

Santa Monica Daily Press

June 17-18, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 186

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
27 30 36 38 45
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$34M

Super LOTTO
9 12 36 38 41
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$70M

Fantasy 5
6 13 18 20 29

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 7 7 0
EVENING: 4 9 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:49.32

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In May, Nevada officials said they were hopeful of persuading the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to allow the family of a soldier who was killed in Afghanistan, and who is buried in a federal cemetery, to have a Wiccan symbol on his headstone. The department has approved headstone symbols for more than 30 religions, as well as one for atheists, but so far not for Wicca.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 168th day of 2006.
There are 197 days left in the year.

On June 17, 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill took place near Boston. The battle, which actually occurred on Breed's Hill, was a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses while dislodging the rebels.

In 1856, in Philadelphia, the Republican Party opened its first convention.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Keep it easy, Libra 2

Snow & Surf Report

Water temperature: 61° 3

Opinion

Reassessing the war 4

Commentary

Familial attacks 5

State

Mayor losing control 6

National

Polars popular 8

International

New face of evil 18

MOVIE/TIMES

Catch that 'Drift' 19

Comics

Strips tease 20

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 21-22



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

LIVE FOR TODAY: If June holds true to form, beachgoers may be running out of sun in the days ahead.

'Gloom' is always there

BY MICHAEL J. TITTINGER

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Santa Monicans can be forgiven for their occasional doom-and-gloom dispositions this time of year, for they know full well the ballyhooed Southern California sunshine can be quite fickle, especially in June.

They know not to get sucked into a false sense of security and disregard their designer coats just yet.

The sun of all fears?

Try "June Gloom" — an annual atmospheric party pooper that locals know all too well. It typically turns the expected clear skies of summer into a veritable wet blanket.

While the sun has been beaming in the city as of late, one area meteorologist insists in a Gen. MacArthur-like manner that the gloomy days "will be back."

"Eventually, it will right itself, but it could last up to six weeks," said Henry DiCarlo, a meteorologist with CBS-2 and KCAL-9, of the annual overcast season that has become renowned on the Westside. "Get used to it. It's not going anywhere."

See JUNE GLOOM, page 12

Sawdust memories



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Fernando Miller, of West Coast Arborists Inc., helps remove encroaching Palm Trees near the Santa Monica Beach on Friday.

Trees get axed

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

APPIAN WAY — Men with chain saws and a bulldozer removed six wild palm trees here Friday morning at the request of City Hall, after roots from the trees — some as high as a three-story apartment complex — began to damage concrete at a city-owned parking lot.

The palms, either planted illegally or spawned by Mother Nature,

were also encroaching on two, adjacent apartment buildings, according to the city's arborist, Walt Warriner.

"The trees look cool, but they are doing damage," Warriner said.

The trees will be replaced in the coming months by a more friendly species of palm, known as the windmill fan palm, or *Trachycarpus fortunei*, said Warriner. City Hall is looking to

See CUT TREES, page 12

Schools extend reach

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will still be allowed to attend classes even if they've been forced to move outside its boundaries because of an involuntarily loss of housing.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board on Thursday enhanced protections for students under its Interdistrict Attendance Policy, which strictly regulates enrollment for students who live outside of the district.

Students were already covered under the policy from involuntary evictions due to rental units being removed from the housing market, buildings being red-tagged or evictions to accommodate owner occupancy of an apartment.

However, the board felt it was necessary to be more specific about the protections, as an increasing number of its students have been affected by the rapidly changing housing market.

The school board also extended a moratorium on issuing new interdistrict permits — approved in 2001 — in an attempt to decrease current class sizes. Students enrolled who lose their homes involuntarily will not be affected. The moratorium would have ended this year if the board did not extend it.

Interdistrict permits are granted to students who apply from outside the district to attend SMMUSD schools, as the district has become desirable due to high student achievement and its large percentage of highly qualified teachers. Preference is given to those

See SCHOOL PERMITS, page 13

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Eddie Guerboian



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"Medical Breakthrough For Sciatica, Back Pain Caused By Herniated Disc"

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Horoscopes

2

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★ Step back and stay out of trouble. Working with someone else could draw an interesting and perhaps less challenging choice. The unexpected occurs when and where you least anticipate it. You might want to think positively if you want positive results. Tonight: Take your time.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. You do the unexpected and head in another direction. Others really care about you, far more than you realize. Find your friends. Happiness touches your life in many dimensions. Tonight: Where the action is.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You are in touch with your feelings, much more than you have been in a while. You might want to assume a bigger role in what goes on in the near future. Share more of who you are and what you want. Tonight: You're a star to those around you — remember that.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Touch base with others and show your caring. Think before you leap. Read between the lines. Listen to what others say. You might decide to take off at the last minute. Others appreciate your creativity and fun nature. Tonight: Try the unusual.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Work with a special person in your life. How long has it been since you spent a quality day together? Add closeness and trust through being spontaneous and expressing your vulnerabilities. You might not be able to understand where someone else is coming from. Tonight: Spend quality time.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Others run the show and want special time with you. If you are looking for constancy, forget it. You need to cruise through different issues and find out what is going on with you and with others. Relax and flow. Tonight: Put your best foot forward..



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Easy does it. You might want to revise your thinking or your daily routine. Change will be refreshing and take you away from the same old, same old. Soothe your nerves and take better care of yourself. Life will feel better, OK? Tonight: Keep it easy.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your playfulness reflects a newfound optimism. Your imagination and creativity lead you in the right direction. Follow your instincts and feelings. You won't go wrong right now. Lady Luck is on your side. Tonight: As you like it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your instincts will guide you. Staying close to home will be most satisfying. Your home and personal life become a source of joy and happiness. Unexpected insights force you to head in another direction. Tonight: Your home is where your heart is.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ What you say might surprise others; their responses might surprise you. You will find the right path to a longtime desire. You zoom in and find that success greets you socially or in any other realm you want. Tonight: Visit with others.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You will go overboard whether exercising, working or simply enjoying yourself. The unexpected occurs with finances. Be sure you know what you want. Think positively. Others follow your example. Tonight: Go for change.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your smile draws a grin. Though you could be surprised, you'll like what happens. Think carefully about your ability to read between the lines. You laugh, and another person reacts. Tonight: Follow the music



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Postal workers carry more than letters

By Daily Press staff

Letter carriers took on an extra burden in their daily route to collect food for the Westside Food Bank. On Saturday, May 13, letter carriers from 14 Westside postal stations, including those in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Culver City, Venice, Inglewood, Lawndale, and El Segundo, collected more than 100,000 pounds of food on their mail routes on behalf of Westside Food Bank. Thousands of local residents took part in “Stamp out Hunger Saturday”, a nation-wide effort sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service, by placing canned and packaged food by their mail boxes.

Westside Food Bank provides nearly four million pounds of food annually to 65 local social service agencies. Said Bruce Rankin, the food bank’s executive director, “The local need for food assistance in our community has never been higher, so we greatly appreciate everyone who gave food. We are especially grateful to all the letter carriers who took the trouble to carry all the food back to their stations.”

What’s old is new

By Daily Press staff

Find the missing dish to your vintage set in this vast collection of antiques. With more than 90 vendors, the event will include furniture, art class, silver, porcelain, bronzes, fine art, and jewelry. This is the longest-standing antique show on the west coast, going on 40 years old. The show takes place June 23 to June 25 at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Main Street. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$7 for the general public, \$4 for seniors.

One’s trash is another’s treasure

By Daily Press staff

There will be a thrift sale of clothing, furniture, jewelry, toys, and more at the First United Methodist Church. The sale items are donated by church members and other volunteers. The event is sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 67 and United Methodist Women.

The thrift sale will take place on Friday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on June 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is the social hall at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1008 11th St.

For more information, contact Helen Hewitt by phone at (310)451-3100 or by e-mail at chhewitt@aol.com.

Summer Sing-Alongs

By Daily Press staff

Sing along with or simply enjoy listening to major choral works led by guest conductors. The choral events take place on four Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Musical scores and refreshments will be provided.

The lineup is as follows:

July 6: A German Requiem (in English) by Johannes Brahms, with guest conductor Jeannine Wagner leading the Roger Wagner Chorale, Wagner Ensemble, and St. Francis de Sales Church choir.

July 13: Lux Aeterna by Morten Lauridsen, with guest conductor Donald Brinegar leading the Pasadena City College choir and the Donald Brinegar Singers.

July 20: Mass of the Children and Requiem by John Rutter, with guest conductor James Smith directing the Santa Monica College choir, First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica choir, and the South Bay Children’s Choir

July 27, Dona Nobis Pacem by Ralph Vaughn Williams, with guest conductor William Dehning directing the University of South Carolina choir.

The series of concerts is \$40 if purchased by July 1, or \$12 at the door for each concert. The First United Methodist Church is located at 1008 11th St., two blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard. For more information call (310) 393-8258.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	72"-96"	7:00 AM - 2:00 PM	35	4/28

CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING, CORN

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

CLOSED

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 61°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

THIS WEEKEND IS WHEN OUR NEXT SW SWELL IS DUE, BUT THIS IS NOTHING LIKE WHAT WE’LL BE SEEING BY TUESDAY.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SUBSTANTIAL SOUTHERLY SWELL HITS THE COAST EARLY NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR JUNE IN SANTA MONICA

DAY	LOW 1	LOW 2	HIGH 1	HIGH 2
1	8:19 AM	7:48 PM	12:25 AM	3:59 PM
2	9:10 AM	9:39 PM	1:23 AM	4:47 PM
3	10:04 AM	11:05 PM	2:40 AM	5:21 PM
4	10:42 AM	N/A	4:03 AM	5:45 PM
5	12:09 AM	11:19 AM	5:25 AM	6:14 PM
6	1:01 AM	11:54 AM	6:39 AM	6:35 PM
7	1:36 AM	12:32 PM	7:39 AM	7:05 PM
8	2:13 AM	1:05 PM	8:28 AM	7:29 PM
9	2:49 AM	1:39 PM	9:18 AM	8:05 PM
10	3:31 AM	2:10 PM	10:04 AM	8:35 PM
11	4:05 AM	2:51 PM	10:49 AM	9:16 PM
12	4:46 AM	3:32 PM	11:36 AM	9:57 PM
13	5:30 AM	4:19 PM	12:22 PM	10:42 PM
14	6:21 AM	5:16 PM	1:14 PM	11:27 PM
15	7:04 AM	6:26 PM	2:07 PM	N/A
16	7:58 AM	7:49 PM	12:25 AM	2:57 PM
17	8:43 AM	9:25 PM	1:31 AM	3:45 PM
18	9:38 AM	10:59 PM	2:52 AM	4:35 PM
19	10:24 AM	N/A	4:25 AM	5:15 PM
20	12:10 AM	11:16 AM	6:01 AM	5:57 PM
21	1:10 AM	12:05 PM	7:20 AM	6:39 PM
22	2:02 AM	12:49 PM	8:27 AM	7:21 PM
23	2:49 AM	1:39 PM	9:27 AM	8:02 PM
24	3:32 AM	2:19 PM	10:13 AM	8:42 PM
25	4:13 AM	3:06 PM	11:00 AM	9:26 PM
26	4:58 AM	3:43 PM	11:39 AM	10:00 PM
27	5:36 AM	4:25 PM	12:20 PM	10:42 PM
28	6:08 AM	5:10 PM	1:04 PM	11:16 PM
29	6:45 AM	6:05 PM	1:45 PM	N/A
30	7:21 AM	7:03 PM	12:00 AM	2:21 PM

The **Q**Line

THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK’S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4...

