

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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28 33 30 21 35

Megamember: 6

Jackpot: \$30 million

FANTASY 5

2 11 15 16 24

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0 3 3

Evening picks: 6 3 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06 Whirl Win

2nd Place: 12 Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 08 Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:44.65

Night of the living wage

Council backs implementation of \$11.50 base wage for government workers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The living wage is back.

In a divisive 4-3 vote, the City Council on Tuesday agreed an \$11.50 base wage for local government workers was a moral imperative, and the important first step in an incremental effort to raise the minimum wage throughout Santa Monica.

The vote came after a handful of community activists spoke out in favor of the increased wage, which City Hall leaders warned would be too costly. It also came nearly two years after a living wage that included private merchants was tossed out by voters.

Staffers will draw up a new ordinance for the council to formally vote on at an upcoming meeting.

"As a community, we've gone a long way to try and not commodify everything in society," said City Councilman Mike Feinstein, pointing to various city-sponsored social services, and initiatives like rent control. "I think we also have to look at labor and not try to simply commodify people, in the

See WAGE, page 6

City Hall adopts \$377M budget

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL

Elected leaders passed a \$377 million budget Tuesday night, finding extra dollars at the last minute for a domestic violence program, the local historical society and the Santa Monica Symphony.

Revenues are expected to increase across the board in the coming fiscal year, which begins

See BUDGET, page 6

Greece fire



John Wood/Daily Press

Top: Patricia Edwards carries the Olympic torch down Ocean Avenue Wednesday morning. The volunteer from Hesperia was one of 149 torchbearers in and around Los Angeles. Others included Olympians Mark Spitz and Janet Evans, and actors Tom Cruise and Sylvester Stallone. Runners were chosen to represent the best in humanity, their families, friends, community and country. **Left:** A torchbearer heads east on Wilshire Boulevard during the 39-mile route from Venice to Dodger Stadium.

Smoke detectors: Safeway cited for tobacco sales

Prosecutors single out supermarket for selling tobacco to minors

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Top prosecutors met downtown Wednesday to announce a lawsuit against Safeway Inc., saying the supermarket chain is among the most egregious violators of laws against selling tobacco to youngsters.

The average smoker starts

lighting up at age 13, and 44 percent of area retailers near schools sell tobacco to minors, said LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, who filed the lawsuit with Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

According to Delgadillo, Safeway was targeted because it hasn't followed the example set by other chains, which have more aggressive training and other programs to restrict employees from selling to minors. Lazy clerks aren't the main culprit, he added.

"It appears to be part of the corporate culture," said Delgadillo, who was flanked by Lockyer and

Jonathan Fielding, director of public health for LA County. "Safeway is the one chain, unfortunately, that is just not cooperating."

Though 38 percent of LA retailers sell tobacco products to minors, 44 percent of retailers within 1,000 feet of schools break the law, said Delgadillo, adding many kids are closer to a violating store than they are to a gym or park.

Safeway was responsible for nearly 30 percent of illegal tobacco sales to minors through March of this year, according to a report from state officials. Its violation

See SUIT, page 7



John Wood/Daily Press

Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo announces a lawsuit Wednesday against Safeway, Inc. for selling tobacco products to minors. Delgadillo was joined downtown by Attorney General Bill Lockyer, right, and Jonathan Fielding, director of public health for LA County.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Despite the 39-day waiting list for brain operations at the Queens Medical Center in Nottingham, England, the hospital suspended neurosurgeon Terence Hope in March (after 18 years' service), not for sub-standard work but because he had been accused of taking extra croutons for his soup in the hospital cafeteria, without paying. (The suspension was lifted three days later.)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Working in the theatre has a lot in common with unemployment."

— Arthur Gingold



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Pay bills first, Taurus

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)
★★★★ You might be pressured by a change of plans or information that comes forward. A brainstorming session proves to be unusually successful, as you come up with solutions. A new beginning becomes possible if you decide to make it so. Verbalize resolutions. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite person.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Deal with financial pressure in the best way you can. You could easily be overwhelmed by someone's stance. Discuss what you know and how you choose to handle a challenge financially. Resolve problems by looking at them as challenges. Tonight: Pay bills and then decide.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Don't react to someone's attitude. He or she might not understand where you are coming from. Given space and understanding, you'll achieve much more. Explain your position. A personal resolution holds. Let your creativity flourish. Tonight: Spontaneity works.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Attend to a personal issue that might be somewhat worrisome. Make a decision and follow through on what you want to happen. Your inner strength beams when drawing new possibilities and interests. Go within for answers. Tonight: Stay close to home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Another's rebellion might be your gain. Keep your eye focused on your desires. A strong resolution helps you achieve your goals, perhaps not immediately, but very soon. A meeting tosses ideas in your direction. Actively participate. Tonight: Out on the town.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Others listen to your opinions with new appreciation and thoughtfulness. What you thought couldn't happen now becomes a possibility. Brainstorm away, opening up to what works. A boss or superior does care about your opinions. Tonight: A must appearance could be a lot of fun..



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Exchange information openly. Don't hold back. What someone gains and what you receive could be greatly enhanced. Know what will be workable for you in the long run. Consider possibilities rather than take a stand. Tonight: Walk in another's shoes.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A partner or someone involved with finances could finally give you the break you are looking for. What might be happening could be very exciting and dynamic. Realize what needs to happen between the two of you. Build trust. Tonight: Dinner and a talk.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Drop your resistances and defenses. You might be delighted by what comes up. Listen more frequently to another and what he or she shares. New beginnings become possible in old relationships. Just decide to make it happen. Tonight: Say "yes."



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Seize the moment. You might be stunned by what comes down if you do just that. Break past a fear or resistance on your part. You gain professionally through a conversation. Thinking about a diet or exercise program? Do it now; after all, this is the first day of the rest of your life. Tonight: Others seek you out, perhaps late.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might recognize that a friendship isn't giving you what you want. Understand your priorities. Commit to a more romantic or imaginative bond. You most likely know this person already. Work out a problem. Tonight: Cheer the night on.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others need to hear more from you. Listen to a child you care about. Carefully consider options that surround your personal or domestic life. Not everything is as you see it right now. Make a long-overdue commitment. Tonight: Buy a favorite snack on the way home

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

The first senior class to graduate from Wildwood School included five students from Santa Monica.

