

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS

8-36-2-23-3

Megamember: 9

Jackpot: \$15 million

FANTASY 5

24, 5, 16, 1, 23

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 8, 6

Evening picks: 4, 5, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:40.68



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Responding to a February incident in St. Clair Shores, Mich., in which a girl performed oral sex on a boy during a middle-school class (both were suspended), the superintendent and the principal wrote to parents: "Just like our country was shocked into awareness when never-before acts of terrorism occurred in New York City, our district was shocked into awareness when middle-school students engaged in indecent acts in the classroom." (The boy's parents filed a lawsuit over the suspension, pointing out that their son was a "victim" in that, when the girl started, he had no "legal duty" to resist.)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The thing about rat races is that even when you win you're still a rat."

— Lily Tomlin



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Residents demand peace in their streets

After five shootings, neighborhood responds

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A small, but vocal group of residents in a troubled Santa Monica neighborhood took to the streets Sunday, demanding peace.

Known as the Pico neighborhood, the area is the poorest in Santa Monica and the most violent, community activists say.

"It's no coincidence that the violence is occurring in the poorest part of town," said Oscar de la Torre, a local school board member and executive director of the Pico Youth & Family Center.

There have been five gang-related shootings in the neighborhood in one month — with the most recent one occurring last Thursday.

Shootings occurred three days in a row in the middle of May. The first shooting — on May 9 — resulted in a stray bullet entering a family's home in the 1800 block of

"I hope today wasn't just a march but the beginning of a long, overdue process of putting our resources together and responding to a new wave of shootings and peace effort."

— OSCAR DE LA TORRE
Community activist

17th Street at 9:30 p.m. The bullet went through two walls before landing in a bedroom. Four children were in the house when the incident occurred.

de la Torre, who spoke at a rally held at First A.M.E. Church by the Sea following the march, said the

See MARCH, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

About two dozen people took to the streets of the Pico neighborhood on Sunday, calling for peace and an end to the recent violence.

Pilot in crash identified as Santa Monica man

Death toll rises to 5

By staff and wire reports

The small plane that crashed into a Los Angeles apartment building was piloted by Santa Monica resident Jeffrey Siegel, who died in the crash, along with four others.

A fifth person was confirmed dead Sunday as investigators continued to comb the wreckage in the Fairfax District.

Shortly after the six-seat Beechcraft Bonanza took off from the Santa Monica Airport at 3:45 p.m., the plane nose dived and slammed into an apartment building.

Coroner's Lieutenant Cheryl

MacWillie said the latest confirmed victim had been a passenger in the plane, like three of the victims discovered earlier. Another victim was believed to be a third-floor resident of the building.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims, but the pilot was identified by the LA Times as Siegel, the owner of JTS Construction, a firm based in Santa Monica.

Another known victim is Siegel's niece, Jessica Kaplan, 24, who used to attend Crossroads School in Santa Monica.

Siegel's family told the Times that Siegel and Kaplan had been flying to the family's second home in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Local merchant will stand trial for murder

By Daily Press staff

The trial of a Santa Monica businessman accused of murdering a transient begins this week.

Michael Ward Bell, 54, of Los Angeles, allegedly shot and killed Andre Watson, an African-American transient, in front of his Pico Boulevard auto repair shop last July.

Lawyers began selecting jurors on Friday and will give their opening arguments as early as Tuesday. Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicken will hear the case at the

Airport Courthouse near LAX.

John Raphling, Ward's public defender, said Bell acted in self defense after he was threatened and attacked by Watson.

Mark Burnley, the deputy district attorney prosecuting the case, couldn't be reached for comment.

But Christine Johnston, the deputy district attorney first assigned to the case, said at a January preliminary hearing that Bell methodically fired six bullets at Watson, with four shots actually

See TRIAL, page 6

President Bush lays out plan for nation's homeless

By The Associated Press

Denver —As the economy sinks, the need for social services is on the rise, and the leaders of the nation's largest cities say they need help.

They're considering a Bush administration request to endorse

its plan to help homeless people. The plan offers federal help in providing permanent housing and services to chronically homeless people, freeing up resources for those who find themselves temporarily homeless.

The Interagency Council on Homelessness estimates that two

million people are homeless each year, and the government estimates that about 10 percent of that population is chronically homeless. That includes people with mental illnesses or other disabilities who have spent a year or more without a home.

There are about 1,400 home-

less people who live on the streets of Santa Monica every day, many of whom are mentally ill. Tens of thousands live under bridges, on sidewalks, in parks, cars and shelters throughout Los Angeles.

