

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
1, 2, 13, 16, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 2, 7
Evening picks: 0, 3, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka
2nd Place: 08, Gorgeous George
3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A juror in the recent London trial in which five Irish car-bombers were convicted was let go by the judge for inattention because she carried out spiritual rituals in the jury box while clutching a witchcraft book in one hand and placing the other, as required by the ritual, on the floor.

■ In York, Pa., trial is nearing for Matthew Turner, 22, who was arrested last year after pursuing a man for his adrenal gland, which he thought would bring a week-long high if licked or eaten; allegedly, he had stabbed the man in the side, and when the man escaped, Turner chased him relentlessly through town, knife drawn, until police caught him.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in life has a function."

— Garrison Keillor



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Let the games begin



Carolyn Sackarison/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police officers carry the Special Olympics torch while running on Pico Boulevard Thursday. Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department handed off the torch, which has been carried by law enforcement across the country, to SMPD at the city limits, located at Centinela Avenue and Pico Boulevard. Escorted by SMPD motorcycle officers, the group ran about three miles to City Hall, the torch's final destination before heading to Long Beach for the Special Olympics Summer Games, which begin today.

Bill approved allowing SM to increase sales taxes

By staff and wire reports

SACRAMENTO — Legislation giving voters in Santa Monica the power to impose local sales taxes was approved by the Assembly Wednesday night.

Twenty-two cities already have that authority.

The bill, by Assemblywoman Lois Wolk, D-Davis, was sent to the Senate by a 42-33 vote.

The bill would allow 34 cities to impose sales and use taxes of a quarter percent or a half percent of the purchase price if voters approve.

City council members have recently discussed putting a sales tax increase proposal in front of Santa Monica voters by November of 2004.

Santa Monica currently receives about \$25 million in sales tax annually — about 1 percent of the 8.25 percent sales tax collected on local sales by the state and county.

Combined with Gov. Gray Davis' proposal of a 1 percent sales tax hike statewide, Santa Monicans and visitors could be shelling out nearly 10 percent on

See TAXES, page 7

Parcel tax passes by fewer than 200 votes

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

After two days of nervous anticipation, school supporters on Thursday celebrated a victory.

Measure S, which was put in front of voters on Tuesday, passed by a slim margin of 169 votes, garnering 67.6 percent of the 17,965 total ballots.

The measure, which needed two-thirds of the vote to be approved, will generate about \$6.5 million annually for the next six years for the school district.

The measure will levy a flat \$225 parcel tax on all 32,400-plus parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu.

More than 1,000 last-minute ballots were counted over the past 48 hours after Tuesday's count put Measure S just 17 votes ahead.

"It was very tense," Superintendent of schools John Deasy said on Thursday afternoon, shortly after the final tally was

"It's a win and that's all that matters."

— HARRY KEILEY
President, Classroom Teacher's Association

announced. "I feel a tremendous sense of relief and I feel really pleased."

Deasy was among a handful of school officials and Measure S campaigners who spent the day at the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder's office in Norwalk, where the ballots were counted.

Workers there tallied the votes, produced a printout of the results and walked it over to the group, which observed the entire process through a glass window.

See TAX, page 6

Police look for suspects in Thursday's shooting

Incident marks the fifth shooting in eastside neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

The fifth gang-related shooting in less than month occurred Thursday in an eastside neighborhood. No one was injured.

Santa Monica Police received a call of shots fired in the 2200 block of Delaware Avenue at 12:30 p.m. A SMPD bicycle officer stationed in the neighborhood arrived within seconds after the shooting, police said.

Witnesses and the two victims,

who are Latino and are affiliated with a Santa Monica gang, said two black men in their 20's shot at them while they were sitting in a parked car, according to police.

Witnesses told police that the suspects opened fire from a black SUV before fleeing the scene, heading east on Delaware Avenue and south on Cloverfield Boulevard, police said.

The victims have given police little information on the suspects' description.

The SMPD has arrested six suspects who were allegedly involved in one or more of the

See SUSPECTS, page 6

Santa Monica Playhouse reaches final act of fundraising

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

After more than 40 years of paying rent, directors at the Santa Monica Playhouse on Fourth

Street have secured the right to buy their building.

An 18-month, \$500,000 fundraising drive culminated Wednesday evening, just hours before the final deadline for the

theater to come up with a down payment on the building.

"You should have heard the screaming when the last \$1,000 came in," said Evelyn Rudie, co-artistic director at the playhouse.

"People were sticking their heads out the windows to see what was going on."

The landlord, Jules Kievits, told playhouse officials last year

See PLAYHOUSE, page 7



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, June 6, 2003:

You find that maintaining stability at work is a full-time job within itself. You might wonder what is enough. You often feel pulled in many different directions and cannot seem to make a decision. In this case, pull back and learn to tap into more creative thinking. Learn to think outside the box. You will get the results you want. Deal with finances directly. If you are single, you will be up for a lifestyle change. You will meet many different people, one of whom could possibly be the right one. If you are attached, you will find that a loved one could be somewhat touchy. You might need to think before you react. Give yourself space this year. VIRGO triggers you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Pace yourself throughout the day. You might have a lot to do, and don't want any last-minute interference. Nurture someone close who means a lot to you. A sudden insight might make you feel out of control. Tonight: Off to the gym.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Understand another's words, even if you don't like what you are hearing. You make demands of others that might be difficult for them, which draws some strong reactions. Keep conversations rolling with those you really care about. Tonight: Finally, the weekend. Let it all hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Dig deep and use your innate resourcefulness. You might not be comfortable with what you come up with. A conflict arises between home and work. Someone makes an unexpected demand. You can choose to respond or not to respond. Tonight: In the limelight. You'll love it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Communication makes the world go round, and you're the communication satellite today. You have a difficult time keeping everything together, as calls and requests come in from left and right. Prioritize your goals. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Try as you might, you could have a difficult time getting past another's problems. Just as you think there is a calm in the storm, the winds start to blow again. You do have more control than you actually anticipated. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others become wild despite anything you try to do. Stay anchored, knowing what you want. Your smiling face will help associates who are upset. It seems as if everyone has a lot to deal with. Remember to touch base with a loved one. Tonight: Go along with someone else's wishes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want and/or need to move a project forward. How you deal with someone close could change radically if you open up. A work-related situation could surprise you if you let it. Go with the flow right now. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ As you might think, someone close creates his or her share of uproar. Dealing with this person might become more of a challenge than you're up for. You might be too serious, or not open enough, to break out of the box. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your optimism, luck and perception draw admirers, but more important, they open an unanticipated door. Though you might not agree with someone, there is much to be said about his or her views. Tonight: Opt to do something off the beaten path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take an opportunity to look at what has happened rather than having a knee-jerk reaction. You might find that someone else has a similar response. Unexpected developments encourage you to head in a new direction. Tonight: Plan on some time out of town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A partner is your major preoccupation. What you can be sure of is that someone else might not be as much in touch with his or her feelings as you would like. The unexpected runs riot. Tonight: You might reverse plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be going through an identity crisis and not be quite able to deal with others. It might be your belief that someone is not all together. Look first at yourself before you accuse others. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Students recognized for community contribution

By Daily Press staff

Four students have been recognized and given college scholarship money for their involvement with the Santa Monica Police Activities League and for showing their abilities in demonstrating leadership in the community.