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

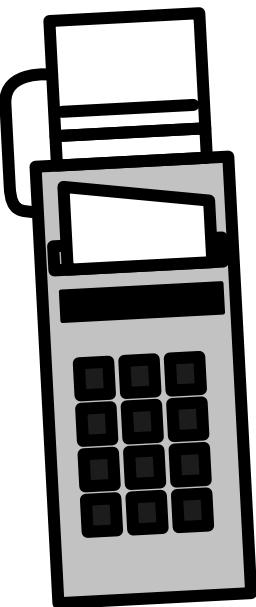


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The QLine

PUTTING A NEW FACE ON EVIL IN POST AL-ZARQAWI IRAQ

This past week, Q-line asked: **Does the news of al-Zarqawi's death alter your percdption of the war in Iraq?** Here are your responses:

© "It certainly does not. This war was a fiasco from its inception — a waste of lives, money, and resources. I feel sorry for those who have been duped under the guise of patriotism, but that is what it has been. It needs to end now, whatever happens. Stop wasting American lives, money, and resources."

© "So they killed one terrorist thug in Iraq — big deal, they still got quite a few more, especially the one in Washington D.C. named George W. Bush. He's too stupid to realize that Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with 9/11. He said well, we're invading Iraq but it's not for the oil. Well, considering oil prices he was telling the truth about that. It's only to sat- isfy Bush's ego because his daddy didn't finish the job that he's trying to finish, and he's making a bigger mess of it than his daddy ever could. The war in Iraq is a losing proposition, but Bush is too stubborn to realize that. He doesn't give a rat's patoot about the thousands of people he's killing on all sides. None of this killing would have been happening if it hadn't been for his "mission accomplished" invasion of Iraq, which should never have happened, just like the Bush presi- dency should never have happened."

© "This whole Iraqi war thing has only benefited arms man- ufacturers, and those who work for arms manufacturers, and those who benefit from the trickle-down of cash. It is interesting to note that al-Zarqawi was a Jordanian, and the main pile of manure, bin Laden, who is an Arab and who took credit for 9/11, is still parading around the mountainsides with his big balancing pole, deciding how to torment the United States more by stating that he still has a torpedo up his sleeve for the U.S.A. One might wonder what the Iraqis have to do with this war's silliness that is costing the lives of our precious young men. I will rejoice when bin Laden is brought to justice."

© "Al-Zarqawi's death just reaffirms that no terrorist can hide from the United States military. Opium warlords in Afghanistan must now adhere to their poppy-growing quota, or face a sim- ilar fate. So-called freedom fighters planning on disrupting the massive multi-billion dollar oil and gas developments through- out southern Russia, Iraq, Iran, and Turkey will have to think twice. They will be bought off with high-paying jobs in the oil pipelines. Funny how religious certainty can be influenced by a steady paycheck. With a base in Iraq, American power can project force to any one of those countries. The United States military can reach out and touch anyone throughout the entire Middle East. Death from above, just like God."

© "Does the news of Al-Zarqawi's death alter your percep- tion of the war in Iraq? How? No, it doesn't alter my percep- tion, because the U.S. war with Al Qaeda is different from the U.S. war with Iraq. Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda were not in partnership, so when the U.S.A. attacked Iraq, it was us against the Iraqis. Al Qaeda came to Iraq because they were enemies of the United States, just as when Afghanistans were fighting the Soviets, the U.S. supported the Afghanistans. So let's make that clear — there's no con- nection between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda."

© "Is this a trick question, or just simply as ludicrous as it sounds? We captured Saddam, the president, Bush declared the war over years ago, and this Al-Zarqawi guy has already been replaced and threatening even worse actions. I don't get it."

© "Hi, I'm calling from Iraq, and now that Al-Zarqawi is dead we're so happy, now we're gonna get all these roses and throw them at your feet. We're so happy that you've liberat- ed us. Thank you, thank you, everything is over. Victory is declared. Thank you, mission accomplished. Thank you, Americans."

Tips on tasting Italiano



MODERN TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

I've just returned from a trip to Italy and wanted to share some thoughts. This column is for those who just dream about Italy, those who soon may be going for the first time, as well as those veteran travelers who go to Italy whenever they get a taste for pasta with wild boar sauce.

ROME:

When seeing the famous sights in Rome, one can't help but be staggered by their age. The Coliseum and other build- ings are 2,000 years old. And you'll see ruins that are even older than that. It gives you a sense of permanence and of a continuity of humanity. This was especially so for me, because I live in a city where I'm likely to see signs that proudly declare: "Established: 2003."

One of the first things a visitor to Rome notices is that there are elderly, somewhat stooped-over men and women standing on almost every street corner. These are not Italian grandmothers and grandfathers. These are tourists who have been standing there for 30 years, waiting for a car to let them cross the street. Things like this give birth to:

TRAVEL MYTH NO. 1: ITALIANS ARE CRAZY DRIVERS

Mistaking Italians for bad drivers is an understandable error. The reality is that they are fantastic drivers. If there is an empty space of a centimeter or two (I have to speak met- ric if I'm talking about Italy), they'll find a way to drive through it. If you see a parking spot that looks too small for any car except one that might be lowered from a crane, the expert Italian driver will pull right in. Italian drivers are fear- less, which is why pedestrians should be fearful.

TRAVEL TIP NO. 1: BEWARE OF THE PLUMBING

Public toilets often require a contortionist's skill. And I was never able to figure out how to use the shower in our hotel room without flooding the bathroom. Also, I have a feeling that the little basin next to our toilet was not really meant for washing out my socks.

TRAVEL MYTH NO. 2: SMALL PORTIONS

We've all heard this one: The reason Europeans can eat so

many courses and not be as fat as Americans is because the portions are small. Not in Italy. The smallest portions I saw would even be a challenge for a teenage boy who wasn't pay- ing for them.

TRAVEL TIP NO. 2: LEARN SOME ITALIAN

At least learn a few phrases. Don't be the kind of tourist who thinks that you can translate English into Italian just by adding an "o" to every word. Sure, people speak English at all the tourist spots and

FLORENCE:

Florence is beautiful, and less crowded than Rome. The food there is different from Rome, but equally delicious. It's heavier, and more of it is fried. Their specialty is a steak, the minimum size of which is usually one kilogram (2.2 pounds). See Travel Myth No. 2.

TUSCANY:

We rented a car and drove around Tuscany for a few days (In case you were in Italy at the time, I was the guy driving the Fiat who wasn't used to a standard shift). This was the most relax- ing part of the trip and everywhere we looked, we saw beauti- ful, colorful rolling hills. We also saw some charming, medieval towns, and were always surprised that so many other tourists were visiting them, too. I guess if I read about a place in a guide- book, a few other people probably have, too. We also visited Pisa where more people were busy posing for that "clever" photo in which the person looks like he or she is holding up the leaning tower than were actually looking at the tower.

I almost forgot...

TRAVEL TIP NO. 3 – BACK TO ROME

If you want to go the Vatican museums to see, among other things, the Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's ceiling, you won't be able to use your credit card. The Vatican only accepts cash for these visits. And when you think about it, that's pretty consistent with the history of the place. I don't think Michelangelo took MasterCard either.

It's nice to be home.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" col- umn for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com and a weekly column for SportsLine.com)

Bitch!
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Check out our Q-Line™ question on Page 3.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN WHITEHEAD

Marriage stability on rocks all around

In 1992, then-Vice President Dan Quayle criticized the producers of the popular TV sitcom *Murphy Brown* for portraying the show's lead character as "mocking the importance of a father, by bearing a child alone, and calling it just another 'lifestyle choice.'" Quayle insisted that such a storyline undermines the importance of the traditional family.

The family issue has once again emerged with President Bush's proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. The amendment, which was defeated in the Senate on June 7, defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

During his June 5 press conference, President Bush attempted to capitalize on this issue with one of his strongest bases of supporters — evangelicals. Indeed, one leading voice of the evangelical right claims that the battle for the definition of marriage is more "significant to our culture" than the war on terror.

The political rhetoric surrounding the issue seems to suggest that the Federal Marriage Amendment is necessary in order to prevent activist judges from destroying the foundation of the American family and undermining the will of the American people. However, the American people are sharply divided on the issue. For example, a Gallup poll conducted last month shows that 50 percent of Americans favor the Federal Marriage Amendment, while 47 percent oppose it. And according to a 2004 survey conducted by the George Barna Research Group, the strongest support for the amendment comes from evangelical Christians, who weigh in at 83 percent.

Supporters of the amendment insist that same-sex marriage threatens the very foundation of the traditional family. But a quick glance at today's American family, which is far from traditional or cohesive, shows that the issue of same-sex marriage is merely a small symptom of a much bigger problem. For instance, America's divorce rate is close to a staggering 50 percent. Many experts point to financial struggles, marriage at young ages, work stress and lack of education as key contributors to this alarming statistic.

Furthermore, while evangelicals in the so-called "Bible Belt" states have been leading the charge to protect and defend the institution of marriage, divorce rates in that region of America are higher than in traditionally liberal states. In fact, Massachusetts,

which is the only state to officially recognize same-sex marriage under their laws, has one of the lowest divorce rates in the United States. At last count, Massachusetts' divorce rate is 2.4 per 1,000 people, while data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that divorce rates among the Bible Belt states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas) are roughly 50 percent above the national average of 4.2 per 1,000 people.

Perhaps even more surprising are the divorce rates among professed evangelicals. A study released by the Barna Group in 2004 shows that the incidence of divorce among "born again Christians" is identical to "those who are not born again." According to this survey, 35 percent of born again Christians who have married eventually divorce. That figure is identical to the married adults who do not identify themselves as "born again Christians." This same survey also indicates that relatively few divorced Christians got divorced before their religious conversion and that among divorced Christians, nearly one-quarter get divorced two or more times.

The concern for children is an important part of the debate over the concept of gay marriage. But like the current state of marriage in America, today's home life for children is far from traditional. For instance, in some states, such as Louisiana, New Mexico, Mississippi, Delaware and South Carolina, 42 percent of all children are born out of wedlock. The national average is a stark 36 percent. Furthermore, 40 percent of unmarried couples who cohabitate have children in the house, which contributes to a disconnect among children between family and marriage.

Thus, a major problem not addressed by many calling for a ban on gay marriage is the overwhelming problem in heterosexual families — among both evangelicals and non-evangelicals. Clearly, if the problems in heterosexual families are not adequately addressed in the immediate future by those who say they are concerned with traditional families, what we know as the traditional family may soon be lost to us.

With this in mind, we have to ask ourselves, is a federal ban against same-sex marriage the best remedy for the situation we face?

(Constitutional attorney **John W. Whitehead** can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.)

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Control could slip away from LA mayor

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's ambitious plan to take control of the Los Angeles Unified School District—the centerpiece of his mayoralty—is in danger of collapsing in the Legislature where Democrats are deeply

divided over its reach and impact on teachers.