The U-S Conference of Mayors, meeting in Denver, votes today on the Bush plan.



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, June 9, 2003:

What separates you from others is your ability to handle pressure and opposition. Count on your charm. With this skill, you could avoid useless confrontations. Working with others, detaching and walking in others' shoes allows greater mutuality and success. You find that through an active mind and a strong personality nearly anything can happen. If you are single, you are likely to change your status. You will be more in the mood to have a live-in relationship than you have been for years, especially after summer. If you're attached, avoid power struggles at any cost. They won't get you anywhere; they'll only cause hard feelings. Give each other permission not to agree. Allow more of your joyfulness and playfulness to come through. LIBRA is playful.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Others hold the cards. You can examine what you want from a renewed perspective once you get past an immediate power play. Examine your goals. Talk about what you would like. Start visualizing. You're taking the first step. Tonight: Be a lot more positive.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Venus, your ruler, changes signs, allowing more to come forward. Someone who talks money has many good ideas. Make it a point to brainstorm more often and share your ideas. Think through a difference of opinion. Tonight: Do something physical. You might need some exercise.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You can laugh all you want and help others relax. One particular person in your environment could be unusually uptight and difficult. Your attractiveness pinnacles this month, helping you with this situation. Tonight: Play away. You can be such a flirt!

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Deal with fundamentals, recognizing that you could be overly sensitive. A work-related situation could be changing rapidly, whether you like it or not. Go within. Detach. Take a walk, and you'll get answers. Tonight: Enjoy those around your home. You don't need to go far.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, and others will listen. A minor revolution on the part of a child or loved one could happen. You know what you want. Could this person simply be giving you flak? A friendship increases in importance. Tonight: Follow-through counts.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ What seems like a gift horse isn't. Take a hard look at what is going on within your inner circle. Pressure builds and takes you to a new level. Touch base with a family member. You'll enjoy yourself while out and about. Tonight: Be very playful.

♏ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to play the day away, especially as you see some of what heads down your path. Someone at a distance will make a big difference in the next few weeks. Consider a trip or a change of pace. Some might opt to go back to school. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Think before you leap into action, especially when dealing with monetary matters. What looks good could turn into a disaster. A partner or associate could be extravagant. Give yourself more time to evaluate a problem. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You could back off plans at the last moment. You might be more changeable than you realize. Think through a knee-jerk reaction to a strong personality in your life. This person means well. Let the feelings flow. Tonight: Where the action is. You won't be able to help yourself.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Understand what might be going on with someone you've put in an awkward position. Think carefully about what you might want from an associate or co-worker. You will like what goes on with this person in the near future. Don't mix business with pleasure. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ A relationship deepens considerably if you allow it to exist. Think in terms of what needs to happen to unlock a situation. You'll get the answers if you break past normal thinking patterns. Add some lightness to someone's day. Tonight: Write letters. Catch up on mail.

♐ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ An associate is full of feedback as you attempt to get answers. Evaluate what needs to happen here. Loosen up with others. Look for solutions that others cannot come up with. Keep conversations flowing on the home front. Tonight: Do something special for a loved one.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Charity golf touney registration ends today

By Daily Press staff

The 22nd Annual John Drescher Classic Golf Tournament, hosted by Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica and benefits dozens of local charities, will be held next Monday. Registration ends today.

Golf packages are available, including:

■ The Duffer — includes golf for one, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, drink ticket, and raffle ticket for \$185.

■ The Bogey — includes golf for four, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, drink ticket, and raffle ticket for each golfer and one hole sign for \$800.

■ The Eagle — includes golf for four, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, drink ticket for each golfer, one hole sign, 20 raffle tickets, four additional dinners and reserved dinner seating for \$1,100.

■ The Hole In One — includes golf for eight, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, drink ticket for each golfer, two hole signs, 40 raffle tickets, eight additional dinners, reserved dinner seating and program listing for \$1,500.

A variety of charities including the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, the American Red Cross, PAL and many others benefit from the money raised at the tournament.

Proceeds will benefit more than 35 youth serving organizations in the Westside and Santa Monica areas. The funds will continue to provide such resources as day care support, positive role model outreach, leadership programs, educational assistance and support for facilities and surroundings for youth to grow in a safe and prospering environment.

