FREE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2003 Volume 2, Issue 180

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
11, 21, 15, 2, 28

DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: **9, 4, 1**
Evening picks: **3, 1, 2**

DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit
2nd Place: 02, Lucky Star
3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:40.34



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

Pennsylvania's attorney general and prosecutors in Arapahoe County, Colo., made similar interpretations of child pornography laws recently in defending their decisions not to reveal information. The attorney general said he could not publicly identify Web sites he had ordered suppressed by Internet service providers because, to identify those sites would be "disseminating" child pornography. And the Colorado prosecutors refused to show defendant Joseph Verbrugge the 200 photographs it would use against him (as is required in all criminal cases) because to do so would be to disseminate child pornography to him. (In January, a Colorado appeals court rebuked the prosecutors.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Tumescence is the period between pubescence and senescence."

– Robert Byrne

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Change on the horizon at Santa Monica Pier

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer





Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

(Left) When the parking lot on the pier is full as it's shown here, motorists are directed to beach parking along the Pacific Coast Highway. A new bridge will directly funnel motorists to the beach lot north of the pier. (Right) Ben Franz-Knight, the new Pier Restoration Corp. director, has big plans for the pier.

Expect to see some changes on the Santa Monica Pier this year.

Not that there haven't been some already. With different faces on the Pier Restoration Corp. board and a fresh executive director, an entire new outlook on how to run Santa Monica's most popular tourist destination is in the works.

A new set of priorities has been set into motion that includes getting new restaurants onto the pier, building a new bridge ramp that leads to beach parking, rebuilding the breakwater to bring back the boat harbor and developing more local events instead of corporate sponsored ones.

The PRC board has experienced little change over the past decade, with some members staying on as long as 16 years. That may be partly the reason the public hasn't seen much change happen on a pier that sees between 25,000 and 50,000 visitors on a summer day.

A couple of key restaurant locations have remained vacant for years and the attractions have remained stagnant, leaving few reasons to go to the pier, some observers say.

In the past seven months, six new people have been appointed to the 12-person PRC board. Two more are leaving at the end of the year.

Ben Franz-Knight was officially hired as the new PRC executive director earlier this spring. Franz-Knight, who had been serving as interim director for the past year, said he's paid less than the previous director to do more.

And that's just how he wants it.

The PRC's $560,000 budget, which is funded mostly by City Hall, has for years operated in the red. Next year, it will have an estimated $22,000 surplus, despite that the city will give $55,000 less.

"It's a direct change in operational philosophy," Franz-Knight said. "I want to be completely transparent about what we do down here."

The savings mostly come from reducing administrative expenses, including Franz-Knight's annual salary of $63,000 which pales in comparison to the former director's salary of $111,000.

There have been other savings in salaries as well. The person in charge of corporate sponsorships, who was paid $60,000, has been replaced with a marketing

See PRC, page 5

Murder trial of local businessman underway

By Daily Press staff

After three days, jurors are still being selected in the murder trial of a Santa Monica businessman.

Lawyers are expected to make opening arguments today in the case against Michael Ward Bell, 54, of Los Angeles.

Bell is accused of fatally shooting Andre Watson last July in front of BT Automotive, the Pico Boulevard auto repair shop that Bell operated.

Watson, described as a transient, was shot six times.

Witnesses and police officers testified in a January preliminary hearing that Bell allegedly aimed a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver on Watson and fired multiple rounds.

Local merchants said Watson had spent most of the afternoon hanging out on the street in front of BT Automotive, located on the 2600 block of Pico Boulevard.

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

Jury selection began on Friday in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen at the Airport Courthouse near LAX.

Out of service



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

A mail truck crashed into a tree just north of Lincoln and Santa Monica boulevards on Tuesday afternoon. The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to the scene while postal workers looked on. The driver was taken to a local hospital and his condition was unknown.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Words said might be difficult to take back. Refuse to give in to sarcasm and other such behavior. You might not be realistic, and you might not care, either. Extremes mark a relationship. A flirtation could heat up, as well as a relationship with a child. Tonight: Home. Let it all hang out. Relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others come toward you. Why not listen to what they have to offer? You might be delighted by what comes down your path if you remain open. Your imagination could add that special touch to a relationship. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Dig into work, though use care with the words you choose. Sarcasm reigns. Words said are difficult to take back, and feelings might never be the same. Use your natural charm, and everything will fall into place. Tonight: Work late, but screen your calls.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination leads others toward a new idea. But keep your eye on the words you choose as well as extravagance. Set boundaries, knowing what it is you want and where you are heading. Tonight: Take a midweek break. You need some fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Family, real estate and investments are a major focus. You might like what comes down your path if you stop struggling with a partner or associate. Opportunities come from a positive attitude. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Follow a loved one's suggestion. Let it all hang out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You speak your mind, but your word choice might not be the best. Others could be shocked! Instead, just set an example, and others will naturally follow. Success heads your way if you use this simple technique. Others appreciate a discreet approach. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Handle finances as directly as you can. What seems destined for success could be heading you toward a major upheaval. You might not be looking at the complete story. Talk to the experts. Take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Your treat. Follow your pals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your personality melts away another's strong reaction. Use your assets, especially if you want to move a project that could be locked or jammed. One sees a situation one way, and someone else sees this same situation differently. Tonight: It is your decision, though you probably will go out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Stepping into another's shoes might keep you from sticking your foot in your mouth. Understanding opens up relationships, especially one that is key to you. You might want to be more realistic about what this person offers. Tonight: Curl up with a good book and get a good night's sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Pull your weight. Make what you want happen and do nothing halfway. You find that a financial request might be worth obliging. Others help you with suggestions and could delight you with their news. Tonight: Where the action is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take charge at the workplace. You'll get a lot done if you place your high energy properly. You might not be seeing the whole situation. Feedback from those around you illuminates a crack in your thinking. Face facts. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Keep asking questions, and you'll come up with noteworthy solutions. Understand what might be occurring with a co-worker. In fact, let this person chip in. He or she really wants to help. Allow others to feel part of a project. Tonight: Start thinking about a weekend getaway.

CORRECTION — In the June 10 edition, the information regarding the front page photo was inaccurate. The construction crews were working on the RAND Corp. building, not the Public Safety Building.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica recognized for its salad bars

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's mayor on Monday was recognized at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Denver for improving the quality of life here.

Mayor Richard Bloom received an outstanding achievement award in the 2003 City Livability Awards Program for his exemplary leadership in developing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities.

The award centered around the Santa Monica Farmer's Market salad bar program. Now in its fifth year, it's a multi-agency effort that demonstrates Bloom's ability and city staff to lead, inspire and shape good public policy, officials say.

Working from within City Hall and a mandate from a Sustainable City resolution, Bloom and city staff were able to achieve policy goals in the school district by providing fresh, farmer direct salad bar lunches to every Santa Monica student.

