



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

June 4-5, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 175

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 8 22 29 47
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$38 Million

FANTASY 5

4 5 11 21 24

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 3 1
Evening: 9 8 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:40.02

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Lawrence M. Small, the chief executive of the Smithsonian Institution, was convicted in 2004 for his collection of South American artifacts that include the feathers of 219 birds protected by the Endangered Species Act, and was sentenced to 100 hours of community service. Hearst Newspapers reported in February that Small had not yet begun his sentence, in that he is still negotiating for the right to serve it by spending 100 hours lobbying Congress to change the Endangered Species Act.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 155th day of 2005.
There are 210 days left in the year.

On June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway began during World War II.
In 1947, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Taft-Hartley Act.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Reputation is a bubble which a man bursts when he tries to blow it for himself."

EMMA CARLETON
AMERICAN JOURNALIST (1850-1925)

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Two decades of healing power

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — A well-known environmental group let the stars do the talking and their wallets do the talking during a Santa Monica fund-raiser aimed at helping save the ocean.

Heal the Bay celebrated its 20th anniversary on Thursday with its annual "Bring Back the Beach" event in a circus-sized tent on Barnard Way, just south of the Santa Monica Pier. Celebrities, business leaders and the environmentally conscious came together to help raise awareness and funding for the numerous ocean clean-up programs Heal the Bay sponsors.

Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, said the amount of money raised this week will be made available in a week. The funding will be used to cover the cost of programs related to education and outreach — typically not covered by other funding — which comes mostly from corporate and government grants.

Gold said portions of the pro-

ceeds would also be used to help the Santa Monica Aquarium, which Heal the Bay operates.

The event featured a dinner prepared by Joachim Splichal, well-known chef and founder of

See **BRING BACK THE BEACH**, page 10

H2-Oh! Heal the Bay keeps cleaning up

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

During its 20-year lifespan, Heal the Bay has evolved into one of Los Angeles County's largest environmental organizations, its efforts affecting millions of people.

Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, attributes part of the success of the organization he leads to the close relationship it strives to maintain with the local and federal government, industry leaders and the public to "educate and evolve"

See **HEAL THE BAY**, page 10



Taylor Wichmanowski/Special to the Daily Press

The musical group The Bangles stop for photographers before performing at Heal the Bay's "Bring Back the Beach" fund-raiser Thursday night near the Pier.

Tricky track



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Summer is in full swing, as evidenced by the derring-doers taking to the roller coaster on the Santa Monica Pier recently.

Job growth slows to virtual crawl, but unemployment rate stays low

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Job growth slowed nearly to a crawl in May, with new hiring registering the smallest gain in almost two years. The unemployment rate dipped to a low 5.1 percent, however.

The latest employment snapshot, released by the Labor Department on Friday, kept up the

recent pattern of choppy job creation. Employers boosted payrolls by just 78,000 after a hiring spurt of 274,000 in April.

Economists offered a variety of reasons for May's moderation: the toll of high energy prices squeezing bottom lines, companies reducing production to work off excess goods on shelves and back-

See **JOBS**, page 12

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Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Don't allow anyone to pull the wool over your eyes. Friends very much want you to agree to join in on some fun activity. Prioritize, if need be. Family and/or a domestic project should be first. Tonight: Invite friends over spontaneous-ly.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You have more energy than you know what to do with. A friend might suggest a strenuous physical activity or pastime. Say yes, because you will feel much better if you let off some steam. Remember, you don't always have to be in charge. Tonight: Everyone looks for you!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take your time. Cancel plans if they don't feel right. How you handle a close associate or friend could make a difference in his or her attitude. Anger bursts from out of nowhere. Allow more caring in. Tonight: Don't plan on much.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might appear to be, or even think you are, OK with what is going on, but you find out otherwise. Establish boundaries with a partner who can push your limits, especially financially. Know when to say no. A spontaneous party happens. Tonight: Where the action is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Visualize what others want, as vague as they can be. You'll discover many different answers and solutions if you listen to others. Someone might be angry but has a lot to share. Listen and sort the hot feelings from the ideas. Tonight: A must appearance.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Read between the lines with a message. Adapt and change plans to suit yourself. You might be intrigued by a way-out idea or health program. Test the waters first. Tonight: Where you can be around music.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ A partner might be more frustrated than you realize. Deal with harsh words, understanding that his or her feelings have been building up. Your creativity and understanding help resolve the issue. Regain your former closeness. Tonight: Do what someone else asks.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You need to go along with others. Someone might be so serious that you cannot read between the lines. Relax, and those around you will open up. Be more caring with a family member. He or she doesn't get it. Tonight: Float with others' plans.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Keep your plans simple; others will do a good-enough job complicating your day. Confirm what you hear, especially if you find the information so unbelievable that you have to pinch yourself to make sure what you are hearing is real. Tonight: Play it like any other night.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ The lover in you emerges, whether it is through a romantic bond or expressing your caring for someone who is important in your life. A purchase meant to please this person could overwhelm him or her. Tonight: Let go of self-imposed restrictions.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You mean well. Express your caring so that others can hear and respond to it. You give friendship easily. Work on nurturing. Others will love that special touch or effort. Your actions speak louder than words. Tonight: Invite a friend over.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Say more of what you think, but also know when to hush up. Sometimes quiet moments help you bond even more. A tie, be it with a child or loved one, becomes even closer. Express your caring through actions. Tonight: Enjoy the evening.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Festival to examine anomalies of 9/11

By Daily Press staff

The 9/11 tragedy will be explored through art and analysis in Santa Monica. A documentary film festival with live music, performers, and vendors will highlight recent developments in research into the realities of 9/11 not covered in the 9/11 Commission report. The 911truthla.us Music and Film Festival will offer eight hours of recent documentaries, interspersed with live music, theater, and dancers. The sponsor, 911truthla.us convened the historic first Citizens' Grand Jury on the crimes of 9/11, which brought together researchers from around the world. Kathleen Rosenblatt, event coordinator, hopes that the documentaries will be lightened somewhat by the live performances, in an effort to temper the message to those who are new to confronting this issue.

In addition to the multiple events at the festival, highlights from C-Span's repeated broadcast of Professor David Ray Griffin's 9/11 lecture will be seen. Author of The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11 and The 9/11 Commission: Omissions and Distortions, Griffin is one of the many voices accusing the Bush administration of a sinister complicity in the attacks, added Rosenblatt. Among the festival presentations will be a revised documentary by researcher Eric Hufschmid, whose 2002 "Painful Deceptions" provided scientific analysis of the physical evidence on the 9/11 attacks. The Festival will feature the theater group "Billionaires for Bush," rock band Mutant Press, a John Lennon tribute by Tim Biancalana, Capoeira & hoop dancers, and soloists.

The festival will take place on Sunday June 12 at 4 p.m. at the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street (at 2nd Street) in Santa Monica.

Lend a helping hand to the elderly

By Daily Press staff

There's something you can do for those who are aging. This summer, the Center for Healthy Aging is looking to expand its volunteer corps and the CHA is hosting training for new volunteers in July. Volunteer opportunities include: Information and referral, health clinic assistance and helping seniors in in-home programs. CHA is located in the Ken Edwards Center at 1527 Fourth St. The volunteer training is a four session series on Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 6, 13, 20 and 27. For information, call: (310) 576-2550. Pre-registration for classes is required.

Principal shaves head to encourage students

By Daily Press staff

You say you're willing to do anything to get your child to read more? To the cheers of hundreds of McKinley Elementary School students, Principal Paco Garcia fulfilled a promise to shave his head if students would reach their reading goals. During the recent McKinley Read-a-thon, students read more than 5,100 books, far exceeding their goal of 4,000 books. At an afternoon assembly on Thursday, May 26, students chanted in unison, "Shave that head!" in anticipation. The top student readers had the honor of making the first cuts, followed by a mohawk design and finally, a bald head. The bald Garcia encouraged the students to keep reading and learning.