The future of the takeover proposal is so shaky that Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, a close friend of the mayor, warned him in a phone call Thursday that it could fall apart unless Villaraigosa makes a lobbying trip to Sacramento next week to personally pressure legislators and interest groups. Democrats hold a majority in both chambers.

"It's not dead but it's in trouble," Nunez said in an interview. The mayor "is not a threat to the teachers. ... He simply wants to close the achievement gap."

Villaraigosa's office confirmed the call and said a trip to the Capitol was being scheduled for Monday. He will meet with legislators, unions and business leaders with a stake in the outcome, his office said.

The mayor "has known all along that reforming the public schools would be an uphill battle," said a spokeswoman, Janelle Erickson. "He wants to force a debate that makes it impossible for people to say no to reform."

Villaraigosa has anchored his mayoralty to his proposed takeover of the 730,000-student system—the second-largest in the nation—which includes Los Angeles and more than two dozen smaller, suburban cities.

In April, Villaraigosa called on the Legislature to largely strip power from the troubled district and shift much of it to his office, a proposal that is loosely modeled on mayoral takeovers in Chicago, Boston and New York City.

If approved by lawmakers, it would negate the possibility of sending the issue to voters, where the outcome would be far from assured.

The mayor's blueprint would wrest control from an elected school board, establishing a council of mayors to oversee the schools. Los Angeles is by far the largest city in the district, and its mayor would essentially be in charge of the council.

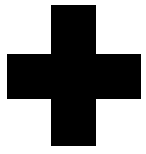
Critics call the mayor's proposal a power grab, and it has strained his relationships with district officials and the teachers union. Villaraigosa has said he expects his proposal to result in a political war over school control.

"It's not a surprise it's in trouble—it's not a good idea," said Barbara Kerr, head of the 335,000-member California Teachers Association. "There are many things we can do for our students, but mayoral control is not one of them."

"If you take control of the schools farther away from the community and the parents, that will make it more difficult all the way around," Kerr said. "We see it as another entanglement—it's like another sideshow—instead of concentrating on the classroom and the teachers and the things that they need."

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STATE BRIEFS

Law professor tapped as chancellor

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A longtime law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, will become the campus' acting chancellor July 1, officials said.

Norman Abrams, 73, is to fill in for Albert Carnesale, 69, who announced last year that he would step down on June 30 after nine years as UCLA's top administrator, university officials said.

Abrams joined the UCLA law faculty in 1959. He specializes in federal criminal law, anti-terrorism law and evidence.

UC officials said they expect to name a permanent replacement for Carnesale by year's end.

Bandits check out via the roof

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Masked bandits burst through the ceiling of a check-cashing store and made off with an unspecified amount of money, police said.

Authorities were called to the business Wednesday after a frightened employee ran to another store to call 911, police spokesman Juan Gomez said.

It wasn't clear if there were two or three robbers or exactly how they got through the roof, he said.

"Whether they cut through the roof or went through a vent, it's pretty sophisticated," Gomez said. "It's certainly not your standard robbery."

Witnesses outside of the business said they saw the robbers flee in a vehicle, Gomez said.

Former judge gets benched

By The Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — A former Orange County Superior Court judge who pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography has been barred from receiving work from state courts, officials said.

Thursday's action against Ronald C. Kline, 65, is the most serious punishment the state Commission on Judicial Performance can give a former judge. It prevents him from substituting for judges on vacation or acting as a referee on complex litigation issues.

Kline was arrested in November 2001 after a Canadian hacker discovered hundreds of images of boys engaged in sex on his computer and relayed the information to a Colorado-based Internet watchdog group, officials said.

The group, Pedowatch, reported Kline to police, who searched his home and seized his computer.

Kline faces up to 33 months in prison under a plea deal with federal prosecutors and will be required to register as a sex offender.

Suicide attempt goes awry

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — A man crashed his car into a family's home, then left the wreckage and stood in the street as he stabbed himself repeatedly with a kitchen knife, officials said.

"We heard this bang and the whole house shook. We thought it was an earthquake. Then I see a car in my house," said Maria Flores, 18.

Maria Flores said her father Rene had just gone to bed Wednesday when the vehicle crashed into the living room where he had just been watching television.

The injured man, whom the family knew had been staying in a recreational vehicle at an automotive business across the street, stumbled across the street after stabbing himself and collapsed, said Rene Flores.

The man had an 8-inch knife protruding from his chest when paramedics arrived, said Rod Mascis of the Fire Department.

"It was a suicide attempt and it didn't work so he got out of the car and stabbed himself," police Officer Tim Stidam said.

The man underwent surgery at Loma Linda University Medical Center to remove the knife and was in critical condition, Mascis said Thursday. A condition report Friday was unavailable.

The city gave the Flores family a voucher for a motel until their home is repaired, officials said.

Cement worker needed others to dig in

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE SPRINGS, Calif. — A cement plant worker spent nearly two hours trapped in sand up to his waist before firefighters dug him out, officials said.

Miguel Gonzalez was half-buried Thursday inside a sand hopper, said Fire Department Battalion Chief Scott Goodwin.

Co-workers at Paramount Ready Mix discovered Gonzalez inside the hopper after he called a colleague on his cell phone to plead for help, Goodwin said.

All the co-worker heard him say were the words "sand" and "help," Goodwin said.

Firefighters climbed into the hopper and shoveled Gonzalez out, before flying him by helicopter to St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood.

He was listed in good condition Friday, hospital spokeswoman Linda Woo said.

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NFL officials meet with Anaheim as league mulls an LA franchise

BY KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen is convinced the NFL needs a team in the Los Angeles area. Where and when remain the multimillion dollar questions.

Bowlen and NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue were among league officials who held a luncheon meeting Thursday with Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, other city officials and Orange County business leaders. The previous evening, they dined with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and businessmen from that city.

The two mayors and their cities are competing to bring an NFL team back to the area, abandoned after the 1994 season when the Raiders left the Los Angeles Coliseum for Oakland and the Rams departed Anaheim for St. Louis.

Bowlen said the proposals by both Anaheim and Los Angeles are very attractive. The league is allotting each city \$5 million to explore, among other things, how much financial support businesses might provide toward defraying the cost of a new stadium.

The NFL would finance the construction at either site, with cost estimates between \$650 million to \$850 million.

"I wouldn't say this one's better or that one's better," Bowlen said of the proposals. "I

don't have any choices in mind. I clearly think we've got two very viable alternatives here."

There is no timetable for a decision, and Tagliabue said the league intends to be thorough in its evaluation process because "we are looking at investing multiple millions of dollars."

Leaders in both Anaheim and Los Angeles understand the process won't be rushed, the commissioner said.

The Anaheim proposal would involve having a new stadium built in a parking lot near Angel Stadium, where the American League's Angels play. Under Los Angeles' plan, a stadium would be built near downtown, inside the existing shell of the aging Coliseum.

Bowlen said there were different considerations in both proposals. Building a new stadium on a "clean site" like the area around Angel Stadium would be easier than the job at the existing Coliseum, Bowlen said, adding, "But Los Angeles is Los Angeles."

Pringle said the meeting with Tagliabue and the others was very productive and that he believed the league officials got an idea of the potential support they could expect from the area's business leaders.

Although Anaheim will continue to woo the NFL, the city council earlier this month decided to explore other options for the land parcel that would be used for a stadium. That process is expected to take up to six months.

Polar bear protection review draws 140,000 public comments

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials in Alaska face some 140,000 submitted comments on whether to list polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but said they have no feel yet for how public sentiment is divided.

The last day for the public to comment on the petition was Friday.

Rosa Meehan, chief of the agency's marine mammal management program, said the comment period was intended to seek biological, environmental or technical information, but the agency would not discount comments that simply advocate or oppose more protection for polar bears.

"Someone took the initiative to do that," she said. "It's good to have a sense of the level of public interest."

The Center for Biological Diversity, an advocacy group, petitioned in February 2005 to list polar bears. Classified as a marine mammal because they spend much of their lives on sea ice, polar bears are threatened because of drastic declines in ocean ice due to global warming, according to the petition.

When the Fish and Wildlife Service did not meet deadlines in the law for action, the center and two other conservation groups sued. A settlement calls for the agency to

make a decision by December 2006.

The agency sought comments on polar bear population, distribution, habitat, plus threats from development, contaminants and poaching. The 140,000 or so comments submitted as of Friday afternoon had not been tallied by content, Meehan said.

Environmentalists hope a listing tied to global warming will force a recovery plan that includes provisions to limit greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

"The debate on global warming is over," said Andrew Wetzler of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It is now evident in the Arctic, and across the globe, that warming due to rising greenhouse gas emissions is under way. The ... polar bear, if not protected, may become one of its first victims."

Some opponents, however, while conceding global warming was a fact, said forecasts of its effects and how quickly they may occur were far too tenuous to support listing.

"Climate change will affect all species to some extent, including humans," said Mitchell K. Taylor, manager of wildlife for the government of Nunavut in Canada, in one comment among samples released by the agency. "If the likelihood of change is regarded as sufficient cause to designate a species or population as 'threatened,' then all species around the world are 'threatened.'"

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Clinton digging in for Columbine H.S.

BY ROBERT WELLER
AND CATHERINE TSAI

Associated Press Writers

LITTLETON, Colo. — Seven years after the deadliest school attack in U.S. history, hundreds of people joined former President Clinton on Friday for the ceremonial groundbreaking of a memorial honoring the 13 people killed at Columbine High School.

"We're here because we love them. We're here to honor them. We're here to remember them, this day and every day hereafter," said Dawn Anna, the mother of slain student Lauren Townsend. "We're here as a family and as a community that's been through the darkest of days and is coming through to the light."

As a light rain began to fall and pausing at times as thunder rolled across suburban Denver, Anna read the victims' names one by one and asked a crowd estimated by organizers at about 2,000 people to remember April 20, 1999.

"Remember the love? Remember the unity? Not just in this community, but in the nation and throughout the world?" she asked. "Remember the horror? Remember how broken your heart felt, that emptiness, that hollow and helpless feeling, pain seared so deeply that it seemed it never wanted to go away?"

The memorial, she said, will always be a place to reflect how everyone's lives changed because of Columbine — and to know better those who were lost that day.

"They were each so special, so beautiful and still so loved," she said.

Clinton was expected to help raise the last few hundred thousand dollars needed to pay for the \$1.5 million monument to the 12 students and teacher slain by suicidal gunmen Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris. He was here in 2004 for a similar fundraiser.

Gary Radtke of Littleton said he was reminded of that awful day. His son, Mark,

was a student at Columbine and one of his teachers was Dave Sanders, the only adult slain in the attack.

"This is kind of hallowed ground to us and to the students," Radtke said at Rebel Hill, the memorial site about 500 yards from the school. "This is where everybody came to grieve after the shootings. We've been waiting for seven years, after all the makeshift memorials, for a permanent one."

Construction of the memorial was delayed because parents worked to raze the school library where most of the victims were killed. Then almost two years passed before everyone agreed on the scope and design of the memorial.