Simon Hanna, Amy Larkin, Caroline Renee Ridgeway and Cynthia Juarez received \$500 and \$250 scholarships from the Chris Carrey PAL Education Fund on Thursday at a luncheon held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Pico Boulevard.

Through a joint gift from Ed Simmons and Standard Parking, and from Santa Monica residents Neil and Karen Carrey, an endowment fund was established to provide the scholarship money.

In order to be considered for the scholarships, the students had to be in high school with a 2.0 GPA or higher, complete enough credits to be a junior or senior and be actively involved in Santa Monica PAL.

Applications were reviewed by a committee of the PAL board of directors, who focus on the balance of academic performance, involvement in PAL, and commitment to the community.

Chris Carrey lived in Santa Monica for all 16 years of his life before dying of cancer in 2000. Having attended school in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Carrey performed his community service at PAL.

With a new look, Main Street ready to party

By Daily Press staff

Enduring months of road construction and long traffic jams, merchants on Main Street in Santa Monica have something to celebrate.

They plan to party on Sunday, June 8, with the help of the Main Street Merchants Association. Dubbed "Makeover Day," the day will be dedicated to celebrating the completion of the new wastewater conveyance system and the end of the street construction, re-paving and re-striping on Main Street.

Mayor Richard Bloom will be there to issue a proclamation and cut a green ribbon. The Main Street Merchants Association will also take the opportunity to issue certificates of appreciation to retiring SMFD Fire Chief Ettore A. Berardinelli, and to the Big Blue Bus, celebrating 75 years of service.

The ceremony will start at 9:45 a.m. at the Farmer's Market, just south of Ocean Park Boulevard.

There will be surprise souvenirs for those in attendance.

Makeover Day marks the beginning of Main Street Week, which culminates with the Third Annual Main Street Summer SOULstice & Sidewalk Sale, featuring music, an art show, a fashion show, special in-store events, a children's playground and a Scavenger Hunt with big prizes.

The Scavenger Hunt clue sheets will be available at the farmer's market on June 8 so hunters can hunt all week. Entry is free. The prizes will be on display in the window of Ashland & Hill, located at 2803 Main St.

The Merchants Association also will announce the winners of its Makeover Day Contest. Main Street Merchants contributing prizes to the contest include Ambiance, Betsy & Tracy, Bey's Garden, Black + Blue, Colorful Nail, Jeanie Madsen Design/Monkie, Salon Blu, Next, Peiro, Relish, Suji, Gioia, Splash Bath & Body, The End, and Pebbles.

For further information, check the Main Street Web site at www.mainstreetsm.com

Learn how to deal with your trash

By Daily Press staff

Learn how to compost this month, compliments of the City of Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica Solid Waste Management Division is offering a free composting workshop on Sat., June 14 and June 28 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The event will be held at the McKinley Elementary School Garden, located at 2401 Santa Monica Blvd.

surf report

More of the same on Friday, as the little waist-high thumpers continue to pitter and patter into the bay.

BAD NEWS: Nothing much headed our way for Friday.

GOOD NEWS: The shadowed SW will begin to show up on Saturday and build through the weekend.

OUTLOOK: Monday should be best with chest-high waves a distinct possibility. More SW hits Tuesday and through next week.

Today the water is:

64°

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



LOW TIDE

HIGH TIDE

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:11	2.1	12:03	0.4	5:31	3.9	6:51	4.7
SUNDAY	1:04	1.5	12:41	0.7	6:37	3.8	7:17	5.0
MONDAY	1:46	1.0	1:13	1.0	7:31	3.8	7:40	5.2
TUESDAY	2:22	0.5	1:40	1.3	8:19	3.7	8:03	5.4
WEDNESDAY	2:55	0.1	2:06	1.6	9:02	3.7	8:25	5.6
THURSDAY	3:27	-0.2	2:31	1.8	9:43	3.6	8:49	5.7
FRIDAY	3:59	-0.4	2:56	2.1	10:23	3.5	9:15	5.8

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The Q Line

responses on pg. 4

Those interested should RSVP at (310) 458-8916, ext. , or e-mail to dirmaster@santa-monica.org.

The workshop is free and attendees will learn how to improve their yard and garden, recycle yard waste and kitchen scraps, reduce waste, create water wise-landscapes and purchase compost bins.

The City of Santa Monica will be distributing compost bins, along with a reference book, for the discounted price of \$25 to residents and \$35 for non residents.

The rich nutrients from composted yard trimmings and kitchen scraps add to a garden's health by reducing waste, water consumption and chemical use. Composting reduces costs associated with fertilizers, conditioners and mulch. Composting also helps residents avoid higher costs for trash disposal and helps the city reduce the burden of recycling the material, further saving money for the community.



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OPINION

The Q-Line

Residents mixed on ATM fee issue

Last week, Q-line asked,

“Was the ATM fee ban a waste of time and taxpayer money from the beginning? Or was it a valid case of protecting residents from being gouged?”

Here are your responses:

■ “A waste of money. Get real! All that money to have the Supreme Court refuse to hear the case. The City Council will go down in history as being a bunch of baboons. As the court said, banking laws and fees are not controlled by cities. That was money down the drain.”

■ “Of course the ATM suit was a waste of money. The city attorney’s office could be helping Pico neighborhood by helping landlords evict criminal tenants and a few other things as well. The city would rather chase its own agenda as opposed to something that would really help the residents.”

■ “I feel it was a valid attempt to at least raise a question about the fee. I feel that the money should have been short-circuited when the first round of court decisions was announced because it just cost a lot more money to keep it going. This is a national issue with the banks who are sponsored by the federal govern-

ment. It is not really a local issue.”

■ “The Santa Monica City Council should try a different approach instead of always going after the businesses in a negative way in Santa Monica. They should try and do everything possible to help our business men and business women in Santa Monica. Possibly then the businesses would be able to hire more people and pay higher wages. This thing about going after the ATM’s was a big mistake. What they did to Howard Jacobs on Main Street is a complete joke. They should be ashamed of themselves.”

■ “These people are idiots and it’s not a matter of thousands of dollars, it’s tens of thousands of dollars for this kind of lawsuit and it’s a total waste of time. It’s perfectly reasonable for the banks to be charging a fee. It costs them money to operate the machines. The city has no business getting in that area. The City of Santa Monica is wasting people’s money, time and again on



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lawsuits and they are crying broke and spending all of their time in court.”

■ “The ATM fee ban appeal was a waste of taxpayer money. Coercing businesses into giving free service of convenience to all comers violates rights.”

■ “It has been a waste of taxpayer’s money in Santa Monica. It’s the case again ... people with their own agenda, not what is best for the city. We don’t need these type of people on the City Council.”

■ “Santa Monica is the only city along with San Francisco in this state that has any courage to go ahead and fight the

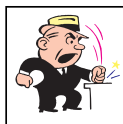
ATM fee. The banks are charging these fees in an overbearing manner. This city has always been at the forefront of trying to make life better for all its citizens. We are blessed to live in Santa Monica.”

■ “It was a waste of time and money. The City Council should focus on their own outrageous city fees and taxes which seem to go higher and higher each year.”

