

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.

Small garage on Third Street becomes big issue

Appeal to go before the city council tonight

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

When Shirley Bly proposed building a garage underneath her Third Street home in her quiet Ocean Park neighborhood, she never thought it would come this.

After being opposed by her neighbors and denied by the city's Landmarks Commission, Bly's plans are scheduled to go in front of the city council tonight.

Opponents of her plan are troubled

because Bly's home is located in the Third Street Historic District — a preserved neighborhood of homes on Second Street and Third Street between Ocean Park Boulevard and Beach Street.

They say if Bly is allowed to build underneath the front of her home, other homeowners might follow suit.

"It would set a precedent for other homes in the neighborhood that don't have parking to seek the same type of thing," said Beatrice Nemlaha, a Third Street Historic District resident.

"The bottom line is that it's the wrong project," Nemlaha said. "There have been nine major projects proposed in the histo-

ry of the district and this is the first to ever be denied."

Bly's home sits above a small hill and the proposed garage would be located about three and a half-feet underground.

"It's being called a subterranean garage by those who oppose it," said Bly, a local real estate agent. "But it's going under the house, not under the ground."

See GARAGE, page 5



John Woods/Special to the Daily Press

Shirley Bly wants to build a garage underneath her house, pictured above.

Free parking in Santa Monica a pipe dream

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

There is no such thing as free parking in Santa Monica.

A few people learned that Monday after the city towed away their cars for illegally parking on Santa Monica Boulevard.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Temporary no parking signs are a common sight in Santa Monica.

But two business owners who saw the cars being towed allege that the city had no right to remove the vehicles. They say the city put up "no parking" signs after the cars already were parked in the spaces.

Oscar Delgado, the city's parking director, said that claim is not true. The signs were put up early Monday morning so construction crews could install bolts for new meters in the spaces between Second Street and Third Street on Santa Monica Boulevard.

There are about two dozen spaces along Santa Monica Boulevard that are currently free. However, that will change quickly because the city is installing meters along the new transit mall, Delgado said.

Marios Savvides, a building owner along Santa Monica Boulevard, said there were no signs posted in the morning. It wasn't until about 11 a.m. that the signs were put up by city officials, he said. Cars were then towed.

"They caused negligence," he said. "Whoever did this should be fired."

Savvides also said the city did the same

See PARKING, page 3

Pier administrator quits after six years on the job

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

An executive credited with leading the Santa Monica Pier through a six-year expansion resigned last week.

Jan Palchikoff resigned her post as executive director Friday to pursue "other business interests."

"I have learned so much in my position in this job," Palchikoff said. "I am trying to be expansive — and now I'm trying to find my next perfect job."

She agreed to stay on as a consultant for the next three months while the city conducts a nationwide search for her replacement.

In her six years at the pier's helm, Palchikoff — who was an event planner

for the Olympics and World Cup Soccer — brought corporate sponsorship to the pier, helped trademark its world famous sign and attracted more film shoots.

"When I came on they were looking for more of a focus on marketing the pier," she said. "We developed a comprehensive approach to public relations, event promotion and filmmaking."

But Palchikoff's approach to bringing in more revenue for the pier has been called into question by a slew of recent city council appointees to the pier's board of directors. In the past year and a half, seven of the commission's 11 seats have changed hands.

Instead of seeking national endorse-

See ADMINISTRATOR, page 5

Lafayette man pays fine for registering his poodle to vote

By The Associated Press

LAFAYETTE — A man who successfully signed up his poodle to vote as a Republican pleaded no contest Monday to a misdemeanor fraud charge and paid a \$250 fine.

Donald Miller, 78, registered his poodle Barnabas three years ago to protest the voter registration process.

"It could have been a lot worse," Miller said after his court appearance in Contra Costa County. "I didn't want

jail time."

Miller estimates thousands of ineligible California residents are registered voters. To test his theory, he filled out a voter registration card for Barnabas and patiently waited to see what would happen.

Contra Costa County soon confirmed the poodle was a registered Republican. But prosecutors were not so easily amused by Barnabas the GOP poodle once they found him out.

"He violated the law, and he openly admitted it," said Jim Sepulveda, senior Deputy District Attorney for the county.

Miller said he never cast a vote in the dog's name, though the dog did get a jury summons in March.

Miller returned the summons with a written explanation of Barnabas' reticence to participate in the civic process: "I have a short attention span, I have to go to the bathroom quite often and besides, I'm a dog."

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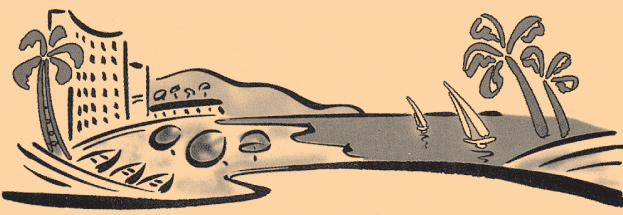
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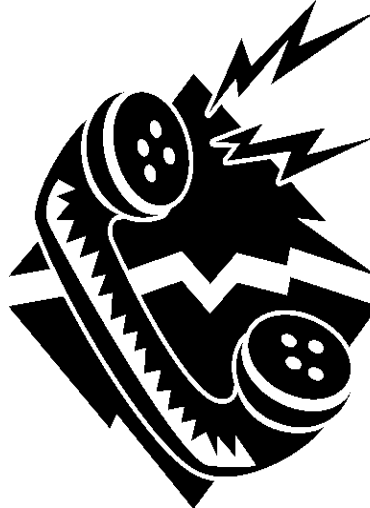
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Emphasize communication this morning, incorporating what might be a sudden shock or change. Test your ability to adapt once more. Focus on a personal or domestic matter later. Carefully consider an investment. Tonight: Head on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Manage a morning jolt carefully. A boss could be out of sorts. Do not openly discuss this matter until later. You will find someone responsive and perhaps ready to move on a key matter. Don't take anything as the final statement. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might have all that you can handle on your plate, but someone tosses you yet another item. Regroup and think. Emphasize your moneymaking possibilities in the later day. Others respond to inquiries in a manner you might not anticipate. Tonight: Shop a little.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might want to start your day slowly. Be fastidious when handling finances, especially when someone else might be involved. Think in terms of financial gain. Put your best foot forward in the late afternoon. Another responds. Tonight: Your smile wins the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use the early day to further a project. Though you might not get what you want, you will head in the right direction. Others act up. Are you surprised? You might want to pull back and think through your decisions and direction. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Assume more responsibility at work. You might need to redirect your energies quite suddenly. Your flexibility makes you a natural leader. Network, make meetings and talk to others in the afternoon. Success greets those who reach out for others. Tonight: Hook up with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Do research in the morning. Certain facts or a key discussion triggers your ingenuity. Share your thoughts with someone you respect. Take charge at work. Make an effort to make a difference at the workplace. Focus, and you'll accomplish a lot. Tonight: Network late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A partner runs with the ball. Though his or her actions could be a relief, you will need to focus on other matters. You easily could be overwhelmed by a family or domestic matter. Use the afternoon to solve problems and detach. Tonight: Invite someone for a drive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others seek you out and could turn your organization upside down. Give up being a control freak, if you are one! You'll find life is easier. Listen to another's point of view. Stay on top of key information about a partnership. Tonight: Enjoy someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Work goes in a new direction, especially regarding finances. Take your time, as you still might be overly tired. Allow more sensitivity in your interpersonal dealings in the afternoon. You might be surprised how many people will pitch in and help if you want. Tonight: Where the people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Allow your imagination to continue manifesting itself. Others depend on that quality, which emanates from you. Be more upbeat and positive in your dealings. Another does care much more than you're aware of. Let others pitch in. Tonight: You could be working very late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Realize your limits within a special relationship. You might not be in charge exactly as you would like to think. A sudden insight might have you regrouping. Think in terms of positive changes. Use your creativity and ingenuity. Tonight: Out on the town.