As a result of the program, Santa Monica students have access to more nutritious food at a cost savings to the school district and California farmers have realized a new source of recognition and revenue, officials say.

An independent panel of judges, selected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, determined the winning cities from a pool of 219 applicants, based on three criteria — mayoral leadership, creativity and innovation, and broad impact on the quality of life for residents.

Celebrate Flag Day the Elk's way

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks Lodge 906 will celebrate America on Thursday by hoisting the country's flag in observance of Flag Day, which is officially on June 14.

The ceremony will consist of a history of the United States flag. Boy Scout Troop 915 and Girl Scout Troop 506 will present a succession of flags beginning with the Pine Flag, Snake Flag and ending with the current 50-star flag.

"This order is distinctively American," said Radean Kiesz, exalted ruler of Santa Monica. "It has linked its destiny to the destiny of our country and made the flag its symbol of self dedication to God, country and fellowmen."

There also will be a flag retirement ceremony. If you have any retired service-worn flags, bring them to the Santa Monica Elks Lodge, located at 1040 Pico Blvd.

The Santa Monica Lodge program will be held on Thursday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Beach to be protected from debris

By Daily Press staff

A bill designed to protect the sand on the beaches has passed the State Assembly and has moved onto the Senate.

The bill, introduced by Assembly member Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), provides that no coastal development permit for sand replenishment could be issued unless and until the project applicant provides a plan for both on-site monitoring and supervision during the permit.

Periodically, California's beaches must be replenished because of sand that is washed away in the normal ebb and flow of the tides. Last fall, Will Rogers State Beach became the dumping ground for construction rubble and debris that a contractor replenishing the beach allowed to be mixed in with the clean sand. Similar situations have occurred in San Diego and elsewhere.

"We have an obligation as state legislators to ensure that this never happens again anywhere along our beautiful California coast, which is why I introduced AB1212," Pavley said. "California's 1,100 miles of magnificent coastline are of enormous recreational and economic value to the state. We must protect it for the healthy enjoyment of future generations."

surf report

The SW energy that peaked last night will hold through Wednesday, keeping the bay stocked with consistent and fun surf — if you can find it.

BAD NEWS: A lot of breaks are shadowed.

GOOD NEWS: Stand-out breaks are seeing head-high sets.

OUTLOOK: Steep NW picks up today. Stronger S swell early next week. Stay tuned.

Today the water is: 62º

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. However, there still are dozens of academic programs that face elimination if the district can't close its budget deficit.

And despite that City Hall doesn't have a financial obligation to the school district, it has for years voluntarily contributed.

Some believe the Santa Monica City Council should buck up this year and give more than its usual $3 million annual contribution. Last year, the City Council gave an additional $1.5 million in one-time funds 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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"A slice of NY in your own backyard."
—Anthony Dias Blue
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LETTERS

Airplane crash a tragic loss

Editor:

I was deeply saddened by the tragic, small plane, a Beechcraft Bonanza, crash into the apartment building in the Fairfax area on Friday. It must have been a harrowing experience for all the residents involved, as well as for the pilot and his passengers as they plummeted to their deaths. I would like to express my sincere sympathy and offer my condolences to the families of those killed, as well as to all those residents who have been left homeless and injured.

At first, I thought that it might have been a terrorist act and found it very difficult to deal with, to the point of losing sleep over it. Then when it came to light that the pilot was an accomplished flier, I felt deep sadness. I know it must be very difficult for all those affected by this mishap.

One thing, however, which I think this incident points out is the fact that there was no flight plan, and in my opinion, that Santa Monica Airport regulations are far too lax. I have had concerns in the past, since 9/11, regarding the use of Santa Monica Airport by terrorists, and I have indicated that it is not an unlikely possibility. Given the enormity of this grave lack of airport control, I would sincerely hope that steps be taken immediately to institute great security in this regard.

Once again, I am deeply saddened by the unfortunate deaths, injuries and loss of homes which have resulted from this disaster.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

City needs to listen to voters' mandate

Editor:

Now is the time.

The Santa Monica City Council needs to substantially increase its financial support to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District. The fact that more than two-thirds of Santa Monica voters supported Measure S and the unprecedented size of the recent rallies focused on K-12 public education funding, gives the Santa Monica City Council, as our elected officials responsible for stewarding our community, a mandate to do whatever is necessary to support and enhance the quality of K-12 public education in Santa Monica. In this case, that means increasing and reallocating the current and future SMMUSD Joint Use Agreement budget allowances.

The City Council should not need to be reminded that the two-thirds super majority who voted for the passage of Measure S are also taxpayers in the City of Santa Monica. It is the City Council's responsibility to support and act on the taxpayers' and voters' will.

The City Council must consider at least doubling the amount of money currently budgeted for SMMUSD (currently only $3 million) and pledge to make up any shortfall in the current SMMUSD budget, which is now projected to be at least $7 million.

Now is the time for the Santa Monica City Council to show true community stewardship and act responsibly. Santa Monica voters and taxpayers have clearly shown where they want their tax dollars spent. Now it is up to the City Council to recognize that supporting K-12 public education is a significant community priority.

Mark Warshauer
Santa Monica

City Council should ante up

Editor:

A few weeks ago, we wrote in this space about the dire state of public school funding in California and appealed to our Santa Monica neighbors to support Measure S, the school funding measure. Thanks to the support of many in our community, that critical source of funding has been secured for the next six years. So, a heartfelt thank you is due to all Santa Monica residents who voted "yes" on S.

Having committed via Measure S to restoring about half of the $13 million the district was forced to cut, many are now wondering how we "find" the remaining 50 percent of lost education dollars.

Now is the time for the Santa Monica City Council to step up to the plate. The electorate of Santa Monica has spoken with their collective votes — and their pocketbooks! There could be no clearer mandate from the people of this community that we do support public education, even when it costs us. Even when federal and state governments abandon us. Even when we are forced to reach deeper into our own pockets.

Sure, it's a tough budget year for all local communities and Santa Monica is no exception. But this isn't a "special interest" budget item and it isn't about "frills." Can this city allow the very foundation of its community go to seed, with potentially far-reaching implications for our children, their development, their futures and yes, the community at large? All for the sake of saving $6 million out of a $350 million-plus city budget? Penny-wise and pound-foolish?

We once called upon our neighbors to vote YES on Measure S to preserve the future of this wonderful community. And the people anted up.

We now call on the City Council of Santa Monica to dedicate $6 million of the city's budget for the same objective. City Council, it's your turn to ante up.

Karen and Lindsay Gardner
Santa Monica

Tape found in Texas woods may be from missing columnist



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

(Editor's note: A lumberjack, while clear cutting trees in a city park in Houston, discovered a briefcase buried along with several Enron annual reports. Inside was a single micro cassette tape. What follows is the terrifying transcript from that tape. It is absolutely true.)