■ “Of course the ATM fee ban was a waste of time and money. What else is new? The City Council does such a fine job of this, wasting our time and our

See Q-LINE, page 5

Dealing with the vagrant problem not a high priority



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

The Santa Monicans for Renter’s Rights majority on the City Council doesn’t seem to want our transient problem to go away. The two non-SMRR council members seem indifferent on the issue. Maybe none of them think there’s a problem.

The city now estimates there are probably close to 1,400 homeless in Santa Monica in any given 24-hour period. Two-thirds of this population suffers from some kind of mental or physical impairment.

Transients contribute substantially to Santa Monica’s crime statistics:

■ “Although constituting 1 percent of the population, transients generate one-third of the calls for service to the police department,” SMPD Chief James T. Butts told the City Council last fall.

■ In one media report, Butts was quoted as saying that a “significant number of Santa Monica’s homeless are straight-out criminals.”

■ A report compiled by the police department, quoted in the Daily Press last fall stated, “Since 1997, 38 percent of

those arrested for violation of parole were transients” and “67 percent of the sex offenders arrested for failing to register themselves were transients. Currently, 22 percent of the city’s registered sex offenders are transients.”

Mayor Richard Bloom, responding to reports that Delta Airlines might cancel a hotel contract because Delta employees were upset about the high number of vagrants in the city, told the Daily Press, (Friday, May 23, 2003) “They need to hear the truth about Santa Monica. We’re a very safe city.”

Bloom’s assertions seem to fly in the face of the facts. But this is Santa Monica where politicians usually deny the obvious.

Because of complaints from conventioners about vagrants, The American Film Mart also has threatened to leave town, taking tens of millions of dollars out of our local economy.

It’s gotten so bad that concierges at the better hotels now advise guests, “It might not be safe on the streets after 10 p.m. Call a cab.”

It’s just a matter of time before another senior citizen or child is maimed or murdered by a transient.

The Bayside District Corp., a city-funded non-profit organization that manages downtown, recently approved \$30,000 for a survey to find out why peo-

ple stay away from downtown Santa Monica. Hey, guys — save the \$30,000 and just read the constant flow of letters to the editor in the local media if you want to find out why people stay away.

The real question is why is the city reluctant to take any firm and meaningful action to contain and reduce the community’s overly large and dangerous transient population?

The answer is that the ultraliberals on the City Council put their compassion before our safety. They confuse the mantra of “it’s no crime to be poor” with “there are so many here that criminal activity is the only option for survival.”

They irresponsibly ignore the connection between large numbers of transients and excessive criminal activity, which puts all of us at risk.

The heads of the largest homeless service providers routinely work the politicians and business community for “good will.” The Ocean Park Community Center, Step Up on Second and their cheerleaders first turn to the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and then to the Bayside District Corp. for support.

The problem is that millions of dollars annually in city, state and county resources, as well as generous support from the business community, have resulted in an ever increasing number of

vagrants looking for handouts who are increasingly service resistant and potentially violent.

A proposed ordinance before the City Council a few weeks ago will make it illegal to trespass on the Palisades Bluffs. The cliffs are riddled with hobo encampments.

Between the human waste dumped on the hillside, instability of the geology and cooking fires, serious health and safety hazards exist. But, our two Green Party councilmen, Kevin McKeown and Michael Feinstein, did not support the ordinance. It passed anyway.

After years of inaction — and just weeks before the fall 2002 election — Councilwoman Pam O’Connor (who sought re-election) and then Councilman Bloom proposed ordinances to restrict sleeping in doorways downtown and controlling the four dozen or more weekly public feedings in city parks. These ordinances have been passed but enforcement is either sporadic or nonexistent.

As long as Santa Monicans For Renter’s Rights politicians are determined that Santa Monica must, should and will carry the entire region’s homeless burden, nothing will change. And that, my friends, must change.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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.

OPINION

The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

money. Now they want more money for education from us. We need a new council. Big time."

■ "When the city lost the ATM lawsuit I said 'YIPPEEE.' That's what I said. Even though I knew it was more or less my money I was somewhat glad that it happened. It's not their job to tell the banks what to do. Their job is to run the City of Santa Monica and not be wasting our money. I wish they would take note."

■ "I think that this attempt to ban ATM fees was a really good idea. The fact that it's been turned down by the higher court just shows that local governments don't have the power that they should have. There is no reason why local governments should not have the power to enforce sane practices in its own community. This is big government at work again at I'm glad that we at least tried."

■ "That was an incredible waste of time and money. In a city that has a huge budget deficit and is also spending \$50

plus million on a new library, it was a complete waste of time. If the federal regulators did not feel that there was a problem, then there was no reason for a city to try and change it."

■ "I guess the ATM fee ban was a nice try on behalf of the residents, but even more important is an expenditure of the taxpayers' money to clean up this skid row by the sea that has come about."

■ "Most certainly this has been a waste of our time and our money. That's money that could have gone to the schools. There are several options to avoid paying ATM fees including credit cards, checks, teller withdrawals, and debit cards. The Santa Monica Daily Press reported the city was considering educating consumers in the future on how to avoid these fees. May I suggest that Kevin McKeown be our first student."

■ "It's very commendable that the City Council was concerned about monetary interest of its residents. However, they seem to lack any concern about the health interest by planning to add fluoride to our water."

How the federal tax cuts relate to local real estate



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

There has been a lot of talk about how the new federal tax-cut package was going to allow home mortgage borrowers to take deductions on their monthly insurance premiums but the tax rule didn't make it into the final package. Instead, property investors are getting a 25 percent deduction in their capital gains tax.

As the financially savvy are well aware, in late May the newly approved Senate tax bill allows for the long-term capital gains tax rate to fall to 15 percent, down from 20 percent. The new cuts apply to investment transactions made on or after May 6, 2003 — and, of course — only to investments owned for one year or more.

We wanted to know how the new tax bill affects real estate investors, so we asked James W. Jordan, CPA, a partner in Gaytan Kallman & Company LLP CPA's. Gaytan Kallman, a public accounting firm, was established in 1930 and encompasses all facets of accounting. Jordan has 30 years of tax experience on all aspects of taxation including property.

Q: What does the new tax bill mean to real estate owners and purchasers?

A: The biggest thing as it pertains to real estate is the reduction in the long-term capital gain rate. It's gone down from 20 percent to 15 percent, effective for sales occurring after May 6, 2003.

Q: Why did the government lower the capital gains tax?

A: There's been a lot of clambering for that for a number of years. People seem to think a high capital gains rate is an impediment to investment. Some people are even talking about eliminating capital gains tax all together. That's not political-

ly palatable for a number of people, so they just go for reductions in the rate, and they finally got what amounts to a 25 percent reduction, going from 20 percent to 15 percent.

I believe that the reduction in capital gains is aimed more towards stock market investors than it is for real estate investors.

Q: Why?

A: For a long time there have been arguments that the perceived high capital gains rate was an impediment to investment, thus investors were putting their money elsewhere, rather than start up businesses and start up companies. The argument has always been that if you lower or eliminate that rate, then that's going to attract capital to the start-up business market.

Real estate happens to be a side beneficiary to that reduction to the rate. I don't believe the bill was aimed at real estate per say.

Q: Will this bill have any impact on real estate in Southern California?

A: My own personal opinion, and I hope that politics are not creeping into it, I don't think it's going to have an impact at all. I don't think that investors are going to respond in the fashion that a lot of politicians believe they will.