The economic downturn following the Sept. 11 attacks forced the project to be scaled down from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million. It will include a water fountain, an inner Ring of Remembrance and an outer Ring of Healing. There will be one station for each of the victims, and the words of those killed. Messages from their families will be engraved on the outer ring.

Among those in the crowd was Patricia Nielson, an art teacher who was wounded in the attack and huddled under a desk as killers executed their classmates in the library. At one point she whispered to a police dispatcher on the telephone: "They're in here. They're killing kids."

Nielson said she was impressed Clinton had made two visits to Colorado to help.

"I think it will really help us heal," she said.

Radtke, whose daughter Megan is a 2004 Columbine graduate, gazed at Rebel Hill from under his white baseball cap that reads "Columbine CHS" and "Never forget" in blue.

"That's what this is about — so no one ever forgets," he said. "It's a good feeling to see the culmination of all this. It's a culmination of all that remembrance and hope that everybody wanted."





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Homeland Security draws away rangers

BY JENNIFER TALHELM

Associated Press Writer

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT, Ariz. — Four years after drug smugglers fleeing Mexican police fatally shot park ranger Kris Eggle, an \$18 million, 30-mile steel-and-concrete vehicle barrier has almost stopped such incursions at this desert park on the U.S. border.

But many other problems remain.

The national crackdown on the southern border after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has forced drug and human traffickers to find more rural entryways into Arizona.

Thousands of people cross through the park on foot, leaving piles of trash, building fires, damaging the park's famous cacti and creating countless new trails through the fragile desert.

Park staffers spend most of their time backing up Border Patrol officers and dealing with border issues. They are some of the countless new responsibilities national park officials across the country have taken on since Sept. 11.

"This tears my heart out, seeing the impacts on this place," Organ Pipe Superintendent Kathy Billings says, surveying a fresh track through the coarse sand.

New security measures have been added at national icons, such as the Washington Monument, Independence Hall and Mount Rushmore.

Since 2001, the Park Service has received an additional \$35 million in recurring funding. The government also provided \$91 million in one-time dollars for icon parks and \$18 million for the vehicle barrier at Organ Pipe.

But park superintendents and advocates say the costs are much higher.

As Americans gear up for summer visits to national parks, advocates say the parks are struggling to shoulder all of the expenses, compromising safety and visitors' enjoyment.

For example, Organ Pipe spends about \$100,000 a year from its maintenance budget to repair the vehicle barrier and a road next to it.

"We'd like to see the Park Service reimbursed," said Blake Selzer of the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy group. "To truly address this issue, the amount of money is going to have to go up."

TAKING A WALK FROM PARKS

After the Sept. 11 attacks the Interior Department suddenly realized its law enforcement and homeland security capabilities quickly needed strengthening in parks and other public lands, particularly along borders, said Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett.

It was "a newly identified priority," she said in an interview. Interior officials acknowledged among themselves that, "Gee, this is a new or another area where we really need to give a shot in the arm of additional investment," she said.

Shortly after the attacks, park rangers and other federal land and wildlife officers were regularly pulled away from their duties to guard national monuments, government buildings and even dams.

Those extra assignments have, for the most part, ended.

But park officials have absorbed other duties, including interdicting drugs in California's Sequoia National Park, and aiding law enforcement at Texas' Amistad National Recreation Area and Arizona's Coronado National Memorial.

The problems may be most acute at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

MULTIFACED PROBLEM

The park, which gets its name from a rare, multipronged cactus resembling the vertical pipes of an organ, consists of rolling desert and boulder-encrusted hills. In places, rugged rock outcroppings separate the U.S. and Mexico. There, the new vehicle barrier is built in double-crosses like those erected on the Normandy coast during World War II.

It's a fitting shape for the park, which sometimes feels like it's at war against drug and human smugglers who tramp miles through the desert on their way to Tucson and beyond.

While Billings shows visitors the newly erected fence, the park is eerily quiet. She squints into the brown, rocky hills.

"Right now we're being watched by someone," she says, meaning either Border Patrol or a smuggler's scout. "That's life on the border."

In the last two years, Organ Pipe park rangers arrested 385 felony smugglers, seized 40,000 pounds of marijuana and caught 3,800 migrants.

Several trails are closed to visitors and staff indefinitely because they cross smugglers' paths. But visitors still come into contact with illegal immigrants. Once, hikers discovered 10 backpacks of marijuana, each containing 50 or 60 pounds of drugs.

A trained biologist, Billings says she never thought she'd find herself in the business of fence repair and border protection.

But then, she adds, "We never thought national parks would be conduits for terrorists into the United States. I don't think any of us knew the meaning of that word."

PARK OFFICIALS STRETCHED

Scarlett said it would be wrong to characterize the extra duties as a drain.

"That's a misframing of the question," she said. "It's not either-or. It's not a matter of, do we invest in our parks or do we invest in homeland security. It's how do we invest in our parks holistically."

But many park officials say their duties have increased faster than the money.

In Texas' Big Bend National Park, which follows the curve of the Rio Grande for 118 miles, the number of illegal immigrants caught each year has tripled to about 1,200 since 2001, while the number of park rangers has stayed the same.

After Sept. 11, officials closed border crossings from Big Bend into Mexico, where park visitors once patronized little towns to buy trinkets. Since the tourist traffic dried up, villagers on the Mexican side have been forced to find new ways to make a living, said Chief Ranger Mark Spier, who is sure they slip into the park to harvest candelilla plants, which produce a high-quality wax, and to hunt deer.

Drug smugglers in California have decided it's easier to grow marijuana in Sequoia National Park, and other remote public lands than smuggle it into the U.S.

The Park Service has removed more than 113,000 marijuana plants from Sequoia since 2001. This spring, park staffers finished a month-long project to restore 166 acres of wilderness damaged by farming. Crews removed 4,650 pounds of garbage and equipment — including 5.3 miles of irrigation hose and more than 5,000 pounds of fertilizer — from 31 gardens and seven camps.



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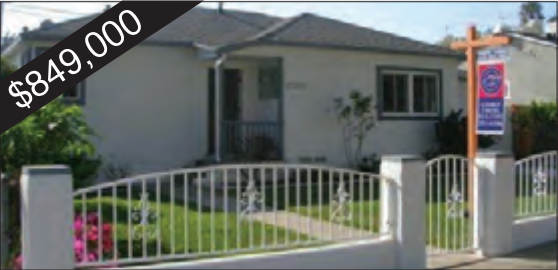
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Where's all the doom and gloom around Santa Monica?

JUNE GLOOM, from page 1

According to DiCarlo, a meteorologist of eight years who hails from Orange County, the dark days ahead are a byproduct of temperatures in the desert to our East heating up. The hot air rises and sucks the Pacific marine layer inward, holding it for an extended period in our midst.

While such cloud systems are in place off shore throughout the year, shifts in pressure keep the heavier air hovering over the Westside for a longer duration, often testing the collective patience of those not in the know.

Research on what is scientifically referred to as "Pacific Decadal Oscillation" shows that the extent of the so-called gloomy season seems to go in roughly 25-year cycles. Ocean temperatures can fluctuate between 2 and 5 degrees during that span, resulting in June Glooms that extend anywhere between three weeks to the current six-week variety.

"The last cycle ended about 10 years ago," said DiCarlo. "So if somebody moved here 30 years ago they may have heard about June Gloom, but not really experienced it. Now they should."

Taking into account the extended season, wordsmiths have coined a new term to bandy about when they ruminate on the weather. Enter "May Gray" when the overcast skies and mild temperatures begin to occur in the late spring.

Before Al Gore and his Powerpoint proponents allude to the extended periods of Gloom as of late, DiCarlo insists the gray skies have nothing to do with man-made influences. While admittedly not an ozone layer expert, DiCarlo coolly dismisses the cycle as a natural transfer of pressure conditions from the Eastern Pacific region to the Western Pacific.

Still, maintaining a sunny disposition when the weather doesn't keep its part of the bargain has proven vexing to some.

"It does affect people's moods," noted DiCarlo. "People are a little more tired, a little more lethargic. There's more depression as well."

While locals have seemingly accepted that June is not the optimum time to make like Icarus, or even retille the roof, the phenomenon has likely not made its way overseas to where tourists are currently planning to take the town by storm.

Sun seekers from across the globe with visions of "Baywatch" lifeguards dancing in their heads aren't likely to be dreaming up a coastal stay whereby dark skies dim their views of pseudo Pamela Andersons.

Misti Kerns, president of the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau for the past five years, insists June Gloom has had little to no effect on tourism in the city.

"I think it's been a non-issue this year," she said on Friday, which featured brilliant sunshine and temperatures that approached 80 degrees. "It's really just a locals thing. Most people coming here do not know about it (June Gloom), but I think the allure of the beach itself is all of its different climates, so it's not necessarily a deterrent (for visitors)."

Asked if she warned visitors of the potential June Gloom pitfalls for a vacation, Kerns said she would ... if asked directly.

"Most people know it (the marine layer) will burn out," she said. "We have more than 300 days of sunshine. No matter how you look at it, our weather is pretty mild. We're lucky enough not to have a long rainy season ... The weather is great."

Conversely, some retailers might be long-

ing for a little doom and gloom about this time. Saving for a rainy day this Gloom season may leave has left shoppers with a little more expendable income in their pockets.

At Secret Desires, a Lincoln Boulevard store specializing in adult entertainment, business has proven a bit limp as of late.

"It's been kind of slow," reported one store representative. "It's pretty weird in here. You never know when customers will come in. Right now, it's so hot."

Secret Desires and their like may be in luck this Father's Day weekend, however, as little cartoon cloud logos are beginning to creep into the pictures depicting five-day forecasts on web sites such as accuweather.com.

And when they do, acknowledges DiCarlo, those not in the know will most likely look for someone or something to blame aside from the natural recurring coastal pressure systems and Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

Like a weatherman?

"Maybe, but most of the irate calls I get are for not putting someone's city on the TV weather map," he chuckled. "How could you not put Lake Forest on the map?"

City axes Palms that threatened the concrete

CUT TREES, from page 1

plant eight replacement palms.

The cost to remove the old trees is estimated at \$1,500, Warriner said. West Coast Arborists Inc., one of the largest tree removal companies in the state, performed the work.

The price for the replacement trees is in the neighborhood of \$65 per trunk-foot. The exact heights of the replacement trees has not yet been determined, but Warriner said they will be taller than the average person, so as not leave any of the canopies at eye level.

Some residents expressed their displeasure with City Hall for cutting down the wild palms, which provided some shade and helped beautify the concrete parking lot.

"They could have at least left those that were growing on the sides of the parking lot. They don't bother anyone," said resident Dennis Schuler. "What they should be doing is getting a handle on the trash dumpsters ... There's rubbish everywhere. It seems like they're spending an awful lot of time on something which really isn't an issue for us."

Warriner said he is aware of the sensitivity that surrounds tree removal, and assured residents the new trees will look much better than those removed.

"These new trees will be planned, as opposed to being planted by accident," Warriner said. "We are going to make sure that we are not blocking anyone's views with the trees' canopies."



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

PAWN IN THE PARK: Just east of Chess Park, a sign indicates to passersby on Friday that Palm trees like this one were to be taken down.