Real Editor's note: It's not absolutely true, but it's at least as true as George Bush's budget projections.

Interviewer: Congressman D …

Congressman: Call me Tom.What publication did you say you were from again?

I: The, uh, Born Again Christian Soldier Of Fortune Magazine.

C: Never heard of it, but it sounds like the type of publication that would appeal to all of us white thinking people.

I: Did you say white thinking?

C: I said "right" thinking.

I: Of course. So Congressman, there has been a lot of discussion about the Texas Democrats walk-out of the Legislative session.

C: What do you expect from a bunch of candy-assed cowards?

I: Well they claim that you were behind an unprecedented redistricting scheme that would have put together distant areas for no other purpose than to give Republicans at least four extra congressmen.

C: See, that's all wrong. We were just tryin' to help out our coloreds.

I: Did you say coloreds?

C: I believe I said "African Americans." See, we Republicans want to see true racial diversity in Congress. But the … African Americans just won't stay in their place.

I: Did you say stay in their place?

C: I'm sure I said stay in "one place." So what we Republicans had to do, for their own good, was connect all these places. That way they can elect one of their own.

I: But by creating districts that look like extreme examples of a Rorschach inkblot and which contain the majority of black voters, don't you severely limit their influence in the state?

C: What magazine did you say you were from?

I: Um, the Star Spangled Christian Patriotic Weekly. What about charges that you used a homeland security agency to illegally track down the plane taking the Democrats to Oklahoma and that the records were subsequently destroyed?

C: I had nothing to do with that.

I: But you admitted that you had a staff member contact the Federal Aviation Commission.

C: That was before the records were destroyed. Now I deny having any knowledge about anything.

I: You make a very convincing case. Let's talk about you advocating that low income seniors should be excluded from any Medicare prescription drug benefit and your decision to eliminate the child tax credit for the poor.

C: That was Bill Clinton.

I: Bill Clinton's no longer in office.

C: I meant Hillary. She's a Lesbian you know?

I: But Congressman, it was the Republicans who eliminated the tax credit for the poor from the Bush tax bill to keep it within the $350 billion limit set by the Senate. And you yourself stated that you would not even allow a vote on any separate legislation to make the working poor eligible for the new child-care tax credit.

C: Well, we Americans are tired of lazy foreigners living off the hard work of real Americans.

I: Do you realize that many of those serving in our armed forces and risking their lives in Iraq are not going to eligible for this tax cut?

C: Have you seen our military lately? Well let's just say they won't be members of my country club.

I: It sounds like you may be prejudiced against minorities.

C: Whoa. I love the Cubans. What magazine you say you're with?

I: The Moral Majority's Christian Parenting and Firearms Training Forum. Let's talk about Halliburton. Do you feel that Halliburton $7 billion no bid contract was a conflict of interest because of Vice President Cheney's past association with the company or was it a payback for over $700,000 in campaign contributions, 95 percent of which went to Republicans.

C: If what you're saying is true, all I can say is I'm outraged. How dare they give 5 percent to Democrats.

I: Wouldn't an open bidding process have saved the taxpayers money?

C: Sure, but who wants to Jew down your friends.

I: Did you say Jew down?

C: I believe I said "bargain down." What magazine did you say you're from?

I: Militiamen's Journal. Congressman, it has been alleged that you were involved in illegal campaign fund-raising during Texas Republican House candidate Brian Babin's 1996 run. There have also been complaints filed against you in the past for influence peddling and other ethics violations. How do you respond to that?

C: Son, we Republicans have a saying: If it ain't on Fox News, then it must not be true.

I: You didn't really answer my question.

C: I'm a Republican. What magazine did you say you're from"

I: Gas-Guzzler Gazette. What about the environment? You've pushed for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, easing restrictions on polluters, cutting down trees in National Parks and have denied global warming exists.

C: Global warming? Next you'll be telling me there really was a holocaust.

I: What's your policy concerning gays?

C: Don't ask, don't tell. You don't ask me and I won't tell you what I think about those prancing little fairies. Did I mention Hillary's a Lesbian?

(A phone rings) Excuse me. Uh huh.? You don't say. What paper did you say you were from?

I: Uh, the Bob Jones Family Value Weekly.

C: Boy, I had you checked out. You ain't from Texas. And you took out a Gore Vidal book from the library. You're a liberal.

I: Liberal's such a strong word. I like to think of myself as a progressive conservative.

C: Son, there's somebody I think you should meet.

I: Hey, aren't you John Ashcrof … Wait, wait, where are you taking me? I want a lawyer.

(Derisive laughter)

(Editors note: At this point the tape abruptly ended. The whereabouts of the columnist remain unknown. All records of his existence have ceased to exist.)

(Deleted Deleted is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Any comments e-mailed to edsincites@aol.com will be intercepted and your name will be put on a list.)

PRC switches its focus

PRC, from page 1

director for $40,000. A public relations position that paid $34,000 also was eliminated.

"I took on the corporate sponsorship role and dispersed the other responsibilities onto the staff," Franz-Knight Knight said. "Everybody took on additional responsibilities.

"We have to do more with less, that's the order of the day."

MORE TO COME — AND EAT

The movie-themed chain restaurant Bubba Gump Shrimp is expected to open next year. The restaurant's location has been vacant since April of 2002 when the city ended its month to month lease with the 50-year-old Boathouse.

Bubba Gump is expected to pay $10,417 in base rent a month, plus $1,889 annually for common maintenance and 2.5 percent of the restaurant's food, beverage and retail gross sales.

The Boathouse paid $5,429 in monthly rent, $168 for annual promotional fees and 8 percent of its gross revenues in excess of $688,000 in annualized sales.

Bubba Gump plans to raze the old building and build a new one, which will be located just below the pier ramp. Restaurant representatives are scheduled to go before the city planning commission this month to lay out their plans.

Just down the way on the south side of the pier, officials hope to re-open a restaurant space that was once known as the Ashgrove and then Arcadia.

Both restaurants failed for various reasons, officials said. Arcadia, which opened in 1999, failed within six months of opening because it was under funded, officials said.

The spot has been vacant ever since. The city twice has tried to market the spot as a nightclub and restaurant, but what officials realized was it's too small of a venue.

Some entrepreneurs fear the place is cursed and have shied away from opening a business there. But city officials think the location would be better served as a cafe or casual restaurant open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Since they broadened their scope, city officials have had a few inquiries.

Mark Richter, economic development manager for the city, said it's the PRC's hope to have a lease signed by the fall with a new restaurant.

With Bubba Gump opening, officials believe the other restaurant will have more success.

"Part of the idea was to get Bubba in there so it could fuel the others," said former PRC board chair Michael Klein.

If both locations are occupied, it'll mean more than $250,000 a year in additional revenue for the city, which owns the pier, Richter said.