I've been in this business 30 years and I've always heard the argument that a reduction in the rates stimulates this that and the other. And I have seldom seen the kind of stimulation that they have anticipated. Conversely, in the early '90s when Clinton came in, rates were increased and the argument in opposition was that an increase in the rates was going to stifle the economy and send us into depression. The exact opposite happened. I don't think the market responds to tax changes in the way that some people expect it to.

(If you have local real estate questions, e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219.)

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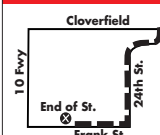
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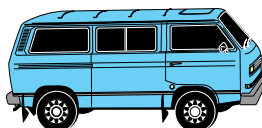


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LOCAL

Parcel tax will generate about \$6.5 million a year

TAX, from page 1

"It's a win and that's all that matters," said Harry Keiley, president of the local teacher union. "I just want to communicate heartfelt gratitude to anyone who has given an ounce of energy or a second of time ... each and every one of them has helped to change a teacher's job and do what's right for children in our schools."

In the meantime, Mat Millen, who heads Citizens Against Unfair Taxes, the main group that opposed the campaign, said he would probably not call for a recount.

The campaign for Measure S began after the November defeat of Measure EE, which proposed a gradual increasing parcel tax that would have capped at \$360 per parcel in 2006.

When Measure EE attracted only 61.2 percent of the vote, school supporters reassessed their approach and returned to voters with Measure S in a special election.

The new, less expensive tax provides an exemption for senior citizen homeowners but doesn't prevent landlords from passing the tax on to tenants.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is facing a \$13.7 million shortfall in state funding for next year. Now that the Measure S funding is secure, officials plan to rehire many of the 200-plus workers who were laid off in March.

The positions to be brought back are: 21 elementary teachers, two elementary assistant principals, one elementary principal, 20 middle school teachers, 25 high school teachers, two nurses, more than six elementary music teachers, five music aides and accompanists, one fine arts coordinator, four groundskeepers, four administrative assistants, two fiscal service workers, two personnel positions, one career center specialist and five elementary librarians.

A similar parcel tax school measure passed in Palos Verdes Tuesday with 73 percent of the vote and another parcel tax was defeated in Manhattan Beach after it garnered only 58 percent of the vote.

Supporters spent more than \$200,000

on the Measure S campaign, which included contacting more than 30,000 residents by mailers, phone banking and canvassing local neighborhoods. They targeted their campaign to turn out the maximum amount of "yes" votes by going first to regular voters, second to Democrats and, third, to the parents of children in local schools.

"I am so incredibly happy right now. I feel relieved. I feel like my prayers are answered."

— STACI ERLANDSON

Fifth grade teacher
Juan Cabrillo Elementary school

They also hired two experienced campaign consultants, Barbara Grover to coordinate the mailers and overall strategy, and Sue Burnside to run the field work. Former school board president Pam Brady manned the campaign office.

The "No on S" group raised about \$7,000 and spent the money on a couple hundred lawn signs and a single mailer. Millen said the showing against the measure was particularly strong for a special election.

School supporters are expected to converge on City Hall June 17 to ask the city to give more money to the district. Last year, city officials gave an additional \$1.5 million above their usual \$3 million. This year, the city is facing a budget crisis of its own but many council members have said they still hope to contribute more.

But for now, supporters are still absorbing their latest victory.

"I am so incredibly happy right now," said Staci Erlandson, a fifth-grade teacher at Juan Cabrillo Elementary school in Malibu who would have been laid off if Measure S had failed. "I feel relieved. I feel like my prayers are answered."

SMPD still looking for more suspects in shootings

SUSPECTS, from page 1

four shootings that occurred in the area since May 9. The charges range from attempted murder to parole violations. Three searches were conducted in apartments occupied by the some of the suspects, where police found evidence allegedly linking them to the shootings.

None of the shootings resulted injuries.

The arrests are part of the SMPD's ongoing investigation in the Pico neighborhood, a troubled area of Santa Monica that has been riddled with gang violence and drug dealing for decades.

Most of the tension is territorial — between the Graveyard Crips and the Santa Monica 17th Street gang — as well as racial. One gang is black, the other Latino.

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

Other suspects are being sought by the SMPD in connection with last week's shootings, some of which are Pico neighborhood residents and are on active parole, according to SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.

The neighborhood has been plagued with gang violence and drug dealing for years. Shootings occurred on May 9, May 18, May 19 and May 20, all within a few blocks of each other.

The May 9 shooting, which occurred in the 1800 block of 17th Street, resulted in a stray bullet traveling through two walls before it hit a dresser in a bedroom of a woman's home. No one was injured.

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LOCAL □ STATE



City sales tax increase must be voter approved

TAXES, from page 1

all retail sales.

Other cities that can raise taxes on their own include American Canyon, Benicia, Beverly Hills, Calistoga, Capitola, Colton, Culver City, Fairfield, Fontana, King City, Los Angeles, Malibu, Monterey, Napa, Pacific Grove, Rialto, Rio Vista, Rohnert Park, San Bernardino, San Fernando, Sand City, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, St. Helena, Scotts Valley, Soledad, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, West Hollywood, Watsonville, Winters and Yountville.

Playhouse to raise more funds

PLAYHOUSE, from page 1

that the nonprofit organization would have to pay an extra \$60,000 in rent a year, move out or buy the building.

With the cash in hand, Rudie said she and Chris DeCarlo, another co-artistic director, will now enter into negotiations to buy their portion of the property, which includes two small theaters, a workspace and several offices.

Neither Rudie nor DeCarlo would comment on the value of the property, saying it would compromise the ongoing negotiations with Kievits. It also is unclear how much more playhouse officials need to raise, but they plan to go to corporations, banks and other organizations for donations.

"Now we're at the table and we're real," DeCarlo said. "It positions us so that we're no longer hat-in-hand."

Nearly all of the money raised so far has been in grassroots donations, except a \$75,000 grant from the city. The fundraising campaign was thrown into high gear on Friday night when an anonymous donor called to pledge a grant that matched all incoming donations up to \$50,000.

"We'd been on the phones and the donations we're coming in, but the matching grant just absolutely galvanized people," Rudie said.

DeCarlo called the response among donors amazing, and credited a base of 50 to 100 stalwarts for donating at the last minute before each of the three deadlines the theater was asked to meet over the past 18 months.

They described Kievits, a local attorney, as a patient and supportive man who stands behind their goal and purpose.

When the playhouse moved into its building in 1962, the rent was a mere

Petaluma voters could impose a tax of up to 1 percent.

It would take a simple majority vote to approve a tax for general purposes and a two-thirds vote to adopt a tax to fund a particular program such as transportation.

"This is a local control issue," Wolk said. "This bill will provide the option for these cities, each of which was added to the bill at request of their legislator."

But Assemblyman Mark Wyland, R-Del Mar, complained that the bill would allow tax increases "at a time when we can least afford tax increases."

\$200 a month, though the space it occupied was just half of what it is today. In 1978, when residents benefited from a freeze on residential rents, the rent on the playhouse had climbed to \$550.

"Now we're at the table and we're real."

— CHRIS DECARLO
SM Playhouse Co-artistic director

If all goes forward as planned, the theater will begin making mortgage payments this summer. Rudie and DeCarlo said the payments should be about the same as their current \$10,000 monthly rent, but far lower than the \$15,000 rent Kievits had asked for.