Santa Monicans among Wildwood's first grads

By Daily Press staff

Daniel Cohn, Corey Fredman Fetzner, Joseph Kanengiser, Matthew Levy and Anna Silver recently became the first Santa Monica students to graduate from Wildwood School in Los Angeles.

Wildwood School is a K-12, coeducational, independent college preparatory day school located in West Los Angeles. In order to graduate, Wildwood seniors had to fulfill all their coursework and successfully design, undertake and present to a panel of teachers, administrators, students and family members three Senior Exhibitions.

"We wanted our graduates to be active learners who are committed to making a difference in their community and who will be successful in college," said Dr. George Wood, commencement speaker and founding director of Wildwood's Secondary School.

The first graduating class of 20 seniors recently received their diplomas and a total of over \$640,000 in merit scholarships.

The first graduating class also has the distinction of setting many of the school's traditions and being role models and mentors for the younger students. They've established high school sport teams, student government, and school clubs and have been part of the faculty hiring process.

Crash course: ROP offers Windows of opportunity

By Daily Press staff

The Regional Occupation Program will offer a summer school class in basic MS OFFICE computer applications for adults and high school students 16 years or older. The class is geared toward those wanting to learn workplace applications, including Windows, file management, word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software.

The class will meet on campus on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9:30 p.m. for six weeks.

Registration for the class will be held Monday through Thursday at the ROP office at 601 Pico Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



SURF REPORT

A mix of leftover local windswell and some small-shadowed SW swell filters through to Santa Monica today. In northern LA County, most spots see knee- to waist-high surf. South Bay spots pick up the windswell for waist-high+ waves at average breaks and sets to chest-high at standout spots. Expect smaller and less consistent surf to be on tap by the afternoon. Look for light wind in the morning to build out of the W in the 8-15 knot range for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

68°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:10	0.9	12:20	1.4	6:56	3.5	6:24	5.3
SUNDAY	1:57	0.4	12:56	1.7	7:59	3.4	7:26	5.7
MONDAY	2:36	0.0	1:29	2.0	8:52	3.4	7:54	5.8
TUESDAY	3:12	-0.3	2:00	2.2	9:39	3.4	8:23	5.9
WEDNESDAY	3:46	-0.5	2:30	2.4	10:20	3.4	8:52	5.9
THURSDAY	4:20	-0.6	3:00	2.5	11:00	3.4	9:22	5.9
FRIDAY	4:54	-0.6	3:32	2.6	11:40	3.4	9:54	5.9

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The Q Line

City Hall has now focused its efforts on making sure business owners are complying with the rules and regulations set upon them when they were approved to open in their locations.

After the business owner is visited in a surprise inspection by a building and safety code compliance officer, he or she is handed a bill for \$500. City officials say business owners have to be charged to offset the inspection program.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should business owners pay to have their property inspected by City Hall? Why or why not?"

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

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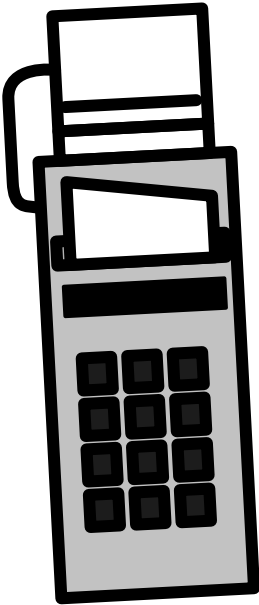


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OPINION

FUNNY PAPERZ

"FLAG DAY"

MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE—
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OF THEE I SING...



Today the
Supreme Court
threw out the case
brought by the man
who tried to have God
thrown out of
our Pledge.

—News Item

JOE KING

*And feed them on your dreams...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kibbles and bits of encouragement

Editor:

Thank you for your coverage of our initial strategy meeting. Both Georja Umano Jones, the group's founder, and myself have been stopped on the street with people asking us how to contact us and "Unleash The Beach." People interested in updates or volunteering or gathering signatures on the petition can e-mail us at info@unleashthebeach.com or write to us at "Unleash The Beach," 2633 Lincoln Blvd., Suite 229, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Jeff Goodman
Santa Monica

Foaming at the mouth

Editor:

After reading a lengthy article in your paper today (SMDP June 15, page 1) regarding "Unleash the Beach" that is, loco teacher Georja Umano Jones having the ill-conceived concept in mind to encourage others to circulate a petition forcing all others by City Council order to allow dog owners to release their animals at random on a large portion of Santa Monica's otherwise majestically pristine, world-class beaches (between lifeguard towers 11 and 12) for what she off-handedly says would be "just a little splash in the water" and "a nuzzle in the sand," is a lot of crap.

To begin with, dog and cat feces and urine is extremely unhealthy. Any serious ocean scientist, agriculturist, gardener or honest veterinarian will readily explain the dangers of high exposures of the waste to you. Picking up even small quantities of animal feces doesn't really significantly reduce the serious problems at question. What about the urine? In a year's time, there must be thousands of gallons deposited. All the so-called "dog beaches" are just parcels of sand ripped off from the public that are so saturated with dog urine, and fecal matter deposits from less-than-responsible animal owners, that they are unsuitable for any realistic human use. No one with any common sense would allow their children to walk or play on a parcel of previously pristine California sandy beach that has been overused for a stinking dog toilet. It is a ridiculous idea that this woman is promoting.

While all the rest of us are progressively working towards reducing overwhelming pollution, environmental damages and public safety (Yes, public safety. Not everyone has mild tempered little Jack Russell terriers. This is greater L.A., remember?). I envision owners of dog kennels and animal hospitals that abound in nearby Westwood, ecstatic that they could run or walk all of their customer's dogs at the "dog beach" or "dog toilet" as a new premium service to them instead of what they usually do — walk them up and down the alleys of Westwood to the displeasure of all of their non-dog industry neighbors.