ON THE HORIZON

Most PRC officials hope the breakwater project just north of the pier will be fully funded.

The City Council recently set aside $2 million as part of its contribution to the project. The Army Corps of Engineers has committed $4.5 million to the project, but the city has to find another $2 million to match the contribution.

Over the past few decades, the 2,000-foot-long sea wall has slowly deteriorated, now leaving only a glimpse of it at low tide.

Rebuilding the breakwater includes a harbor and dock for boats, which is required by the Army Corps as part of its funding.

Some say a boat harbor will reconnect the pier with the ocean through maritime activities. Others like the breakwater because it can save the pier's pilings from eroding by constant waves crashing against them. The breakwater minimizes the wave energy before it comes to the shore.

But there could be significant environmental impacts, too. Studies have shown that bacteria levels are higher in areas with breakwaters because the man-made barriers prevent the ocean's waves from washing unhealthy waste out to sea. Shoreline erosion and other environmental degradation also is possible.

PRC officials worry about how traffic would be handled on the pier if a boat harbor was built. Millions of additional visitors could be drawn to the pier with a harbor.

But by the end of next year, a new bridge and ramp designed to funnel traffic to the beach parking lot just north of the pier should be complete.

It will allow vehicles to travel down to the pier and park near the beach, instead of driving on Ocean Avenue to the Pacific Coast Highway.

"There is no release valve for traffic when it backs up," Franz-Knight said. "And it's time to widen the sidewalk ... there will be a 16-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the bridge."

New bathrooms also are planned to be built at the pier.

BACK TO BASICS

After realizing minimal success in the past, the PRC and Franz-Knight switched the pier's focus from corporate sponsored events to local ones that are community based.

Students from Los Angeles schools have been invited to play their music and perform plays on the west end of the pier as part of Franz-Knight's "Pier Jam" events. He's also planning a comprehensive curriculum for students in L.A. to tour the pier. The day tours will cover the gamut of educational disciplines — history, biology and ecology, physics and public service by teaching students about the Ocean Discovery Center, the Pacific Ocean, the solar powered Ferris Wheel and the police and harbor patrol offices.

A variety of community events also are held on the pier now, including a series of concerts by local bands during the winter, as well as an annual arts and crafts festival and a host of holiday-themed parties.

"I view the Santa Monica Pier as the heart and soul of Santa Monica," Franz-Knight said. "We should extend that pride."

A NEW VISION AND PLAN

Franz-Knight said he feels comfortable with his new board, which represents a broad section of the community. Members have a variety of backgrounds that balance most interests, he added.

Linda Sullivan, chair of the PRC board, said the board plans to have a retreat this summer when a new business plan is expected to unfold.

"It'll sum up what I believe the new vision of the board's role is," she said.

Richter, the city's staff liaison to the board, said the change has been for the good thus far.

"Over the past two years, virtually the entire board has changed out," he said. "A change in composition of a board guarantees infusion of new ideas ... It's good to periodically question what it is that they are doing, especially when dealing with public funds."

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STATE

More victims identified in Fairfax District plane crash

Aircraft took off from Santa Monica

By staff and wire reports

LOS ANGELES — A Marina del Rey businessman and his wife, along with a Santa Monica businessman, were among the five victims of a plane crash that demolished an apartment building located near the city's Melrose shopping district.

Family members said Monday that Anthony and Bonnie Vinatieri were aboard the small plane when it plunged into the 15-unit building.

Others believed dead include pilot 50-year-old Jeffrey T. Siegel, who owns JTS Construction in Santa Monica and his niece, Los Angeles screenwriter Jessica Kaplan, 24, a former Crossroads School student.

Apartment resident Tibor Reis, 76, has been missing since the Friday crash and is believed to be dead.

Coroner's investigators have not released the victims' names, but family members confirmed to The Associated Press that the Vinatieris were aboard the plane, and relatives of Siegel and Kaplan confirmed their identities to the Los Angeles Times.

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 the apartment building.

Siegel was reportedly taking the Vinatieris to Sun Valley, Idaho, to show them houses he had built. The Vinatieris were planning to build a home in Los Angeles. Siegel and his family own a second home in Sun Valley.

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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Republicans throw cash at Davis recall effort

By The Associated Press

Republican Congressman Darrell Issa has contributed another $200,000 to the campaign to recall Gray Davis, the Democrat he wants to replace as governor, according to records posted on the California secretary of state's Web site Monday.

The latest check boosts Issa's total commitment to the recall effort to $645,000. The money comes from Greene Properties Inc. of Vista, a company Issa and his wife own.

Issa's contribution represents the bulk of the approximately $1 million raised by recall supporters.

Taxpayers Against the Recall have reported raising about $500,000.

Issa, R-Vista, plans to begin campaigning this weekend, addressing an annual gathering of moderate Republicans near Santa Barbara on Saturday and talking to party members in Orange County later in the day.

Davis allies, meanwhile, are seeking to keep the focus away from the governor and on Issa. They've scheduled press conferences and demonstrations Tuesday in Beverly Hills, San Diego, Sacramento and San Francisco, where abortion rights supporters plan to draw attention to the congressman's opposition to abortion.

Recall backers must collect nearly 900,000 valid signatures by Sept. 2 to get the measure on the ballot.

On Monday, they claimed to have collected 587,000 and said they expected to reach the required number in July, which could result in a special election in the fall.

Taxpayers Against the Recall said Monday they've collected some 200,000 signatures on petitions opposing the recall.

Manhattan Beach one of the most state's polluted

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO —The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved a list of 679 polluted waterways in California that the state has identified for cleanup efforts and stricter environmental controls, the agency announced Monday.

The tally, which includes hundreds of local tributaries as well as landmarks such as San Francisco Bay,

Lake Tahoe, the Sacramento River and Manhattan Beach, has 150 names more than it did the last time the state compiled its required count of "water quality limited segments" two years ago.

"I don't think it's because water got dirtier. It's because they did a better job of looking," said David Smith, a team leader with the EPA office that oversees four Western states. "The news here is that every major waterway in California is still polluted and needs more attention."

States are required by the federal Clean Water Act to identify waterways that fail to meet drinking, swimming or aquatic life standards for water quality and their primary pollution sources. The list is used to prepare cleanup plans and to calculate how much daily pollution such "impaired" lakes, creeks and rivers can absorb while still meeting water quality standards.

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STATE

State won't store water for agency balking at river deal

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — State officials who have been trying to get Southern California's largest water agency to sign a deal to share the Colorado River have decided that more than $10 million worth of water intended for the south will instead flow to the Pacific Ocean.

The Department of Water Resources, which had agreed to hold the water in a Northern California reservoir for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, reversed itself and said it would not be able to store the water.