QUOTE of the DAY

“If it weren't for pickpockets
I'd have no sex life at all.”
— Rodney Dangerfield

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC Fourth of July celebration set for June 29

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's Fourth of July celebration will be held a few days early this year.

"Celebrate America" will take place Saturday, June 29 and feature a fireworks display at dusk, as well as music and food. In addition, this year's celebration will pay tribute to Santa Monica police and firefighters.

The festivities will be held at SMC's Corsair Field, located at 16th Street and Pico Boulevard, and admission is free. Parking is \$4 and free for SMC students and employees with parking passes.

Music will come courtesy of the Tom Nolan Band and the Santa Monica College Jazz Big Band, starting at 6 p.m., though gates open at 5 p.m.

Attendees can bring picnic dinners or purchase food from vendors. Alcohol, glass containers, barbecues and personal fireworks are not allowed.

For more information, call 310-434-3000.

10th anniversary party for HIV community center

By Daily Press staff

A silent auction and cocktail party will be held Saturday in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Common Ground — The Westside HIV Community Center.

The event will be held at a private residence in Hancock Park and tickets are \$75 and \$125.

Common Ground was founded in 1992 by a group of local citizens whose friends were too ill to travel to the nearest HIV/AIDS service provider. The organization now has a \$900,000 budget and delivers case management and social services to 220 men and women living with HIV/AIDS on the Westside.

The group also provides HIV prevention education.

For more information about the celebration, call 310-314-5496.

Veritas debate teams ready for meeting

By Daily Press staff

Teams for a Veritas debate are set for the Pico Neighborhood Association's Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 29 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Virginia Avenue Park in Santa Monica.

Representing the pro-Veritas side will be Paul DeSantis and Don Gray, while Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein and Ana Jara will represent the anti-Veritas point-of-view.

Skee-ball mania



John Woods/Special to the Daily Press
Visitors to Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier try their luck at skee-ball on Monday.

The Q-Line

After a win Sunday, the Los Angeles Lakers are on their way to being NBA champs once again. While they are doing a fine job keeping the New Jersey Nets at bay, fans know not to jinx their record by claiming victory too early.

However, Southern Californians are optimistic that their basketball team will prevail. Flags are being flown and parties are being thrown.

This week, Q-Line wants to know,

"What would be the best thing about the Lakers winning the NBA championship and how should we celebrate when the Nets are dunked?"

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.

Official denies city towed cars after erecting signs

PARKING, from page 1

thing three months ago when constructing the transit mall — officials put "no parking" signs up in the middle of the day while cars were parked in the spaces. They were then towed away.

"There is only so far you can push (people)," Savvides said. "It's beyond communism, it's a dictatorship."

Delgado said when he arrived on scene at 12:10 p.m. Monday, he told motorists who tried to park there that they couldn't. He said they disregarded the signs and

probably presumed parking was still free there.

Also, Delgado said the city only towed away three cars even though there were about 25 cars along the street that should have been removed.

"We only towed what we needed access to," he said. "If they can prove what time they were there and there were no signs, they will get their money back."

"If they want to fight their tow they can get their day in court. State law says you can contest it within 48 hours."

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OPINION

Restaurants in the zone could face tough choices

(Editor's note: This is the second installment in a series of columns about the hotly contested living wage ordinance. The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees \$12.25 an hour. Those businesses and their supporters have asked for the ordinance to be rescinded, which is before voters this November.)

In last week's column, I stated that one of the reasons I believe the Santa Monica's minimum wage ordinance constitutes bad policy is that it will lead to a loss of jobs and job opportunities for unskilled workers. The best example of this phenomenon will be in restaurants.

The typical restaurant expends approximately 30 percent of its sales for labor. Many of these employees are paid at or near minimum wage (currently \$6.75 an hour) because most of their income is derived from tips.

A waiter or waitress in a successful Ocean Avenue restaurant, for example, may make \$25 per hour or more from tips alone. Tips are shared with certain other employees, such as bussers, although there are some who do not receive tip income. These are usually the entry-level jobs, such as dishwashers.

The City of Santa Monica's law provides no credit for tips received by restaurant employees. This means that waiters making over \$30 per hour will be required to be paid an additional \$4-\$5.50 per hour by the employer.

The bottom line is that labor costs will increase by at least 50-60 percent. Simple arithmetic tells us that an increase in costs of 15-20 percent of sales will swamp the normal restaurant profit margin of 5-7 percent of sales.

Since cost increases of this magnitude cannot possibly be absorbed, restaurants will probably try the following options, none of which are acceptable:

1. Raise prices. This was the simplistic solution suggested by the city's economic consultant. However, common sense tells us a restaurant cannot simply raise prices 15-20 percent without a negative effect on business. If it could, it would have already done so.