The tournament will be held at the Braemar Country Club, located at 4001 Reseda Blvd., in Tarzana, Calif., on June 16. Check-in on the day of the event will run from 9:30 a.m. through 11 a.m. and a Shotgun Start will kick-off the tournament at 11:30 a.m.

The day is planned to include a complimentary barbecue lunch, beverages throughout the day, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the end of the golf tournament and a dinner and awards show highlighting the day's events and winners.

Players of all ages and experience are encouraged to participate in this year's charity golf tournament and can obtain additional information and registration packets by calling (310) 395-3112.

Help move traffic along Lincoln

By Daily Press staff

Plans to alleviate traffic congestion on Lincoln Boulevard are underway.

The Lincoln Corridor Task Force is hosting a community open house to discuss potential alternatives to help relieve congestion and improve mobility along Lincoln Boulevard.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the community room at the Westchester Municipal Building, located at 7166 W. Manchester Ave. in Los Angeles.

The public will be asked to review and provide feedback on potential alternatives identified to improve conditions on Lincoln Boulevard. The short- and long-term alternatives include a variety of options including public transit, bike lanes, intersection and mid-block improvements, as well as urban design enhancements.

The task force already has conducted an in-depth analysis of existing and future conditions along the roadway, including an analysis of travel patterns and identification of congested areas in the corridor.

The task force was convened to address the increasing congestion along an approximately five-mile stretch of Lincoln Boulevard between Manchester Avenue and the Santa Monica Freeway, and to determine the long-term transportation needs of the corridor. The study area includes the cities of Culver City and Santa Monica, as well as the Los Angeles communities of Mar Vista, Venice and Westchester.

The main objective for the task force is to identify a broad range of improvement alternatives for the corridor and to recommend a set of alternatives that balance capacity enhancing measures, corridor aesthetics, urban design components and multi-modal objectives for Lincoln Boulevard.

The task force includes representatives from the County of Los Angeles, Caltrans, the Cities of Culver City, Los Angeles and Santa Monica. The California Coastal Commission, MTA and SCAG are also represented in the task force as ex-officio members providing technical review and comment on consultant work products and task force discussions.

surf report

The surf stayed pretty small over the weekend. There are some waves and the water is starting to heat up. Southwest swells will begin to fire up this week. Look for chest- to head-high waves Tuesday through Thursday. The swell was heavily shadowed these past few days, so you may have to look hard to find the right spot.

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	9:59	0.3	10:52	2.4	2:33	4.2	5:12	4.3
SUNDAY	10:49	0.5	N/A	N/A	4:06	3.9	5:45	4.8
MONDAY	12:02	1.6	(11:36)	0.7	5:33	3.8	6:19	5.4
TUESDAY	12:59	0.7	12:22	1.0	6:49	3.8	6:55	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.2	1:06	1.3	7:56	3.9	7:33	6.4
THURSDAY	2:38	-0.9	1:50	1.6	8:56	3.9	8:13	6.8
FRIDAY	3:27	-1.4	2:34	1.8	9:53	3.9	8:55	7.0

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The Q-Line

Now that the school parcel tax passed last week, the local school district's \$13 million budget deficit will get some financial help.

Measure S — a \$225 flat tax on parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu — will be in effect for six years and raise an estimated \$6.5 million a year for the school district. School district administrators say many teachers who were supposed to be laid off will be able to get their jobs back. But there still are dozens of academic programs that face elimination if the school can't close its budget deficit.

Some believe the Santa Monica City Council should buck up this year and give more than its usual \$2 million annual con-

tribution to the district. Last year, the City Council gave \$3.5 million because of a similar budget crisis.

On June 17, the Council will be asked to give more to the school district when it adopts its budget.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know: "Should the City of Santa Monica give more to the local school district? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Turn the focus to state-funded education

Editor:

The big news about the success of Measure S was not that it passed, but that the election was regarded as "close." More than 67 percent of the voters of this great city said "yes" — that is a landslide victory. By way of comparison, it far exceeds the largest percentage of the popular vote of any American president since George Washington. Even Ronald Reagan, who won his "landslide" victory against Walter Mondale in 1984, got only 58 percent of the popular vote, which is, incidentally, the same percentage received in favor of last Tuesday's Manhattan Beach parcel tax, which failed.

Schools are chronically under-funded in California not because the voters want it that way, but because the system is warped by the two-thirds super majority rule, both at the local level and in the state legislature. The big lesson of this fight is that we must use the next six years — the duration of Measure S — to work on a statewide referendum to end this tyranny of the minority who just say "no," to our children.