City Hall has recently come under fire for its removal of 77 aging Eucalyptus trees throughout the city. Warriner said the trees are being removed as a safety precaution because some have started to decay, creating the possibility that branches could crack and

fall on pedestrians or passing cars.

The new palms will be strategically placed throughout the parking lot beginning in July. Residents will have an opportunity to offer suggestions on where they would like to see the trees planted. Residents should

receive mailers alerting them about a public hearing, which Warriner said will most likely be held in late July.

For more information on the tree removal process, Warriner can be reached at 458-8974, or via e-mail at walter.warriner@smgov.net.



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Board seeks to find perfect permit tally

SCHOOL PERMITS, from page 1

students whose parents work for the district or have siblings currently attending a Santa Monica-Malibu school.

Students on permit, which must be renewed on an annual basis, can have their access revoked for violating district policy.

"We are being gentrified out of Santa Monica at an increasing rate, and one can only expect that to continue," said Oscar de la Torre, a school board member who works with youth in the Pico Neighborhood, a working-class area that has been hit hard by rapidly increasing rents and the loss of affordable housing to condo conversions.

Under the Ellis Act, a state law passed in 1986, landlords are allowed to evict tenants if they are removing rental units from the housing market. The law is intended to afford landlords the opportunity to get out of the property management business, however, opponents charge most landlords use Ellis to convert apartments into condos or townhouses.

With the median price of a one-bedroom, one-bathroom condo in Santa Monica hovering around \$500,000, many families are unable to purchase their converted units and are, in turn, forced to relocate.

"Because housing prices are so high in Santa Monica, many families have to move out of the area to find a place to live," said Emily Bloomfield, a school board member.

"We felt that losing one's home is traumatic enough, but forcing someone to leave their friends, their community and the schools in which they've attended, that can be very disruptive to a student."

The district's permit policy has been a challenging topic for the board since it was enacted to help raise money for schools. For each student who attends, the district receives money from the state. As enrollment dips, the district earns less money to help pay for programs like sports, art and music.

The trick has been to find a balance, according to school board members.

When the moratorium was issued, more than 20 percent of students were on permit, said Kathy Wisnicki, vice president of the school board. Classes were overcrowded and local taxpayers were calling for a change. With the moratorium in place, Wisnicki said the number of permit students is around 17 percent of the total student body.

By continuing the moratorium, Wisnicki and other board members said they can stabilize class sizes and possibly reduce them in the next few years.

The board did request a cost-benefits analysis to determine what the appropriate level of permit students should be in order for the district to receive the most money possible without jeopardizing smaller class sizes.

The analysis will be conducted by the district's Financial Oversight Committee, according to Wisnicki.

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FACE THE FACTS

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First evictions ordered in polygamist region

BY JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Eviction notices were served Thursday on two high-profile members of a polygamist church — the latest move by a court-appointed accountant to get members of The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to comply with state laws.

Notices were served on William Shapley, a member of the Colorado City Town Council, and James Zitting, a former trustee of the United Effort Plan Trust who is believed to be part of the inner circle of Warren Jeffs, the fugitive FLDS leader.

Shapley and Zitting are the first residents to be served eviction notices following 43 tax demand letters sent out to church and community leaders in April and early May, Salt Lake City accountant Bruce Wisan said. Both men live in Colorado City.

"Those are the only two who didn't respond," Wisan said. "We verified this morning with Mohave County (Ariz.) that they hadn't paid."

The trust holds title to nearly all the property, including homes, in the twin towns of Colorado City and Hildale, Utah, where most of the church's estimated 10,000 members live. The trust, which has a value of about \$100 million, also holds property in Bountiful, British Columbia, where a small outpost of members settled.

Wisan's management of the trust began

in June 2005 after a judge ruled Jeffs and other church leaders had mismanaged trust assets, including funding Jeff's status as a fugitive.

Jeffs, who is on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, has been in hiding for two years. He is wanted in Arizona and Utah on felony charges related to arranging marriages between teenage girls and older men.

In April, Wisan said anyone living in trust-owned homes was required to pay taxes or face eviction.

Both Shapley and Zitting now have five days to leave their homes or pay their taxes so that they can stay, Wisan said.

"If they're not out, then we will proceed to go to court and, however long that takes, I will get a court order to forcibly remove them," Wisan said. "I do not want that to happen, but I will allow it to happen to make sure the property taxes are paid."

Efforts to reach Shapley and Zitting by The Associated Press were unsuccessful Friday. A message left for Shapley at Colorado City's Town Hall was not immediately returned. Home telephone numbers for both he and Zitting have been disconnected.

Colorado City resident Isaac Wyler, who has been working for Wisan, has been aggressively serving tax notices on residents in the twin towns over the past few weeks. By next Monday, all 250 homes in Hildale will have been served or posted with tax demand letters, Wisan said. Within two weeks, the same effort should be complete on the roughly 550 homes in Colorado City, he said.

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No mushrooms on horizon this summer

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — A non-nuclear explosion expected to cast the first mushroom cloud over the Nevada desert in decades won't happen at least until September, a government lawyer told a federal judge Friday.

The "Divine Strake" defense experiment "will not occur due to weather reasons during July or August," Justice Department lawyer Carolyn Blanco in Washington told U.S. District Judge Lloyd George in Las Vegas during a telephonic hearing.

"We have agreed at this hearing to provide notice to the court and plaintiff if this test is authorized to proceed," Blanco said.

National Nuclear Security Administration and the federal Defense Threat Reduction Agency officials have cited concerns that summer lightning could detonate 700 tons of

explosive ammonium nitrate and fuel oil slurry that the government plans to pour into a huge pit for the blast. Designers said the blast would be of the same material but some 280 times larger than the bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Robert Hager, the Reno-based lawyer representing the Winnemucca Indian Colony and Utah and Nevada "downwinders" who earlier persuaded the judge to temporarily postpone the experiment, worried the government might reschedule the blast and provide short notice before going ahead.

But George said he was satisfied there would be time to hear legal and scientific arguments about whether the explosion would kick up radioactive fallout left from atmospheric and below-ground nuclear weapons tests. From 1951 to

1992 the government conducted 928 such tests at the Nevada Test Site, about 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Announcements about the blast — first scheduled June 2 and then June 23 — raised complaints from Nevada and Utah congressional representatives and rekindled fears of illness among downwind residents in Nevada, Utah and Arizona, who recalled government assurances that nuclear tests posed no risk.

The federal government postponed the massive explosion to allow time to answer legal and scientific questions about its effects.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency said the Divine Strake blast would produce data about ground motion and shock waves about penetrating hardened and deeply buried targets. Critics have called the planned blast a surrogate for a low-yield nuclear "bunker-buster" bomb.

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Volunteers' remorse

Whistleblowers thinking twice after losing their jobs, death threats and being blackballed

BY MARGARET EBRAHIM
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — As firefighters searched for survivors after the Sept. 11 attacks, heat from the World Trade Center's smoldering ruins burned the soles off their boots. They needed new ones every few hours, and Chris Christopherson made sure they got them.

The disaster specialist was proud to dispatch replacement boots from the Long Island warehouse of a company paid by the government to manage rescue supplies donated by Americans. Then came the moment that crushed Christopherson's faith.

His employer dispatched trucks to the warehouse and loaded hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of donated bottled water, clothes, tools and generators to be moved to Minnesota in a plot to sell some for profit, according to government records and interviews.

Dan L'Allier said he witnessed 45 tons of the New York loot being unloaded in Minnesota at his company's headquarters. He and Christopherson complained to a company executive, but were ordered to keep quiet. They persisted, going instead to the FBI.

The two whistleblowers eventually lost their jobs, received death threats and were blackballed in the disaster relief industry. But they remained convinced their sacrifice was worth seeing justice done.

They were wrong.

Once-secret documents obtained by The Associated Press detail how the company, Kieger Enterprises of Lino Lakes,

Minn., went unpunished for the Sept. 11 thefts after the government discovered FBI agents and other government officials had stolen artifacts from New York's ground zero.

Most Americans were kept in the dark about a major fraud involving their donated goods even as new requests for charity emerged with disasters like Hurricane Katrina. And Christopherson and L'Allier were left disillusioned.

"I wouldn't open my mouth again for all the tea in China," L'Allier said. Added Christopherson, a 34-year-old father of two: "I paid a big price."

The government ultimately gave the whistleblowers \$30,000 each after expenses, their share in a civil settlement against KEI. They say the sum was hardly worth their trouble.

Federal prosecutors eventually charged KEI and some executives with fraud, including overbilling the government in several disasters, but excluded the Sept. 11 thefts. Officially, the government can't fully explain why.

KEI had worked for years for the government, providing disaster relief services during tornadoes, floods and other catastrophes. It was picked to manage the New York warehouse for the government's main Sept. 11 relief contractor.

Thomas Heffelfinger, the former U.S. attorney in Minnesota who prosecuted KEI, said he never intended to charge the company for the ground zero theft, and instead referred that part of the case to prosecutors in New York.

"At the heart of the KEI case was financial fraud," Heffelfinger said. "It was so bad we didn't need the theft."

Heather Tasker, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in New York, declined to discuss the KEI case. The whistleblowers, however, said they've never been contacted

by New York prosecutors.

FBI documents indicate the government, in fact, was preparing to charge KEI with Sept. 11 thefts.

A March 2002 entry in the FBI's "prosecutive status" report states the U.S. Attorney's office in Minnesota intended "to prosecute individuals who were alleged to be involved in the transportation of stolen goods from New York City after the terrorist attack." A followup entry from Sept. 6, 2002 lists the specific evidence supporting such a charge.

The lead investigators for the FBI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency told AP that the plan to prosecute KEI for those thefts stopped as soon as it became clear in late summer 2002 that an FBI agent in Minnesota had stolen a crystal globe from ground zero.

That prompted a broader review that ultimately found 16 government employees, including a top FBI executive and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, had such artifacts from New York or the Pentagon.

"How could you secure an indictment?" FEMA investigator Kirk Beauchamp asked. "It would be a conflict."

While the globe's discovery had been widely reported, its impact on the Sept. 11 thefts had remained mostly unknown.

Prosecutors "and the FBI were very conscious of the fact that if they proceeded in one direction, they would have to proceed in the other, which meant prosecuting FBI agents," said Jane Turner, the lead FBI agent. She too became a whistleblower alleging the bureau tried to fire her for bringing the stolen artifacts to light. Turner retired in 2003.

Which of These Costly Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Santa Monica Home This Summer

BY JAMES COSTELLO AND
JOHN MCCORMACK

SANTA MONICA — A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become

increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and — worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

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Firefighters push back to slow wildfires

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Firefighters were taking the offensive Friday against a blaze that has burned at least 7,000 acres in the Gila National Forest of southwestern New Mexico and forced the evacuation of about 200 homes.

Significant fires also were burning in Arizona, Alaska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Gusts of about 40 mph pushed the Skates Fire in Arizona past a hand-cleared line Thursday afternoon, prompting officials to evacuate homes in the Lake Roberts area. Authorities said crews managed to protect the homes.

Most of the volunteer fire departments in Grant County were activated, and the county's law enforcement agencies turned out in

force to escort residents from the area.

South of Albuquerque, firefighters battled a blaze that temporarily shut down Interstate 25 and forced the evacuation of about 30 homes.