Restaurants are in a very competitive and uncertain business, particularly in Santa Monica. Those covered by the ordinance (by being located in the designated zone and grossing over \$5 million in annual sales) compete with others that are either located outside the zone but nearby or are slightly smaller.

Attempting to increase prices by 15-20 percent across the board would create a major competitive problem for any restaurant, thereby making this option unfeasible. Would you and your friends

continue to patronize a restaurant if its prices increased this much?

2. Reduce labor costs. Restaurants will certainly analyze ways in which they can cut back on labor. One method would be to simply reduce the number of employees, while seeking to increase productivity by increasing workloads. Employees with more experience may be available because of the required increase in pay. The downside, of course, is the elimination of job opportunities for entry-level workers. (This was the point of my apple story last week.)

3. Reduce other costs. The major expenses for restaurants other than labor are food, equipment (including appliances, silverware, linens and similar items needed to operate the business, and interest on loans) and rent. There is very little a restaurant can do to significantly reduce these costs, particularly in an environment where rent has been steadily increasing.

4. Reduce revenue to get below the \$5 million threshold.

This is a strategy some restaurants have already considered. A restaurant can simply close during the more unprofitable hours — lunch for example — in order to reduce sales while maintaining an acceptable profit margin. Of course, workers who retain their jobs will not be helped and those who are suddenly superfluous will be looking for jobs elsewhere.

5. Seek a hardship exemption. The ordinance includes a provision allowing the city to give annual hardship exemptions to businesses that cannot comply with the mandated wage scale and remain viable. For the reasons set forth above, restaurants would almost certainly qualify. While there are several problems with the exemption concept, the primary difficulty is that the annual nature of the exemption makes it impossible to sign leases, obtain loans or make other long-term commitments.

6. Close. Restaurants, particularly along the Third Street Promenade, are already being hit with cost increases from worker's compensation premiums, rent and other sources. If they are unable to avoid paying the 80 percent increase in the minimum wage mandated by the ordinance, they will ultimately have no choice.

Proponents of the ordinance incorrectly argue that the impact on restaurants will be minimal because only a few have annual revenues of \$5 million.

Next week, I'll address this point and have some further thoughts about restaurants based on a recent article in the Los Angeles Business Journal, which reported that several restaurants are unwilling to locate in Santa Monica because of this ordinance.

(Tom Larmore is a property rights attorney and a Santa Monica resident.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

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.

LOCAL



Garage approval came before historic district

GARAGE, from page 1

Bly said other homes in Ocean Park look just like hers and they have double-door garages underneath their front exteriors. In fact, she has constructed an entire book of photographs illustrating that fact.

Initially, she proposed building an even larger garage under her home and received approval from the city to do so more than a decade ago. She didn't pursue the project then.

Then in 1990 the Third Street Historic District was approved. Bly said she was given assurances by those who wanted to create the district that she would still be able to build a garage if the historic district was approved.

"They told me that my garage could still be done if it looks right," she said.

But when she tried proposing the same project this year, the city asked her to scale down her plans. She complied and the new plans were approved by the city and passed along to her neighbors — a common practice when substantial construction projects are proposed in the historic district.

At first glance, the neighbors approved of what Bly wanted to build. But after they called a second meeting to get more detailed information, including a city staff report that opposed the project, they changed their minds and advised the Landmarks Commission to deny the project.

"I feel its an abridgment of our property rights by our neighbors," said Bly. "This whole process has cost us \$30,000 up to this point, and probably another \$5,000-to-\$7,000 by next week."

Some homeowners that have recently organized to fight possible historic district designations north of Montana Avenue have seized upon Bly's situation as an example of the problems historic districts create.

Calling themselves "Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation," the recently-formed committee has begun circulating a petition in an effort to allow homeowners a choice as to whether their homes should be classified as landmarks, or "structures of merit." The group needs 6,000 signatures to place the measure on the November ballot.

Committee members believe the current ordinance imposes restrictions on private property and constitutes an unwarranted intrusion of personal freedoms.

"I do think (Bly's situation) presents an opportunity to people who are interested in historic districts to see how they play out in the real world," said Tom Larmore, a local land use attorney and founder of the voluntary preservation group.

Larmore represents Bly in an unrelated legal matter, but said that Bly has had no involvement in the voluntary preservation movement.

But to landmark and historic district supporters, Larmore is pushing homeowner's panic button and trying to scare up support for his cause.

"Tom Larmore has a political agenda and I believe he is trying to exercise that again in this case," said Roger Genser, a Landmarks Commissioner. "He's deliberately fanning the flames here and making accusations regardless whether or not those allegations are true."

Santa Monica Pier exec resigns after six-year run

ADMINISTRATOR, from page 1

ments, the board has advocated services that focus more on local residents.

"Our direction is always changing in little ways," said Michael S. Klein, chair of the pier's board. "I suspect we will focus on local things."

"I don't think we'll continue to seek out national corporate sponsorship. The corporate sponsorship program didn't produce a huge source of income. It didn't succeed the way we would have liked, but then many things never do for us."

However Klein said the difference in opinion had little to do with Palchikoff's resignation.

"It's not an easy job," he said. "You're dealing with a tough city here, and there are lots of different currents and lots of different directions all going on at the same time."

Palchikoff said she enjoyed the position and that her job remained interesting because it was politically complicated.

"I am somebody who really enjoys a wide variety of challenges and problem solving," she said. "And this job definitely provided many challenges."

One of the most recent challenges was the city's eviction of the Boathouse Restaurant, which until April 15 had been a 50 year pier tenant. The pier's board decided to end the month-to-month lease

with the Boathouse and decided instead to bring in Bubba Gump Shrimp, a movie-themed chain restaurant.

Boathouse owner Naia Sheffield has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the city and the Pier Restoration Corp., claiming her restaurant was kicked off the Santa Monica Pier unfairly. Sheffield is demanding a jury trial, claiming breach of contract.

Officials say they are working to make the pier a more family-friendly environment, a direction the pier has been steadily moving in since Palchikoff was brought on board in 1996.

"We have a good constituency now and we want to maintain that," said Linda Sullivan, a longtime pier commissioner.

Councilman Herb Katz, a council liaison to the pier's board, said Palchikoff has been invaluable in sculpting the pier into its current incarnation.