The greatest state in the nation deserves the best public schools in the nation — the best facilities, the highest paid teachers, the most comprehensive arts, music and educational programs. Our school system should be a model for America, California's citizens should accept nothing less.

Our children are the fabric of the future, and taking good care of them now is the only way to ensure the healthy, prosperous tomorrow our state deserves.

Paul Gulino
Santa Monica

Homeless issue ignored by City Hall

Editor:

I agree totally with Bill Bauer's column, "Dealing with the vagrant not a high priority," (SMDP, June 6). Do any of the city council members live in the same city the rest of us do? I just walked up my alley tonight and encountered three homeless, one sleeping in a carport, one picking through trash, and another urinating while I walked past as if I wasn't even there. Yes, the alleys of Santa Monica are your toilet, young man. A few weeks ago one of our trash cans in the alley was on fire from someone's cigarette.

Last week I was getting on the Santa Monica Freeway from Lincoln Boulevard and saw four homeless sitting on the other side of the freeway fence (the side you aren't supposed to be on) in a circle drinking beers. Where's the cops? Where's the enforcement? If you ever walk down to our "beautiful" Promenade make sure you pass by the homeless youth with their dogs sitting around all day doing absolutely nothing. What a fine city we live in. Now, they raise the parcel tax and just had the bill approved to increase Santa Monica sales taxes — was it because they didn't manage the budget properly or is too much money going to the homeless problem and not the solution?

Mark Sanderson
Santa Monica

City should pay school district deficit

Editor:

The voters of Santa Monica have spoken. It's time for the Santa Monica City Council to respond.

The Santa Monica public schools have a \$13 million deficit that needs to be eliminated if we are going to maintain the quality of our outstanding education system. Approximately 70 percent of Santa Monica voters have agreed to tax themselves an additional \$6.5 million to help address this issue. In addition, many of the opponents of the parcel tax feel that the City Council should provide much more funding for education.

The Santa Monica City Council will decide on June 17 how to allocate a \$350 million budget. They need to step up and totally eliminate the public school deficit by providing an additional \$6.5 million (above their relatively modest current contribution) to these extraordinary public schools. The required funds represent less than 2 percent of the Santa Monica budget.

As a former state budget director and federal education official. I know two things:

1. The large Santa Monica City budget contains more than sufficient flexibility for

the Council to allocate an additional \$6.5 million to our schools without jeopardizing vital programs such as our city's commitment to quality social services. It's merely a question of staff creativity and political will by our council members. There isn't a competent finance director in the country who couldn't find this relatively small amount if his or her bosses told him to do so.

2. The Santa Monica public schools are among the best in the country. They are a community treasure and need to be fully supported by our political leaders.

If the City Council fails to meet this need, then the supporters of education in this community should place an initiative on the ballot in 2004 requiring a substantial allocation from the city on a permanent basis. Such an initiative would only require a 50 percent majority — a level that should be easy to attain, given the commitment to quality education that Santa Monica voters demonstrated in passing Measure S.

Harley Frankel
Santa Monica

Kid's future is in hands of City Council

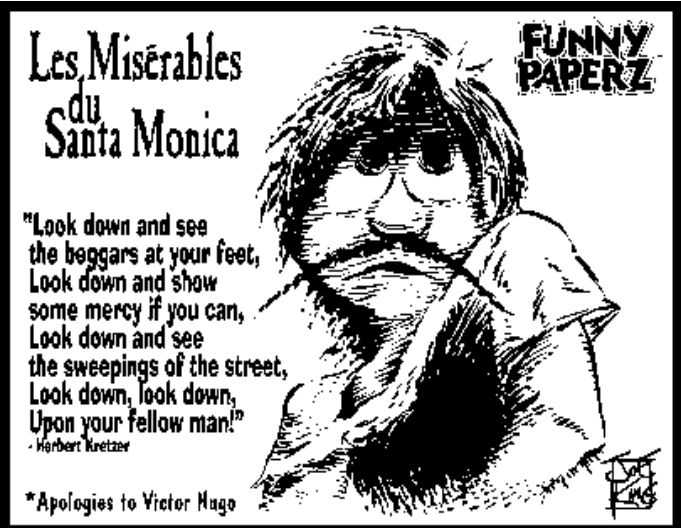
Editor:

Whenever I return from a vacation and I see the sun setting over the ocean, I feel incredibly lucky to be living in Santa Monica. But now that Measure S has won by a two thirds majority, I feel even more fortunate to be living here. And as a parent of two children in the public schools, I feel deeply grateful, especially to those people who voted in favor of this measure even though they don't have any children.