Department officials confirmed the reversal and Byron Tucker, a spokesman for Gov. Gray Davis, made clear that the state was unhappy with Metropolitan's position.

"The state believes that Southern California needs to get its water house in order before they start approaching the north for water supplies," Tucker said.

The decision means that more than 30 billion gallons of water, a year's worth of water for 200,000 Southern California households, will flow down the Sacramento River and eventually wind up in the Pacific Ocean.

The Metropolitan Water District has already paid Sacramento Valley rice farms for the water, said spokesman Adan Ortega.

"It is wasting both water and money," Ortega said Tuesday.

Since the Colorado River water-sharing deal sought by the governor is designed to curb California's overuse of the Colorado, "it would be the first time that anybody is fighting waste with more waste," Ortega said.

Tucker said Metropolitan was to blame for the wasted water. Lake Oroville in Butte County, one of the state's main reservoirs, was full, thanks to abundant spring rains, which left no room for Metropolitan's water.

Last month, the Department of Water Resources said it was suspending payments to Metropolitan to prod the agency into signing the Colorado deal along with three other Southern California water agencies.

Davis has been intent on reaching the Colorado River deal to protect the state's supplies of river water.

When California missed a Dec. 31 deadline to sign the deal, Interior Secretary Gale Norton reduced the state's share of river water by 15 percent. Norton has indicated she would restore the water if a deal were signed.

Metropolitan's board members have said they have problems with spending $200 million from a state water-quality initiative to further a centerpiece of the deal — the transfer of up to 200,000 acre-feet of water a year, enough to serve 400,000 people, from Imperial Valley farms to San Diego.

> **"It would be the first time that anybody is fighting waste with more waste."**
>
> **— ADAN ORTEGA**
> Metropolitan Water District spokesman

Metropolitan, which serves 18 million people in Los Angeles and San Diego, ordered extra water earlier this year from Sacramento Valley rice farmers to shore up its reduced supply of Colorado River water.

Tucker noted that if it signed the Colorado River deal, Metropolitan could get water for a fraction of the price it paid the rice farmers.

"Clearly, Colorado River water is far cheaper than Northern California river water," he said.

In a letter dated May 28, Thomas Hannigan, who recently retired as director of the Department of Water Resources, said the department had agreed to hold the water for Metropolitan in Lake Oroville provided it will not adversely impact the State Water Project, the network of dams, pumps and canals that carries water from north to south.

On Friday, however, Tom Glover, a deputy director of the Department of Water Resources, notified officials with Metropolitan that the state would not be holding the water for Metropolitan, Ortega said.

The agency's newly appointed director, Michael J. Spears, was unavailable for comment.

Last month, the Department of Water Resources said it was holding some of the $35 million in payments owed Metropolitan for an underground reservoir in Riverside County.

SB eucalyptus trees infested

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — Some 200 eucalyptus trees infested by a leaf-eating insect will be cut down along Highway 101 in the Summerland area.

The doomed trees have been severely weakened by pests and could fall over into traffic, the California Department of Transportation said. Not all the trees on the stretch between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara are being removed.

The aphidlike lerp psyllid was first discovered in California in 1998, on a red gum eucalyptus in El Monte. It has since spread throughout the state, causing the demise of 3,000 trees in Los Angeles County alone.

Santa Barbara County has lost its share, too.

Caltrans began cutting down the trees Monday. During an April windstorm, several eucalyptus trees fell onto the southbound lanes of the freeway, blocking traffic for hours.

"Caltrans really respects the visual qualities of the corridor," Caltrans spokesman Brian Robinson said. "This is a pre-emptive action. They're trying to be selective."

The Highway 101 corridor from Carpinteria to Santa Barbara is one of the oldest freeways in the state and one of the most scenic. Of the 200 red gum eucalyptus trees marked for the chain saw, only 30 are located along this stretch, Robinson said.

The rest are along the Gaviota coastal area.

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NATIONAL

NATIONAL BRIEFS

'Thou shall not taketh away'

By The Associated Press

WEST UNION, Ohio — Protesters, sheriff's deputies and school officials who clashed over a judge's order to remove four giant Ten Commandments tablets from school buildings prayed together after workers loaded the last monument on a truck and drove away.

All four granite tablets were removed by Monday evening.

Earlier, dozens of protesters locked arms and knelt in prayer to hinder workers who had been ordered to remove the monuments from four schools in the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District about 60 miles east of Cincinnati. Deputies briefly took at least 30 protesters into custody, but later released them without filing charges.

"A judge's order is a judge's order," said Francis Manion, the school board's lawyer. "We think (the judge) got it wrong, but it's the school board's duty to remove the monuments."

The protesters temporarily blocked a crane from taking the 800-pound granite tablets from three of the schools, but sheriff's deputies removed the protesters from school property.

U.S. Magistrate Timothy Hogan ruled in Cincinnati last year that it is unconstitutional to display the Ten Commandments on public school grounds. He ordered them removed on Monday, after the school year.

Bush wants tax credit for low-income families now

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders unhappy with the Senate's endorsement of a bigger child tax credit for low-income families now find themselves under White House pressure to pass the bill quickly.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Monday that President Bush wants to see the House pass a bill expanding the child tax credit for low-income workers without letting it get "bogged down or slowed down."

Bush's signature last month on a $350 billion tax cut and state aid package led Democrats to demand an expansion of the child tax credit to 6.5 million low-income families who otherwise would not see any added benefit.

The tax cut increased the child tax credit to $1,000 but left unchanged the eligibility rules that prevent families that earn more than $10,500 but less than $27,000 from claiming an additional refund. Under the existing rules, those families pay too little tax to claim the refund.

The Senate voted last week to make the credit available to those families by allowing them to claim a refund worth 15 percent of their income over $10,500.

A shining star in the dismal economy

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — News that mortgage-market giant Freddie Mac had fired its president over his apparent recalcitrance in an accounting probe has jolted the stock market and raised concern about a possible impact on the housing market, one of the few bright spots in the economy.

In a surprise shakeup, Freddie Mac said it had fired the president and chief operating officer, David Glenn, because he didn't fully cooperate with an internal review of the company's accounting _ now under investigation by federal regulators.

The government-sponsored company whose stock is widely traded also said Monday that chairman and chief executive Leland Brendsel had resigned, along with Vaughn Clarke, the company's executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Some senior lawmakers expressed concern about the possible impact of Freddie Mac's troubles on the housing market, as banks could sell fewer mortgages to the company and the international stream of capital into the U.S. mortgage market could be reduced.

Circumstantial evidence may be enough

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court has ruled that circumstantial evidence alone can convict companies of discrimination, as long as there's enough to convince a reasonable jury.

The 9-0 decision Monday overrode the Bush administration, which had urged the court to side with the Las Vegas casino company, Caesars Palace, in a discrimination case involving a female former forklift operator.