The playhouse — which over the years has worked with actors Kate Hudson, Fred Savage and Robert Norse — has produced a number of popular plays over the past four decades. "Author, author: An evening with Sholom Aleichem" is, at 26 years, the longest-running Jewish musical in L.A. And "Dear Gabby: The confessions of an over-achiever" is, at 16 years, the longest-running teen drama.

Both sides said once the building is purchased they hope to get back to a system where the theater depends far less on donations than it does on its own \$500,000 annual revenue.

The trick, said DeCarlo, is protecting the integrity of the classes and the performances while still bringing in the money.

"We have to keep these things on a human scale," he said. "Being in control of our property and having a permanency is really going to help us."

Primary election pushed back

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Saying the gap between primary and general elections is "simply too long," Sen. Ross Johnson on Thursday successfully pushed a bill through the Senate that would move the state's primary election to June.

If the Irvine Republican's bill is successful, presidential primary elections would still be held in March, but the statewide primary would be pushed back to the last Tuesday of June.

Johnson said Thursday that voters lose interest during the current eight-month gap between primary and general

elections. Turnout for the 2002 primary dropped to a record low of 34.6 percent of registered voters.

The Senate passed the bill with a vote of 31-7, sending it to the Assembly.

It comes just days after the Assembly passed a similar bill by Assemblyman John Longville, D-Rialto, which would move the statewide primary election to the first Tuesday after the first Monday of June.

Longville's bill, however, would take effect for the 2004 election, while Johnson's measure wouldn't have an impact until 2008, meaning there'd be no immediate costs in the next few budget years.



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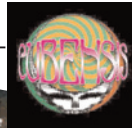
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Actor tells magazine: 'If the state needs me ... I will run'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, long mentioned as a potential Republican candidate for governor, told Esquire magazine for its July issue: “Yes, I would love to be governor of California ... If the state needs me, and if there's no one I think is better, then I will run.”

With Democratic Gov. Gray Davis facing a recall campaign that could result in a special gubernatorial election as early as fall, Schwarzenegger's political ambitions could be speeded up.

But Schwarzenegger's political adviser, George Gorton, said the statement did not represent a change in the Austrian-born actor's thinking.

“The bottom line fact is he hasn't decided whether he's going to run or not if the recall qualifies, and he's so terribly busy right now,” Gorton said.

He said Schwarzenegger, 55, would decide whether to run after the July 2 release of “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines,” and only if it becomes clear the recall will qualify for the ballot.

“Yes, I would love to be governor of California.”

— ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Actor

Supporters need to collect nearly 900,000 valid signatures to make that happen.

Gorton confirmed Schwarzenegger has been having discussions with political insiders and potential supporters.

“Mostly he's been focusing on two things, and one is the movie and the other is Inner-City Games, but occasionally he's pulled into conversation with key people,” Gorton said.

The actor is chairman of the Nation Inner-City Games Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides free after-school and summer activities to low-income children.

Schwarzenegger is on the cover of the magazine that hits newsstands June 13. A cover line reads: “The Next Governor of California. Really.”

Appeals court sides with Billionaire Boys Club member

BY RON HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court has sided with Joseph Hunt, an imprisoned member of the so-called Billionaire Boys Club, in seeking a further review of his murder conviction.

In an opinion released Thursday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a lower court and a magistrate judge both failed to inform Hunt of his legal options as he sought to question the legality of his conviction.

“This decision unblocks the road for him to get a hearing on the merits of whether his conviction was valid or not,” said Hunt's lawyer, Eric Multhaup.

Hunt was one of five wealthy young men who were members of a Los Angeles social and investment club that tabloids dubbed the “Billionaire Boys Club.” Several of the men were accused in the 1984 kidnapping of the father of one “club” member with plans to torture him into signing over a fortune.

The man, Hedayat Eslaminia, inadvertently was smothered and died in a car trunk during the botched plot. Two men, including the victim's son, Reza Eslaminia, were convicted of murder in 1988, but those convictions were overturned on technical grounds 10 years later.

Hunt was also charged in the Eslaminia's killing, but never convicted. He was, however, convicted for the murder of Ron Levin, another business associate. Hunt has challenged that conviction in the courts ever since and is currently serving his sentence at Folsom State Prison.

After failing on the state court level, Hunt filed a petition in 1998 in a U.S. District Court challenging the legality of his conviction. The state moved to dismiss his petition, saying many of Hunt's claims were not properly exhausted.

Magistrate Judge Arthur Nakazato granted Hunt time to amend his petition containing only exhausted claims, warning

Hunt that failure to file such a petition in time would be construed as Hunt's consent to dismiss the petition or disobedience of the court order, thus warranting dismissal.

Hunt objected to Nakazato's ruling in subsequent filings and in 2000 reasserted his objections to U.S. District Judge William Keller. Hunt also filed another habeas corpus petition with the state Supreme Court in 2000.

Keller denied Hunt's request to vacate Nakazato's ruling.

“This decision unblocks the road for him to get a hearing on the merits of whether his conviction was valid or not.”

— ERIC MULTHAUP
Joseph Hunt's attorney

The federal appeals court found that Keller had improperly dismissed Hunt's first petition and that the magistrate judge too had erred.

“Neither the magistrate judge nor the district judge considered the alternative of staying the petition after dismissal of unexhausted claims to permit Hunt to exhaust those claims, nor did they inform Hunt of this option,” the federal appeals court opinion said.

The 9th Circuit panel remanded Hunt's case back to the district court for a review of the magistrate judge's order.

Despite nearly 20 years behind bars, Hunt remains convinced he can prove his conviction was unjust.

“His interest has never flagged. This was a procedural detour that the 9th Circuit got back on track,” Multhaup said.

NATIONAL



Oregon on 'cutting edge' using eBay for garage sales

BY PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — John Specht grinned like a garage sale shopper as a forklift hoisted all sorts of government surplus items onto his pickup truck: boxes of notebooks, metal shutters, five typewriters and even some ocean paintings.

"One hundred bucks is all I paid for the stuff," Specht said proudly to his wife, Ann, who smiled as she lodged a typewriter between cardboard boxes onto the back of their bulging truck.

The Spechts purchased the goodies from the state of Oregon through eBay. Since 1998, Oregon has used eBay to auction off all kinds of things — from cars confiscated from drug dealers to surplus office equipment.

The auctions — which grossed \$7.3 million in sales in 2002 — are considered such a success that the federal government and the city of Lynchburg, Va., have enlisted Oregon's help in selling off marketable stuff.

Oregon's virtual auction is selling heavy equipment and cars for the U.S. Department of Interior, as well as fire trucks and Jeeps for Lynchburg.

Other states have begun to follow Oregon's lead.

California is selling surplus state goods on the Internet. Officials from Michigan, Colorado and Texas have visited Oregon to study putting together their own programs.

"They (in Oregon) are on the cutting edge," said Scott Pepperman, president of the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property. "The way they do it all is very efficient."

Oregon was the first state to sell goods on eBay, an Internet auction site with over 60 million viewers. Gross

sales for the state office that runs the auctions — Oregon Surplus Property — went up by 250 percent the first year, and Oregon became a model for other states.

Most of the goodies sold by the Oregon auction, kept in a 72,000-square-foot warehouse, are owned by state agencies and county and local governments.