But the \$6.5 million that the generous citizens of Santa Monica have agreed to come up with will, sadly, only replace half of the \$13 million that will be cut annually from our school system's budget due to the severe cutbacks by the state.

Now it rests on the strong shoulders of the City of Santa Monica to make up the difference! The \$7 million needed only represents 2 percent of the city's operating budget of \$353.7 million per year. Education should be the City Council's number one consideration when they are deciding how to allocate the funds in their budget on June 17. I urge the City Council to listen to the strong message that the citizens of Santa Monica are sending them: There is nothing more important to us than making sure that our children continue to receive the finest education possible!

Sonya Sones
Santa Monica resident



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

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COMMENTARY



Some tips on what not to do in the restaurant business



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pissarra

A restaurant can go under for any number of reasons — bad food, bad service, bad location, fighting partners, employee embezzlement, but probably what kills more restaurants than any other cause is the lack of cash.

Underfunding will result in the chef cutting corners on quality, the staff feeling insecure, the purchasing manager buying second rate goods, the bar manager not providing the selection of wines and spirits that the market requires. Lack of advertising leads to low turn rates on the tables which leads to second rate staff due to low tips which leads to a bad reputation for quality and service which leads to lower turn rates ... soon the business is dead.

So what do people do to get around the perpetual cash flow problem? What most people do is they start using their sales tax and their withheld payroll monies as an interest free loan from the government. They figure that they can use the monies that they collect for the Board of Equalization and the IRS for a short-term loan, since they are not required to be deposited immediately.

This is the absolute most dangerous thing that can be done in any business. Under no circumstances should the sales or payroll tax be collected and used as an interest free loan.

The minute that any business begins to use the collected sales taxes for day to day operating expenses, they are getting into trouble. The fact of the matter is that every business person who begins to use taxes will swear on a stack of bibles that by the time they are due to be paid, the business will have made enough money to pay them back. This is where the trouble starts, soon the owner is robbing Peter to pay Paul, all of which is fine until, Peter meets Paul.

Aside from the mental anguish it causes, the truth is that a business person who collects sales tax, or payroll taxes is really a trustee for the government. They have a fiduciary duty to hold and then transfer those funds to the government when they are due. This is why failure to remit the funds to the government makes this a non-dischargeable event in bankruptcy.

Choose the right partner

The choice in partners is an age old problem dating all the way back to dawn of time. One theory is that you should work with someone you can trust with your life since after all they will be representing you when you are not around. The other theory is that you should be partners with your most bitter enemy and get the wait over.

The fact of the matter is that most people in the restaurant business are going to be good partners so long as things are running smoothly. Then the first day begins.

When picking a partner the things to look at are:

- Ego, yours and theirs

- How do each of you handle a crisis?
- Are you team players?
- Why do you want each other?
- Who has more to lose?
- What are each of your duties going to be?

- What are each of your strengths?

This process requires both parties to very objectively look at the reasons they are going into business together.

More important than the lease, the staffing, the concept and the food is the relationship between the partners. It will carry through the entire organization and staff, and customers will pick up when there are problems and it will effect the quality of food and service.

Before the partners set up a business they should sit down with a list of what they each see as their roles and see if there is overlap. Sometimes overlap is a good thing, both people should be gregarious. However, if both people want to work the floor, someone has to take of the back of the house (kitchen, pantry, bakery and office functions), which is where the food comes from.

Alternatively, if both want to work the back of the house, someone needs to be on the floor to deal with the customers and the staff.

A primary rule that is frequently ignored because no one ever thinks it will happen to them is that the banking be done by countersigned checks. No matter what pair are running a business, the checks over a certain dollar limit should always be countersigned.

This goes for everyone, including married couples, best friends since diapers and old war buddies who saved each others lives.

More good businesses have gone under due to one partner taking the money and leaving town than I care to remember.

Never let the bookkeeper sign the checks. This cannot be said often enough or loud enough. The bookkeeper can sign your signature better than you can. The need for controls with the books is paramount.

One restaurant, which shall remain nameless, had a bookkeeper who stole more than \$20,000 because the owner trusted them. Granted they were best friends for years, had been through loves, deaths, kids, sicknesses, life. They used to play cards together every other week and lived just blocks apart.

When the theft was finally discovered and the bookkeeper was confronted, she said she couldn't help herself. She did not even need the money, she just did it because she could.

