

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

16-05-33-27-08

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 2, 5

Evening picks: 3, 4, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 01, Gold Rush

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:41.72



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Several news organizations have recently profiled 70-year-old Charlotte Chambers, who is a reserve defensive back for the Orlando Starz of the Independent Women's (tackle) Football League. Said the Starz' chief executive: "Last year, I thought I should tell the other teams to go easy and not hit her too hard. But now I'm afraid she's going to hurt somebody." Said the 5-foot-4, 140-pound Chambers: "I say, 'You better hit me (first), because I'm laying you out.'"



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I never met a man I didn't want to fight."

— Lyle Alzado



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Rent control tenant sues city over new law

Renter challenges law that seeks out part-timers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Does Robert Bisno live in Santa Monica or Beverly Hills? Or both?

The answer is worth \$3,831 each month.

Bisno, 51, is suing the city's Rent Control Board for "class discrimination." He argues that a new rent control law that allows landlords to jack up the rent on part-time tenants who don't really live in Santa Monica is illegal.

Bisno is an attorney and prominent local real estate investor who, according to city documents, lives in an exclusive enclave of

Beverly Hills as well as in a rent-controlled oceanfront place in Santa Monica.

Bisno claims the Santa Monica law is illegal because it was never put before voters. He also argues it goes against the charter that governs rent control.

"By carving out a class of persons defined by their use of the units, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board is creating a governmentally created discrimination of class," the lawsuit says.

Since 1996, Santa Monica rent control officials maintain that Bisno has kept a rent controlled two-bedroom, two-bathroom penthouse apartment in the Santa Monica Shores buildings on the beach near Ocean Park Boulevard.

Though his rent is set at \$1,064 under rent control, comparable apartments in the Shores command \$4,895 on the open market. The dif-

ference — \$3,831 monthly — is what the Shores stands to gain and Bisno stands to lose.

The new law, passed in March in Santa Monica, allows landlords to raise the rent to market value on units that are used as second homes, offices or for storage.

The rationale was that rent control is intended to protect full-time residents by stabilizing their living expenses, but wasn't intended to subsidize the lifestyles of part-timers who don't need the protection.

Some opponents, however, worry that the supply of affordable units under rent control will dry up if rents continue to be taken to market levels.

Douglas Emmett & Co., the company that owns the Shores, challenged Bisno's residency under the new law in a formal complaint to the rental board earlier this year. On May 28, Bisno and his attorney, Andrew Zanger, sat through a six-hour hearing with the board and Douglas Emmett officials.

Bisno claimed that his wife Janette, who he has been in divorce proceedings with for the past 18 months, currently resides in the apartment.

But Shores officials say it's being used as a second residence. They maintain that the property has been mostly vacant since Bisno rented it in 1996.

"We looked at it as a very straightforward case," said Allan Golad, the director of property management for Douglas Emmett. "It was

See SUIT, page 5



David Hume Kennerly/Special to the Daily Press

Musician Jackson Browne, who also is a parent of a Santa Monica student, speaks at a rally held in front of City Hall on Tuesday. Police estimate the crowd to be between 400 and 500, while school supporters say more than 1,000 showed up to plead with city officials to give millions of dollars to the cash-strapped school district.

Supporters rally at City Hall for more school district money

By Daily Press staff

Hundreds marched on City Hall Tuesday night, demanding that elected leaders shell out millions of dollars to free the school district from its financial woes.

"This is the beginning of a movement to restore our funds for public education," said songwriter Jackson Browne, who has a 12-year-old son that attends John Adams Middle School. "Many of us live here because the public schools are so good."

The Santa Monica-Malibu School District

was facing a \$13.7 million deficit heading into next school year. But thanks to the passage of Measure S on June 3, \$6.5 million will be given annually to the district in the form of a \$225 parcel tax on every property in Santa Monica and Malibu for the next six years.