Further, a dog, cat or any other creature that a person chooses to keep as a pet is the sole responsibility of that so-called owner, not in any way a community responsibility. If pet owners want a place to run their animals, to create another public animal toilet, they should gather together and purchase a parcel of property of their own as a co-op and trash it out as they please instead of encroaching upon the rest of the community's world-class pristine beaches.

Don Johnson
Venice Beach

No frowning on Motown: Pistons drive point home

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Let me set the record straight on a couple of things.

Last week, a reader alerted me to the fact that the liberal talk-radio network I had written about — Air America — lasted in L.A., not for three days as I said, but for three weeks. I stand corrected.

And this. I offered up a sports column the Saturday before the NBA Finals began. It was headlined, "It's all over but crying for Lakers' next foe." If you missed it, I taunted that foe. "The Pistons? Please." Would you believe the end of that thought was, "...take it easy on us?" Didn't think so. I suggested that Commissioner David Stern had considered combining the two Eastern Conference finalists — the Pacers and Pistons — to make a decent series out of it, but knowing it would still result in a four-game Laker sweep, he decided against it. I predicted the Lakers in three, that Detroit would forfeit Game Four after three blowouts. It turns out I called it right — it was a joke of a series. OK, so I had the teams reversed. Nobody's perfect.

Who didn't know that the Detroit Pistons would prove to be the superior team in every single aspect of this basketball series? Who didn't know they would manhandle and bitch-slap the Lakers?

The Pistons turned the "Dream Team" into a nightmare in five games, and sent them flying off in every-which direction. Rasheed Wallace sent Karl Malone flying off into retirement; Chauncey Billups sent Gary Payton flying off into something resembling hell; Rip Hamilton sent Kobe Bryant flying off to the Knicks or the (gasp) Clippers; Ben Wallace sent Shaquille O'Neal back to school to learn how to fly again. And Larry Brown, winning for the first time in his 21 seasons as an NBA head coach, sent Phil Jackson flying home to Montana with Red Auerbach still on his back, one pre-ordained series victory away from an NBA-record 10th title.

It's not as if the Detroit Pistons came into this thing like some kind of fire-breathing dragon, burning down everything in their path. They trailed the Nets 3-2 in the Eastern Semifinals, needing a Game 6 win in New Jersey and a Game 7 cliff-hanger at home to advance to the conference finals, where they barely put the Pacers down in seven ugly, low-scor-

ing, hard-fought games.

Meanwhile, your Los Angeles Lakers, winners of three of the last four NBA titles, came roaring into these finals, having disposed of San Antonio, then Minnesota — thought by many to be the two best teams in the entire league — in six games.

So, of course, the Pistons take four of five games from L.A. without breaking a sweat, winning by an average of 14 points per game. And it really should have been a clean sweep. If not for a miracle fadeaway three-pointer by Bryant with two seconds left in Game 2, this thing was four and out. You might even say it was over in three — as was boldly predicted — because, after the Lakers were blown away by 20 in Game 3, they recognized the nature of the beast they were up against, and packed it in right then and there.

The beast they were up against was spelled with a capital 'D'. In 23 playoff games, the Pistons surrendered a meager 80 points per contest. In that Game 3 series-breaker they held the Lakers to 68 — the lowest playoff point total in their history. With a crippled Malone, an ineffective Payton and an overworked Shaq and Kobe, Detroit's game plan was to stop Kobe with double- and even triple-teams, let Shaq get his while putting him on the free-throw line as often as possible, and make the other guys beat them. At one point in Game 7, with the outcome still undecided, the Lakers had on the floor Brian Cook, Slava Medvedenko, Luke Walton, Kareem Rush and Bryon Russell. Now that outfit would be hard-pressed to beat a CBA team, let alone the champs from the East, and the Pistons quickly built the lead to a laughable 28 early in the fourth quarter. That was when the victory parade schedule was posted on the arena video screen, adding insult to humiliation for the outclassed visitors from the West.

Such was the unceremonious way the curtain came down on what was billed as the greatest collection of basketball talent ever to pull on the same jersey. From the Hall of Fame to the Hall of Shame in 10 gruesome days. There you have it, equal opportunity bashing.

So I've done my repentance, and to prove it I will write 100 times: "Detroit is the team."

Finished. If you don't see it in here all 100 times, don't blame it on me. That would be an E.D. — editor's decision.

Meanwhile, I'm going back to picking on the conservatives. These Pistons have been no fun at all.

(Ron Scott Smith is a recovering Lakers fan and can be reached at edge-ofthewest@aol.com)

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? VOICE YOUR OPINION IN THE DAILY PRESS

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Santa Monica Daily Press: Attn: Editor 1427 Third Street
Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or email: sack@smdp.com



OPINION



Alexander the great: No need to buck the system



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

Last week, amidst the news of former President Ronald Reagan's passing, was a side controversy whipped up by Grover Norquist, a man supposedly charged with promoting Reagan's legacy. The debate was over the \$10 bill. Norquist wants Reagan's face to replace that of Alexander Hamilton. His argument, articulated in a USA Today column, went something like, "Alexander Hamilton was a nice guy and all, but he wasn't president, and Reagan was the best president of the 20th Century."

Leaving aside the debate about whether former President Reagan deserves to be honored on our currency, I found his comments incredibly disturbing and seriously misinformed, especially since they were coming from a man who had served on the 1988, '92 and '96 Republican National Platform Committees.

Could he really know so little about Hamilton?

Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, was an extraordinary man, arguably our most important Founding Father after George Washington himself.

As Aide de Camp to Gen. Washington in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton:

- Acted as Washington's chief of staff, negotiating prisoner exchanges, devising military strategy, translating documents into French (he was one of the few who spoke the language in Washington's "family"), lobbying the Continental Congress and the 13 colonial governments for support.

As an Officer in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton:

- Fought in the "Christmas Day Battle" at Trenton, leading an artillery company;

- Fought in the decisive Battle of Yorktown, leading an infantry charge.

As an attorney in New York, Hamilton:

- Served as a NY state assemblyman and a NY delegate to the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation;

- Helped convene the Constitutional Convention;

- Authored the majority of the Federalist Papers;

- Argued before the NY Supreme Court a case that is the foundation for our libel law today, which says: "it isn't libel if it can be shown to be true;"

- Founded the New York Evening Post.