This scenario has played itself out time and time again. One company, which was a court appointed property management firm, had a controller who stole \$50,000. His reason was the same, he did it because he could get away with it. Or so he thought, in the meantime the paying back of the stolen funds will take years, but the stealing of it took only months.

(David Pissarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pissarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpissarra@pissarra.com.)

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LOCAL

Officials come up with solutions for non violence

MARCH, from page 1

May 9 incident could have ended in tragedy like it did last week in Compton when a 3-year-old was killed. A bullet struck him in the head as a result of a drive-by shooting.

"That's what could have happened in this community and I can't help but think about what kind of pain it would have caused," he told the small congregation.

While none of the recent shootings have resulted in injuries, it has put the community on edge. There have been two community meetings regarding the ongoing violence in the Pico neighborhood and another one is scheduled for Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park.

"Our children are growing up on streets so dangerous that we can't go out on our porches and relax," said Rev. Felicia R. Bagneris. "We are making our presence known today. After several community meetings, this is what people wanted. Some of us have thrown up our hands and don't know what to do. We've seen people shot ... and we're tired of it."

About two dozen people, including Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, walked through the neighborhood between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., shouting "What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now" and "Peace, peace, on our streets."

Many residents standing in front of their homes and apartments looked on with no apparent emotion. de la Torre stopped to talk to a group of Latinos who had gathered in the courtyard of their apartment building listening to Latin music and drinking Tecate, a Mexican beer.

de la Torre, who grew up in the neighborhood, said he's participated in three peace marches in Pico since 1998, but the violence still continues.

"I hope today wasn't just a march but the beginning of a long, overdue process of putting our resources together and responding to a new wave of shootings and peace effort," he said.

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

de la Torre said the community has to focus on improving the relationship between African Americans and Latinos, who continue to be oppressed socially and economically.

Darrell Goode, the local branch presi-

dent of the NAACP, said his organization and the community need to work together to face a new battle — self hatred — as well as to promote non violence through demonstrating love for one another.

"We as adults have to set the bar so (children) can meet us and surpass us," he said.

Goode added that the NAACP will work with Santa Monica officials to help curb violence in the Pico neighborhood, despite that there have been problems between the two sides in the past.

In the meantime, various leaders representing a cross section in the community, recently met to develop short-term and long-term solutions. While understanding that the root cause of violence is complex, a sustainable outcome needs the cooperation of leaders in families, schools, churches, youth services agencies, law enforcement and the juvenile justice system, officials say.

Short-term solutions include:

- Community monitoring of the neighborhood.
- Increased police presence.
- Taking a spiritual approach, involving area churches.
- Bring schools, churches and the community together to help prevent violence.
- Establish trust with youth.
- Include law enforcement.
- Increase youth involvement.
- Identify youth who need services most and target programs for them.

Long-term solutions include:

- Job development for low-income youth and their families.
- Engage the business community in job creation and training.
- Create programs to ensure that a certain percentage of capital improvement jobs go to local at risk youth.
- Develop protocol for communication between youth serving institutions and law enforcement when conflicts arise.
- Develop support system for youth who are on parole or probation within schools and the community.

The Santa Monica Police Department has arrested six suspects who were allegedly involved in one or more of the five shootings that occurred in the area since May 9. The charges range from attempted murder to parole violations.

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.

Murder trial starts this week

TRIAL, from page 1

hitting him.

One bullet grazed his knee, while two other bullets entered through his hip and the back of his thigh. The fourth bullet went through Watson's calf, said Santa Monica Police Detective Virginia Obendain at the hearing.

Bell allegedly aimed a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver at Watson, who local merchants said had spent most of the afternoon hanging out on the street in front of BT Automotive, Bell's auto repair shop located on the 2600 block of Pico Boulevard.

Bell had reportedly stayed late waiting for a customer to pick up his car, which he

did at about 8 p.m. He was arrested in the BT parking lot about 30 minutes later after police responded to a call of shots being fired in the area.

Authorities found a box cutter and a half empty bottle of alcohol on Watson, Obendain said.

Raphling has implied Watson suffered from a serious mental health condition and said the two were fighting before the incident.

Shortly before the shooting, Watson was released from prison after allegedly attacking two women with knives, Raphling said at the hearing.

Bell is in custody at the Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on \$2 million bail.



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STATE □ NATIONAL



National unemployment rate hits nine-year high

BY LEIGH STROPE
AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's unemployment rate climbed to a nine-year high of 6.1 percent in May, but a slowing in the rate of job losses raised hopes that the weak economy is starting to recharge.