But clearly the parcel tax won't completely bail the school district out of its dismal financial situation, largely because of Gov. Gray Davis' cuts in funding for public schools so California's \$35 billion budget deficit can be filled.

See RALLY, page 5

Issa could rely on his wealth in recall effort

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — If Darrell Issa wants to cover the cost of a campaign to become California's governor without asking anyone for so much as a dime, he can. And then some.

Issa reported assets of \$99 million to \$318 million in 2002 and no outstanding loans, according to financial disclosure reports released Monday.

The second-term congressman from Vista, Calif., has shown himself willing to spend from his fortune, which comes from the car alarm company he built and ran before his election to Congress in 2000.

He already has contributed \$800,000 to a campaign to recall Democratic Gov. Gray Davis. Issa spent \$10 million of his own money in an unsuccessful campaign for the Republican senatorial nomination in 1998.

See ISSA, page 7



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, June 18, 2003:

Your ability to understand makes you vulnerable to playing amateur psychologist to those around you. Your ability to detach in order to comprehend others comes out in day-to-day situations. Often others reverse their position after talking with you. You express unusual creativity and perspective this year. Travel could play a key role in your life. Always be willing to learn more as well. If you are single, you will meet people with ease. You could meet someone quite special in the next few months. If you're attached, your imagination will add a new level to your relationships. AQUARIUS helps you unlock the blocks in your thinking.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ All elements finally mesh, and as a result, you'll succeed. Use today for clearing out your work and getting the job done. Your ability to lead others helps everyone hit a home run. You're likely to get more of what you want. Tonight: Where your friends are. You'll have a veritable party.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ All work and no play appears on the menu right now. Your efforts pay off in many ways. You might be promised a pay raise or promotion when you least expect it. Remain upbeat, knowing that you're adding to the pluses in your professional stature. Tonight: A must appearance, even if you want to head home early.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for others and gain a new perspective. Read between the lines if you want to get the results you desire. Ask questions and hop on the computer. Find experts. Avoid gossip at any cost. You could get sidetracked. Tonight: Follow the music or buy a new CD.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your intuition comes through with both financial and emotional matters. You might understand more about what others want than they do themselves. Help others break out of the box. Others allow you to see the real person within. Tonight: Make nice, and a loved one will respond.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others help you pull it together, whether within your work or your personal life. As a result, you'll accomplish a lot. For once, you don't feel like you're fighting the inevitable. A partner seems happy to acquiesce to your demands. Tonight: Allow someone else to play out his or her desires. You can say "yes" or "no." Remember that.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Others find you all business and no play, which actually is good. You might finish two days' work in one. Be willing to go the whole way no matter what. If you're a boss, you will be more than pleased. If you're an employee, your boss will be delighted. Tonight: Work off steam at the gym or soak in a hot tub.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your playful nature takes you in a new direction. You might feel like you're everywhere and that you're having a problem anchoring in. Make calls and organize yourself. You will get way ahead as a result. Tonight: Play the night away with a new friend or an old loved one.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to discuss a matter, whereas a partner has different ideas. Emphasize security and family when dealing with others. Ultimately you will gain because of your patience, willingness and determination. Tonight: Order in. Be cozy at home.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Speak your mind with an eye to what you ultimately need. Others give you immediate feedback. Conversations flourish. Much information could be exchanged in a short period of time as long as you stay open. Tonight: Flow with others' plans; you might find them more interesting.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Know that sometimes you need to spend a little in order to improve your business. You might be uncomfortable with this expenditure, but it is absolutely necessary. Continue to maintain a tight budget if need be. Tonight: Your treat, but don't forget yourself.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your creativity demands an outlet. Think about your expectations within a friendship. You might want to charge greater creativity into work and personal life. Others adore your sense of humor. Let it all hang out. Tonight: Your desire is another's pleasure. How 'bout that?