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SURF REPORT

On Saturday, expect some SSE swell. Size is expected around waist high, with pluses at standouts south of LA in the chest-high zone. NW wind swell is expected to continue but back off a bit.

On Sunday, look for the southerly swell to keep waist-high sets going around south facing breaks.

**Today the
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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	-0.8	7:42	2.9	12:30	5.8	3:36	3.8
SUNDAY	9:22	-0.5	9:33	2.7	1:41	5.2	4:35	4.1
MONDAY	10:20	-0.2	11:10	2.1	3:06	4.6	5:23	4.6
TUESDAY	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4
WEDNESDAY	12:24	1.4	11:59	0.7	6:00	3.9	6:39	5.5
THURSDAY	1:22	0.6	12:41	1.1	7:13	3.8	7:13	5.9
FRIDAY	2:18	0.9	1:17	0.9	8:09	3.4	7:45	5.2

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YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

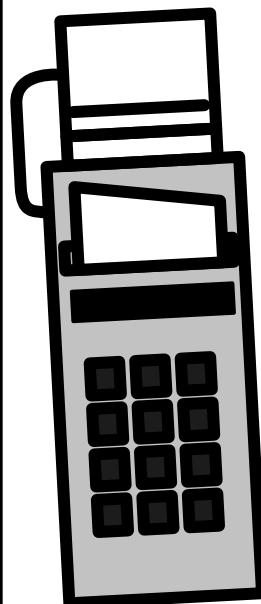


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OPINION

The Q-Line

UTILITY FUTILITY GETS LITTLE SUPPORT

This past week, Q-line asked:

Do you support rate increases on your utility bills to restore the fund balances to healthy levels? How much are you willing to pay?

Here are your responses:

☉ “If we would get all the bums out of Santa Monica we wouldn’t be needing rate increases on our utility bills, and tax increases in general. They are a terrible strain on our economy and a blight on our city. It’s a disgrace.”

☉ “No, I don’t support the rate increase. I would contend that the alleged low fund balance is due to City Hall’s consistent rating of these funds for other purposes. If the public was allowed to do an investigation of how the spending practices of the council and the staff are reflected in the withdrawals from these funds, they would find that they use the funds as a piggy bank for all sorts of projects. That has got to be disclosed.”

☉ “If they need more money, it’s because the politicians are probably the ones counting it. They should use the utility rates to pay for the utilities and all the stuff that goes with it. The utility money should not be used for the rest of the city budget. Let the politicians gouge somebody else for that. Spending less money on the bums might help.”

☉ “The main culprit is the high cost of apartment house rentals, due to de-control, re-control. I know of a three bedroom apartment that has six college students sharing two to a bedroom to a fourth of the cost of renting. These crowded apartments create higher water, gas, electricity, trash, and all other waste products usage and cost of disposing. Add to these costs the additional usage and costs due to the tourist trade. Then add the congested parking. If any increases are in the future, they should be paid by the property owners only, who are now smelling the high profit real estate rose. No passing the costs to hard-working tenants and day-working people. The passing of the school tax was, and is, enough.”

☉ “It might help stem some of the water waste and garbage overflow if at least apartment owners could pass their water and garbage fees onto tenants. This would give tenants some incentive to conserve water and recycle, instead of just taking the water and garbage for granted.”

☉ “First of all, the city of Santa Monica needs to stop spending money on stupid things like water fluoridation. We don’t want water fluoridation, we don’t need industrial fluoridation in our water, and fluoridation is toxic. So, I think if the utilities would just quit the plan on buying fluoridation, they could balance their budget.”

☉ “No, I do not support rate increases on the utility bills in order to restore fund balances to healthy levels. I just read that Santa Monica has a surplus in the budget, so they can just take the surplus from the budget and add it to

restore the fund balances to healthy levels themselves. How did the fund levels get so low in first place?”

☉ “Support? No. This is a typical bumbling bureaucrat and power-seeking political play, trying to take advantage of the stupidity and mathematical incompetence of Santa Monicans. There’s no necessity to increase rates because, generally, rates are a percentage. A given percentage yields more when the base increases. Simple, but obviously the rulers of the fascist min-state of Santa Monica know that even a simple concept is too much for the Santa Monica simpletons to understand. It’s like the sales tax rate increase on the service tip expectation or rate increase scams that most of the sheep except. In case you don’t understand the rationale for these increases, it’s because prices, expenses, living costs, etc. are increasing, that the percentage has to increase, ignoring the fact that the original percentages will yield more because they are calculated on those same prices, expenses, living costs, etc. How much am I willing to pay? None. Nada.”

☉ “I am willing to pay nothing. A large amount of tax money goes to supporting City Hall’s green revolution, like green electricity, and solar panels which are mostly on low-income housing because only the city can afford such non-profitability. Waste and stormwater is taxed to fund charities like Heal the Bay, which have accomplished nothing in 20 years. Solid waste taxes go to organizations like Pico Youth & Family Center and OPCC bum outreach. The county should be responsible for the Y of Santa Monica. This is just another City Hall grab for money to help destroy the middle class in this town. That’s the first thing Lenin did in Russia — destroy the middle class. Why not give the mayor a one-way ticket to San Francisco — the only city worse off than Santa Monica with its environmental leeches. The council won’t be happy until we are all riding bicycles with funny little hats, reading by candlelight, and a log fire to keep us warm. City Hall is marching us backward into the 21st century.”

☉ “For a half century or more, ever since they had a city council and had staffs within City Hall, all I’ve ever heard is: ‘Staff says this, staff says that.’ The problem is, staff never comes to the city council and says, ‘Hey, we’re saving money in this direction.’ Not once. Staff always comes with a recommendation that the council usually rubber stamps. It’s a doggone shame, and I definitely do not support rate increases on my utility bills to restore any fund balances to what staff thinks are healthy levels. I am willing to pay zero.”

☉ “Any more increase is absolutely ludicrous.”

Being there in spirit isn’t quite the same



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

There are many theories that try to explain why the crime rate has been falling since the 90’s. Possible causes that have been suggested include better police strategies, tougher gun control laws, the increase in the number of police and the aging of the population. I’m not sure why crime has gone down for all these years, but I can tell you why it’s gone down in most places in the country for the past few months — all the bad guys have come to my neighborhood.

(No, I don’t live in Santa Monica. For reasons that will become obvious, I’m going to keep the identity of my neighborhood a secret).

Recently, there has been a spate of armed bank robberies near my house, and customers have been held up at gunpoint in the local deli. This is a serious situation, and it has gotten a serious reaction from both the community and the police. One of the moves that the police have made is to have an empty police car parked on the main street near the banks. The theory is that if a potential bandit happens to be driving through the area and spots the patrol car, he’ll keep driving rather than stop and rob.

What concerns me is that the police department has explained all this in the local newspaper. Yep, they’ve actually told the public that the police car is always empty and gets moved a few times a day, and it’s just a decoy. So now, every potential robber who reads that paper will know he has nothing to fear from the non-existent police in that empty car. That’s like taking an ad out in the paper saying, “We’ll be out of town for a week. Our lights and T.V. will remain on, but that’s just to try to fool people into thinking we’re home.”

But out of respect for the police, I’m willing to support this tactic and see how

it works out. I do think there are a few things they could do to make the whole thing more convincing. They could record some voices that would randomly come from the empty car. So, if a crook passes by, he’d hear things like:

COP #1: “So, is the captain still mad at you for beating up that guy?”