Still, it could be months before companies start hiring again.

Businesses cut just 17,000 jobs last month, following a revision in April in which no jobs were lost, the Labor Department reported Friday.

The annual revisions, made to better reflect actual economy conditions, showed that job losses this year were not nearly as steep as initially reported.

"We've got a long way to go," said economist Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "But as they say, the longest journey begins with a first step. It looks like we've taken that first step."

Stocks initially surged, but fell in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 21 points, but the Nasdaq was down 18 points.

Private employers showed an overall hiring increase, but that was offset by big government cutbacks, mostly at the state and local levels.

"Layoffs appear to be slowing, but we're not seeing enough hiring," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

"In good times people find new jobs quickly," he added. "Obviously, as anyone looking for a job will tell you, that's not happening now."

The 6.1 percent rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point from April, peaking at a level not seen since the country was emerging from the last recession.

July 1994 was the last time the jobless rate was at 6.1 percent. The last time the rate was higher was in April 1994, when it reached 6.4 percent.

Economists think the rate will continue to rise in coming months. As the economy improves, job growth probably will not be strong enough to accommodate all the job seekers. That would contribute to a rise in the unemployment rate, which happened last month.

"It's tough out there," said Pat Friend, president of the Association of Flight Attendants. About 10,000 members have been laid off since Sept. 11, 2001, she said.

The transportation industry has lost jobs for seven straight months. Airlines have been hardest hit, losing another 5,000 jobs in May.

For flight attendants, "I don't think we're finished reducing the work force," Friend said. "But we may be finished reducing it by layoffs." Airline work forces are being trimmed through attrition, she said.

Also driving May's overall payroll losses were manufacturing jobs, down 53,000, and government employment, down 25,000.

Some sectors gained jobs in May. The services industry added jobs, fueled by gains in professional and business services and in education and health.

Construction companies also added to their payrolls for a third consecutive month.

Another positive sign in the report was the hiring increase of 58,000 at temporary employment firms. Economists closely watch that industry, because it can signal when companies may begin to hire permanent, full-time workers.

Businesses remain cautious, said Carl Camden, president of Kelly Services, the Troy, Mich.-based temp company. But demand has increased at customer call centers, distribution facilities, technology and engineering companies, and in health care, education and finance.

The "prevailing economic ambiguity has most compa-

nies remaining tentative in initiating new projects and activities that spark large-scale job creation," Camden said.

May's report showed the average time for people to be out of work was 19.2 weeks. The number of people out of work 27 weeks or longer grew slightly by 300,000 to 1.9 million.

"The trend in job loss has been a hallmark of the Bush administration — 3 million more workers are without jobs today than when President Bush took office, and more workers are unemployed now than at anytime in the last 10 years," said John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

The Bush administration said Friday's report shows the president's policies are working, and the economy is improving.

The tax cut package passed by Congress last month "will put more money back in the pockets of America's working families, seniors and small business owners as soon as next month, stimulating the economy and helping to create new jobs," said Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Waiter vandalizes customers' home

By The Associated Press

A family who angered a waiter at a Norco Sizzler restaurant later was served a few dishes they didn't order: a gallon of maple syrup, raw eggs, and rolls of toilet paper across their lawn and shrubs.

Wayne Keller, 37, wife Darlene, 40, and their two children, had their home and mailbox saturated Saturday with smashed eggs and maple syrup. Their yard was decorated with toilet paper, duct tape and plastic wrap.

Police arrested several people in an SUV parked nearby, and grabbed someone darting out of the bushes.

Officers presented the alleged culprits to the Kellers.

"I can't explain how I felt," said Darlene Keller. "I just said, 'Oh, my God. It's the waiter from the restaurant.'"

Corona police arrested the waiter, his girlfriend and his two younger brothers. Police withheld their names.

Besides being booked for investigation of misdemeanor vandalism charges, the vengeful waiter also may be investigated for child endangerment because he brought his younger brothers with him, police said.

The Kellers had a dispute with the waiter earlier when Darlene Keller requested vegetables with her meal.

The waiter rudely responded the restaurant didn't have any vegetables, only baked potatoes, Wayne Keller said.

Wayne Keller asked to speak to a manager, who then cooked some broccoli and cauliflower for Darlene Keller.

Wayne Keller did not leave a tip, his wife and in-laws, who were dining with them, did.