The administration wanted to make it more difficult to sue under a federal anti-discrimination law.

Catharina Costa claimed she was fired from an all-male warehouse because of her sex and other reasons as well. A jury agreed and ordered Caesars Palace to pay her more than $364,000.

The casino company, backed by business groups along with the administration, urged the justices to require workers like Costa to provide direct evidence of discrimination, which requires proof based on personal knowledge or observation. Such evidence can be difficult to produce.

An employee "need only present sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to conclude, by a preponderance of the evidence, that `race, color, religion, sex or national origin was a motivating factor for any employment practice,'" Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in siding with Costa.

NATIONAL

Finding Hussein's regime is a question of time

By The Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday it will take time to locate die-hard remnants of Saddam Hussein's deposed regime in Iraq.

The United States is talking to approximately three-dozen countries about assembling an international peace-keeping force for postwar Iraq, Rumsfeld said. But he also said that even after the force begins arriving in September there will be resistance from elements of Saddam's Baathist Party and other loyalists.

"Do I think that's going to disappear in the next month or two or three? No. Will it disappear when some two or three divisions of coalition forces arrive in the country? No," Rumsfeld said.

"It will take time to root out the remnants of the Saddam Hussein regime and we intend to do it."

Rumsfeld spoke at a joint news conference with Portuguese Minister of Defense Paulo Portas.

In Washington, the Pentagon's chief policy adviser on peacekeeping issues, Joseph Collins, told reporters the extent of postwar looting, violence and guerrilla-style resistance in Iraq was "to some extent unexpected."

As a result, Collins, said, aspects of the Pentagon-drafted plan for stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq has had to be adjusted. "The situation has been tougher and more complex" than foreseen, he said.

Rumseld is on a four-day visit to Europe to thank nations that supported the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

He said the failure of the U.S.-led coalition to prove that Saddam is dead may be fueling continued violence and resistance in the country.

"There are people who may fear that he could come back," Rumsfeld said Monday.

"If they fear he could come back, they might be somewhat slower in an interrogation to say what they know" and it could "give heart" to some from Saddam's Baathist Party who hope "that they can take back that country."

Rumsfeld said 41 countries are considering assistance to Iraq and some half dozen have committed forces. He didn't name them, but he said the first forces should be ready in September.

"We have a very aggressive effort to bring in forces from other countries in sizable numbers," Rumsfeld said.

After his meeting with Portas, Rumsfeld went to Albania and met with President Alfred Moisiu, who also supported the effort to oust the Saddam government.

He is to end his tour at a NATO meeting in Brussels, but not before stopping Wednesday in Munich for the 10th anniversary of the joint German-U.S. George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. The Marshall Center was founded in 1993 to stabilize and strengthen post-cold war Europe through education and training of military and civilian officials.

"The NATO meeting ... provides an opportunity for me to thank some friends and allies — people who have been helpful. Clearly, we will be doing that in Portugal and Albania," Rumsfeld said.

"At the 10th anniversary of the Marshall center, there will be ... a good number of ministers of defense also helpful and cooperative who are graduates."

Portugal is looking for a way to re-equip the outdated Portuguese armed forces despite a recession and cash problems. It is trying to negotiate the purchase of six new Hercules C-130J transport planes from U.S. company Lockheed Martin. It also wants Iraqi reconstruction contracts, and has lobbied for a NATO regional command headquarters to be installed at Oeiras, outside Lisbon.

Portugal did not provide military help for the Iraq war, but it plans to send some 100 police there to help with security and humanitarian aid distribution.

Albania just held a joint exercise with U.S. forces aimed at boosting the ex-communist country's ability to respond to humanitarian crises and other emergencies.

European giants France and Germany led the continent's opposition to the U.S.-British military action; states lending diplomatic support included Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania and Croatia.

Rumsfeld said he did not doubt that intelligence on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction will prove correct, despite the failure after two months to find the weapons the Bush administration said were the rationale for the war.

Rumsfeld said resistance to U.S. forces was not nationally organized, but confined to certain regions.

He blamed violence in the region from Baghdad north to Saddam's hometown of Tikrit on Saddam loyalists who survived because there were relatively few battles in that area.

ImClone's Waksal gets 7 years in prison

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sam Waksal, the jet-setting drug-company entrepreneur at the center of the insider-trading scandal that has ensnared Martha Stewart, was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison Tuesday for what a judge called his "lawlessness and arrogance." The ImClone Systems founder was also ordered to pay nearly $4.3 million in fines and back taxes.

Monkeypox investigators seek exotic pets

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Investigators trying to stop the first outbreak of monkeypox in the Western Hemisphere scoured seven states Tuesday for dozens of prairie dogs and other exotic pets sold by an Illinois distributor. Health officials announced a total of five confirmed human cases of the disease _ four in Wisconsin and one in Illinois. No people have died of the outbreak. In addition, 47 possible cases have been reported.







INTERNATIONAL

Israel targets Hamas leader in missile strike

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car carrying a senior Hamas leader Tuesday, wounding him, killing two others and jeopardizing the U.S.-backed road map to Mideast peace. President Bush criticized Israel, saying he was "deeply troubled" by the strike.

About two hours after the White House criticism over the strike on Abdel Aziz Rantisi, Israeli tanks and helicopters fired toward a Palestinian neighborhood in the northern Gaza Strip, killing two young men and a 16-year-old girl and wounding 30 people, doctors said. The firing appeared to be in response to four homemade Palestinian rockets fired over the Gaza border into Israel on Tuesday.

That and the morning's helicopter attack on Rantisi — the most high-profile Hamas leader targeted by Israel in 32 months of fighting — was further evidence that violence had not stopped despite the new "road map" initiative that Bush inaugurated last week.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon showed no signs of restraining troops from retaliating against militants. After the strike, Israeli officials called Rantisi an "arch terrorist" whom the Palestinians should have acted to stop earlier. "We said very clearly: if you are not going to stop him ... we will use whatever means is necessary in order to defend the life of our citizens," Sharon aide Raanan Gissin said.

Hamas vowed revenge and threatened to kill Israeli political leaders in reprisal for the Rantisi attack. Angry Palestinian leaders said Israel was wrecking their attempts to persuade Hamas and other militants to call a cease-fire.

In unusually strong language, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas called the strike a "terrorist attack." Such attacks "obstruct and sabotage the political process," he said in a statement.

Egyptian mediators were pressing ahead with efforts to persuade Hamas to call a cease-fire, four days after the Islamic militant group broke off talks, accusing Abbas of making too many concessions to Israel. The Egyptian intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, was to arrive for talks with Hamas as scheduled Wednesday in the West Bank.

Hamas participated Sunday in a rare joint operation with Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades that killed four Israeli soldiers in Gaza.

Some Hamas leaders said before Tuesday's strike they were considering resuming truce talks. After the strike, however, Hamas threatened to resume its campaign of suicide attacks against Israel and even target Israeli politicians, which it has rarely done in the past.