COP #2: “A little. But he understands the pressure we’re under makes us a little crazed.”

or

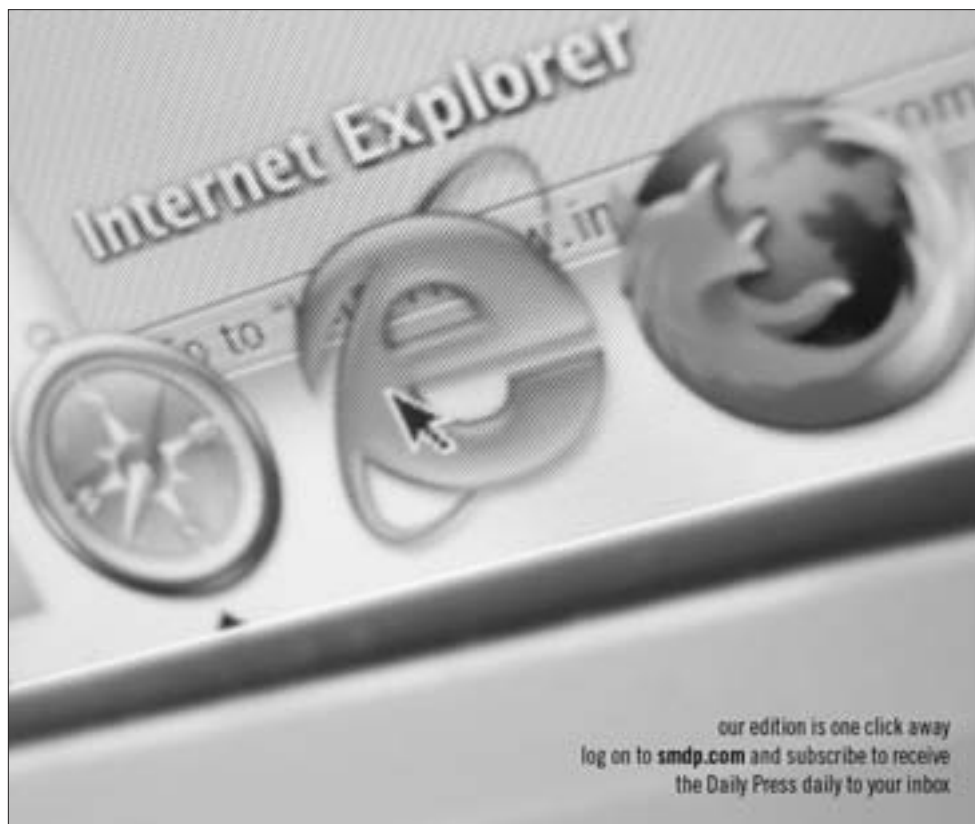
COP #1: “I don’t know which tastes worse — these donuts or the coffee.”

I also think that we private citizens can help out. The patrol car is always parked at an expired meter. Next time I walk by, I’m going to put some money in the meter and leave a note saying, “Dear Officer Smith, I put some money in the meter even though I know you’ll be back in a minute or two from buying new and more dangerous bullets.”

But if this decoy tactic works, think of all the money and lives that could be saved if the empty cop car ploy ends up being used on a larger scale. There will be no need to actually have missiles with nuclear warheads. We can just have empty missiles labeled: “Nuclear.” Maybe we can just have really good pictures of missiles. Similarly, we can just use thousands of cardboard cutouts of soldiers to convince the world that we have a large and scary army.

But just to ensure that this tactic works in my neighborhood, I think the local newspaper should print the following: “It was recently learned that the banks in this neighborhood contain only fake or ‘play’ money. You’d be wasting your time to rob them.” That should solve the crime problem, don’t you think?

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Frasier.” He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarver-moderntimes.com)



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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY EDWIN A. LOCKE PH.D.

Without reason, there are no rights

Human life versus animal life. This fundamental conflict of values, which was dramatized a few years ago when AIDS victims marched in support of research on animals, is still raging. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has just launched a campaign against Covance, Inc., a biomedical research lab in Vienna, Va., that uses animals for drug testing.

It is an indisputable fact that many thousands of lives are saved by medical research on animals. But animal rightists don't care. PETA makes this frighteningly clear: "Even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it." Such is the "humanitarianism" of animal rights activists.

How do these advocates try to justify their position? As someone who has debated them for years on college campuses and in the media, I know firsthand that the whole movement is based on a single-invalid-syllogism, namely: men feel pain and have rights; animals feel pain; therefore, animals have rights. This argument is entirely specious, because man's rights do not depend on his ability to feel pain; they depend on his ability to think.

Rights are ethical principles applicable only to beings capable of reason and choice. There is only one fundamental right: a man's right to his own life. To live successfully, man must use his rational faculty — which is exercised by choice. The choice to think can be negated only by the use of physical force. To survive and prosper, men must be free from the initiation of force by other men — free to use their own minds to guide their choices and actions. Rights protect men against the use of force by other men.

None of this is relevant to animals. Animals do not survive by rational thought (nor by sign languages allegedly taught to them by psychologists). They survive through sensory-perceptual association and the pleasure-pain mechanism. They cannot reason. They cannot learn a code of ethics. A lion is not immoral for eating a zebra (or even for attacking a man). Predation is their natural and only means of survival; they do not have the capacity to learn any

other.

Only man has the power, guided by a code of morality, to deal with other members of his own species by voluntary means: rational persuasion. To claim that man's use of animals is immoral is to claim that we have no right to our own lives and that we must sacrifice our welfare for the sake of creatures who cannot think or grasp the concept of morality. It is to elevate amoral animals to a moral level higher than ourselves — a flagrant contradiction. Of course, it is proper not to cause animals gratuitous suffering. But this is not the same as inventing a bill of rights for them — at our expense.

The granting of fictional rights to animals is not an innocent error. We do not have to speculate about the motive, because the animal "rights" advocates have revealed it quite openly. Again from PETA: "Mankind is the biggest blight on the face of the earth"; "I do not believe that a human being has a right to life"; "I would rather have medical experiments done on our children than on animals." These self-styled lovers of life do not love animals; rather, they hate men.

The animal "rights" terrorists are like the Unabomber and Oklahoma City bombers. They are not idealists seeking justice, but nihilists seeking destruction for the sake of destruction. They do not want to uplift mankind, to help him progress from the swamp to the stars. They want mankind's destruction; they want him not just to stay in the swamp but to disappear into its muck.

There is only one proper answer to such people: to declare proudly and defiantly, in the name of morality, a man's right to his life, his liberty, and the pursuit of his own happiness.

(Edwin A. Locke is Dean's Professor Emeritus of Leadership and Motivation at the University of Maryland at College Park and is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (in Irvine, CA. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand — best-selling author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead and originator of the philosophy of Objectivism.)

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STATE

Lawmakers seek aid for landslide victims

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

LAGUNA BEACH — People whose homes were cracked, upended and in some cases tossed by a massive landslide should receive disaster relief to help them recover a portion of their losses, a state senator said Friday as he visited the damaged neighborhood high in a coastal canyon.

The process of securing that relief has already begun, with local officials working with state and federal governments to show that the landslide was caused by this year's near-record rainfall and therefore should be included as part of the disaster area that was established earlier after losses elsewhere in the region, state Sen. John Campbell said.

People who lived in the Bluebird Canyon area of Laguna Beach were unable to buy landslide insurance and should receive assistance like victims of other natural disasters, said Campbell, a Republican who represents the area.

It is too soon to say how much they might receive and when the aid might arrive, but the senator said any grants or loans were unlikely to cover the entire value of homes that were worth more than a million dollars before the slide jolted the area early Wednesday morning, sending families running for their lives as the roads buckled and huge crevasses opened in the soil. There were only four minor injuries.

"The significance of the loss here to the people that were affected is much greater than in other disasters that we have seen around the country of late because it's uninsurable and because of the fact that they may have also lost their land," he said.

Separately, Rep. Chris Cox, a Republican, said at a news conference in Irvine that he hoped a decision would be made soon on whether the area would qualify for emergency funding from the federal government.

Homeland Security chief takes a tour of LA airport

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — In his first California visit since taking office, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff got a firsthand look Thursday at technology to screen airline luggage and passengers for bombs at Los Angeles International Airport.

