city, causing panicked residents to rush outdoors. As midnight approached, many families were still in the streets or parks, planning to spend the night outdoors for fear of aftershocks.

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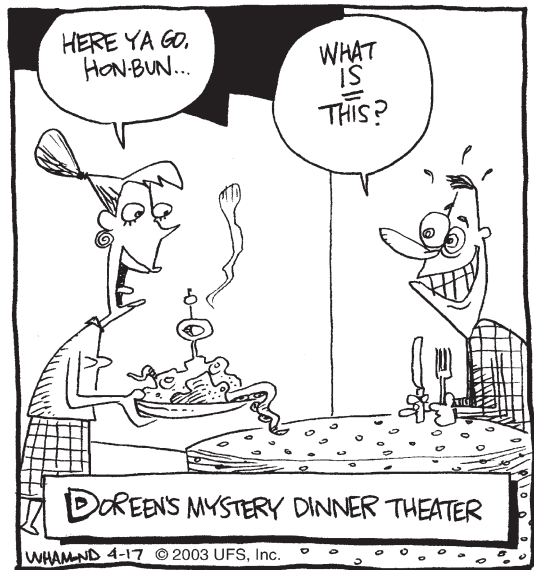


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ACROSS

- 1 Bucket
- 5 Photo collection
- 10 De Mille of dance
- 12 "Lorna —"
- 13 Forbidden
- 14 Scrub the mission
- 15 Hockey's Grimson
- 16 Block
- 18 "Don't — stranger!"
- 19 Harangue
- 21 Bin fill
- 22 Aspen unit
- 24 Army chopper
- 25 Desert
- 29 Tirade
- 30 Pole feature
- 32 Like
- 33 Moose's kin
- 34 Mao follower
- 35 Backless sofa
- 37 Get the lead out
- 39 Continuously
- 40 Baltimore pro

41

- Hornet homes
- 42 Towel word

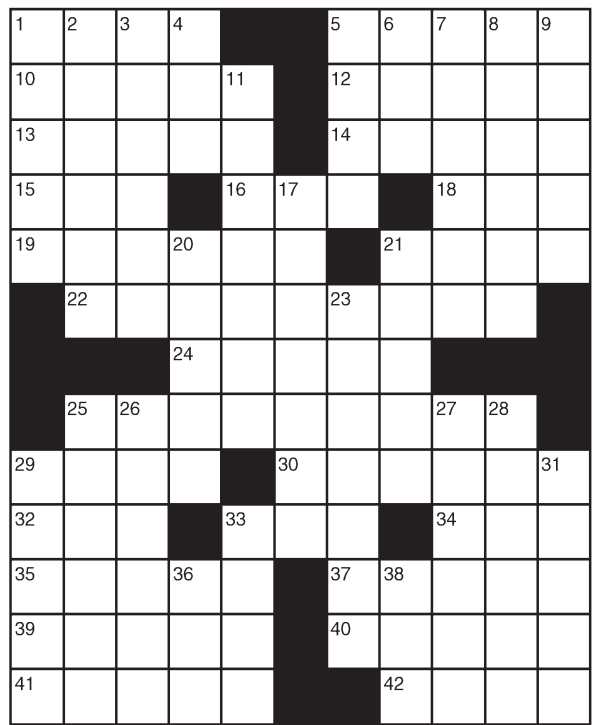
DOWN

- 1 Fall guy
- 2 Some marbles
- 3 Economical way to buy
- 4 Zodiac cat
- 5 First father
- 6 High hit
- 7 Goof
- 8 Hard to believe
- 9 Music genre

- 11 Fizzy quaff
- 17 Very hot
- 20 Permitted
- 21 Packing box
- 23 One with a rig
- 25 Like tears
- 26 Rascals
- 27 Scale range

- 28 Sadat's predecessor
- 29 Dangerous gas
- 31 Hammer balls
- 33 Cuts off
- 36 Aardvark snack
- 38 Bleachers cry

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kiss and make up: Simmons clarifies remarks

By The Associated Press

■ **TOKYO** — Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, who sparked outrage in Australia after making comments seen as anti-Muslim, said he was speaking only of “extremists” and that his remarks were taken out of context.

“I was asked about extremists,” he said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press. “And that’s what I was talking about — only extremists.”

Kiss began a five-concert tour of Japan this week.

Simmons sparked outrage when Kiss toured Australia earlier this month with comments seen as attacking Islam.

“This is a vile culture and if you think for a second that it’s willing to just live in the sands of God’s armpit you’ve got another thing coming,” Simmons said

during an interview on Melbourne’s 3AW radio. “They want to come and live right where you live and they think that you’re evil.”

Angry Muslims flooded the radio station with calls.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Barbra Streisand must pay \$177,000 in legal fees incurred by an amateur photographer who fended off a \$10 million lawsuit over aerial photographs he took showing her Malibu estate.

Streisand’s lawsuit against retired software entrepreneur Kenneth Adelman claimed the photos showed details of her estate that can’t be seen from the street. She alleged they could increase a problem she already has with stalkers.

Adelman said he posted the photos as part of his scientific research on coastline

conservation. He has posted more than 12,000 photos on his California Coastal Records Project Web site.

The Web site “is not about Streisand,” Adelman said Thursday. “It’s about the California coast, and she happens to have a very, very small part about it.”

Superior Court Judge Allan J. Goodman ordered Streisand to pay Adelman’s lawyer fees when the judge dismissed the lawsuit in December.

The two sides couldn’t agree on the amount, so the judge ordered Streisand to pay an additional \$15,000 to cover the costs Adelman incurred by returning to court during the negotiations.

■ **BOSTON** — British soccer star David Beckham has signed a three-year marketing deal with Gillette to promote the company’s razors and blades, the

Boston-based firm said.

Beckham, the 29-year-old Real Madrid midfielder, will be featured in Gillette’s worldwide consumer advertising and promotional campaigns for its grooming products. Terms of the deal weren’t disclosed this week.

Gillette will launch ads featuring Beckham in Europe next month, and they are expected to hit the United States in July. He will be marketed as “Gillette’s stylish, well-groomed man.”

In a statement, Beckham said he’s “honored and excited about this deal.” He also has promotional contacts with companies such as Pepsi, sportswear manufacturer Adidas, mobile phone giant Vodafone, haircare product company Brylcreem, Police sunglasses and the British retail chain Marks & Spencer.

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