"She's one of the best directors we've ever had," he said. "I definitely think she put the pier in the right direction and she had to work really hard to do it."

"I am going to miss her a lot."

When asked what words of advice she would give to her successor, Palchikoff said, "I would tell whomever it is the same thing I tell my kids when they go on the rollercoaster at Pacific Park, 'Take a deep breath and enjoy the ride.'"

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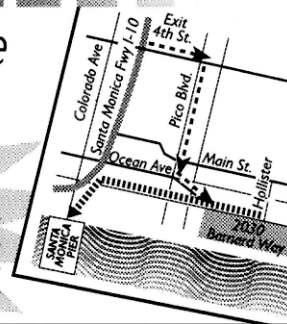
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STATE

Venture capitalists sustained 27.8 percent loss during 2001

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — After escaping serious damage in the early stages of the high-tech wreck, venture capitalists suffered even deeper financial wounds than stock market investors last year, according to industry figures released Monday.

Venture capital funds plunged by an average of 27.8 percent in 2001, a gruesome about-face from the prior year when the average fund gained 28.6 percent, according to statistics compiled by Thomson Financial/Venture Economics for the National Venture Capital Association, an industry trade group.

It marked the industry's first calendar-year loss since the trade group began tracking fund returns in 1980. Before 2001, venture capitalists' worst single-year performance came in 1984 when the average fund inched up by 1.3 percent.

The venture capital community's setback was even more severe than the Nasdaq composite index, the most popular benchmark for measuring the performance of publicly held tech stocks. The Nasdaq index fell by 21 percent during 2001, coming off a 39 percent loss in 2000.

The Nasdaq's prolonged funk has contributed to the dramatic deterioration in venture capital portfolios.

With the stock market discounting the shares of technology industry giants such as Cisco Systems and Sun Microsystems, venture capitalists are being forced to face up to the grim conditions and mark down the value of their holdings in industry startups.

Some venture capitalists say they already have made most, if not all, of the painful adjustments to their portfolios. Many other venture capitalists, though, still haven't fully recognized their losses on their books, something they likely will have to do soon unless the industry stages a surprising turnaround.

That means venture capitalists likely will be showing

losses through at least the end of next year and maybe even beyond, according to industry analysts and professionals.

"The next two to four years are going to be tough sledding," said San Francisco venture capitalist Chip Adams, a principal at Rosewood Capital.

Last year ended with the industry's fifth consecutive quarterly loss, dating back to late 2000.

The average decline of 3.9 percent during the final three months of 2001 marked an improvement from a third quarter loss of 10 percent, but "that should not be seen as a sign of recovery," warned Jeanne Metzger, a spokeswoman for the industry trade group. "We are not out of the woods yet."

The recent losses represent a sobering comedown for venture capitalists after registering a mind-boggling 166 percent gain in 1999, near the height of the dot-com

boom. By comparison, the Nasdaq index surged by 86 percent in 1999.

With the losses from the dot-com bust now piling up, some institutional investors want to cash out of struggling venture capital funds. But most venture capitalists say their investors are sitting tight and betting that the funds will deliver better long-term returns than the stock or bond markets.

Despite the deep losses of 2001, venture capital funds posted an average gain of 49.3 percent over the past three years and an average increase of 35.9 percent over the past five years, according to Venture Economics.

"Most institutional investors are used to weathering a storm like this," said Philip Sanderson, general partner of WaldenVC. "If you think in terms of 'buy low, sell high,' there has never been a better time to be investing venture capital."

Prosecutors may have evidence of prior acts in Winona Ryder theft case

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors may introduce evidence of prior misdeeds in the Winona Ryder theft case, a district attorney representative said Monday.

A notice filed with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office three weeks ago indicates the prosecution's plan to show that the "Girl, Interrupted" star's alleged shoplifting is part of a pattern of behavior.

Court records show no previous convictions against Ryder.

District attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons declined to provide details of the evidence, saying prosecutors would save that material for court.

"We did file notice of a motion to admit prior acts,"

Gibbons said, "but we don't discuss evidence unless it is testified on the record."

Ryder was ordered last week to stand trial on felony charges alleging she shoplifted nearly \$6,000 worth of merchandise from a Beverly Hills Saks Fifth Avenue store and possessed a drug without a prescription.

The actress, who appears in the upcoming Adam Sandler comedy "Mr. Deeds," is set to be arraigned Friday on charges of second-degree burglary, grand theft, vandalism and possession of a controlled substance.

She faces a maximum of about 3 years and 8 months in state prison if convicted on all charges, Gibbons said.

Her attorney did not immediately respond to calls for comment Monday.

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NATIONAL



On the fast track



Photo courtesy of Amtrak

The Amtrak Acela Express is shown in this undated handout photo. Since terrorists crashed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Acela has been running neck-and-neck with the Delta and U.S. Air shuttles, which have lost nearly a third of their riders through fear of flying and long check-in lines.

Fire threatens Denver after wind fans flames

BY JENNIFER HAMILTON

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A wind-driven wildfire closed in fast on Denver on Monday, and authorities said up to 40,000 people might be forced to leave their homes along the southwestern edge of the metropolitan area.

The fire burning across more than 75,000 acres roared to within five miles of residential neighborhoods, spreading toward Denver at about a mile an hour.

Firefighters were pulled off the lines in front of the fire because it was too dangerous.

"They just cannot see the front of this fire because of the smoke," said U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Barb Masinton.

Nearly 500 homes and several campgrounds about 50 miles southwest of Denver were evacuated Sunday. It wasn't immediately clear how many people decided to leave their homes Monday.

Masinton told The Associated Press that an additional 40,000 residents had been ordered to leave. But U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Susan Haywood, who is Masinton's boss, later said Masinton misspoke. She said that it was possible 40,000 would have to leave, but that no such order had been issued.

"It was our lifelong dream to live up here," said Carol Simone, who was forced to flee her home about 30 miles south of Denver. "It isn't about the house, it's the woods and the environment. If that's destroyed I'm going back to Florida."

The fire was started by an illegal campfire Saturday in the Pike National Forest 55 miles southwest of Denver and had doubled in size since Sunday. Campfires have been banned in national forests and most counties because of severe drought.

Nearly 300 firefighters were on the lines and more crews were ordered into place. Four bombers and four helicopters dropped fire retardant and water.