As Secretary of the Treasury in President George Washington's Administration, Hamilton:

- Restructured all of the domestic (state and national) and foreign-war debts;

- Reestablished the nation's credit;

- Proposed a national mint so the country would have one currency (not 13) and a national bank (it was later dissolved, though the Federal Reserve is its successor);

- Used the "necessary and proper" clause of the Constitution to argue for the establishment of the national bank, setting the precedent for an "implied powers" interpretation, and a whole host of federal actions that have come to pass because of his deft logic.

These are just a few of his accomplishments.

Having seen the worst abuses imaginable in the sugar islands of the West Indies as a child, Alexander Hamilton abhorred the institution of slavery and was one of the first to support abolition. He founded the New York Society for the Manumission of Slaves in 1785.

What's more, he came from nothing. Though he was a descendant of a Scottish Lord, he was illegitimate (his parents were not legally married) and had been orphaned (his father had abandoned his

family when he was 10, and his mother died when he was 13). At 17, he went to New York to get an education and make his way. When the Revolutionary War started, he was one of the first to enlist in the patriot cause.

As Henry Cabot Lodge said: "Force of intellect and force of will were the sources of his [Hamilton's] success."

Part of what makes him such an interesting historical figure isn't his exceptionalism, it's his humanity — his insecurities, his arrogance, his wit, his passion, his charm, his ambition, even his combativeness. Alexander Hamilton had the first sex scandal in our nation's history (an illicit affair that he was blackmailed for), and he was mortally wounded in duel with Vice President Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804.

Here's The Thing:

Ronald Reagan wouldn't have been president had it not been for Hamilton. Neither would the Roosevelts — Teddy

and Franklin.

It's highly unlikely that the United States of America would have made it as far as James Madison (president #4), much less all the way to Reagan (#40), if Hamilton had not served Washington. The North-South divisions that nearly split the country during the Civil War would have arisen sooner and likely would have prevailed. The 13 states may even have broken into 13 different countries. Democracies are not easy to keep together.

Alexander Hamilton was the only Founding Father who consistently fought for and believed in the words he helped enshrine in the Constitution — "a more perfect union." It is this legacy that makes him worthy of much more than even the \$10 bill.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

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Resurgence of living wage concerns businesses

WAGE, from page 1

following sense — if somebody is playing by the rules in our society and is working 40 hours a week, whatever job they are doing, it is part of an interconnected greater whole of a series of jobs, a series of occupations, that altogether make for a healthy society.

“And to say that for some of the people in our society, who are playing by the rules, who are working 40 hours a week and can’t make it on that income ... even though they’re participating as part of the greater whole, I think that we deny something of our common humanity by commodifying their work, and saying those types of jobs really aren’t worth it.”

Feinstein was joined by Mayor Richard Bloom, and City Councilmen Ken Genser and Kevin McKeown in backing the higher minimum wage. Opposing the increase were City Councilwoman Pam O’Connor and City Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz.

“The public repealed the city’s living wage ordinance less than two years ago,” Holbrook said. “I’m just frustrated, ’cause I don’t know what the public does. If they disagree with us, do they go out then and do another repeal campaign, city-wide? And then, a year from now, do another one? Or do they just change the council? I don’t know what they ought to do ...”

O’Connor indicated she was willing to raise the bottom wage, but said she would like to look at different levels. Katz

echoed Holbrook, adding the proposed living wage was flawed because it didn’t cover the whole community, and therefore handicaps City Hall.

“We’re going to go through it again,” Katz said Wednesday. “It’s discriminatory, it’s costly and, as far as I’m concerned, not a valid approach.”

The \$11.50 base wage would apply to all City Hall workers, except some in intern and training positions. It also would extend to contractors with government jobs in excess of \$50,000. Funding sources still need to be identified for the increased wage, though the council did earmark \$300,000 of the 2004-2005 budget that staffers had recommended be used for worker benefits.

How much the proposal will cost City Hall is unclear. Estimates range from near \$300,000 to more than \$1 million, largely depending on how much the contractor mandate will cost City Hall. While a City Hall survey of contractors suggested that portion of the increase would cost \$750,000 to \$1 million alone, some cite a report from the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University of Law and argue contractors will swallow much of the increased cost to stay competitive.

Members of the business community on Wednesday said they were very concerned about the action and hopeful it still can be defeated.

“There’s so many other things that the city should really focus on,” said Seth Jacobsen, a spokesman for the group that

narrowly defeated the 2002 living wage. “Police, fire, schools — that’s where the money should be going, not to the living wage. Not at this time.

“There’s a really strong, deep-seeded concern among the business community that (a city-wide living wage is) the next step and that this is a slippery slope towards that.”

A handful of speakers addressed the matter at the council meeting, all supporting the higher base wage. Among them were Lauralee Asch, a City Hall union leader, Vivian Rothstein, a union organizer with deep ties in the community, and Rev. Sandie Richards.

“My church, Church in Ocean Park, has been an organization of conscience in this struggle,” Richards told the council, before it began deliberations. “We don’t materially benefit directly from a living wage ordinance in obvious ways. But we feel that we do materially benefit when our brothers and sisters who work hard are given a living wage.”

Four council members ultimately agreed, and reiterated their commitment to raising wages.

“I think the reality is, we take this step as an incremental step, it is a direction we move in,” Bloom said. “The idea that we move forward on social issues frequently — on an incremental basis, step by step to reach an ultimate goal — is one that’s well engrained in this country and in this community ... We will set an example to other communities by doing this.”

Symphony funding saved in 60th anniversary year

BUDGET, from page 1

July 1, and City Hall hopes to begin restoring programs scaled back in previous years due to the sour economy. No layoffs were made this year, and the cuts that were selected should have a minimum impact on the public, according to officials.

Some two dozen people spoke at the Tuesday meeting, asking elected leaders to find extra money for a variety of programs cut in recent years. The council decided to grant nearly all of their requests, despite a warning from City Manager Susan McCarthy against using “one-time” money for items that come up annually.