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Follow your sixth sense with family and work. If you follow through on the intuitive level, success will greet you. Understand your limits within a certain framework. Others respond because of your subtle suggestions. Tonight: Your home is your castle. You need some time off.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local man to compete for national streetball title

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica resident and Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Tyrone Merriweather has the opportunity of a lifetime to catapult himself into the national spotlight in Nike's Battlegrounds 2003 national streetball challenge this week.

One of an elite group of 32 participants, Merriweather will compete in the second annual Nike one-on-one street ball tournament, which will make its way through Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. The L.A. champion will receive \$10,000, a one-year NIKE gear contract, a billboard featuring his likeness erected above his home court and a trip to the finals in New York for a chance to be crowned "King of Kings" and receive the \$25,000 grand prize. In addition, Nike will donate \$5,000 to the player's respective Malibu-based charity.

Before accepting his trophy and booking his flight to the Nike Battlegrounds 2003 Finals in New York, Merriweather, 30, must first make his way through two rounds in Los Angeles, the first taking place at a secret location — a decadent estate deep within the Hollywood Hills — on June 19 where 32 of LA's best will go head-to-head in the dead of night — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. to determine the eight finalists for the LA finals public event at Venice Beach on Saturday, June 28.

The private 32-man first round event will also feature an invitation-only party, featuring renowned D.J.s, Hollywood celebrities, hip hop artists, models and more.

Just as with hip hop fashion, music, poetry and art, street ball is now imbedded in the fabric of the local urban community. It's as much a part of the hip hop subculture as freestyle rap, DJs and graffiti art. For some, streetball is simply a part of the lifestyle or a way to achieve a level of respect or status within the local urban scene. For many others however, who have seen street ballers turn NBA pros, it's seen as potentially the only avenue to achieve a dream of playing professional basketball.

Plenty to read for kids at libraries

By Daily Press staff

With the old Main Library closed, the majority of the library's children's books are now at the Ocean Park Branch.

The basement of the branch has been taken over by the youth services librarians and an extensive collection of non-fiction books, non-fiction videos, as well as the parenting collection and the branch's young adult collection are now available.

The picture books, easy-to-read books, early chapter books, paperbacks and fiction are upstairs in the children's area. Youth services librarians are available all hours that the branch is open to provide readers' advisory and reference services. The annual summer reading program will highlight the collection by offering an additional incentive for children who visit the youth services collection in the basement and read nonfiction books from the collection. The summer reading books for the school district teen-agers are also housed there.

Youth services librarians also use the branch as a base for going out into the community for programs, offering story times and other programs in local parks. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, there are story times for 2 year olds and also preschool stories for 3- and 4 year olds at Reed Park on Wilshire Boulevard between Seventh Street and Lincoln Boulevard.

Miles Playhouse, also at Reed Park, is the site for monthly puppet shows starring Woody and his friend Lester. On Monday mornings, librarians offer stories for babies up to the age of two in conjunction with the infant and family support project of the Santa Monica School District, based at Joslyn Park.

The Temporary Main Library, located at 1324 Fifth St., has a small core collection of children's materials and also the young adult collection on the second floor.

Youth services librarians can be reached at (310) 458-8621 during open branch hours, noon to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. The branch is closed on Friday and Sunday.

surf report

Surfing fun is just on the horizon.

BAD NEWS: The SW swell we've enjoyed is gone.

GOOD NEWS: The steep NW will stay strong and an even stronger S swell has built up, bringing in some head-high sets.

OUTLOOK: A modest SW swell will build this weekend from New Zealand, with the good breaks picking up some waist-shoulder high surf.

A much better S is in store for early next week and there's also some activity off of Southern Mexico. We'll let you know tomorrow.

Today the water is:

67°

**Sunrise: 5:48 a.m.
Sunset: 8:11 p.m.**



LOW TIDE

HIGH TIDE

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

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The Q-Line

President Bush recently laid out a plan to end homelessness in the United States within 10 years. That plan was discussed last week at a meeting of U.S. mayors held in Denver.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, along with Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn and other area leaders, have convened a committee to deal with homelessness as a regional issue.