"An eye for an eye ... a politician for a politician," said one Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar. Palestinians "must throw the road map into the garbage and commit to the map of holy war."

Speaking to reporters from his hospital bed in Gaza, Rantisi said the deaths caused by the strike "deserve to be retaliated for. But we must all remember that our war is not a war of retribution. We are resisting an occupation that has raped the land and sacrificed the holy sites."

"We will continue with our holy war and resistance until every last criminal Zionist is evicted from this land," Rantisi said.

Hamas is the largest militant group carrying out bombings and shootings against Israelis. In 93 suicide attacks since September 2000 — most of them carried out by Hamas — more than 350 people have been killed.

The "road map" for Mideast peace and Palestinian statehood by 2005 was launched last week by Bush, Abbas and Sharon at a summit in Jordan.

Bush "is deeply troubled by the strike," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "The president is concerned that the strike will undermine efforts by Palestinian Authorities and others to bring an end to terrorist attacks, and does not contribute to the security of Israel."

Israel sent mixed messages with its actions Tuesday. On the one hand, Israeli troops dismantled 10 tiny, uninhabited settlement outposts in the West Bank overnight, in line with the first requirements of the peace plan.

Israel has accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of trying to undercut Abbas in trying to negotiate a truce. Israel Radio on Tuesday quoted Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz as saying Israel may soon expel Arafat, a step that, according to Israeli reports, has been blocked by the United States.

The attack on Rantisi further weakened Abbas, who has been criticized at home for pledging to end the "armed intefadeh" while getting little in return from Israel.

The road map says Israel must refrain from actions that undermine trust, but does not specifically rule out the targeted killings of Palestinian militants.

Israel accepted the plan last month but reserved the practice of targeted killings to "ticking bomb" scenarios, as a last means of preventing attacks on Israelis.

Rantisi, a political leader of Hamas and its frequent spokesman, has been careful to deny all knowledge of the military wing's actions.

The attack on Rantisi, a pediatrician, began before noon Tuesday, when three Israeli Apache helicopter gunships appeared over the skies of Gaza City. In quick succession, they fired seven missiles toward Rantisi's SUV as it drove in a crowded thoroughfare near a 16-story apartment building.

"We were surprised by a rocket that hit the front of the car," Rantisi told The Associated Press. "I opened the door and jumped out. My son Ahmed was in the car. He was driving. I threw myself onto the ground. At the same time, my car was crashing into the wall."

The vehicle burst into flames and was reduced to a scorched pile of metal.

A Rantisi bodyguard and a 44-year-old woman were killed, while 27 people — including Rantisi's son and three other bodyguards — were wounded, said Dr. Moawiya Hassanain, director of Shifa Hospital. Three bystanders were in critical condition.

Thousands of Hamas supporters crowded the hospital courtyard after the missile strike, chanting slogans against Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as Hamas gunmen fired in the air.



SPORTS

Martin Brodeur leaves Conn Smythe award behind while walking off with Stanley Cup

BY IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Martin Brodeur was the No. 2 goalie again.

Seven shutouts in the playoffs, including three in the finals, weren't enough for Brodeur to win the Conn Smythe Award. It was just enough to lift the New Jersey Devils to their third Stanley Cup title in nine years.

Brodeur made 24 saves Monday night as the Devils outlasted the Anaheim Mighty Ducks with a 3-0 victory in Game 7. Rookie Mike Rupp had a goal and two assists in his fourth career playoff game to spark New Jersey's offense.

The home team went 7-0 in the series, marking just the third time a road team went winless since the finals went to a best-of-seven format in 1939.

Brodeur's three blankings in the finals tied one mark, and the seven in the postseason topped Dominik Hasek for the most in one playoff year.

It still wasn't MVP worthy.

That honor went to Anaheim counterpart, Jean-Sebastien Giguere, whose stellar play in the first three rounds made it possible for the Mighty Ducks to knock off Detroit, Dallas and Minnesota.

Giguere is just the fifth player from a losing team and first since Ron Hextall in 1987 to win the Conn Smythe. Giguere accepted the trophy from Gary Bettman as he fought off tears from the disappointing loss.

"It's well deserved for him," Brodeur said. "He's the only reason ... well, I mean there are some good players over there, too, but he's the big reason why the Mighty Ducks made it so far."

Brodeur's latest trip to the finals worked out better than the previous one. The Devils held a 3-2 this year and in 2001. Two years ago, Colorado goalie Patrick Roy stood in the spotlight as the Conn Smythe winner after helping the Avalanche rally to the title.

"It's kind of easy when you win the Cup to be satisfied with it," Brodeur said. "I'm sure if I lost, it would have been a little harder on me. But knowing that I have the Stanley Cup, I'm not worried about the Conn Smythe."

Brodeur seemed to not have a care in the world as he strutted in the hallway near the Devils' locker room. He was still wearing his pads as he smoked a cigar and carried a rubber duck with his name and number on the back. Brodeur proudly showed it off and called it his good luck charm.

Jiggy threatened to steal the Cup from Brodeur, too. But he only skated off with the individual prize and not the one with all the champions' names on it.

"It's unbelievable for a guy to break the playoff record for shutouts and not receive the Conn Smythe," Devils forward John Madden said.

Roy started as Brodeur's childhood idol. Now he's the only player with more postseason shutouts, 23-20. Roy chose this series that featured two Montreal goalies to announce his retirement from the NHL.

"Since Patrick retired, I think he's probably the one taking over right now at being the best," Giguere said.

Brodeur recovered from a Game 6 performance in which he yielded five goals. The final 10 minutes of that one counted down while Brodeur watched from the bench.

"Marty's our star and he's taken a lot of flak," forward Turner Stevenson said. "Everyone said he played a bad game last game. But he's our star and when he plays like that, we're going to win a lot of times."

"... But knowing that I have the Stanley Cup, I'm not worried about the Conn Smythe."

— MARTIN BRODEUR
New Jersey Devils goalie

At least at home.

The Devils earned 12 of their 16 playoff victories this year at home, breaking the mark of 11 set by the 1988 Edmonton Oilers. New Jersey finished 12-1 at Continental Airlines Arena, which didn't always provide a home-ice advantage in past postseasons.

"We feel really at ease playing in our own building," Brodeur said. "The only reason we won the Stanley Cup is because we were so dominant in our own building."

And at home is where Brodeur was at his best. He allowed only 13 goals on home ice and posted six shutouts. The Ducks touched him for only three goals in the four games in New Jersey _ all scored in a 6-3 loss in Game 4.

"If we have a bad game as a team or things don't go well for him, you know as a team that he'll be back in the next game," captain Scott Stevens said.

Rupp was itching to get back into games since he was recalled from the minors during the playoffs. He didn't crack the lineup until Game 4 of this series, but finished with four points.