"There's nothing that can be done to stop this fire under current weather and fuel conditions," said Gov. Bill Owens,

who urged residents in the path of the fire to be prepared to leave if the order comes.

It was one of at least eight fires in Colorado, including an 8,300-acre blaze that destroyed 24 homes and sent residents fleeing in Glenwood Springs, near Storm King Mountain in western Colorado.

"There's nothing that can be done to stop this fire under current weather and fuel conditions."

— **BILL OWENS**
Colorado governor

The fire near Glenwood Springs was 5 percent contained Monday as improved weather allowed airplanes to resume bombing the flames with retardant. The fire destroyed 40 structures, including 24 homes. About 3,000 residents were ordered to evacuate during the weekend.

Frustrated residents waited for permission to return to their homes. A few people were allowed back in to briefly check on their property; some brought out family portraits, bags of clothing and pets.

Vickie Derby was relieved to find her home was spared.

"We figured the walls would all be melted," Derby said. "My flowers even bloomed over the weekend. There's hope at the end of the tunnel."

No injuries were reported at Glenwood Springs, but firefighters there were especially cautious because of memories of the Storm King fire that killed 14 firefighters on similarly dry, steep terrain in 1994.

In northeastern New Mexico, hundreds of firefighters were battling a fire burning across 85,000 acres on the Philmont Scout Ranch and Carson National Forest. The blaze was not threatening any structures.

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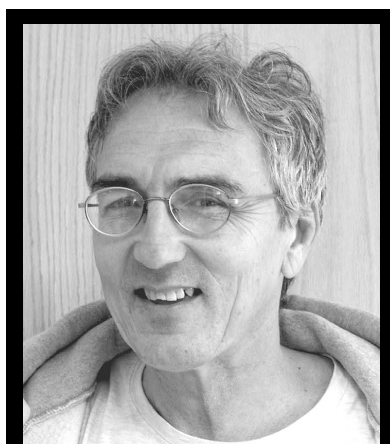
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SPORTS

Tyson, Nader and Lakers: Did this stuff really go down?



RON SMITH

It was a jungle out there this weekend. Laker fans and Laker-haters alike were left wondering — did this stuff really happen?

• Mike Tyson caresses Lennox Lewis' cheek after getting pounded into humility once and for all.

• Venus Williams' dad tells her to let her sister win this one, so Serena takes the French Open.



• Some New Yorker who hates Bob Baffert digs a hole in front of the number 10 post at the Belmont, and War Emblem stumbles out of the gate and blows his shot at Triple-Crown immortality.

• The Detroit Red Wings get a goal from the oldest guy on the ice in triple overtime to beat the Carolina Hurricanes.

• England wins the soccer war against Argentina, then that clumsy group known as the United States of America salvages a tie with South Korea in the World Cup thing.

• Ralph Nader announces he will launch an investigation into the disparity between the East

and the West in the NBA, citing the unfairness of there being only one Shaquille O'Neal, and why do the Lakers get him?

• Santa Monica is alleged to have a drinking problem.

• And before I forget — Friday night the Lakers toyed with the Nets, with Shaq throwing no-look behind-the-back bounce passes as he runs the other way. Were we watching the Harlem Globetrotters vs. the Washington Generals or the NBA Finals?

Los Angeles breezed to a 2-0 lead in the series, but even the Globetrotters have to keep the fans interested, so when the series shifted to the Meadowlands on Sunday, Game 3 actually contained moments of suspense.

Meadowlark Lemon — I mean Shaq — finished with only 35 points, missed some key free throws, and the Generals — er, the Nets — came this close to actually pulling one out.

Up by seven with three min-

utes left, New Jersey knew this script all too well and played the part to the hilt. The team brilliantly missed shots and graciously turned the ball over right on cue.

Enter Kobe stage left, Shaq stage right.

They made all the plays and all the shots in the last two minutes as the Lakers chewed up a 7-point deficit like it wasn't even there.

And our favorite extra added attraction, "The Robert Horry Picture Show," ran for an instant — a terrifying instant for the Nets — as he drilled the nothing-but-net 3-ball with just over two minutes left to finish off the comeback and give L.A. the lead for good.

Lakers win by 3, in Game 3. Horry hits his usual big 3-pointer — threes are wild, as Vin Scully might say.

Three-peat? I don't know about you, but I'll be glad when this thing ends Wednesday night so we can retire that word, thereby denying Pat Riley anymore

royalties everytime someone uses that word.

Yes, Wednesday will be the last night of the basketball season, and if it wasn't for the Laker Girls, they'd probably show the re-run of the Paraguay-Slovenia World Cup match for all the interest this hoop thing still holds for anyone but true Lakermaniacs.

A bartender friend has the brilliant idea of sending the Laker Girls over to the World Cup matches in Japan to dance at halftime and thus help generate greater American viewer interest. We may not know a striker from a mid-fielder, but we do know how to make a show of it.

In exchange, maybe the NBA could borrow that rule from soccer where the referees can arbitrarily add on "extra time" at the end of games. Let the clock roll on for as long as it takes to give New Jersey at least a ghost of a chance to win a game.

Dodgers scoring in bunches lately

By The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Los Angeles Dodgers just won't stop hitting.

Marquis Grissom and Shawn Green homered as the Dodgers beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10-5 Monday night.

Hiram Bocachica and Paul Lo Duca drove in two runs apiece for the Dodgers, who have won 16 of 23. During that stretch, Los Angeles has scored 145 runs.

"We did a fantastic job of manufacturing a few runs, and we hit a few homers," manager Jim Tracy said. "Those are the kinds of things we take pride in."

The Dodgers have 89 extra-base hits in the last 23 games. They've

had at least 10 hits in 14 of the past 20 games.

Los Angeles moved within one game of NL West-leading Arizona, which lost 7-5 to the New York Yankees. There was a loud cheer in the Dodgers clubhouse — where the game was on TV — when New York's Shane Spencer hit a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth inning.

Los Angeles starter Hideo Nomo (6-5) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings to win his fourth straight decision.

"Today, the hitters scored a lot of runs, and I think that is the reason we won," Nomo said.

Nomo struck out three and walked two. He had walked 47 over 74 innings entering the game.

"For the first time in a while, in

my opinion, the efficiency of his pitches were by far better than what we've seen over the course of his last three or four times out," Tracy said. "He was much more aggressive early in the count. I thought his tempo was better, and I know I wasn't seeing things."