"They (in Oregon) are on the cutting edge. The way they do it all is very efficient."

— SCOTT PEPPERMAN

President, National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property

Thousands of Swiss army knives, nail filers and tweezers, all confiscated at Portland International Airport, take up large tubs.

There are also bicycles, computers, office chairs, skateboards, chain saws, water skis, horse saddles, belt buckles and pairs of long underwear. For those with deeper pockets, there are Camaros, motor homes and BMW motorcycles.

Some of the items are confiscated. Others are pieces of stolen property that were recovered by police but never by the original owner. Many of the large items, like office furniture and police cars, are hand-me-downs from federal and state agencies.

In 2002, the program sold \$7.3 million worth of items and gave about 84 percent of the money back to the sell-

ers, said Stacey Oller, the program's business manager. "We don't take money from the state," Koller said. "We give it back."

Oregon acts as a middleman for the Interior Department and Lynchburg, Va. For example, a car to be sold on the East Coast isn't driven across the country. Instead, digital pictures are taken and sent to Oregon Surplus Property.

Oregon Surplus Property puts the car on eBay, collects the cash from the buyer and keeps a small fee for processing.

Oregon has a ready-made infrastructure capable of handling on-line sales, including cyber savvy accountants and business managers, digital cameras and an intricately organized warehouse that takes up a square block.

Oller, the program business manager, says groups across the country are constantly inquiring about having Oregon sell their goods. But the program — it has only 16 workers — has to be careful not to take on too much.

"As with any business, if you grow too fast you'll disrupt the infrastructure," Oller said. "Taking new agreements is done on a case-by-case basis."

Prospective bidders can visit the Salem warehouse during the week. If they find something they like, they can bid on it on eBay by using computers in a corner of the warehouse.

Before Oregon started using the Internet to sell in 1998, bargain hunters visited the warehouse and made sealed bids. The highest bidder took home the treasure.

Some locals speak with nostalgia about those days.

"I got stuff cheaper then," said Lorin Lewis, who owns an electrical shop in nearby Keizer and for years has gotten parts from the surplus program. "The Internet is good for the state, though, no doubt about that."

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INTERNATIONAL

Officials: Yasser Arafat remains in charge of Palestinians

BY RAVI NESSMAN
Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank — While Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas flew around the region in recent days, meeting with Arab leaders, President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat sat in his mostly destroyed office — directing his premier every step of the way, Palestinian officials said.

Despite his involvement, Arafat was furious to see his deputy taking his place at center stage at the summit Wednesday with Bush and Sharon in Aqaba, Jordan, a Palestinian official said Thursday on condition of anonymity.

Arafat, who has been confined by Israel to the West Bank for more than a year, was also upset that Abbas did not mention the Israeli siege in his speech at Aqaba, the official said. Israel has indicated that if Arafat leaves the West Bank, he will not be allowed to return.

On Thursday, Arafat criticized the summit's achievements. "Unfortunately, the Israelis did not give anything," he said.

The United States and Israel have worked to sideline Arafat and remove him from all peace contacts, but the veteran PLO leader refuses to fade away. He remains the undisputed leader of his people and has worked feverishly in the past few days to prove it.

He delayed a pre-summit meeting between Sharon and Abbas, publicly greeted a released Palestinian prisoner in a show of power and saw to it that he would have effective veto over any peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

On Wednesday, he was in constant phone contact with the Palestinian delegation during Abbas' meeting with Bush and Sharon, according to another Palestinian official.

He made two adjustments to Abbas' final declaration and was briefed by Abbas on the phone for 20 minutes after the meeting, the official said.

Some of Arafat's international cachet is gone and some of his authority may be seeping to Abbas, but "Arafat still has tremendous power," Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said.

Israeli officials say they do not care, and have instead focused on their successful efforts at keeping him out of the summit.

"People can say what they want, but Arafat was not there," Justice Minister Yosef Lapid said.

Arafat was once widely feted by world leaders. Just a decade ago, he stood before the world and shook Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's hand on the White House lawn as the Oslo accord was signed.

Israel and the United States now accuse Arafat of failing to stop terror attacks during 32 months of Palestinian-Israeli violence. At worst, they accuse him of orchestrating many of the attacks.

Either way, they have refused to deal with him anymore.

Under intense international pressure, Arafat reluctantly appointed Abbas in April. Now he sits in his compound, the Muqata, as Abbas is courted by world leaders instead.

Once the symbol of Arafat's rule, the Muqata now lays in a permanent state of half ruin, crushed by the Israeli army a year ago during Operation Defensive Shield.

Where buildings once stood, there are now 10-foot piles of brown dirt and even larger heaps of crushed white stone, broken concrete and twisted metal.

An undulating roof shields only a 20-foot pile of rubble. Charred, crushed car husks lay stacked in one corner of the compound.

Some of the remaining buildings have cratered walls. A few remain gleaming, white, pristine, untouched.

Arafat has not left this compound since May 2002, afraid Israel will arrest wanted Palestinians in his office complex while he is gone.

From his ruined headquarters, he has worked to prove that he is in charge.

Arafat objected to the makeup of Abbas' proposed Cabinet and reshaped it with many of his allies. He ensured his continued control of most of the Palestinian security forces.

He pushed through a law giving the Arafat-headed PLO executive final say over all negotiating steps with Israel.

He delayed a meeting between Abbas and Sharon for a day last week because he wanted to review Israeli security proposals before approving the talks. When that meeting was over Abbas rushed to the Muqata to brief Arafat.

In a goodwill gesture to Abbas, Sharon agreed to release 100 Palestinian prisoners. When one prisoner, the oldest Palestinian jailed by Israel, was released

Tuesday, he was immediately taken to Arafat's compound, where they grasped hands in front of television cameras.

Palestinian officials say on condition of anonymity that Arafat has been sending a message to the world that he is still in charge of making the key decisions on negotiations.

Arafat adviser Saeb Erekat denies any effort to undermine Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen. His appointment as prime minister was a continuation of his 42-year relationship with Arafat, he said.

"No one is more loyal to Arafat than Abu Mazen, and no one is more loyal to Abu Mazen than Arafat," he said.

Abbas has decried efforts to marginalize Arafat, and other Arab leaders say keeping the veteran leader out of a peace agreement will make it very difficult to sell the plan to the Palestinian people.

Hundreds of Palestinians, waving Arafat posters, marched through the streets of Gaza on Thursday in support of the Palestinian leader, demanding that attempts to isolate him stop.

According to an April poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Arafat's popularity rating was 35 percent, while Abbas' was 3 percent, the same as the poll's margin of error.

Even after Abbas was confirmed as prime minister at the end of April, Palestinians still considered Arafat their leader.

'Godfather' sentenced to death in 'trial of the century'

BY MARGIE MASON
Associated Press Writer

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — The trial of Vietnam's "godfather" of organized crime ended Thursday with a result even the defense expected: A death sentence for the man whose case captivated the nation with its tales of rampant official corruption.

Truong Van Cam, known as Nam Cam, will face a firing squad along with five associates for spinning a web of bribery, gambling and murder that entangled officials high in the government.

The defense attorney said he plans to appeal the verdict and sentence.

Outsiders viewed the trial, involving 155 defendants in three courtrooms, as scripted theater that reflected a tug of war between Nam Cam, the government and the Communist Party.