But by early Friday, the wind had calmed and firefighters worked to snuff small spot fires that remained, said Don Scott, deputy chief of emergency management for the Bernalillo County Fire Department.

"It's a matter of cleaning up now," he said.

In Arizona, residents who have spent this week in Red Cross shelters while their homes were threatened by a 6,200-acre wildfire were returning to their homes Friday.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest spokesman Bob Dyson said crews battling the Potato Fire 140 miles northeast of

Phoenix had it 80 percent contained Friday morning and expected full control Saturday.

To the south in Alpine, Ariz., a 1,300-acre fire that broke out Thursday afternoon was still burning out of control Friday morning, although Dyson said crews stopped the forward progress with bulldozers and backfires overnight.

In central Alaska, rain helped stall a 65,500-acre wildfire that was burning near the small town of Anderson, and crews managed to steer the fire toward an area that burned in 2001 — a strategy intended to starve the fire of fuel. There were concerns, however, about higher temperatures and

drier conditions forecast Friday.

In southern Colorado, all 100 people who left their homes near a 700-acre fire were given the all-clear to return late Thursday. The fire, near Westcliffe about 100 miles south of Denver, was 50 percent contained.

Firefighters in Wyoming were gaining ground on a 10,000-acre brush fire on the Wyoming National Guard's Camp Guernsey training grounds.

More than 250 military and civilian crews were battling the fire, which began Tuesday during Guard training exercises with small weapons. Officials believe tracer rounds from the exercise are to blame.



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No pullout date from Iraq set

BY LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Friday handily rejected a timetable for pulling U.S. forces out of Iraq, culminating a fiercely partisan debate between Republicans and Democrats feeling the public's apprehension about war and the onrushing midterm campaign season.

In a 256-153 vote, the GOP-led House approved a non-binding resolution that praises U.S. troops, labels the Iraq war part of the larger global fight against terrorism and says an "arbitrary date for the withdrawal or redeployment" of troops is not in the national interest.

"Retreat is not an option in Iraq," declared House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Achieving victory is our only option, for the American people and our kids."

"Stay the course, I don't think so Mr. President. It's time to face the facts," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California answered, as she called for a new direction in the conflict. "The war in Iraq has been a mistake. I say, a grotesque mistake."

Four months before midterm elections that will decide control of Congress, House Republicans sought to force Republicans and Democrats alike to take a position on the conflict that began with the U.S. invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in the spring of 2003.

Democrats denounced the debate and vote as a politically motivated charade, and several prominent Democrats joined Pelosi in saying they would vote against the measure because, they said, supporting it would affirm Bush's "failed policy" in Iraq.

Balking carried a risk for Democrats, particularly when they see an opportunity to win back control of Congress from the GOP. Republicans likely will use Democratic "no" votes to claim that their opponents don't support U.S. troops.

In fact, 42 Democrats broke ranks and joined with all but three Republicans to support the resolution. Two Republicans and three Democrats declined to take a position by voting present.

Republicans and Democrats alike explained the decision, as each side saw it, that voters have to make in November.

"The choice for the American people is clear; don't run in the face of danger, victory will be our exit strategy," Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, said.

Countered Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa.: "It's not a matter of stay the course. It's a matter of change direction."

A few Republicans who have publicly expressed misgiv-

ings about the war also were expected to oppose the resolution. And, some GOP incumbents who face tough challenges from Democrats in November issued qualified support for the measure while criticizing the GOP-led Congress.

"The American people are looking to us to answer their questions on how much progress is being made, what are the Iraqis themselves willing to do to fight for their freedom and when will our men and women come home," Rep. Jim Gerlach, R-Pa., said.

The House vote comes one day after the Senate soundly rejected a call to withdraw combat troops by year's end by shelving a proposal that would allow "only forces that are critical to completing the mission of standing up Iraqi security forces" to remain in Iraq in 2007.

That vote was 93-6, but Democrats assailed the GOP maneuver that led to the vote as political gamesmanship and promised further debate next week on a proposal to start redeploying troops this year.

Congress erupted in debate on the Iraq war four months before midterm elections that will decide the control of both the House and Senate, and as President Bush was trying to rebuild waning public support for the conflict.

The administration was so determined to get out its message that the Pentagon distributed a highly unusual 74-page "debate prep book" filled with ready-made answers for criticism of the war, which began in March 2003.

As the death toll and price tag of the conflict continue to rise, opinion polls show voters increasingly frustrated with the war and favoring Democrats to control Congress instead of the Republicans who now run the show.

Sensitive to those political realities, Republicans in both the Senate and House sought to put lawmakers of both parties on record on an issue certain to be central in this fall's congressional elections.

The Senate vote unfolded unexpectedly as the second-ranking GOP leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., introduced legislation he said was taken from a proposal by Sen. John Kerry, the Massachusetts Democrat and war critic. It called for Bush to agree with the Iraqi government on a schedule for withdrawal of combat troops by Dec. 31, 2006.

Democratic leader Harry Reid sought to curtail floor debate on the proposal, and the vote occurred quickly. Six Democrats, including Kerry, were in the minority.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., predicted that terrorism would spread around the world, and eventually reach the United States if the United States were to "cut and run" before Iraq can defend itself.

Al-Zarqawi's successor: A new face placed at top of al-Qaida in Iraq

BY KIM GAMEL

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An Egyptian explosives expert who trained with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Osama bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan is the new face of al-Qaida in Iraq, the U.S. military says.

Abu Ayyub al-Masri took over the cell after an American bomb killed al-Zarqawi last week, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell said, displaying a photograph of a bearded man in a traditional white Arab headdress.

The military spokesman said al-Masri was the man identified in an Internet posting by al-Qaida that said Abu Hamza al-Muhajer was al-Zarqawi's successor. The name, a nom de guerre, means "emigrant" in Arabic and suggested he was not an Iraqi.

U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said it's not certain that al-Masri is al-Zarqawi's successor.

"That's clearly one of the leading names, but we're going to need a little bit of time to sort out — and they're clearly needing a little time — to sort out where they go after what is clearly a big blow to al-Qaida," Hadley said at the White House.

Islamist watchers in Egypt expressed skepticism, saying they had never heard of al-Masri — another alias that means "the Egyptian."

"His codename doesn't ring a bell for me; he's not one of the wanted Jihadis in Egypt," said Egyptian lawyer Montasser el-Zayat, who was imprisoned with al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri from 1981-84.

According to the military, Al-Masri was a founding member of al-Qaida in Iraq. After meeting the Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi in Afghanistan, he followed him to Iraq to help set up the terror cell in 2003.

Even before terror leader's death, the Bush administration posted a \$200,000 bounty on al-Masri because of his level of leadership within al-Qaida, Caldwell said.

Citing recently declassified documents, he said al-Masri has been a terrorist since 1982, "beginning with his involvement in the Egyptian Islamic Jihad," which was led by al-Zawahri, bin Laden's top deputy.

Going by that chronology, the photograph the military presented appeared to be at least several years old.

The beard as well as the headdress are more often associated with men from the Gulf states than Egypt, where Western-style clothing is common, such headdresses are generally not used, and beards fuller when worn.

Caldwell said the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency provided the picture.

The new leader issued a Web statement Tuesday vowing to avenge al-Zarqawi's death and threatening horrific attacks "in the coming days."

"Don't be overcome with joy about killing our sheik Abu Musab (al-Zarqawi), God bless his soul, because he has left lions behind him," the statement said.

Citing recently declassified information, Caldwell said the military believes al-Masri first went to Afghanistan in 1999 to receive training and lecture on Islam to other militants. There he became an expert in building roadside bombs, skills he used in Fallujah and Baghdad.

He trained with al-Zarqawi at the al-Farouq camp in Afghanistan and they began to collaborate in Iraq. Raids in April and May in southern Baghdad recovered material confirming his high-level involvement in moving foreign fighters from Syria to Iraq, Caldwell said.

Yasser al-Sirri, an Egyptian who runs the Islamic Observation Center in London, said information supplied by al-Qaida in announcing the new leader pointed to another man: Abdullah bin Rashid al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Mujahedeen Shura Council.

"I'm 95 percent sure that this al-Masri doesn't exist," al-Sirri said. "Al-Qaida does not want to show that he is an Iraqi because they work under the Islamic banner ... and they seek international jihad."

Caldwell acknowledged that al-Masri's ability to exert leadership over al-Qaida cells remained unclear and said other "al-Qaida senior leadership members and Sunni terrorists" could try to take over the operations.

He pointed to al-Baghdadi along with Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Iraqi, whom al-Qaida in Iraq statements have identified as the group's deputy. Al-Iraqi was believed to have been killed in the airstrike along with al-Zarqawi.

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Baby shoes to fill

By The Associated Press

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Following in the steps of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, Britney Spears is considering a Namibian birth for her next baby, a government official said.

Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Leon Jooste said officials have received an inquiry on behalf of the 24-year-old pop star, who has a 9-month-old son, Sean Preston, with husband Kevin Federline.

“She has shown interest to come over to Namibia,” Jooste said by telephone Friday from a conference in neighboring South Africa. “Nothing has been confirmed yet, but there is a definite possibility of that happening.”

He declined to provide further details, saying: “She wants to come in very low profile and have some privacy. She might change her mind if we reveal too much now.”

There was no immediate response from Spears’ New York-based representative, Leslie Sloane Zelnik, to requests by The Associated Press seeking comment.

Spears, who recently announced she is expecting a second child, has taken a beating in the tabloids, which have questioned her parenting skills. She has been photographed driving with Sean Preston in her lap, and nearly dropped him when she tripped outside a New York City hotel.

In an interview with NBC’s “Dateline” on Thursday night, Spears said the criticism has crossed the line and that she feels like a “target.”

“I know I’m a good mom,” she said.

Spears, who cried several times during the interview, also said that reports of marital difficulties with Federline are inaccurate.

“He helps me. He has to. I’m (an) emotional wreck right now,” she said, referring to the fluctuating hormones of her second pregnancy.

Spears would probably appreciate some of the peace and privacy that Pitt and Jolie enjoyed when their daughter, Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt, was born last month in the sleepy southwest African nation.

The Namibian government shielded the Hollywood couple from the paparazzi, insisting that visiting journalists obtain permission in writing to cover them.

NEW YORK — The “Law & Order” revolving door has brought in Alana De La Garza as the latest cast addition to the long-running NBC drama, the network has confirmed.

De La Garza joins the series this fall replacing Annie Parisse, who played Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Borgia for a season and a half, NBC said Friday. Borgia was killed off last month on the finale for the show’s 16th season.

De La Garza appeared on CBS’ “CSI: Miami” last season as the wife of Miami cop Horatio Caine (series star David Caruso). Her character was gunned down by drug dealers.

She follows Parisse as the latest in a succession of actresses playing young female prosecutors paired with Assistant District Attorney Jack McCoy (Sam Waterston), including Jill Hennessy, Carey Lowell, Angie Harmon and Elizabeth Rohm.

Another newcomer to the “Law & Order” fold, Milena Govich, was announced recently. She replaces Dennis Farina, who played dapper police Detective Joe Fontana for two seasons. He in turn had succeeded Jerry Orbach.