Calling the airport a "symbol to the enemy," Chertoff applauded measures already taken to protect it but said there is still more to do.

That includes beefing up security of airport infrastructure, using more detection systems to spot microscopic amounts of explosives on passengers, and expanding a program in which frequent fliers submit biometrics data like fingerprints in advance so they can move quickly through inspections.

"Obviously we can continue to refine, not only to make it safer but to make it easier and more convenient," said Chertoff, standing with Reps. Jane Harman, D-Venice, and Maxine Waters,

Authorities have declared 48 homes at least temporarily off-limits, but more than half were not damaged at all and the owners are only being kept out because they are so close to the slide area that they could be in danger if the hillside started to shift again, Laguna Beach Police Chief Jim Spreine said.

There have been cracking noises heard as damaged homes settle, but authorities have not detected any significant new movement of the hillside since the original slide, Spreine said.

City officials said 15 homes have significant damage, including at least seven that apparently were destroyed. Some of the homes appear to have been lifted off their foundations and dropped back down, with deep fissures visible in the walls. Power lines are strewn about the area and the roads are deeply buckled in places.

Several neighbors said they suspect the landslide was caused by the construction of a 6,300-square-foot mansion in the area in 2001, but Campbell and, Pam Irvine, a geologist for the state of California who inspected the site, said experts believe rain was the most likely culprit. It was the second-wettest winter and spring on record in Southern California.

Those who live along the bottom of the canyon, where the damage included back decks crushed by the wall of dirt and debris, said they hope that state and local authorities will reinforce the upper portion of the canyon to prevent another slide that could come crashing down on their houses.

"The question is, will we be able to live in our homes again?" asked Todd MacCallum, 35, a business consultant who moved into his home about 18 months ago. "The land behind our homes is holding up the hillside and until they stabilize the hillside we can't do anything with our homes."

The senator said it was too early to say whether authorities would be able to reinforce the hillside.

D-Los Angeles, at an airport parking structure. "The ultimate goal here is a seamless security system which moves very quickly."

Saying his visit was designed to see the airport up close, Chertoff did not announce any new measures or funding.

Earlier, he reviewed one of dozens of bomb detection systems used on luggage over the last 2 1/2 years, as well as the airport's first device to identify traces of explosive on passengers, which was installed last month.

Chertoff, who became Homeland Security chief in February, said he understood the frustration felt by some over illegal immigration. He added that securing the borders should fall to the federal government, not groups like the Minuteman Project.

"We hear your message," he said. "But again I have to caution: People should not try to take the law into their own hands."

He noted terrorists have targeted the airport in the past, including a plot to blow it up on the eve of the millennium.



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STATE



Senate OKs bill extending licenses to illegals

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The latest attempt to provide driver's licenses for illegal immigrants passed the state Senate on Thursday, after proponents tied the measure to the state's compliance with a new federal law intended to deter terrorists.

The bill by Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, includes provisions that restrict how the licenses can be used and what they would look like. Cedillo said the federal law signed by President Bush last month forced him to accept restrictions he previously rejected.

The measure passed 22-16, sending it to the Assembly.

The federal REAL ID Act requires

states to verify that people who apply for a driver's license are in the country legally. But it also gives states a choice of whether to issue "driving only" licenses to illegal immigrants, as long as those licenses are marked by color or design as being different from a regular license. They also must state that the license cannot be used as an official identification card.

"This bill is about public safety. Millions of Californians are in jeopardy every day" from illegal immigrants who lack driver training and insurance, said Sen. Richard Alarcon, D-Van Nuys, whose son was killed by an uninsured driver.

Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Northridge, accused proponents of using the federal law to disguise their attempts to give

licenses to illegal immigrants. The federal deadline for adopting regulations isn't until January 2009.

"It is not about public safety ... it's about illegal immigration," said McClintock, who voted against the bill.

He said passing the measure means that "it's the official policy of our state to ignore federal immigration law. ... We are accommodating them in the violation of federal law."

Gov. Gray Davis in 2003 signed a law allowing driver's licenses for nearly 2 million illegal immigrants, a move that angered his opponents and became part of the campaign to recall him less than a year into his second term. When voters replaced Davis with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the new governor

promptly persuaded the Legislature to repeal it.

Schwarzenegger promised to work with Cedillo to create a license that didn't compromise security and carried a distinctive mark. But last year he vetoed Cedillo's attempt to create such a license, saying it didn't provide adequate security protections. He has not taken a position on the latest bill.

The state did not distinguish between legal residents and illegal immigrants in granting driver's licenses until January 1994, when a new law required applicants to produce a Social Security number. A recent Field Poll found nearly two-thirds of California residents oppose giving licenses to those who are in the state illegally.

New Schwarzenegger ad claims Democrats seek tax increases

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Seizing on a proposal by Democratic legislators to raise income taxes on the wealthy, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released a new television ad Thursday claiming lawmakers intend to hike other taxes and might even tinker with the state's famed property tax-slashing measure, Proposition 13.

The new ad came just two days after Assembly Democrats proposed adding \$3.1 billion to fund education by hiking income taxes on the state's top earners. But the ad suggests Democrats also want to boost several other taxes, including the sales tax and the vehicle license fee — claims Democrats called misleading and dishonest.

The commercial begins by repeating a claim Schwarzenegger has made often since becoming governor — that the legislature spends more money than it takes in and seeks tax increases to shore up the difference.

"How do they plan to balance the books?" the announcer asks. "Increase the car tax. Increase sales taxes. Increase income taxes. And dismantle Prop. 13 to increase property taxes."

The ad goes on to promote Schwarzenegger's so-called Live Within our Means Act, a budget balancing measure that would, among other things, dissolve the minimum school funding requirement known as Proposition 98.

The governor is likely to call a special election this year to consider that measure, along with initiatives to redraw legislative districts and make it harder for teachers to get tenure.

"Join me in reforming California so that together we can rebuild California," Schwarzenegger says at the end of the ad, punching his fist in the air for emphasis.

Schwarzenegger's political operation, the California Recovery Team, distributed a document supporting the claims made in the ad.

The document noted, for example, comments by Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland) suggesting the state consider restoring the full vehicle license fee. But the document didn't disclose that Perata has also said restoring the fee wouldn't be politically viable.

The so called "car tax" was slashed under Republican Gov. Pete Wilson in the mid-1990s, when the state was flush with cash. Democratic Gov. Gray Davis restored the full tax in 2003, a politically unpopular move overturned by Schwarzenegger after Davis was ousted from office.

The document also noted a measure backed by Democrat-leaning public employee unions that would alter Proposition 13, allowing commercial property to be taxed at a higher rate than residential property.

But Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said that while Democrats did support increasing top earners' income taxes to pay for education, Schwarzenegger's other claims were based on legislative proposals that had no support and no chance of passage.

"It's fair to say that those are proposals that have been put forward, but none of them are going anywhere and have no chance of passage," Maviglio said. "If we scraped the barrel for every Republican proposal and stuck it on him, that would be dishonest as well."

Gale Kaufman, a strategist managing the Democrat-backed coalition opposing the special election, called the ad a "kitchen sink" approach that did little to justify or explain the reform measures he is likely to place on the ballot.

"The governor is attempting to use the legislature as an excuse for calling a special election," Kaufman said. "So he can make up whatever he wants, and for a short period it will work. He'll keep throwing as much stuff up against the wall and see what sticks."



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Jackson molestation trial placed in hands of the jury

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

SANTA MARIA — The child molestation case against Michael Jackson went to the jury Friday after the defense portrayed him as a victim of grifters trying to pull “the biggest con of their careers.”

“They are trying to take advantage of Michael Jackson,” defense attorney Thomas Mesereau told jurors. “They are trying to profit from Michael Jackson. They think they have pulled it off. They are just waiting for one thing — your verdict.”