Terry Mulholland pitched two scoreless innings in relief for the Dodgers, and Guillermo Mota allowed two runs in the ninth.

Chris Gomez hit a solo home run for the Devil Rays, who have dropped nine of 11 and have the worst record in the majors at 20-42.

"The guys didn't quit and that's encouraging," Tampa Bay manager Hal McRae said. "The guys are not going to quit, and I'm not going to quit on them."



National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press

**All Times EDT
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Wednesday, June 5

L.A. Lakers 99, New Jersey 94, Lakers lead series 1-0

Friday, June 7

L.A. Lakers 106, New Jersey 83, Lakers lead series 2-0

Sunday, June 9

L.A. Lakers 106, New Jersey 103, Lakers lead series 3-0

Wednesday, June 12

L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 9 p.m.

Friday, June 14

L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 9 p.m., if necessary

Monday, June 17

New Jersey at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., if necessary

Wednesday, June 19

New Jersey at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., if necessary

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- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
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- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
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Chicago man accused of alleged 'dirty bomb' plot

BY TED BRIDIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government on Monday announced the arrest of an American accused of plotting with al-Qaida terrorists to detonate a "dirty bomb" to spread radioactive material, possibly targeting Washington.

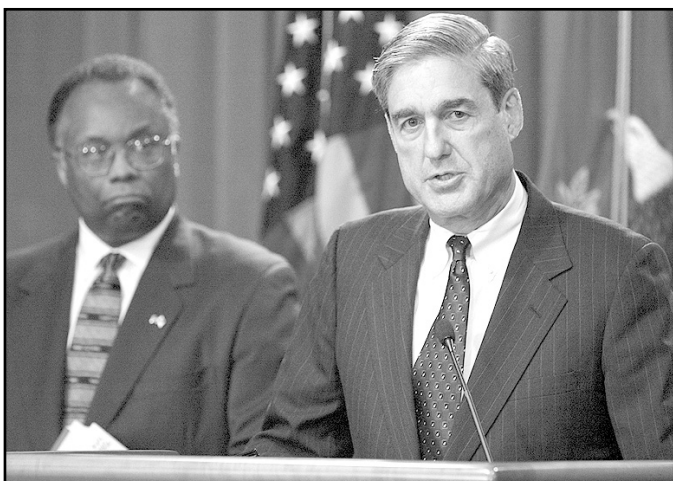
Authorities said the alleged scheme, involving a former gang member from Chicago who was raised Catholic but converted to Islam, went only as far as the planning stages. Undersecretary of State John Bolton indicated the man was carrying plans for the attack when he was picked up in Chicago.

Jose Padilla, 31, also known as Abdullah al Muhajir, was arrested on May 8 as he flew from Pakistan via Zurich, Switzerland, to O'Hare International Airport. Officials said the CIA and FBI had helped foil the alleged plan, and FBI agents were waiting for Padilla as his plane arrived at the gate. Authorities said they believed he had returned to conduct reconnaissance for al-Qaida.

President Bush said, "We have a man detained who is a threat to the country and that thanks to the vigilance of our intelligence gathering and law enforcement he is now off the streets, where he should be."

A "dirty bomb" — traditional explosives combined with radioactive material — would not result in a nuclear explosion, but a powerful device could release small amounts of radioactive material over dozens of city blocks. Experts believe the most devastating effect would be the panic caused and the difficulty sending rescue workers into the contaminated area. For that reason, it has been called an ideal terrorist weapon.

In an unusual legal twist, the Justice Department handed the Brooklyn-born Padilla to the Pentagon for indefinite imprisonment as an "enemy combatant." Government lawyers cited a 1942 Supreme Court ruling permitting such a transfer. Padilla had been held for weeks in New York, then was flown on Monday to a



Doug Mills/Associated Press

FBI Director Robert Mueller, right, accompanied by Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, meets reporters at the Justice Department in Washington on Monday where he discussed the May 8 arrest in Chicago of Abdullah Al Mujahir, an American citizen also known as Jose Padilla, accused of conspiring with al-Qaida terrorists to build and detonate a radioactive "dirty" bomb in the United States, possibly in the nation's capital.

Navy brig in Charleston, S.C.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the al-Qaida apparently believed Padilla would be permitted to travel freely within the United States because of his citizenship and his U.S. passport.

"We have acted with legal authority both under the laws of war and clear Supreme Court precedent, which establish that the military may detain a United States citizen who has joined the enemy and has entered our country to carry out hostile acts," Ashcroft said.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the apparent target was Washington. Speaking at a

news conference, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the scheme was "still in the initial planning stage," and that Padilla "had indicated some knowledge of the Washington, D.C., area."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said investigators do not believe al-Qaida has acquired enough radioactive material to build such a weapon.

In a statement attributed to al-Qaida spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, the group said: "We have the right to fight (Americans) by chemical and biological weapons so that they catch the fatal and unusual diseases that Muslims have caught due to their chemical and biological weapons."

Ashcroft, who first disclosed the arrest in a television announcement from Moscow, said Padilla "trained with the enemy," studying how to wire explosive and researching radiological weapons. Ashcroft said Padilla met several times in 2001 with senior al-Qaida officials in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he traveled after he served one year's probation on state weapons and assault charges in Sunrise, Fla.

Information leading to Padilla's arrest came in part from U.S. questioning of captured al-Qaida leader Abu Zubaydah, one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants, said two U.S. officials. Ashcroft said information about the plot came from "multiple independent and corroborating sources."

Padilla first met Zubaydah in Afghanistan in late 2001 after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, then went to Lahore, Pakistan, to research dirty bomb techniques with an unidentified associate, officials said. At Abu Zubaydah's request, Padilla traveled to Karachi, Pakistan, in March to meet several senior al-Qaida officials and discuss bombings of U.S. gas stations and hotels, officials said.

Bolton, the State Department undersecretary, referred to "the arrest of the terrorist and the plans that he was captured carrying." Bolton declined to elaborate on his remarks.

Padilla's criminal history in the United States dates to growing up in Chicago, where his family moved when he was 4. He was convicted at 15 as a juvenile of aggravated battery, armed robbery and attempted armed robbery. A law enforcement official said Padilla was in custody there between November 1985 and May 1988.