Govich was most recently a regular on NBC’s short-lived drama “Conviction” (like “Law & Order,” produced by Dick Wolf) as Jessica Rossi, a New York assistant district attorney.

TOKYO — When Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tours Graceland later this month with President Bush, he will be representing a big constituency — Japan has droves of Elvis Presley fans, and the biggest Elvis fan club in all of East Asia.

Koizumi, of course, is the most famous.

Last year he serenaded Bush with “I Want You, I Need You, I Love You” at a birthday party for the president. Apparently it made quite an impression — Bush and his wife, Laura, will accompany Koizumi on his June 30 visit to Presley’s estate in Memphis, Tenn.

“It’s exciting,” Jack Soden, chief executive of Elvis Presley Enterprises, said Wednesday of the upcoming visit. “Two world leaders, plus Elvis, plus Graceland.”

Koizumi is just one of thousands of die-hard Japanese Elvis lovers.

The Elvis Presley Fan Club in Japan claims to be the largest in Asia with a 5,000-strong membership. Another 2,000 people or so belong to the recently formed Elvis Presley Society in Japan, said society president — and occasional Elvis impersonator — Tomikazu Taguchi. The even newer C’mon Elvis Fans in Japan is on a much smaller scale, with a membership in the dozens.

Koizumi, who notes with pride that he shares a Jan. 8 birthday with Elvis, will be in the United States June 28-30. He is scheduled to visit the White House on June 29.

LONDON — When Princess Margaret’s children decided to sell off many of her possessions to raise money to pay Britain’s strict inheritance tax, they probably didn’t expect to double their tax bill.

Viscount David Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto planned to use some of the proceeds to pay an estimated \$5.5 million in inheritance taxes.

But with most items selling for far more than their estimated worth, the two-day auction at Christie’s this week earned far more than anticipated — raising \$24.6 million.

Linley and Chatto now face a separate capital gains tax from the sale that experts believe will likely equal the inheritance tax bill.

Bob Rothenberg of the London-based firm Blick Rothenberg said the two would be subject to capital gains tax charged at up to 40 percent of the increase in the value of Margaret’s possessions between when they inherited them and when they were sold.

He based his estimate on an estate originally valued at \$14 million.

Margaret, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died of a stroke in February 2002 at age 71. Her glamour seemed to lend cachet to the furniture, silver, china and decorative items on the auction block, with the 595 items selling for an average of four times their estimated price.

The late princess’ cigarette case — a gift from her father, King George VI — fetched \$187,725, 20 times its original estimate.

The family also sold nearly 200 lots of jewelry. Christie’s Jewelry Department Head Raymond Sancroft-Baker said any proceeds remaining after taxes would be donated to charity.

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MOVIEGUIDE
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The Break-Up (PG-13) 11:00,
11:40, 1:45, 2:15, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00,
8:00, 9:30, 10:40, 11:50

Cars (G)
10:40, 11:50, 1:40, 2:40, 4:40, 5:30,
7:40, 8:10, 10:30, 11:05

The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 12:30, 3:50,
7:10, 10:25

Nacho Libre (PG)
10:45, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:20, 5:00,
5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:50, 11:55

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The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (PG-13)
12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00,
8:00, 9:30, 10:30

Prairie Home Companion, A (PG-13)
12:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13)
1:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

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Art School Confidential (R)
11:30, 4:30, 9:45

District B-13 (Banlieue 13) (R)
2:00, 7:30

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R)
Saturday 11:55 pm

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50

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An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00,
7:45, 9:30, 10:15

Peaceful Warrior (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

Water (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

The Lake House (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00,
8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00am

The Omen (R)
11:40, 1:20, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:40,
7:40, 9:20, 10:20

Over the Hedge (PG)
11:50, 2:10, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10

Poseidon (PG-13)
12:30

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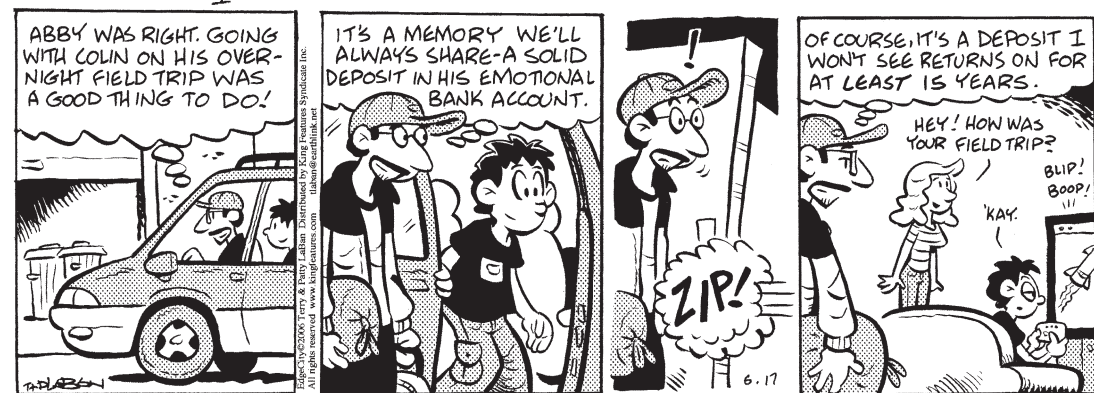
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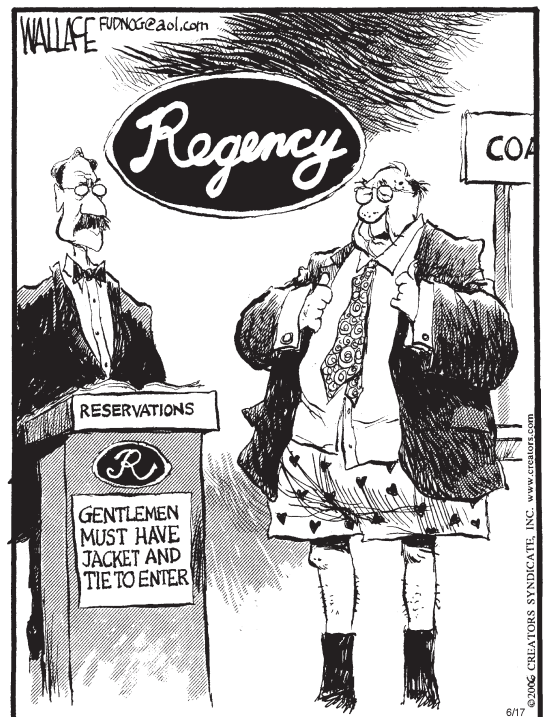
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- 12 Modern messages
- 13 Wet, in a way
- 14 City of northern Italy
- 15 Hospital worker
- 17 Pie dish
- 18 Draw
- 19 Alfalfa's group
- 22 Last letter, in London
- 23 Fasten-ing, in a way
- 24 Karate levels
- 25 Agency fought by 007
- 27 Hero
- 30 Four-time Indy winner
- 31 Half of dos
- 32 Hire
- 33 Western star
- 35 "See ya!"
- 38 Flat finish
- 39 Earth-surrounding layer
- 40 Words after "Do"

DOWN

- 41 Friend of Peter
- 42 Uncool group
- 1 Use a mister on
- 2 Nasty fellow
- 3 Did book work
- 4 Com-poser Thomas
- 5 Western star
- 6 High spirits
- 7 Ethan's "Gattaca" costar
- 8 Kilt material
- 9 Speed regulation
- 10 Informal talk
- 16 It has no members
- 20 "Strangers on a Train" co-star
- 21 USO audience
- 24 Golfer Hogan
- 25 Tawdry nature
- 26 Shep-herd's pie meat
- 27 Fort of Civil War fame
- 28 As one
- 29 Alterna-tive to briefs
- 30 License
- 34 Created
- 36 Wrap up
- 37 Spanish king

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IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the housekeeping department of Century City Doctors Hospital. All shifts available, PT/FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview.

Employment

INVESTMENT SALES:

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*Here's the catch:

“For Closers Only”

Potential Earnings, 15-20K
per month

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(310) 394-9800**

ENTRY LEVEL position for individual wanting to be trained towards acquiring an insurance license. Requires good handwriting/ phone/ computer skills, neat appearance, able to satisfy background check for the California dept. of insurance. Salary open for discussion. Salary increase and bonus commission after licensing. Please fax resume to (818) 222-7299

\$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

Employment

Designers, Interior Decorators

Tile, Marble, and Slab

**Santa Monica
Showroom**

**Salary
+
Commission**

**Prefer design or
Tile experience
Contact 310.995.5136**

TELEMARKETING



**Min 3 year experience.
Real Estate Call Center
Experience a must.
Bilingual Spanish A+.
Daily/Weekly/Monthly Cash Spiffs**

**Salary/Top Comm/Bonus/Benefits
Opportunity for advancement.
Santa Monica
36K-72K a Year
CALL BILL (310) 396-9676**

HIRING FRONT office coordinators on UCLA campus. Fax resume to (310) 698-5414

Employment

COSMETIC COMPANY seeks Customer Service Rep. \$11hr, take orders, know word, excel, type 35wpm, general office duties. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

FULL-TIME/ PART-TIME Cook/ Chef for cafe in WLA. Must speak English. Please call (310) 985-0080

HAIRCUTTING STATIONS for rent @ clean professional Santa Monica Salon, clientele preferred. Call Don, (310) 315-1098.

HAIRSTYLIST WANTED. Busy salon. Experience required. Must know color, perm, cut. Nin's Hair Salon (310) 312-9934 (714) 837-4290

PART TIME

WLA non-profit organization seeks Telemarketers \$10hr 4pm-9pm, work 1-2 months calling previous donors to invite them to donate again, must clear background check. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

RECEPTIONIST WANTED.