Prosecutors painted a vastly different picture — one of Jackson as a serial child molester and his Neverland Ranch as a predator’s lair.

“Why would Mr. Jackson do it?” Senior Deputy District Attorney Ron Zonen said. “Because he could. ... This child was in love with him. This child would do anything he said.”

Soon after, as the jury went to work, a grim-looking Jackson left the courthouse and walked slowly to his entourage’s waiting vehicles in front of the courthouse where the singer had danced atop his SUV after his arraignment. He drove off without comment.

Jackson, 46, has appeared gaunt in recent days, and officials at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital disclosed Friday that he had visited the emergency room overnight. Hospital spokeswoman Janet O’Neill refused to discuss why he was there.

On Friday morning, Jackson appeared drawn but made it to court on time. He arrived with his parents, sisters Janet and LaToya, and brothers Jermaine, Tito and Randy. He clutched his mother’s arm as he walked in.

“Michael’s innocent!” came shouts from some in a crowd of about 75 people outside.

Jackson is charged with molesting a 13-year-old cancer patient in 2003, plying him with wine and conspiring to hold his family captive to get them to rebut the documentary “Living With Michael Jackson.” He would face prison if convicted of all charges.

After Mesereau’s closing argument and a prosecution rebuttal, Judge Rodney S. Melville ordered jurors to begin their deliberations and gave them 98 pages of instructions to guide them. He told Jackson he could stay at Neverland during deliberations but attorneys would have to stay within 10 minutes of the courthouse in case the jury had questions that needed to be addressed.

The jury’s deliberations are the final step in an ordeal that began 14 weeks ago, when Melville first explained to jurors that Jackson was accused of molesting the boy.

The panel of eight women and four men has since heard from more than 130 witnesses. They included the now-15-year-old accuser and three young men, including actor Macaulay Culkin, who said as boys they spent time with Jackson and were never molested.

On Friday morning, Mesereau wrapped up his two-day closing with an impassioned plea for Jackson’s acquittal. He focused on the accuser and his family, calling them liars, fabricators and con artists.

“What they are trying to do to Michael Jackson is so harmful, so brutal, so devastating ... if you have any reasonable doubt about the double-talk, the lies, it’s over. You must acquit Michael Jackson,” he said.

Mesereau spoke about the American system of justice and said, “We have the best system in the world and ladies and gentlemen I’m begging you to honor the system. ... You must acquit him.”

He accused prosecutors of trying to “dirty up Michael” because they lack the evidence to prove their case.

“The witnesses are preposterous, the perjury is everywhere,” Mesereau declared. “None of it works. The only thing they’ve had is to throw dirt all over the place and hope it sticks.”

He added: “If you look in your hearts do you believe Michael Jackson is evil in that way? Is it even possible? It really is not.”

Mesereau played excerpts from a video in which Jackson denied sexual impropriety and said he had never “been betrayed or deceived by children.” The attorney closed by telling jurors that Jackson had been lax with his money and had let the wrong people into his circle but was not the “monster” prosecutors had portrayed and was not guilty of any crime.

Afterward, prosecutor Zonen, who had given his closing Thursday, offered a brief rebuttal. He reminded jurors of past allegations from other boys against Jackson and said such testimony was necessary “to see the total picture.”

Zonen alleged that Jackson had been “in love” with a boy who received a large monetary settlement from him in 1993. He said testimony about Jackson sleeping in bed with other boys could not be easily explained, and he added that the current accuser is a “clone” of the boy in the 1993 case.

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LOCAL

Shelling out for the bay

BRING BACK THE BEACH, from page 1

the Patina Group, followed by live and silent auctions. The live auction featured a 2006 Mercury Mariner Hybrid SUV, the second in a series of hybrid-powered vehicles from the Ford Motor Company.

Musical groups Hootie & The Blowfish and The Bangles performed, and producer and director Garry Marshall served as guest emcee at the fete.

A red carpet was laid out for arriving guests, who were photographed by dozens of paparazzi. More than 15 celebrities came out to support Heal the Bay, including supermodel Cindy Crawford, actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus from "Seinfeld", "Spider-man" star Toby Maguire, and Grammy Award-winner Kenny G.

"The environment is the only thing that truly matters to our generation," said comedian Martin Short. "Since it does not matter to the President and his administration, it's important to keep feeding the needs of Santa Monica and the ocean."

The rest of the event was privately held and not made accessible to the media.

Gold said Heal the Bay has helped make Southern California sea waters safer and healthier for people and marine life through a unique approach that combines science, advocacy, education and enjoyment.

Heal the Bay operates for roughly \$3 million per year, with fund-raising events and membership dues accounting for slightly more than half of the organization's annual revenue, according to Gold.



Taylor Wichmanowski/Daily Press
Martin Short was one of a host of celebrities on hand for Heal the Bay on Thursday.

Thirty-seven percent of the revenue comes from government and corporate grants, while the remaining 8 percent of support stems from in-kind services.

With more than 10,000 members, Heal the Bay reaches many Los Angeles area neighborhoods through volunteer programs, the Santa Monica Pier aquarium and events such as Coastal Cleanup Day. The organization, funded by government grants, corporate sponsorships and member donations, aims to inspire environmental stewardship by educating communities and individuals about ways to transform their neighborhoods and improve their local water quality.

"For two decades, the generous contributions have helped Heal the Bay clean up coastal waters," said Gold.

Not buying the Hype: Heal began with mission

HEAL THE BAY, from page 1

the understanding of Southern California water quality and environmental responsibility.

By advocating for sewage treatment upgrades and better compliance with water quality standards, Heal the Bay boasts there has been a 90-percent decrease in the amount of sewage solids dumped into Santa Monica Bay since the organization was founded in 1985.

Heal the Bay was started that year by Los Angeles resident and environmental activist Dorothy Green, who heard the Hyperion Treatment Plant near El Segundo was applying for a federal waiver to lessen the sewage facility's treatment responsibilities.

Through community outreach, Heal the Bay began enrolling members and bringing attention to the storm drain system, the biggest source of beach pollution, according to Gold. After two years of advocacy, Heal the Bay helped force the Hyperion Treatment Plant to stop dumping sewage sludge into the ocean.

Gold said Heal the Bay originally consisted of only a handful of volunteers and no paid staff. Today, there's a volunteer membership of more than 10,000 and 37 Heal the Bay employees. While still involved in pressuring government for water quality improvements, Heal the Bay has expanded its focus to also include educational programs and research efforts.

Among Heal the Bay's undertakings, the "Beach Report Card" provides water

quality information to the public in an "A" to "F" grade format for more than 60 Los Angeles County beaches. More than 430 beaches from Oregon to Mexico are featured in a weekly report card online.

Heal the Bay also coordinates Los Angeles County Coastal Cleanup Day sites, annually picking up tens of thousands of pounds of trash and recyclables, intended to keep trash from entering waterways and injuring people and marine life, Gold said.

Since 2003, Heal the Bay has managed the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, which provides visitors with a hands-on opportunity to interact with marine life.

Programs like the Heal the Bay "Speakers Bureau" and the elementary school program "Key to the Sea" help educate Californians about the difference one person can make in protecting the environment.

Gold was recently appointed to the Proposition O citizens oversight committee, helping ensure that \$500 million of Los Angeles city bond money is spent on projects that will effectively limit water pollution. He also is vice chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, sits on the State Water Board's Clean Beach Advisory Group and serves on the California Ocean's Science Trust.

Gold said the City of Santa Monica and Heal the Bay are also known for partnering to write a groundbreaking municipal storm water ordinance, which requires runoff to be treated or filtered on-site for all new construction and redevelopment.

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Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Flags at all city facilities, like this one at City Hall, flew at half-staff this week in honor of fallen Police Officer Ricardo Crocker, a Marine reservist killed in battle in Iraq.