The Kellers returned home and went to bed. At 1 a.m. Saturday, the doorbell rang.

Police were called, and Keller noticed a white sport utility vehicle parked in a driveway across the street with its brake lights on. It drove down the street but made a U-turn and parked several houses down.

When police arrived, they ordered a young man and woman out of the SUV. The officers also arrested someone dressed in black that ran from the bushes.

The waiter told police the vandalism was "just a joke," but the Kellers are not laughing.

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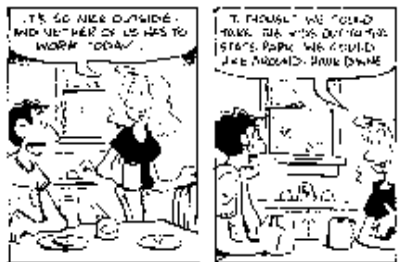
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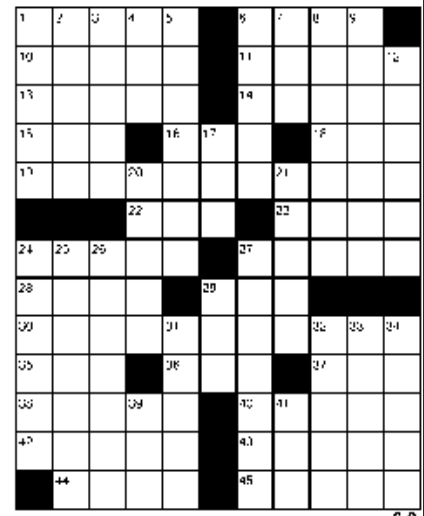
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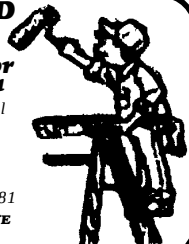
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BACK PAGE

Aroma of coffee beans too much for some residents

By The Associated Press

OJAI — A dispute is brewing over the aroma of roasting coffee beans at one cafe that some residents say are making them sick.

The fumes often craved by coffee lovers are so acrid that Ventura County officials should force Stir Crazy cafe to stop all roasting operations, according to a half dozen Ojai Valley residents.

But the coffee shop's owners believe that move would put them out of business. Roasting coffee beans help keep costs down and is well received by their cus-

tomers, co-owner Jody James said.

"All we ever wanted to do is have a nice little coffee shop," James said. "Have nice music and an area to have community meetings."

James has already upgraded the cafe's air filtration system and limited roasting hours in an attempt to appease the disgruntled residents. Despite the good-faith effort, the complaints continue at a rate of two to three a week — usually from the same four or five people, said Larry Scott, compliance supervisor with the county's Air Pollution Control District.

Some of the residents have filed the

grievances with the county organization, in which they claim that the vapors make their eyes water and their lungs burn. They say they are worried about the long-term health effects of inhaling roasting fumes.

"Personally I don't find it offensive," Scott said. "But people are sensitive to different smells. As a regulator, we can only try to smell the odor and then take enforcement action if necessary."

County officials have been out to the

neighborhood several times and so far have found not even a whiff of a problem, Scott said.

Other residents such as LaNette Donoghue said it would be a loss if the shop were forced to close.

"Sometimes we extend our castles beyond our boundaries," Donoghue, 56, said. "They have to realize this street is a business street and find a way to compromise."

Four legs are better than two

By The Associated Press

Llanwrtyd Wells, Wales — Four legs have once again beaten two.

The annual Man versus Horse race in Wales has gone to a horse. It finished the 22-mile race in just over two hours, beating the fastest human by 15 minutes.

Humans are given a 15-minute head start in the race, which this year featured 30 horses with riders, 300 individuals and 60 relay teams.

An individual has never won the race in the more than 20 years it has been run. A three-man team beat the fastest horse two years ago.

Psychic reaches dead pets

By The Associated Press

Philadelphia — After the loss of her dog Cassie, Sharyn Cerniglia wanted to know her golden retriever and friend of 12 years was OK. So she consulted with an animal psychic.

Cerniglia says she got a "heartwarming" mental picture of Cassie running by a stream and playing with children during an endless summer.

Psychics and skeptics alike say that Cerniglia is among a growing number of people who consult with psychics to communicate with dearly departed pets.

Kim Pickett teaches pet owners how to talk to their pets — the living and the dead. She says everyone has the ability to do like Doolittle.

But Joe Nickell — who researches claims of the paranormal — says most people who claim to be animal communicators are "fantasy prone personalities."



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