Needed for clerical work and light make-up. Computer knowledge & strong phone etiquette req'd. Cosmetology Experience a plus. Hours: 2-8 pm, \$10-\$12 per hour email: erick@pactv.com, fax: 310-287-3808

REEF HOT Spot is a saltwater aquarium fish and coral retailer located in West Los Angeles. Position available: full time associate to maintain our in house aquariums and assist customers with purchases of fish and aquarium products. Experience working in a retail pet store and knowledge of saltwater aquariums is mandatory. The job will pay 8-10/hr. Available immediately. Phone 310-478-4707. Email info@reefhotspot.com

SALES

FASHION CONSULTANT

If you have a FLAIR for Fashion and know how to sell, we are offering a Full-time (no evening) Sales position, Salary + Commission + Benefits. The person we seek must be knowledgeable about women's Designer Clothing, love people, full of energy, and enjoy working in an upbeat environment. We are located in Santa Monica, a few blocks from the ocean. Fax your resume to (310)394-6171 or call us at (310)394-1406

SALES

SALES of cruise and tour packages. 40 Year Old National Tour Company. Paid training, flex 30/hrs week. Some weekends required. Base+comm. No cold calls. Near LAX (310) 649-7171

SANTA MONICA General Surgery practice seeks full-time, experienced front office receptionist for phones, scheduling, filing, etc. Reliable, motivated and hard-working individuals with good attitude, please fax resumes to 310-828-4211

SECURITY JOBS. Great Pay! All beach areas! Contact us www.lantzsecurity.com or call (800) 870-4357

Employment

SEEKING **PART-TIME Receptionist** Sat 9am-9pm Sun 10am-8pm and **Full-Time Receptionist** Mon-Fri local Honda dealership. Customer communication skills needed. Fun fast-paced environment. Go to HondaofSantaMonica.com and download application. Call for interview. (310)264-4900 ext1515

SERVERS BARTENDERS and kitchen staff wanted one year exp needed. Call (310) 391-7700

WAREHOUSE: TELECOM company in Culver City looking for experienced warehouse personnel. Requires previous experience with inventory control, shipping/receiving, computer skills a must. Please call Kristi (310) 737-7394 or email kcruz@scottel.com

WLA COMPANY seeks Customer service Rep \$12-14hr, administrative support, attention to detail, data entry, process orders and invoices, lot of follow up. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

WLA COSMETIC Co seeks Executive Assistant \$40k/yr assist President on daily operations, handle phones, schedule meetings, make travel arrangements, proficient in word, excel, PowerPoint and report writer. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

WLA CPA Firms seeks Executive Receptionist \$12-13hr, very proficient in Word, Excel, type 50-60wpm. **Barrington Staffing** 310-453-4289

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2006 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5750, sell for \$1750 (310) 479-3054

Stall shower door, brushed steel frame, opaque glass, \$60. 1982 Britanica, good condition. Yearbook updates, \$75. (310) 393-5646

Pets

ADORABLE MALTESE pups, boys & girls, will 3~5 lb, have shots & dewormed, CKC registered, around 8 to 10 weeks, home raised, loving & sweet, \$800-\$1500, for more info ask Brandon to 323-819-0113



Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Pets

TINY YORKIE puppies, male & female, toy/t-cup size available, shots & dewormed, registered with CKC or AKC, health guarantee, home raised and very loving & sweet, for more info please click on www.worldkenelusa.com or call Kelly at (323) 823-1803/ (661) 675-6371

Wanted

MEDICAL STUDENT needs car. Please help (310) 883-5394

URGENT

BUILDING needed to start **creative art and music business**. Need free rent for 6-12 months. will give % of profits. (310) 264-0828

Employment Wanted

DOG WALKING and sitting. 10 years exp. Licensed and bonded. (310) 963-0903

LIFE SUPPORT services 10 years exp. bonded and insured. Cooking, driving, and cleaning. (310) 963-0903

For Rent

L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 2 1+1 large upper unit stove, fridge, carpet, parking, no pets, \$1100 (310) 578-7512

**HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310) 869-7901**

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are pet friendly

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WLA \$1650/MO near Bundy/SM Blvd. Spacious, bright 2 bedroom 1.5 bath upper. large closets, fireplace, appliances, laundry, parking. Attractive smaller building, no pets. (310) 828-4481

L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 102 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, no parking or pets \$1175/mo (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 3, \$995/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. (310) 737-7933

MAR VISTA: 12450 Culver Blvd. unit 224, \$1095/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, capret, blinds, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. (888) 414-7778

FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee Rentals. Sullivan-Dituri Company. 2111 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90405

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Classifieds

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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\$5⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

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ROQUE & MARK Co.

2802 Santa Monica Blvd.

310-828-7525

SALES • RENTALS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Rentals available

No Pets Allowed

SANTA MONICA

420 Hill St. \$1695

Upper 2 bed, close to beach & Main St., freshly painted

1047 11th St. \$2595-\$2995

Coming soon! 3 remodeled units All new stainless stoves, granite counters, New Berber carpet, new windows

WESTSIDE

1156 Venice Blvd., \$1650

Upper 1 bed, hardwood floors, Totally Remodeled: new kitchen & bath Washer & dryer, Garage parking

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

SANTA MONICA \$1100/mo 1bdm/1Bath, Carpet Floors, Parking included, refrigerator, newly painted, near SMC. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2600/mo-3bdrms/2baths, Cat ok, hardwood floors, 2-car garage parking, laundry, dishwasher (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$925/mo Bachelor/1Bath, Hardwood Floors, Parking, laundry, quiet neighborhood, Paid utilities (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1050/mo 1bdm/1Bath, Will consider pet with deposit, carpet floors, gated parking (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1150/mo 1bdm/1bath Very Spacious, new carpets, sparkling pool. no pets, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SINGLE 4820 Slauson Ave units 5 and 14, stove, fridge, blinds, carpets, parking, no pets \$675/mo (323) 290-1699 jkwproperties.com

For Rent

Santa Monica \$1550/mo 1bdm/1bath lower, one year minimum lease, new carpets, pool, laundry (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1695/mo 2bdms/1Bath, parking, renovation FREE FIRST MONTH'S RENT UPON EXCELLENT CREDIT (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1700/mo 2bdm/1bath- Walk to beach/Main St., carpet floors, parking, patio (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1995/mo 3bdms/1bath- hardwood floors, bright and sunny, Will consider pet (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$850/mo Bachelor/1Bath, Carpet Floors, Street parking, laundry, no kitchen, small refrigerator (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 1244 11th St. unit d 2+1.5 bath upper unit, stove blinds carpet on-site laundry, balcony, parking, no pets \$1725/mo (310) 393-6322 jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA 9th St. North of California, \$1300/mo 1bdm/1bath, lower, carpet, stove, refrig, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. (310) 456-5659

WLA \$2595 large 3+2 redecorated. 3 private patios with gardens, three parking, private driveway on top of hill. Gated. (310) 390-4610

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⇒ Need help around the house?

We help match seniors with other seniors or mid-age/younger people.

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Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

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SM ROOM and board in exchange for housekeeping/light cooking. car. Sometimes errands. Valid d.l. 50-65 ok. Good dog. Eileen (310) 392-6301

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PRIME INGLEWOOD 7,000 SQ. FT.

Ideal for studio/medical building

20 ft. high ceiling close to Marina Del Rey

703 Centinela/Hyde Park

\$1.00 per sq. ft.

Call (310) 995 5136 for a preview

OFFICE TO rent at 1424 4th St. Santa Monica 90401, new paint and carpets, 400 sq ft. including all utilities and cleaning. (310) 276-3313

SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street. Very charming building, 2 small offices. \$800/mo. Includes utilities & cleaning. (310) 614-6462

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

Commercial Lease

SM SMALL office space for lease. 127 Broadway 2nd floor office with operable windows. \$1100/month. Par Commercial (310) 395-2663 ext 101

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

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Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press



*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smnp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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7 YEAR/1 ARM 5.625%

5 YEAR/1 ARM 5.5%**

3 YEAR/1 ARM 5.5%**

1 YEAR/1 ARM 5.375%

6 MO./6 MO. ARM 3.375%

1 MO./1 MO. ARM 1.0%**

*Rates subject to change

* As of January 11, 2006

** Denotes an interest only loan

NEW CONFORMING LOAN AMOUNTS

1 Unit \$417,000

2 Units \$533,850

3 Units \$645,300

3 Units \$645,300

4 Units \$801,950



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BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. BodyWave,

Massage

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ENJOYABLE DEEP-TISSUE massage by Fitness Trainer. \$55/70 minutes Paul (310) 741-1901

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature European. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Thrift Sale Friday June 23 9am-5pm. June 24 9am-1pm.

GIANT MOVING Sale. 3778 Colonial Avenue – 1block W of Centinela & Venice Blvd. 8am to 5pm Saturday. 9am to 2pm Sunday.

HUGE GARAGE sale! Designer clothes, books, furniture, and tons of stuff. Saturday, June 17th 8am-11am. 930 20th Street, #1, Santa Monica.

SM FRIDAY, Sat, Sun 10-2. Art, antiques, beads, Christmas, 694 San Lorenzo in Back yard.

YARD SALE Sat. June 17 8:30am-2pm Sun June 18 8:30am-1pm 1623 Idaho, Santa Monica.

Lost & Found

BRACELET FOUND Sunday 5/7/06 at 3 pm. Lincoln and Pico Blvd in Santa Monica. (310) 260-0029

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Talk to a Model 24HRS. 877-EZ MARIA 877-396-2742 \$10-17 for 15 min. ATM/CC/Checks by phone www.USLove.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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 FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED

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NEW 2006 C230 SPORTS SEDAN

XENONS, METALLIC PAINT
SUNROOF PKG, AUTO



\$299 5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
+88¢ TAX PER MONTH
FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

\$299.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$2829 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$3624 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$34,625. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 25¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

NEW 2006 ML350



\$349 5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
+88¢ TAX PER MONTH
FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

\$349.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$3469 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4264 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$40,525. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 25¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

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XENONS, METALLIC PAINT
SUNROOF PKG
CD CHANGER



\$399 5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
+88¢ TAX PER MONTH
FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

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NEW CAR TRADE, VALUE PRICED, CERTIFIED, YA004614		
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'01 CL600	RED TAG PRICE	\$39,984
BLACK/BLACK, CERTIFIED, 1A013132		
'04 S430	RED TAG PRICE	\$46,984
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'05 E320	RED TAG PRICE	\$51,981
DIESEL, BLUE/GREY, HURRY! CERTIFIED, 5A751178		
'02 CL500	RED TAG PRICE	\$52,981
BLACK/BLACK AND MORE! CERTIFIED, 2A021945		
'02 S55	ASKING PRICE ~~\$60,984~~	\$54,981
SILVER/CHARCOAL, CHROMES, CERTIFIED, 2A259668		
'02 CL500	RED TAG PRICE	\$57,981
SILVER, SPORT, LOW 23K MILES! CERTIFIED, 2A031059		
'05 S600	ASKING PRICE ~~\$99,981~~	\$89,983
NEW CAR TRADE, CERTIFIED, 5A452502		

RED TAG MERCEDES-BENZ

'99 E320	RED TAG PRICE	\$16,982
NEW CAR TRADE, CD AND MORE! XA744569		
'95 E320 CAB	ASKING PRICE ~~\$29,984~~	\$24,980
CABRIOLET, BLK/BLK, CHROMES, CD, MUST SEE! SC279701		
'06 CLS 500	RED TAG PRICE	\$CALL!!!
SPORT/PREMIUM PACKAGES, KEYLESS, LOW 3K MI 6M067452		

'03 SL55
PEWTER/CHARCOAL, SIRIUS RADIO
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\$79,988

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'99 LANDCRUISER	RED TAG PRICE	\$19,981
GREEN/TAN, NEW CAR TRADE, 2065005		
'03 M45	ASKING PRICE ~~\$28,984~~	\$24,984
CHARCOAL/BLACK, VALUE PRICED, 004514		
'02 BMW 525i	RED TAG PRICE	\$26,981
BLACK/BLACK, SPORT/PREMIUM PACKAGES, 2G40391		
'03 BMW X5 3.0	RED TAG PRICE	\$28,981
SILVER/CHARCOAL, NEW CAR TRADE, 3LP27132		
'04 XC90 T6	RED TAG PRICE	\$34,983
3RD SEAT, NEW CAR TRADE, 41057147		
'04 BMW 525i	RED TAG PRICE	\$35,981
BLACK/BLACK, SPORT PACKAGE, 4B174008		
'03 CAYENNE S	RED TAG PRICE	\$45,981
GREY/GREY, ONLY 16K MILES, 3LA60575		
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