LOCAL

Manufacturing jobs among those being cut

JOBS, from page 1

lots, cool weather and a statistical pay-back after the strong job figures in April.

Job cuts last month were reported in categories including manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, accounting and bookkeeping and temporary help. Those losses tempered gains in retail, construction, education, health care and elsewhere.

On Wall Street, stocks sank as investors fretted about the country's economic health. The Dow Jones industrials dropped 92.52 points to close at 10,460.97.

For now, some economists don't see the slower job growth of May as a sign that the economy is sliding back into a soft patch. Others aren't so sure.

The lackluster job growth performance, however, does raise the odds that the Federal Reserve may slow — or soon end — its yearlong campaign to tighten credit, many economists agreed.

Despite the slow growth in payrolls, the civilian unemployment rate actually declined fractionally last month — to 5.1 percent. That was down a notch from April's 5.2 percent jobless rate and was the lowest overall since September 2001.

"You have both a bit of sweet and a bit of sour in the report," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

The employment report often offers seemingly conflicting pictures of what is happening in the labor market because figures are based on two separate statistical surveys. And there clearly was a mismatch between the two surveys in Friday's report.

The unemployment rate is calculated on the basis of a survey of 60,000 households, sort of a poll of the jobs market. That survey indicated that 376,000 people said they found employment last month, outpacing the number of people who couldn't find work.

But economists tend to give more credence to a much broader survey of business payrolls that examines 400,000 work sites. And that's the one that showed only

78,000 jobs added to payrolls.

President Bush wants to see the economy and the job market in good shape, especially as he tries to sell the public and Congress on his vision for revamping Social Security that includes letting workers set up individual investment accounts.

The mixed signals sent by Friday's report offered something for both Republicans and Democrats.

Treasury Secretary John Snow welcomed the drop in the jobless rate and also pointed out that payrolls have grown by 3.5 million in the past two years. "The economy keeps moving in the right direction," he said.

But House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., argued that "job growth is disappointing and wages are stagnant. ... Republicans remain in denial."

Workers' average hourly earnings rose to \$16.03 in May. While that's 2.6 percent higher than the same month last year, wage growth is not keeping up with the pace of inflation, economists said.

In an encouraging sign for jobseekers, the average time the unemployed spent searching for work in May was 18.8 weeks, an improvement from the average of 19.6 weeks the previous month.

Wanting to keep inflation in check, the Federal Reserve has boosted short-term interest rates eight times — each in modest, quarter-point moves — since last June. Economists still expect another increase when the Fed meets next at the end of June.

But after that, economists offer various scenarios: The Fed might temporarily pause, or it could stop raising rates later this year or early next year.

The course of rates will be shaped by a number of economic considerations, including energy prices, analysts said. Oil prices surged to closing high of \$57.27 a barrel in early April. They are now hovering above \$55 a barrel.

On the payroll front, the 78,000 new jobs posted in May was the smallest since August 2003, when payrolls grew by a tiny 2,000. Economists were forecasting a gain of 175,000.

Here's looking at you, kids



Photo Courtesy

Christina Yamada and Cina Tabatabaee, the valedictorians for St. Monica High School's Class of 2005, address their fellow students at graduation ceremonies staged Thursday night at Loyola Marymount University. Both Yamada and Tabatabaee earned straight A's through their four years at St. Monica's, finishing tops in cumulative grade-point average among their 122-member class.

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NATIONAL



Catholic diocese sets up \$120M fund for abused

BY BRUCE SCHREINER

Associated Press Writer

COVINGTON, Ky — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington agreed Friday to set up a \$120 million fund to compensate victims of child-molesting priests and other employees. It would be the nation's biggest settlement in the scandal that has staggered the church.

The settlement, which is subject to approval by a Kentucky judge, would bring to a close a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of more than 100 alleged victims. It accuses the diocese of a 50-year cover-up of sexual abuse by priests and others.

"After personally meeting with more than 70 victims, I am painfully aware that no amount of money can compensate for the harm these victims suffered as innocent children," Covington Bishop Roger Foys said in a statement. "Nevertheless, I pray that this settlement will bring some measure of peace and healing to victims and their loved ones."

Victims will be grouped into four categories based on the severity of abuse, and compensation will range from \$5,000 to \$450,000 per person, before attorney fees are deducted.

"The additional anxiety and stress that would have occurred to the victims had there been a trial has been eliminated," said Stan Chesley, the plaintiffs' chief attorney.

Last year, the Orange County, Calif., Diocese agreed to a settlement that participants said would pay \$100 million to 87 victims. In 2003, the Boston Archdiocese, where the scandal first erupted, settled with 552 victims for \$85 million.

Covington is far smaller than Boston, the nation's fourth-largest diocese with about 2.1 million parishioners. The Covington Diocese spans 14 counties and has 89,000 parishioners. The lawsuit also covers some Kentucky counties that were part of the Covington Diocese until 1988, when a new diocese in Lexington formed.

The diocese reported in August 2003 it has received

158 allegations of sexual misconduct against about 30 of 372 priests since 1950.

In a statement, the diocese and plaintiffs' attorneys said that \$40 million of the settlement fund would come from a combination of church real estate and investments and \$80 million would come from insurance.

Sue Archibald, head of the clergy-abuse victims advocacy group The Linkup, called the settlement fair and commended the diocese for its efforts.

"It's difficult to put a dollar figure on damages that can't be valued, but the size of the settlement signifies how serious the abuse and its effects were," Archibald said. "I hope the settlement enables the survivors to move forward with their healing."

Covington is the second Kentucky diocese to reach a multimillion dollar settlement with clergy abuse victims. The Archdiocese of Louisville settled lawsuits by 243 plaintiffs for a total of \$25.7 million in 2003.

In addition to the dioceses that have reached major settlements, three — in Tucson, Ariz., Portland, Ore., and Spokane, Wash. — have filed bankruptcy claims because of abuse allegations.

The Covington case was granted class-action status in 2003 and had been scheduled for trial earlier this year but was repeatedly postponed while a mediator held settlement talks.

With the lawsuit pending, the Covington Diocese settled other claims, paying \$4 million from its savings and \$6.5 million from insurance over the last 18 months to resolve 56 sex abuse claims. It recently said it would move its offices to a medical center to cut costs, and earlier it announced some layoffs.

"I don't know that the money is ever a remedy for what was taken from us," said Kay Montgomery of Lexington, central Kentucky director of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. She settled separately with the Covington diocese and is not part of the new settlement.

"It doesn't bring back the lost innocence for the victims and it certainly will not bring the innocent life back to them," she said.

Heavy rains ease Western drought but don't dampen wildfire worries

BY TOM GARDNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Winter storms and spring rains across the West have eased drought concerns for the first time this century, experts say, but have not doused this summer's wildland fire threat — just delayed it.

"It's taken a little bit of the edge off the fire season, but we're still pretty early in it," said Kelly Redmond, regional climatologist for the Western Regional Climate Center at the Desert Research Institute.

"It happens to be pointed in a positive direction right now," he said.

Officials at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, are hoping a forecast of more storms this month will pan out.

"The dark side of intermittent storms means that we have heavy grass crops in the lower elevations and the grass and brush is expected to cure by mid to late June," NIFC spokeswoman Rose Davis said.

"We still have a normal to above normal potential in the Northwest because of their drought conditions. Clearly, you can't undo those in a year."

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor prepared by the University of Nebraska shows California and all but a small sliver of Nevada drought-free for the first time in at least three years. Most of the Southwest ranges from abnormally dry to moderate drought. The Pacific Northwest, the Northern Rockies, and parts of the High Plains still show severe and extreme drought in many areas.

While grass and brush will slowly dry to tinder in the summertime heat, this year's moisture will temper the early vulnerability of forests.

"At some of the higher elevations, the bigger fuels — trees — are still quite dry and in a position where they can take off as well," Davis said.