City Council voted to give an extra \$10,000 to Legal Aid’s Domestic Violence Program, which serves battered women throughout the area. Staffers had proposed reducing funding to the program to reflect the level of use by Santa Monica residents, but the council decided to first seek increased funding from surrounding cities.

Another \$50,000 was given to the Santa Monica Historical Society, which had requested \$75,000 to sort through and archive recently discovered documents from the collection of Sen. John P. Jones, co-founder of Santa Monica. Most of the \$50,000 will be used to pay a 93-year-old descendant of Jones to help sort through the documents, which number between 15,000 and 65,000. Council members said they had to act quickly in order to take advantage of the historian’s expertise.

The Santa Monica Symphony, now in its 60th year, will receive an additional \$11,000 to help stage its free concerts in the coming budget year. Symphony enthusiasts had requested increased funding for anniversary year events, but were glad the funding level was maintained at the last minute, as was the case last year.

Finally, the council agreed to give the League of Women Voters \$1,000 for its Smart Voter program, which disseminates election information.

Even after the \$72,000 in one-time expenses, City Hall maintained a 10-percent reserve fund for next year — and another \$95,000 was left unspent in council reserve, travel and other funds. Prudent financial planning has given City Hall a triple-A bond rating, meaning investors will pay top dollar for future bond issues.

Tuesday’s budget meeting was the first time in several years that school supporters haven’t protested in front of City Hall and flooded council chambers to ask for extra money. The 2004-2005 budget calls for the city to give public schools \$6 million in ongoing funds, or \$3 million more than in previous years. That decision was made last month under pressure from a parent group that threatened to put a controversial charter amendment on the ballot forcing higher contributions.

In an effort to offset the school expense, the council agreed to ask voters to approve a two-percent hike in the hotel bed tax, which is charged on hotel rooms throughout the city. Currently, the bed tax in Santa Monica is 12 percent. If voters approve the new 14 percent level, Santa Monica will be on par with most surrounding cities — except Marina del Rey, which has a bed tax of 13 percent. That extra 2 percent is expected to generate an additional \$3.5 million a year.

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LOCAL



Ashes to ashes, butts to bust: Market targeted

SUIT, from page 1

rate exceeded that at other supermarkets, such as Ralphs or Albertsons.

Nearly 20 members of the local and national media gathered in front of the Vons at Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway for the early afternoon press conference. Safeway, Inc. owns Vons, Pavilions and Pak N' Save stores.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court, seeks to force Safeway stores to curb tobacco sales and seeks civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation. It claims Safeway repeatedly sells to minors, doesn't check IDs, and has failed to post tobacco permits and warnings against underage sales.

"Anyone who sells or gives tobacco to

teenagers under 18 is committing a crime," said Delgadillo, adding he will target small retailers next. Delgadillo said he may pull sales permits from offenders — and even seek jail time.

After reiterating that tobacco is the number-one cause of avoidable deaths, Fielding said one third of addicted smokers will die prematurely, from illnesses like heart disease, lung cancer and emphysema. An estimated 11,000 Los Angelinos die from tobacco each year, and 44,000 in California.

Too many of those start smoking as children, officials said.

"We're concerned about their future," said Fielding, who suggested the age for tobacco sales be raised to 21. "We're here to protect the future of our kids."

FERC orders California to refund \$270M to Enron

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has asked federal regulators to reverse a May order that demands the state pay Enron and other energy companies almost \$270 million in refunds stemming from the 2000-01 energy crisis.

The refunds add "insult to injury by rewarding the sellers a second time for their market manipulation activities and predatory pricing," the attorney's general motion said. It was filed Monday with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The motion follows the release of transcripts of Enron Corp. traders gloating about gouging California's power market, which Lockyer said was just more evidence that energy companies manipulated prices.

On the calls, Enron traders openly and gleefully discussed creating congestion on transmission lines, taking power plants offline to pump up electricity prices and other manipulation of the California power market.

The order was particularly unfair considering "the recent Enron tapes and so much other evidence of market manipulation by the energy generators," Lockyer said in an interview Tuesday.

FERC has ordered refunds and is calculating how much power companies owe in

overcharges from the energy crisis. At issue are megawatts bought and sold through the Independent System Operator, the manager of the state's power grid.

The May order makes it clear that its refund order includes \$2.9 billion worth of electricity purchases made by California energy traders in 2001, when the state stepped in to buy power on behalf of three nearly bankrupt utilities.

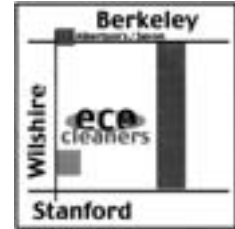
In his filing, Lockyer said the state's power buys helped the ISO secure enough energy to keep the lights on. State buyers bought power at the high market price, then resold it at the state's cost "in order to protect California's electricity grid from blackouts," the filing said.

Most of the state's electricity purchases were used by the utilities — Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

But some of the power sold into the ISO market was bought by other energy companies, such as Enron. Those are the sales subject to the refund order, and could cost the state \$270 million.

FERC spokesman Bryan Lee said he couldn't comment because the matter was pending before the commission. But in its order, FERC said the state's power trades should be treated the same as other wholesalers.

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Rent Control Board	Two Seats
Board of Education	Three Seats
College Board of Trustees	Three Seats

Eligibility Requirements: Candidate must be a registered voter in the jurisdiction at the time nomination papers are issued to him/her. All vacancies are for four-year terms.

Filing Period: July 12, 2004 to August 6, 2004. However, because City Hall will be closed Friday, August 6, nomination papers will be accepted through Monday, August 9, until 5:30 p.m. Nomination papers will be issued by the City Clerk starting on July 12, 2004, and throughout the nomination period. In order to qualify, a candidate must obtain at least 100 valid signatures, from voters registered in the jurisdiction, on his/her petition. Candidate Workshops will be held on July 12, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., and July 14, 2004, at 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall. Candidates not able to attend the workshops will be issued nomination papers throughout the filing period at the City Clerk's Office upon request. There is no filing fee.

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Establishing Campaign Committees
Related Election Regulations
Local Measures for November 5th Ballot Initiative Process



STATE

Schwarzenegger putting muscle into budget talks

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — While acknowledging the Legislature will miss California's constitutional deadline for passing a budget for the 18th straight year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said this week he and legislators are making "good progress" on a budget that will be done before the end of the month.