"He challenged not only the law, but the Party itself, and that's why I think they went after him," said Mark Sidel, an expert on Vietnam at the University of Iowa College of Law and Obermann Center for Advanced Studies.

"The irony of Nam Cam is that if he had not gotten so powerful in Ho Chi Minh City and beyond, and had not been involved with the corruption of officials, it's possible he would still be operating his restaurants, hotels and casinos today."

Nam Cam, 56, a former dockworker and veteran of the army of South Vietnam, ran a criminal empire in the country's largest city until his arrest in December 2001.

On Wednesday he was convicted of seven counts including ordering the death of a rival gang member. Standing before the court in his green-striped uniform, he showed no emotion as the sentence was handed down a day later.

The court sentenced several family members to long prison terms, including 20 years for his wife, Phan Thi Truc.

The trial exposed close links between organized crime and members of the Communist Party, embarrassing a leadership that has prided itself on its anti-corruption stance.

The investigation ensnared three senior government officials, including two from the Party's elite Central Committee. Pham Sy Chien, a former deputy national chief prosecutor, received a six-year sentence while Tran Mai Hanh, the former head of state radio, got 10 years. Both were found guilty of taking bribes to help Nam Cam get an early release from a labor camp in the mid 1990s.

The court imposed a four-year sentence on Bui Quoc Huy, former vice minister of public security and police chief of Ho Chi Minh City, for not arresting Nam Cam.

At a news conference, presiding Judge Bui Hoang Danh expressed hope the case would have serve as a warning to others.

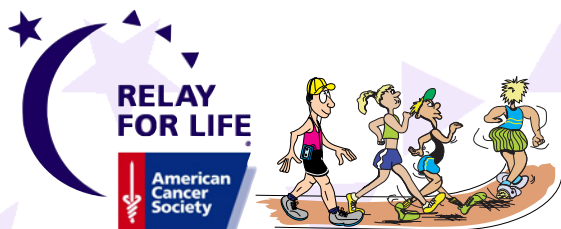
"Any person who commits crime must be brought to justice regardless of his position," he said.

Some observers said the sentences for the officials were too lenient given the nature of the crimes and the sentences imposed on other defendants.

"Those corrupt officials should get severe punishment so that others will not get involved in corruption," said Vu Thi Viet, who stood outside the courthouse in the afternoon heat to hear the sentences announced through loudspeakers. "I want to see less corruption and less other crimes so that people can live peacefully."

Local media aggressively covered the trial and defense attorneys were given free rein to make their arguments — two signs of judicial reform, according to some observers.

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SPORTS



No cork in Sammy Sosa's 76 bats tested by MLB

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — The rest of Sammy Sosa's bats were clean, just as he promised they'd be.

Now baseball officials have to decide what to do about the one that started this mess.

Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, was at Wrigley Field on Thursday, conducting interviews before returning to New York to decide what punishment Sosa deserves for using a corked bat.

"Whatever they decide to do, I have to deal with it," Sosa said.

A piece of cork was found just above the handle in Sosa's bat Tuesday night when it shattered after he grounded out in the first inning of the Chicago Cubs' 3-2 victory. Sosa insists it was a mistake, saying he accidentally pulled out a bat he uses to put on home run displays for fans in batting practice.

Tests Wednesday appeared to support that. X-rays of 76 bats confiscated from Sosa's locker Tuesday night found no cork or illegal substances, said Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office.

"Good. That makes everybody feel a lot better," Atlanta's Chipper Jones said. "It doesn't take away from what happened, but it gives some validity to what Sammy was saying. If he's got one bat that got mixed in with the rest of his bats, then I believe it was an honest mistake."

Sosa's bats in the Hall of Fame might still be examined, Alderson said. The Hall has five of Sosa's bats, including the one he presented in mid-April, more than a week after he hit his 500th home run.

The tests went a long way toward easing people's minds. Sosa was greeted with rousing cheers when he did his traditional sprint to right field Wednesday night, and fans gave him a standing ovation when he came to the plate in the first inning.

One fan held up a sign that read, "Still Lovin' Sammy."

"They know that I am an innocent person," Sosa said. "When I went to right field, everybody was cheering for me. I feel very happy inside. It's something I'm never going to forget."

Sosa has been baseball's quintessential good guy the last five seasons, a lovable slugger with an infectious smile and a feel-good story. While Mark McGwire and Barry Bonds got the home run records, Sosa got most of the adulation.

"To get caught and it's Sammy — that's a big deal. That's a huge deal," Cincinnati Reds pitcher Danny Graves said. "That's like saying Roger Clemens is scuffing the ball. It just totally breaks your heart, you know what I mean? I'm not saying Roger Clemens scuffs the ball. I'm just using his name because he's the best pitcher in baseball."

Sosa swears he's never used anything illegal. Dozens of his bats have broken over the years without anything suspicious being found.

And if he was trying to cheat, he said, why wouldn't he have tried to grab the bat before anyone saw it?

"I would have come back to the plate and picked up all the pieces, don't you think?" he said. "I didn't pick it up. I went to the dugout. So you guys can see the difference."

It doesn't mean he's off the hook. Other players who've used corked bats have been suspended for up to 10 games, and Alderson said he thinks precedent will play a part in Watson's decision.

Sosa can appeal any discipline imposed. "I think it would be in everyone's best interest to conclude this as quickly as possible, and be able to have a decision that is timely," Alderson said.

But how did this happen in the first place?

Sosa uses bats made by three different manufacturers. While each brand is visibly

different, Alderson said all bats made by the same maker look similar. The bat Sosa used Tuesday night was made by Tuffbat.

Jones said it's easy to see how Sosa could have grabbed the wrong bat.

"I've got five boxes of bats in there," Jones said. "Bat doesn't feel good, you throw it in this box. Bat feels good, OK, that's going to be a gamer. You go 10 at-bats without getting a hit, you throw it in a box, get a new one. You're always interchanging."

After what happened this week, baseball probably needs to address that, Alderson said.

"If this was a batting practice bat, the possibility of confusing that bat would suggest that we probably ought to be awfully careful about having any of those bats around," he said. "It's not something we've looked at, but we will."

Mayors make friendly bet

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — With the Stanley Cup series tied at 2-2 the mayors of Anaheim and East Rutherford, N.J., finalized their friendly bet on the outcome.

If the Anaheim Mighty Ducks beat the New Jersey Devils, East Rutherford Mayor Jim Cassella will send Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle saltwater taffy, New Jersey wine and other New Jersey and East Rutherford products.

If the Devils win, Pringle will send Cassella surfing attire from Pacific Sunwear, an 8-foot palm tree from Visser's Florist, a bottle of California wine from the Catch restaurant, a crystal statue of Sleeping Beauty's castle, a box of Anaheim chiles and oranges from Gigante USA.

Both mayors will also wear the other team's jersey to work and issue a city proclamation congratulating the other team.

ABC makes its pitch for 2010, 2012 Olympic rights

BY STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — ABC made its case Thursday to return to Olympic broadcasting, hoping to gain U.S. television rights to the 2010 and 2012 Games.

Executives of ABC and parent company Disney gave a 90-minute presentation to the IOC, stressing the network's legacy of Olympic coverage in the 1970s and 1980s and the broad reach of its ESPN cable channel.

"We have a long tradition," ABC president Alex Wallau said after the meeting. "We're proud of being the network of the Olympics and we'd love to be back in the business."