In Florida, where Padilla moved after his release in Chicago, he was convicted in 1991 in Sunrise on charges of aggravated assault and discharging a firearm, court records show. Padilla, who identified himself as Catholic when he was booked on those charges, served one year of supervised release, until Aug. 4, 1993. A Justice official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Padilla converted to Islam after his 1993 release.

Court records also show Padilla with speeding convictions in 1993 and 1997, and his driver's license was suspended in 1996. Padilla also completed a traffic law substance-abuse course in 1992, but it was unclear whether that stemmed from an arrest.

Moroccan authorities announce arrests in breakup of terror cell

BY NICOLAS MARMIE

Associated Press Writer

RABAT, Morocco — Moroccan police arrested three Saudi nationals who were allegedly planning attacks against U.S. and British war ships in the Strait of Gibraltar, key government officials said Monday.

The men were arrested last month and claimed to belong to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, the Moroccan officials said on condition of anonymity.

They said that the suspects planned to sail a dinghy loaded with explosives from Morocco into the strait to attack the vessels.

The plan was similar to one carried out in October 2000, when two suicide bombers in a small dinghy rammed the USS Cole destroyer in a port in Yemen, killing 17 sailors.

There was no immediate U.S. comment on the arrests or alleged plot.

The names of the suspects, who range in age from 25 and 35, were not released.

The arrests were made with the help of intelligence services of "several friendly countries," one of the officials told The Associated Press.

It is the first confirmation of a crackdown in Morocco since the United States and its allies launched a military campaign in Afghanistan to destroy al-Qaida.

The men placed under arrest are not wanted in any other country, the officials said.

A French judicial official on Monday confirmed the existence of "an anti-terrorist police operation in liaison with Western interests in the Strait of Gibraltar."

The United States blames bin Laden's network for the Cole attack and the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

There are also indications that an

April 11 terrorist attack against a synagogue in Tunisia, which killed 19 people, may also be linked to the al-Qaida.

If al-Qaida operatives are confirmed to be behind the attack, it would mark the terror group's first known successful operation outside of the war zone in Central Asia since Sept. 11.

Brazilian police say drug lord killed journalist investigating the underworld

BY BERND RADOWITZ

Associated Press Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — An undercover TV journalist reporting on crime and drugs in Rio de Janeiro's shantytowns was tortured and put to death with a sword by a drug lord who runs his territory like a medieval fiefdom, police said Monday.

Tim Lopes of Globo television was captured June 2 as he tried to infiltrate a dance party in the Vila Cruzeiro shantytown in northern Rio, where gangs sold drugs and staged illicit sex shows.

Lopes, 50, was taken to a nearby shantytown, Favela da Grota, where he was shot in the feet, brutally beaten and killed with a Samurai-style sword by drug baron Elias Pereira da Silva, known as Elias Maluco, or Mad Elias, police said. Gang members then burned Lopes' body.

Police Chief Zaqueu Teixeira said his

forces had confirmed details of the killing from two members of Silva's gang who were arrested Sunday in Vila Cruzeiro, Fernando Satiro da Silva and Reinaldo Amaral. Anonymous calls to the police last week contained similar details.

More than 40 officers were searching the shantytown Monday for Lopes' remains. A charred body was found last week and is undergoing DNA tests. Video film was found next to the body but Globo said it was not a type used by their reporters.

Lopes, a prize-winning reporter who brought together murderers and relatives of their victims on a prime-time weekend news show, had already angered drug lords this year by filming and broadcasting images of an open air drug bazaar in another slum.

In a statement, Globo chief editor Carlos Henrique Schroeder said: "Tim died defending a population who lives helplessly under the terror of drug trafficking and

organized crime."

Lopes was investigating so-called "funk" dance-parties in slums after hearing complaints about the parties that involve open drug abuse and explicit sex, Schroeder said.

According to the two detained gang members, Silva insisted on killing Lopes personally.

Most of Rio's shantytowns are ruled by drug lords like fiefdoms. Violence and gang shoot-outs are everyday occurrences and, as a result, Brazil has one of the world's highest homicide rates.

"Organized crime is gaining space where the state isn't present," opposition congressman Orlando Fantazzini said.

Brazil's Association of Newspapers called Lopes' slaying "the manifestation of a cancer in the midst of the community."

Hundreds of journalists marched through Rio's streets last week demanding greater protection.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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| 12 Used up | 4 "Roses — red ..." |
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| 17 Lingerie item | 8 Belgrade resident |
| 18 Sunday talks | 9 Personalize, in a way |
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6-11

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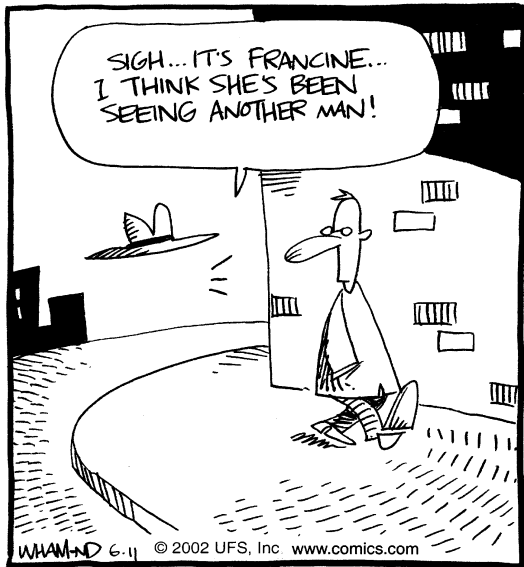
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Non-needy farmers getting generous subsidies

Still more information on beneficiaries came out on the federal farm subsidy program mentioned in News of the Weird four months ago (and which Congress voted to expand substantially in April). It has already been widely reported that generous subsidies go to non-needy "family farmers" such as Enron's Kenneth Lay, newsman Sam Donaldson, basketball's Scottie Pippin, and the nonstruggling Ted Turner and David Rockefeller. In March, the Associated Press reported that major league baseball player Kevin Appier has received several thousand dollars in subsidies for his farm in Kansas, which he bought because as a kid, he always dreamed of playing baseball and being a farmer. "I have no idea why I wanted to have a farm," he said. "I wasn't raised on a farm or anything. I just always thought it would be neat."