"Everything is going smoothly," said Schwarzenegger at a midmorning press conference. "Everyone understands here, which is so great, that we have a crisis, that we have to get our act together, that we have to tighten out belts."

He declined to provide any details about the talks but noted that he is very close to securing an agreement with at least four unnamed Indian gambling tribes that would provide the state with an as-yet undetermined amount of new tax revenue. He said he expects more will join the agreement.

The governor's conciliatory message came something as a surprise after Schwarzenegger made a point last month to circle the June 15 deadline as the day he expected the Legislature to deliver the spending plan.

But administration officials signaled last week that the distraction caused by the funeral of former President Ronald Reagan would likely cause a slip in the schedule and that Schwarzenegger accepted the delay.

After an hour-long meeting with the governor and Republican leaders behind closed doors, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said the two sides are not that far apart.

"I'm as optimistic as the governor," said Nunez.

Schwarzenegger said little specific about the negotiations on many issues, just that "progress was being made."

He denied reports that he is simultaneously preparing a statewide barnstorming campaign in support of his budget plan — and against Democratic lawmakers — if the two sides come to an impasse.

"People of California are very smart, they will look at the performance of the Legislature, they look at all that," he said. "November is Judgment Day. Legislators

know that they have to perform. "There's no reason to campaign against anyone, we're one big family," he said.

Lawmakers have not met the June 15 deadline since 1986 and in recent years have frequently started the new fiscal year without a budget agreement. Most legislators say they are far more concerned with getting an agreement before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 because some vendors and state workers do not get paid without an approved budget.

Recent years, however, would suggest that even making the July 1 date will not be easy.

Two years ago the budget was a record 67 days late; and last year, Assembly members were held in the longest floor session in state history before a budget accord was finally reached.

But only a few months after the recall election that brought Schwarzenegger to power — and sent a clear message from voters to end to partisan gridlock — lawmakers say this year is different.

Plenty of signs of compromise exist. Schwarzenegger has backed away from many of the cuts in spending on health care and welfare programs he originally sought in January. Democrats, who control the Legislature, have given up on raising taxes to help close what could be an estimated \$17 billion shortfall.

Democrats say privately they like most of the governor's budget proposal, which relies on billions of dollars in borrowing and one-time savings to balance spending. But the majority party has a list of issues for which they want money, including the lifting of an enrollment cap at state universities and colleges, protecting services for the disabled and reforming the financial relationship between local government and the state.

Doing that would add several hundred million dollars in spending to Schwarzenegger's proposed \$102.8 billion budget, but Democrats don't want to cut other programs to pay for it.

Instead, Democrats have hoped they could talk Schwarzenegger into letting them use more of the \$15 billion in bonds approved by voters in March. On Tuesday, however, Schwarzenegger said no, that he wanted to keep some of that borrowing power in reserve for next year.

Waste not, want not: Crews begin nuclear plant cleanup

BY SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

RICHLAND, Wash. — Workers at the Hanford nuclear reservation have begun a new phase of cleaning up along the Columbia River corridor: digging up solid waste near two dormant nuclear reactors.

The chore represents the last major hurdle for soil cleanup near Hanford's B and C reactors. When completed, the B and C areas will be the first reactor sites where cleanup will be finished along the river.

But unearthing nuclear junk comes with its share of surprises. Already, there have been times workers were left scratching their heads wondering what exactly they had dug up, said a laughing Rex Miller, onsite manager for Bechtel Hanford, the

contractor responsible for tearing down and cocooning Hanford's reactors and cleaning up the grounds nearby.

"You have to dig as if you expect a surprise with every bucketful," Miller said. "Every bucketful is kind of an adventure."

Both reactors at the south-central Washington nuclear reservation were closed in the late 1960s after more than two decades of producing plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal. Over the years, reactor workers buried nuclear junk and garbage, some of which could still be radioactive or contaminated by chemicals.

Final decisions on handling groundwater contamination in the river corridor and the future of the cocooned reactors still lie ahead.

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NATIONAL



Mirage executives envision merger will up the ante

BY ADAM GOLDMAN

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — The \$4.8 billion buyout of Mandalay Resort Group Inc. by MGM Mirage will have global implications for the gambling and convention markets, according to company executives who on Wednesday previewed an aggressive growth plan stretching from Las Vegas to Singapore.

Hours after both boards unanimously approved the biggest casino deal in history, Terri Lanni, chairman and chief executive of MGM Mirage Inc., put competitors on notice that the gambling giant would not let the merger slow efforts to build new casinos around the world.

"With all of the additional resources we'll gain from this transaction, we'll be better able to compete across all segments of the gaming and leisure market," Lanni said in a conference call with Wall Street analysts.

The terms of the agreement were a cash buyout of \$71 per share and the assumption of \$2.5 billion in Mandalay debt. It also includes about \$600 million in bonds that can be exchanged for company stock.

The agreement calls for a \$160 million breakup fee if the deal collapses, Glenn W. Schaeffer, Mandalay's president and chief financial officer, told The Associated Press.

Jim Murren, MGM Mirage's president and chief financial officer, said complete terms would be released within days, and he didn't envision any problems financing the blockbuster deal between the two Las

Vegas-based companies.

"We've reached out to many of our financial partners," he said. "They've been wanting to run in here with a big checkbook."

Mandalay's executive management will help with the transition but will not stay on. MGM Mirage executives said most of Mandalay's other employees would be retained. The company hasn't announced any plans to change its name.

In Wednesday trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Mandalay shares fell 8 cents to \$67.80 while MGM Mirage shares were down 62 cents at \$48.88.

MGM Mirage executives said they expect to complete the transaction by the first quarter in 2005 if antitrust issues don't interfere. Murren said he doesn't think gambling regulators will delay the deal, which has been vetted by legal experts.

John Mulkey, a Bear Stearns gambling analyst in New York, said MGM Mirage will benefit in executing its expansion plans.

"We believe its a good acquisition for them," Mulkey said. "Their size and brands would almost guarantee them a seat in any discussions for new gaming jurisdictions domestically or internationally."