The two other networks in the bidding, Fox and NBC, will make their pitches Friday.

The three companies will submit financial offers in sealed envelopes to IOC president Jacques Rogge on Friday.

Rogge and a small group of experts will immediately begin examining the bids and could announce a decision by Sunday. The IOC could also ask for new bids or put off a decision.

Olympic and industry officials say the combined rights fee for the two games could reach \$2 billion — a one-third increase over the \$1.5 billion NBC paid for the 2006 and 2008 Games.

The IOC says it is looking for the network that offers the best overall package, not necessarily the most money. The rights package will include broadcast, cable, Internet, video-on-demand, pay-per-view and other services.

In a pair of stunning deals in 1995, NBC secured the rights for the five Olympics from 2000 to 2008 for a total of \$3.5 billion.

Those negotiations, under former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, took place in secret without the other networks getting a chance to bid. This time, Rogge has pledged an open process.

The auction is taking place without the networks knowing where the two games will be held. The 2010 winter site will be selected on July 2, and the 2012 summer host will be picked in 2005.

ABC dominated Olympic broadcasting in the 1970s and 1980s, televising seven of the nine games during that period. Overall, ABC has broadcast 10 of the 23 games held since 1960, compared with five for CBS and eight for NBC.

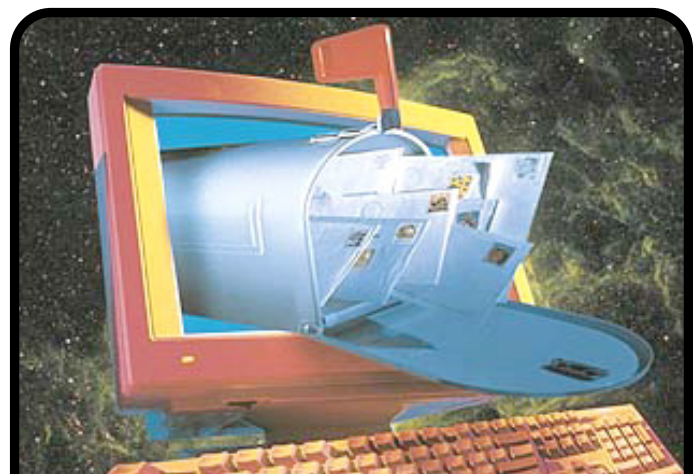
The late ABC Sports president Roone Arledge is considered the founder of modern Olympic TV coverage. ABC's last Olympics was the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary. It paid \$309 million for those rights.

The IOC allocated two hours to each network. ABC's formal presentation lasted about one hour, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers.

Officials said it was a straightforward presentation, focusing on substance and not glitz.

"It was an impressive and well thought-out presentation across a wide variety of platforms," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said.

ABC Sports and ESPN president George Bodenheimer said the delegation stressed the various platforms offered under the Disney umbrella.



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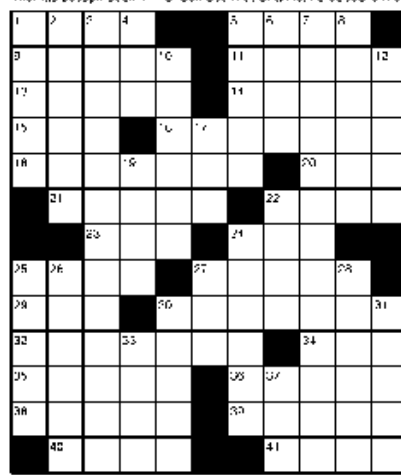
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 - Capital on a fjord
 - French composer
 - Hound holder
 - Bond actively
 - Puts away
 - Terminus
 - Tide type
 - Mouth-wash choice
 - Old cab
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 - Court



Yesterday's answer

- Bond actively
- Puts away
- Terminus
- Tide type
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For Rent

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For Rent

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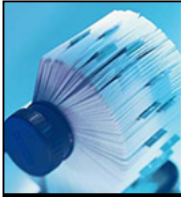
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BACK PAGE



Law man takes to the streets

By The Associated Press

LENEXA, Kan. — On his 49th birthday, Johnson County District Attorney Paul Morrison helped chase down a young burglary suspect.

The 16-year-old boy gave up his flight as a shoeless Morrison and a neighbor were bearing down on him Sunday evening.

Morrison was driving through his suburban Kansas City neighborhood with his wife, Joyce, when he noticed a car parked with the passenger door open and a young man at the wheel.

Seconds later, he heard a woman scream and saw another young man run from an open garage carrying a 12-pack of beer.

The man in the car sped away, and his companion dropped the beer and ran.

Morrison turned his pickup around and followed the youth who had fled on foot. The fugitive cut between two houses, one of which happened to be Morrison's.

Neighbor Garold Sokolenko, 27, was sitting on his front porch when Morrison yelled that he was chasing a burglar. Morrison got out of his truck, kicked off his sandals and started running, and Solenko joined the pursuit. They held the youth until police arrived.

Lenexa police arrested a second youth, 17, later Sunday. On Monday both were charged with burglary, theft and possession of alcohol.

As for his own role in the case, the prosecutor said, "Not bad for an old man."

Biggest liar named

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The winner of the state's annual tall-tale telling contest is planning a career in politics.

Justin Wood, 17, a junior at George Washington High School, was named the biggest liar in last month's Liars Contest, held in conjunction with the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering.

"I'm just a natural liar, I guess," said Wood, the recently elected class president who plans to major in political science at either American University or George Washington University.

Wood won the junior competition last year and based this year's monologue on fame attained from the 2002 victory, saying paparazzi followed him through Charleston, and Nike courted him to endorse "Air Liar" sneakers.

But his lie was rooted in truth. He came up with the idea after being recognized in a restroom.

Wood won a cash prize of \$100 and a golden shovel.

Here kity, kity

By The Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — When Linda Bertolani left her front door ajar for her Himalayan cat, she got another feline visitor — a full-grown cougar.

The cougar sneaked into her kitchen Sunday night

and let out a high-pitched scream, Bertolani said. He had her 16-year-old cat, Sebastian, in his mouth.

"You should have seen Sebastian's fur flying," Bertolani said.

The cougar dropped Sebastian, ran from the house and vanished over a fence before the police and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife got there.

Sebastian is recovering at home.

Corey Heath, a Deschutes Wildlife District biologist, said no other cougars have been spotted in the neighborhood since Bertolani's call.

Heath said people should not run if they encounter a cougar, but instead try to scare the animal away by making noise, throwing rocks or waving a coat in the air.

Wildlife specialists say cougars, bears and other wildlife increasingly come into inhabited areas as humans encroach on areas where the animals have always lived.

Robber can't get away

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Would-be bank robbers take notice: keep your getaway car running.

After rifling the tellers' drawers, a bank robber on Monday bolted to the waiting getaway car.

The car wouldn't start.

The driver didn't move but the holdup man jumped out and tried to steal a car parked in the lot. When that failed, he ran into a home, where he tried to steal the keys to another car. Still no luck.

Then he ran to Interstate 90, where he tried to flag down cars and trucks. The only response he got was from the police.

One officer said it all was pretty stupid, adding "I don't think we're dealing with geniuses here."

DID YOU KNOW?: In August 1983, Peter Stewart of Birmingham, UK set a world record by disco dancing for 408 hours.

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