"I don't know what to say. I'm caught up in everything going on," Rupp said. "Two weeks ago, I never would have thought this could happen."

By scoring 2:22 into the second period, Rupp notched the Cup-winning goal. He assisted on Jeff Friesen's scores in the second and third.

Rupp played only 26 regular-season games in his rookie year, so he relied on the experience of his teammates to keep his emotions in check.

"I was probably the most calm today as I've been in an NHL game this year," Rupp said. "I just wanted to contribute any way that I possibly could and it just worked out great."

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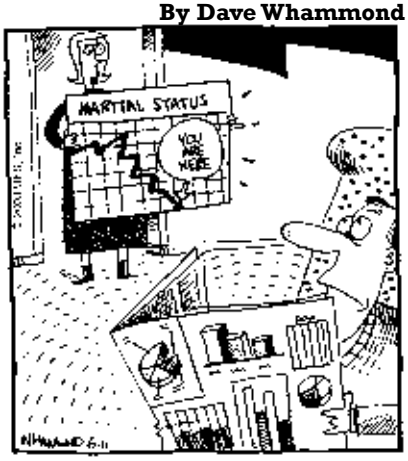
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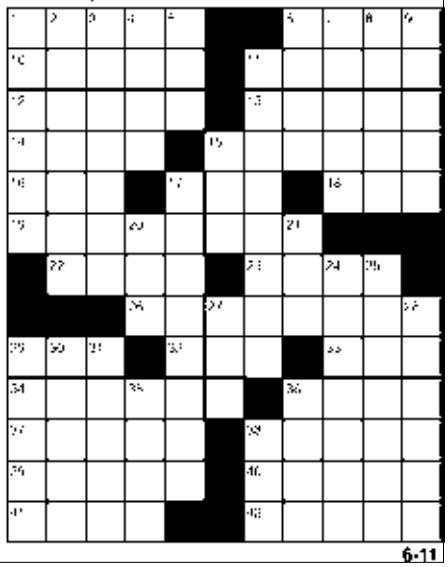
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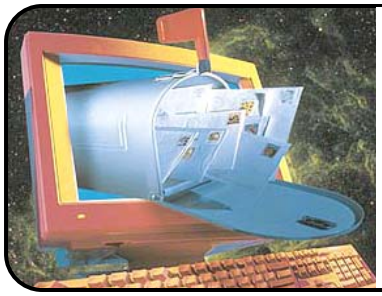


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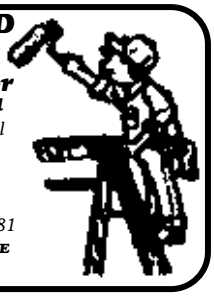
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Brockovich goes after oil, gas companies in cancer case

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Erin Brockovich's law firm filed a wrongful death and negligence lawsuit against more than 25 oil and gas companies, alleging that toxic fumes from an oil well on the Beverly Hills High School campus caused 21 former students to develop cancer, including three who died of the disease.

The Superior Court action states that the plaintiffs attended the school between 1977 and 1996.

"This case is about the inexcusable and knowing failure of the oil and gas industry and municipal and administrative bodies to protect schoolchildren, the most vulnerable in society, and the places that should be the most safe — schools," Monday's action states.

In April, Brockovich and attorney Ed Masry of Masry & Vititoe filed 25 claims against the Beverly Hills Unified School District and the city of Beverly Hills. They have six months to respond, after which Brockovich and Masry can sue them in state court.

Brockovich, an investigator with Masry's law firm, rose to prominence when she put together a landmark 1996 water pollution case that won the residents of the small desert town of Hinkley a $333 million settlement from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The story of that case was told in the movie "Erin Brockovich," which earned Julia Roberts a best-actress Oscar. Albert Finney played Masry.

Defendants named in the current action include Chevron-Texaco Corp., Frontier Oil Corp. and the rig's operator, Venoco Inc. Calls placed to them after business hours weren't returned.

Both Venoco and school officials have said previously that state inspectors have tested the air around the rig repeatedly and found no problems.

The rig, shielded by panels covered with brightly painted flowers, is a familiar sight in Beverly Hills. It produces about 450 barrels of oil and 400,000 cubic feet of natural gas a day.

■ **LAKE PLACID, N.Y.** — Authors Frank McCourt, Russell Banks and William Kennedy will add some literary flavor to this year's Lake Placid Film Forum.

The fourth annual festival runs Thursday through Sunday in this Adirondack resort town. More than 60 features, documentaries and shorts will be screened during a program that also includes forums, classes and scheduled appearances by Debra Winger, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Campbell Scott.

McCourt, who wrote "Angela's Ashes," will take part in a forum on free speech moderated by "Affliction" author Banks and featuring newspaper columnist-author Pete Hamill. Kennedy is teaching a class on screenwriting; the Albany-based author has written "The Cotton Club" and "Ironweed."

Writer/director Alan Rudolph will be the film forum's 2003 honoree. His latest film, "The Secret Lives of Dentists," will be screened, as will 1994's "Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle." Festival director and co-founder Naj Wikoff said Monday that Lake Placid offers a more relaxed atmosphere than big film festivals — and more chances for hobnobbing.

"You could say it's a nice big dinner party where everyone's talking about films they love and hate, and sharing their ideas," Wikoff said.

The festival took a financial blow earlier this year when previous sponsors Chrysler and Ralph Lauren pulled out because of the bad economy and uncertainty over the war in Iraq. Wikoff said he cut back from six screens to four, but decided to show films around the clock to make up for fewer venues.

■ **INDIANAPOLIS** — Michael Jackson has returned to Indianapolis for a second attempt at giving a court-ordered deposition in a copyright lawsuit.

Judge Philip Simon ordered Jackson to come back by Friday after the 44-year-old pop star fell ill before he could give a deposition here last month.

Jackson was briefly hospitalized May 21, but was released about two hours later and returned home to Los Angeles.

Simon ordered Jackson to return to Indianapolis by June 13 to complete the deposition, and said he might fine Jackson $1,000 a day for the delay.

Indianapolis television station WTHR aired video of the singer shopping at the downtown Circle Centre mall Monday night.

Simon had ordered Jackson to give testimony in a lawsuit alleging that the Jackson 5 used the name of another Gary band and two of their songs without license.

Jackson's attorneys have said the lawsuit is without merit and noted that the singer was only 9 years old at the time.

Gordon Keith, who signed the Jackson 5 to his Gary-based Steeltown Records in 1967, and musician Elvy Woodard have accused Michael, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine and Marlon Jackson of infringing on the trade name Ripples & Waves, which was the name of another Gary band during the 1960s.

DID YOU KNOW?: The first film animation was "Humorous Phases of Funny Faces" made in 1906 by American J. Stuart Blacton.

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