Schaeffer said the two companies are a perfect fit with their diverse assets. Their combined potential is formidable, he said.

"The strategic aspect of this combination has worldwide implications," he said. "I think the combination of forces ... will bring

forth a pretty exciting growth dynamic."

The transaction will give MGM Mirage revenues of about \$6.5 billion and control of 28 properties in Nevada, New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan and Mississippi. It will create the biggest gambling company in the world.

Caesars Entertainment and Harrah's Entertainment will drop a notch on the gambling ladder, taking the No. 2 and 3 spots respectively in total revenues.

In addition to 70,000 employees, MGM Mirage would boast having the fifth largest convention center in the United States, at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

The combined companies would claim about half of the 72,000 hotel rooms on the Las Vegas Strip. Many of the most famous casinos in the world, The Mirage, Bellagio, MGM Grand, Circus Circus, Luxor and Mandalay Bay would fall under the new MGM Mirage corporate umbrella.

Murren said MGM Mirage had no plans to sell any of its properties, except for a

casino in Detroit. Michigan law requires MGM Mirage to sell either the MGM Grand Detroit Casino or Mandalay's MotorCity Casino because Detroit's three licensed casinos must be separately owned.

"We have no intention at this point in time of divesting any other properties," Murren said, adding that he had two pages of names of suitors looking to buy one of the Detroit casinos.

Lanni said MGM Mirage was looking at opportunities to build casinos in the United Kingdom, Thailand, Singapore and Macau, a Chinese enclave west of Hong Kong.

MGM Mirage will decide on whether to expand the Borgata hotel-casino in Atlantic City, N.J., in the next three or four weeks, Lanni said. It also is considering building another Atlantic City property, perhaps in a joint venture similar to the Borgata arrangement with Boyd Gaming, he said.

The initiatives, Lanni said, are "not going to slow down whatsoever."

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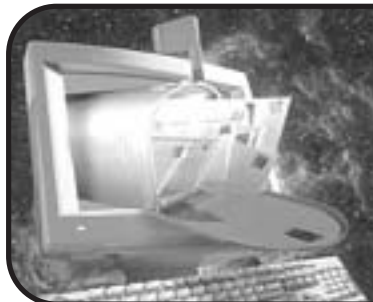
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NATIONAL

Wild-horse advocates say to steer clear of horses

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press Writer

PALOMINO VALLEY, Nev. — Wild-horse advocates who reject the government’s claim that 32,000 horses are overrunning parts of the West say some of the millions of cattle grazing public rangeland should be removed before any more mustangs are rounded up.

With more than half the wild horses located in Nevada, opponents of the roundups have been staging weekly demonstrations the past two months at the state capitol in Carson City.

They also have picketed in front of the Bureau of Land Management office in Reno to protest the BLM’s efforts to cut wild horse populations nearly in half across the West.

“If the BLM truly feels our public lands are being so

greatly damaged by grazing animals, why aren’t privately owned livestock on our public lands being reduced in number as well?” asked Bonnie Matton of the horse advocacy group, We the People for Wild Horses and Burros.

BLM officials and ranching industry leaders say they have been reduced. The number of cattle grazing on public lands has dropped dramatically over the years, they say, to about half the number that were on the range when Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971.

They say an overpopulation of wild horses is harming the range and threatening the overall well-being of the horse herds at a time when much of the West remains in the grip of a five-year drought.

“If the horses are causing damage, then get them off the land,” said Doug Busselman, vice president of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation.

“There is an accountability with permits to make sure the livestock are managed properly but there is nobody

who manages the wild horses,” he said.

Even with the roundups, the government has been unable to keep pace with the wild horse herds that grow by about 20 percent each year, Busselman said.

“It’s like trying to empty the ocean with a teaspoon,” he said.

Horse protection advocates say the federal agency, the ranching industry and its political allies exaggerate the number of wild horses on the range and their effect on the environment compared with the damage caused by livestock.

“My experience in going to a lot of Nevada Legislature subcommittee hearings is you never hear about there being too many cows on public lands. It’s always the horses,” said Betty Kelly, a retired Carson City physician and leader of Wild Horse Spirit Ltd.

“You could remove all the wild horses and it wouldn’t make a difference in the amount of forage on the range,” she said.

The government doesn’t keep statistics on how many cattle graze federal land. Horse protection advocates estimate the number at 2 million to 4 million, and the National Cattlemen Beef Association puts it at 1 million to 2 million, spokeswoman Karen Batra said.

The statistic the BLM keeps is the number of animal unit months approved for grazing allotments. An AUM is the forage it takes to feed a cow and a calf — or five sheep — in a month.

In Nevada, AUMs have declined from 2.2 million in 1971 to 1.2 million in 2003, BLM spokeswoman Maxine Shane said.

Sen. Dean Rhoads, chairman of the state Senate Natural Resources Committee, said ranchers have been giving up portions of their grazing allotments to horses ever since the 1971 law was passed.

“The forage the wild horses are getting now is actually what the livestock industry had to begin with,” Rhoads said. He said the mustangs also are driving off deer and other wildlife.

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WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Metro Bus Service Boosted

Added service on eight lines and summer service to the Hollywood Bowl are some of the improvements for Metro Westside/Central bus service coming June 27. Overall Metro Bus service will increase by three percent this year. For details on specific service improvements, visit metro.net

LACC Offers Free Metro Pass To Students

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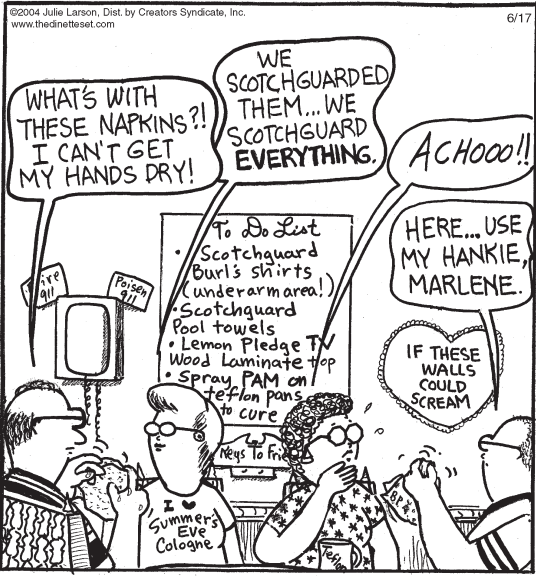
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- 25 Drill part
- 26 — tear
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- 32 Confused
- 33 Blunder
- 34 South American lake
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- 41 Chemist's concern
- 42 Patch type
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- 45 Ibsen's home