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THE SANTA Monica Daily Press is looking for local columnists to contribute to its editorial page. Knowledge of the city's issues is helpful. Send your ideas and contact information to:

Carolyn Sackariason
530 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 200
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Employment

Ready to dig into Santa Monica?

The Santa Monica Daily Press is looking for experienced journalists to contribute on a freelance basis to its daily coverage of Santa Monica. Applicants must have a knack for investigative stories and a hard news background. Newspaper experience is required and daily experience is preferred. If you want to have some fun in a growing newsroom at Santa Monica's only daily newspaper, send your resume, clips and story ideas to:

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APARTMENT WANTED: Studio, 1 bedroom or bachelor apartment. Good person/bad credit. www.angelfire.com/space/santamonicaarea

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FIRST Car! Good Condition. \$1000 - \$3000 range. Call Lee (310)678-7886.

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1-3 BEDROOM apartments. \$1,475-2,500. All hardwood floors, newly remodeled, light, bright. 1920's old world charm. Garden courtyards with enclosed patios. (310)454-5495. Cell (310)770-2148.

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MARKET YOUR apartment in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters! For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

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SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 1bdrm/1bath, 1/2 block to beach, light upper, hardwood floors, stove, 233 Ashland. (310)396-9611.

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 Nice unfurnished 2 bedroom in private triplex. New hardwood floors and paint. Large kitchen w/dining area. Includes stove, refrigerator, W/D and blinds. Safe and secure. Controlled access parking. 1 year minimum lease. Available NOW! 5 blocks west of SMC. Call Paul (310)452-3673.

SANTA MONICA \$2,300.00 2bd/2ba, \$2,500.00 3bd/2ba. Beautiful cottages, hardwood floors, skylights, gardens. Quiet neighborhood. All appliances. 1516 Maple Street. (310)749-7788.

SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, carpets, laundry. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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VENICE WALK street, \$1,648. 2BR, 1BA, west of Main, new decor, patio, laundry. (310)450-0326.

VENICE/SM \$875.00 Studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Senior citizen 62+ only. 310-261-2093.

For Rent

W. LOS Angeles \$650.00 1 bdrm, pet ok, R/S, carpets, laundry, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

WESTWOOD \$500.00 Private bedroom, carpets, A/C, pl, laundry, gated parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Guest Houses

CULVER CITY \$800.00 Guest House, R/S, hardwood floors, A/C, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

MARKET YOUR Guest House in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$2150.00 2bdrm/1ba, 1 year lease. Remodeled kitchen, W/D, berber carpets, no pets. (310)396-7050.

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COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

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STORAGE ROOM in Santa Monica, North of Wilshire. \$125/mo. (310)394-8121.

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GET YOUR message out! For only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to run your announcement to over 15,000 interested readers daily.

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VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

Announcements

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Frog CD popular in New Jersey

By The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Some unlikely tunes are leaping up the charts in New Jersey.

A new CD featuring frogs croaking is selling so fast that state wildlife officials are having trouble keeping it in stock.

"It's pretty amazing," Linda Tesauro, executive director of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, said last week. "We never expected these to be as popular as they are."

Performers include the indigenous Pine Barrens Treefrog, the chirping Northern Spring Peeper, and the Carpenter Frog.

Frog fans also are buying the accompanying book "Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of New Jersey."

Initial runs of 1,000 copies for each item sold out in 10 weeks — a record for the state Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Non-game Species Program. A second run of 2,000 is expected within days.

The frog sounds were recorded in the woods and streams of the Garden State. The CD is meant to teach listeners to identify the calls and chirps of the tiny amphibians.

The CD and book sell for \$10 each or \$18 for the set.

Fire takes one cat, leaves another

By The Associated Press

CANON CITY, Colo. — Bill and Shirley Smith lost their cat in last week's destructive wildfires here. Lucky for one lost kitty, they're not too heartbroken to open their home again.

The Smiths plan to adopt a frail and burned kitten

found in the ashes.

The wildfire, one of the worst in Colorado history, destroyed 88 homes, including the Smiths', about 100 miles southwest of Denver. The Smiths saved their three dogs before fleeing but couldn't find the cat, R.C.

Tuesday night, Bill Smith's daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Jon Marsh, found the kitten while searching for R.C.

"It wasn't what we were looking for, but we saved something that was living and breathing," Linda Marsh said.

The dehydrated kitten had second-degree burns on its paws, ears and nose. A veterinarian at the Fremont Veterinary Hospital in Canon City bandaged its paws and administered antibiotics.

It was expected to fully recover.

Car thwarts thieves

By The Associated Press

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va. — A man's plan to steal his neighbor's car was foiled when the car broke down and he was caught pushing it back into the driveway.

Michael Peterson allegedly broke into John Dailey's home, took a set of car keys, helped himself to soft drinks from the refrigerator and stole a 1985 Honda Civic parked in the driveway, police said.

Peterson and a male juvenile accomplice knew Dailey would be out of town, said state Trooper G.S. Petsko.

As they fled, the car "began to malfunction and stopped in the roadway," Petsko said. "Disgruntled, they pushed the vehicle back to the residence."

Dailey's nephew spotted the men and eventually called police.

Peterson, 23, was arraigned Wednesday on charges of

burglary, destruction of property, receiving a stolen vehicle, larceny and unauthorized use of a vehicle. He was released on \$5,000 bond.

Peterson faces up to 22 years in prison if convicted.

Petsko said the 16-year-old juvenile accomplice would face similar charges.

'Longtail T' solves plumber crack

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin company has added a few inches to the standard T-shirt to put an end to an embarrassing problem that seems to plague plumbers.

The "Longtail T" from Belleville's Duluth Trading Co. went on sale in March with the question, "Been accused of sharing a little too much of yourself at the job site lately?"

Sales of the \$8.99 shirts took off quickly, company spokesman Mike Klawitter said.

"We've just gotten a tremendous response," Klawitter said. "They've just been flying off the shelves, and we hope it continues."

The idea for the Longtail T comes about from simple creative thinking, Klawitter said.

The T-shirt, which is three inches longer than a normal T-shirt, is supposed to prevent the malady of over-exposure when a gentleman bends over.

"We pride ourselves on solving problems," Klawitter said.

Klawitter said the company will have extra telephone operators ahead of Father's Day.

"It's difficult to measure what the response will be," he said. "But we're preparing for extra orders."

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