"As long as they stay moist, they're going to be less volatile, but because they've been dry and stressed from drought for so many years, it won't stop the large fires — should they occur — in those elevations."

While rain and runoff from winter storms is producing moderate flooding along some rivers across the West, the hills around Reno and Carson City already are turning brown after last month's promising green.

"Here in Nevada, there are two words that probably can best describe the fire season: Low and later," said Mark Struble, public information officer for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Carson City.

Redmond said current outlooks favor a continuation of occasional storms this month, although he added that this time of year is the most difficult of the 12 months to forecast.

"The calendar sort of resets itself," he said.

Although the wet winter and spring brought moisture to areas in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest that desperately needed it and left mountain snowpacks averaging normal to twice normal from the Sierra to the Southern Rockies, the West has a long way to go to get back where it was five years ago in terms of deep groundwater recharge and reservoir storage, Redmond said.

While the Colorado River is running well and smaller bodies of water are filling, its principal reservoirs — Lake Powell and Lake Mead — remain far below average.

"You have two elephants and a bunch of mice," he said. "The elephants are low and the mice are full. These big elephants take a long time to empty and a long time to fill."

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Scandals, 9/11 pervade education of AFA class

BY ROBERT WELLER

Associated Press Writer

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — When John Tamasitis got into the Air Force Academy, he knew his education would be grueling and he knew he would be serving his nation in the military some day.

Two months after basic training got under way, Tamasitis and the rest of the Class of 2005 watched the World Trade Center towers crumble into dust and their missions suddenly changed.

"It was a reality check for all of us; we're actually going to war," the class president from Boyerton, Pa., said as he and 900 other cadets graduated this week. "It was shocking. I was scared at first."

"I think we came in innocent, naive. I remember seeing the towers falling and I knew we were going to rewrite the book. It definitely matured our class," said Jaymie Van Kooten of Sewickley, Pa.

If they needed reminding, Vice President Dick Cheney told them at their graduation ceremony they were now on the front line in the war against terrorism and "freedom's enemies."

"You realize more that there is a greater chance that you will go into battle. But it is a decision most cadets made before they came — that they would die for their country," said Michael Jamieson of Lawrence, Texas.

For Nick Brownheim of Lexington, S.C., Sept. 11 didn't change anything.

"I came to serve. I didn't come just to get an educa-

tion," he said.

The last freshman class to enroll before the 2001 attacks also endured two scandals at the prestigious school — one involving sexual assaults and another the religious climate among the cadets and staff. A Pentagon task force is still looking into complaints that evangelical Christians have harassed those they consider nonbelievers.

The assault scandal erupted in 2003 when dozens of female cadets complained of being ignored or punished for coming forward with their allegations. Several investigations followed and top commanders were ousted. The "Bring Me Men" sign that had greeted thousands of cadets on their arrival at the academy was replaced with one that says: "Integrity First. Service Before Self. Excellence In All We Do."

Since alcohol was frequently involved in the assault cases, the academy adopted a zero tolerance policy on underage drinking. Cadets already taking ethics classes were sent to special briefings on the issue of sexual assault.

"It was really hard to stay focused. But you have your friends and you just try to stay focused," Van Kooten said.

"It made it different, but it wasn't any harder. There was some change, but life's all about change," Brownheim said.

Tamasitis said he didn't consider the scandals an embarrassment.

"It motivated us to work harder to make this place better," he said.

CDC chief says extra pounds are harmful

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Medical Writer

As criticism mounts that a recent study may have minimized the dangers of obesity, federal health officials urged people to focus on the big picture — that extra pounds are harmful, not how much harm they may cause.

"What we don't want is for this debate to continue to confuse people," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Obesity and overweight are critically important health threats in this country. They have many adverse consequences."

Gerberding called a news conference Thursday to discuss the study, which CDC scientists published in April. It concluded obesity causes only about 25,814 deaths a year in the United States — far fewer than the 365,000 deaths estimated months earlier.

Even more surprisingly, it concluded people who were overweight but not obese were less likely to die than those who are skinny or at "ideal" weight.

Scientists from the Harvard School of Public Health, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society disagree with both conclusions. They say the study is flawed, mostly because it included people with health problems ranging from cancer to heart disease, who tend to weigh less because of those problems and therefore make pudgy people look healthy by com-

parison.

Doing this is "looking at people who are thin because they're sick, not who got sick because they're thin," said Dr. Michael Thun, the cancer society's chief epidemiologist.

"If you want to define optimal weight for healthy people, you need to start with healthy people," agreed Dr. Meir Stampfer, chief of epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health.

Gerberding acknowledged the controversy over this point and said people need to look at the overall evidence of harm from excess pounds. "It's not healthy to be overweight," she said.

Obesity raises the risk of heart disease, some cancers, diabetes and arthritis, and being overweight raises blood pressure and cholesterol, which in turn raise the risk of heart disease, she noted.

Scientists said they were relieved CDC was returning to the big-picture message, that obesity is a serious and growing health problem.

"This issue is far too important to be trivialized over methodological disagreements," Thun said.

"We really can't afford to become complacent about this epidemic of obesity and certainly not based on findings from an analysis" that is flawed, said Dr. JoAnn Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

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NATIONAL



U.S. has eye on Iran as a haven for terrorists

BY KATHERINE SHRADER AND JOHN SOLOMON
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence and foreign allies have growing evidence that wanted terrorists have been residing in Iran despite repeated American warnings to Tehran not to harbor them.

The evidence, which stretches over several years, includes communications by a fugitive mastermind of the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing and the capture of a Saudi militant who appeared in a video in which Osama bin Laden confirmed he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks, according to U.S. and foreign officials.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because much of the evidence remains classified.

Saudi intelligence officers tracked and apprehended Khaled bin Ouda bin Mohammed al-Harbi last year in eastern Iran, officials said. The arrest came nearly three years after the cleric appeared with bin Laden and discussed details of the Sept. 11 planning during a dinner that was videotaped and aired across the world.

The capture was a coup for Saudi Arabia, which spent months tracking him and setting up the intelligence operation that led to his being taken into custody in exchange for eventual amnesty.

The officials said interrogations of al-Harbi, who is now in Saudi Arabia, have yielded confirmation of many al-Qaida tactics, including how members crossed into Iran after the U.S. began military operations to rout al-Qaida and the Taliban from Afghanistan.

Al-Harbi is believed to have been paralyzed from the waist down while fighting in the 1990s alongside Muslim extremists in Bosnia and Afghanistan, and he surprised intelligence officials when he appeared in the December 2001 video with bin Laden.

"Everybody praises what you did," al-Harbi said on the tape.

U.S. and foreign intelligence agencies also have evidence stretching back to the late 1990s that indicates Ahmad Ibrahim al-Mughassil remains hiding in Iran. He is wanted as one of the masterminds of the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans.

Al-Mughassil, who also goes by the alias Abu Omran,

has been charged as a fugitive by the United States with conspiracy to commit murder in the attacks and has a \$5 million bounty on his head.

U.S. authorities have long alleged the 1996 bombing was carried out by a Saudi wing of the militant group Hezbollah, which receives support from Iran and Syria.

Intelligence agencies gathered evidence, including a specific phone number, as early as 1997 indicating al-Mughassil was living in Iran, and have other information indicating his whereabouts.

U.S. officials have not publicly discussed the Saudi capture of al-Harbi or their evidence on al-Mughassil's whereabouts, but have increasingly raised questions about Iran's efforts to turn over other suspected terrorists believed to be under some form of loose house arrest.

Nicholas Burns, State Department undersecretary for political affairs, told Congress last month that Iran has refused to identify al-Qaida members it has in custody.

"Iran continues to hold senior al-Qaida leaders who are wanted for murdering Americans and others in the 1998 East Africa Embassy bombings and for plotting to kill countless others," Burns said.

Top administration officials have repeatedly warned Iran against harboring or assisting suspected terrorists.