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Yesterday's answer

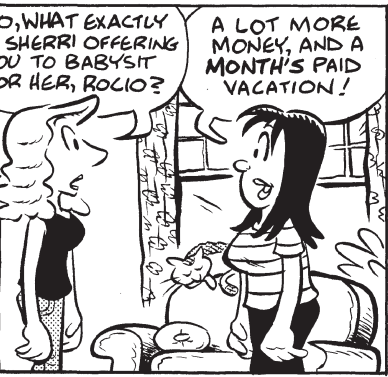
- 19 Hotel costs
- 20 Last Stuart ruler
- 21 Cordelia's dad
- 22 "Mamma Mia" group
- 23 Losing plan
- 28 Eye part
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- 39 Metal source
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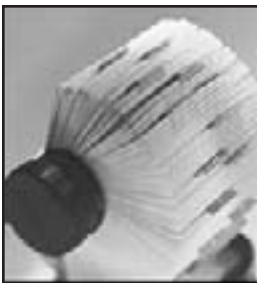
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Seacrest out-spoken: 'Idol' host judges Simon

By The Daily Press

■ **SINGAPORE** — Ryan Seacrest, the host of singing competition "American Idol," said judge Simon Cowell is arrogant and pompous and says things that are "too harsh," a report said Wednesday.

Seacrest added that Cowell was a good friend and the "most honest" of the show's three judges, in an interview with the Straits Times newspaper in Singapore, where a local version of the program is planned.

"I think that he's pompous. I think that he's arrogant. So my feelings about him, and the way that I address him on air, are very real," the 29-year-old Seacrest said in the interview.

Cowell is famous for his searing putdowns of contestants who do not, in his opinion, make the grade with their performances.

"I think he says things that are at times a bit too harsh and could probably convey them in a different light so that they don't crush a young person's dream," Seacrest said.

Last month, a record 65 million U.S. phone votes were cast in the finale of the latest "American Idol" season. Fantasia Barrino, a 19-year-old single mother, emerged as the tearful winner.

Seacrest said the show "will certainly be on air for the next few years."

"There's no telling what will happen after that but as long as people are watching it, then we should make the show," he said.

■ **MANILA, Philippines** — Former dictator Ferdinand Marcos' flamboyant first lady asked a court Wednesday to stop the local showing of a documentary about her life, saying she allowed it as a school project and not as a commercial film.

The award-winning documentary "Imelda," which has opened in the United States, focuses on the enigmatic rise and fall from power of Imelda Marcos, one of

Asia's most famous women who dazzled the world with her lavish projects and a huge shoe collection amid the country's appalling poverty.

The documentary was made by U.S.-based Filipino filmmaker Ramona Diaz based on her interviews with Mrs. Marcos and news clips.

"All our lives, President Ferdinand Marcos and I were so deeply committed to God, country, the truth and the Filipino people, but were portrayed by the unauthorized 'Imelda' documentary with malice, inaccuracies and innuendoes," Mrs. Marcos said in a prepared statement.

In her petition, she claims she let Diaz interview her as part of her thesis but didn't give her authority to use her statements for a commercial movie, her lawyer Vic Alvaro said.

Joan Cruz, a marketing officer for the Manila distributor Unitel Pictures International, said the film didn't cast Mrs. Marcos in a bad light and tried to strike a balance with interviews of her critics and close supporters and relatives.

"Depending on who'll watch it, one would either love or hate Imelda," Cruz told The Associated Press. There was no immediate comment from Diaz.

"Imelda," which won an award for cinematography at this year's Sundance Film Festival, was to open in the Philippines July 7, five days after Mrs. Marcos' 75th birthday.

■ **St. ANDREWS, Scotland** — Call him Dr. Tambourine Man.

Scotland's oldest university announced Wednesday it was awarding an honorary doctorate to the laureate of folk-rock, Bob Dylan.

The University of St. Andrews said Dylan would be made an honorary doctor of music at its June 23 summer graduation ceremony.

"Bob Dylan is an iconic figure for the 20th century, particularly for those of us whose formative years were in the 1960s and '70s," said the university's vice chan-

cellor, Brian Lang. "His songs, and in particular his lyrics, are still part of our consciousness."

St. Andrews, northeast of Edinburgh, was founded in 1413 and is Britain's third-oldest university. Its current students include Prince William, second in line to the throne.

The university said Dylan, 63, had accepted only one previous honorary degree, from Princeton University in 1970.

■ **NEW YORK** — Wayne Shorter and Dave Holland were off preparing to launch a summer tour this weekend on the West Coast in a super-quartet with pianist Herbie Hancock and drummer Brian Blade, but they were among the big winners at the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards 2004.

For the second straight year, tenor saxophonist and composer Shorter, who rose to prominence with Hancock in Miles Davis' legendary 1960s quintet, was chosen Musician of the Year on Tuesday. Shorter also was a repeat winner for Album of the Year for "Allegria," his first studio recording as a leader since 1994 and his quartet again was named the top small ensemble.

The British-born Holland, who began his U.S. career with Davis' electric "Bitches Brew" band, also was a repeat multiple-winner, for large ensemble and acoustic bass.

The 83-year-old pianist-composer Dave Brubeck won the award for Lifetime Achievement in Jazz in balloting conducted among some 400 members of the Jazz Journalists Association. Another pianist-composer, Vijay Iyer, the son of immigrants from India, was chosen Up & Coming Artist of the Year.

Also receiving multiple awards were Maria Schneider for composer and arranger; and George Wein, founder of the Newport Jazz Festival, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. He was honored as events producer and for best book about jazz, his autobiography "Myself Among Others."

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