U.S. intelligence this week has been checking some reports, still uncorroborated as of Friday, that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida's leader of the Iraqi insurgency, may have dipped into Iran, officials said.

On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld warned countries in the Middle East not to help al-Zarqawi.

"Were a neighboring country to take him in and provide medical assistance or haven for him, they, obviously, would be associating themselves with a major linkage in the al-Qaida network and a person who has a great deal of blood on his hands," Rumsfeld said.

The U.S. and foreign officials said evidence gathered by intelligence agencies indicates the following figures are somewhere in Iran:

■ Saad bin Laden, the son of the al-Qaida leader whom U.S. authorities have aggressively hunted since the Sept. 11 attacks.

■ Saif al-Adel, an al-Qaida security chief wanted in connection with the deadly 1998 bombings of U.S.

embassies in Africa.

■ Suleiman Abu Ghaith, the chief of information for al-Qaida and a frequently quoted spokesman for bin Laden.

U.S. and foreign intelligence officials say they believe those three are under some form of house arrest or surveillance by Iranian authorities.

Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East analyst at the Congressional Research Service, said the conditions that some of suspected terrorists are living under are unclear. Katzman said it's possible they are being held in guarded villas and he doubts any detention is uncomfortable.

"I think that Iran sees these guys as something of an insurance policy," he said. "It's leverage."

Rasool Nafisi, a Middle East analyst who studies conservative groups in Iran and travels there frequently for research, said Iran has returned some lower-rank operatives to their home countries but probably is keeping higher-ranking operatives as a bartering chip.

"Remember, Islamic tradition is very much based on haggling," Nafisi said. "Everything is negotiable, and you haggle for everything. If I were the Iranian government, I'd be very happy to have them and to use them in future negotiations with the United States."

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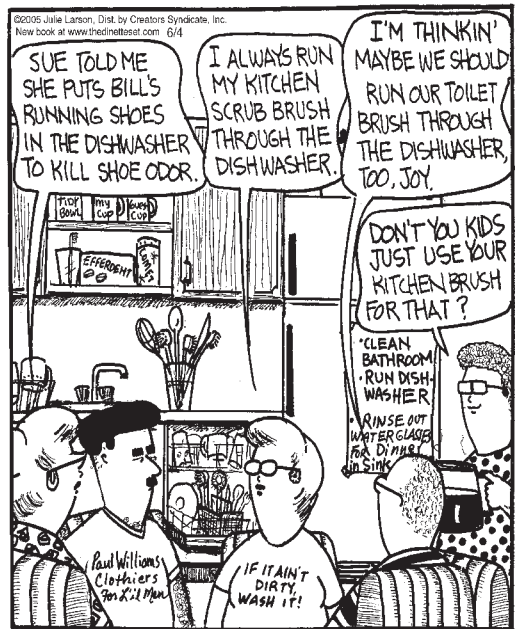
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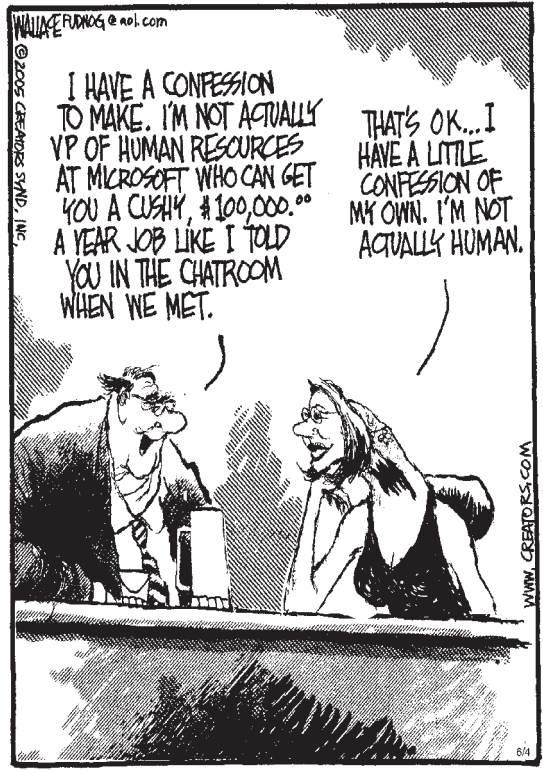


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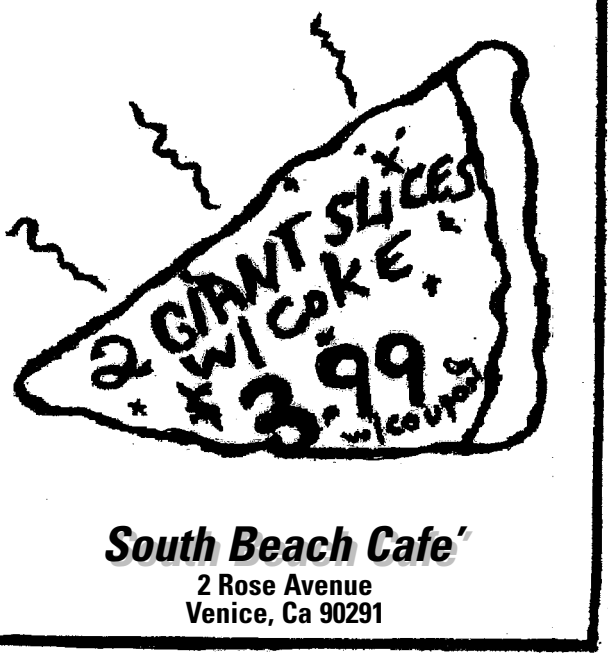
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ROBERT AUTEN MAIER

Maier, Robert A., died on May 27, 2005, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Bob Maier served as supervisor of research and engineering for Rockwell International's North American Aircraft Operations unit in El Segundo, until his retirement in 1990. He was a 38 – year employee (1952 – 1990) of that unit. In 1981 Rockwell named him Engineer of the Year, the company's highest honor for engineering achievement, for his development of new techniques for the computerized definition of aircraft surface geometry.

Bob was born March 14, 1924 in Fall River, Massachusetts, to Guy Maier of Buffalo, New York, and the former Lois Auten Warner. His father was a well – known music educator, and his parents performed as dual pianists in the 1930's and 1940's. He married the former Maylou Sullivan in 1950. Both loved acting and the theatre, as well as music. They spent many hours of work on community theatre group productions at the Morgan Theatre in Santa Monica and elsewhere.

Bob was a graduate of Santa Monica High School, and later obtained a degree in Mathematics and English from UCLA. During World War II he served in the Air Force. In 1944 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant after completing a graduate course in Meteorology, for which he was later awarded a Master of Science degree by Caltech. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

He was preceded in death by his wife and brother Theodore C. Maier. He is survived by his devoted children, Robert S. Maier of Tucson, Arizona and Anne (Guy Stancil) Trainoff of Ventura, California, his grandson Maxwell Trainoff, and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and interment will be at 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 10, 2005 in Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel, 1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Services under the direction of Transitions Funeral Service, Glendale, CA (800) 869-7984



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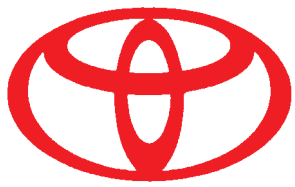


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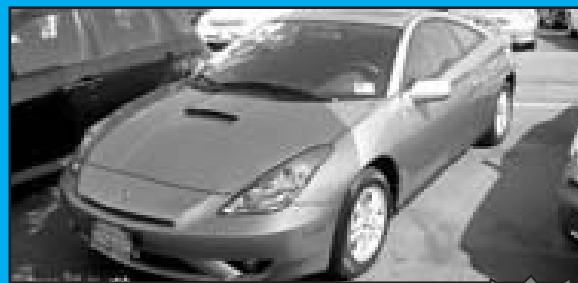
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