Many argue that other cities won't deal with homeless people and rely on

Santa Monica to bear the brunt of the problem.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What can be done regionally to alleviate Santa Monica of its growing homeless population?"

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



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LETTERS

City too easy on homeless

Editor:

You have got to be kidding me.

In the Monday, June 16 version of the SMDP, our beloved Mayor Richard Bloom states: "Santa Monica is largely considered to be providing leadership from a political and programmatic perspective to ending homelessness."

The gall and simple unabashed cluelessness of this City Council simply astounds me. Ending homelessness? Ending it? How about encouraging it?

I respectfully ask his honor "Where are you living in this city? Do you walk along the beach? Do you walk through Palisades Park at all? I dare you to walk through it any day, any time of the day.

From where I and the vast majority of this city's citizens sit, you guys at City Hall are not doing one thing toward rounding up the miserable people that use our city as their own bathroom/mattress/shooting gallery and running them out of town.

It's easy to see they are a drain on resources and contribute nothing to the city's coffers and society in general. If you need a reason, how about the fact that it costs the city in lost revenue every day of the week. How about the fact that the citizens (yeah, those folks that pay their city taxes) who live here are tired of seeing/living with it in the alleys/sidewalks/and all spaces, both public and private?

Want to be a hero, Mr. Mayor? Want this city's residents and visitors to talk of you as a saint? Want to be remembered as the one mayor who actually did something of concern to its residents and used the position effectively? Then get tough on the homeless. Do it now. Do it today. Cut all of the funding — \$2 million that is currently wasted, as more and more lousy miscreants see our city as the promise land of non-personal responsibility. Make life harder on them. Give SMPD Chief Butts the go-ahead to arrest each and every one of them.

In short, give Santa Monica back to its tax paying citizens. We deserve nothing less from you.

I have given you the option of impressing me and every one of the citizens you represent. How will you handle it? Dare I ask?

Greg Thomas
Santa Monica

Traffic islands are a waste of money

Editor:

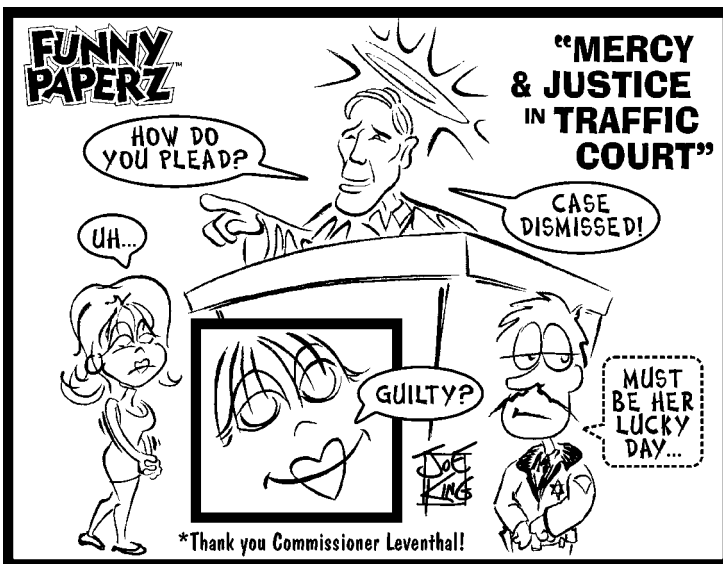
Traveled along Wilshire Boulevard recently? It is deplorable! Traffic is snarled for miles.

Why? Construction of the so-called "pedestrian-haven-center islands" is creating a backlog of traffic unknown heretofore in Santa Monica's history. It reminds me of the construction of down/up ramps on every street corner in Santa Monica for the physically disabled, which, I rarely, if ever, see being used by a handicapped person. I can't begin to

imagine the outlay of funds by the city for this unnecessary construction on, now, many of the thoroughfares of Santa Monica, including, but not limited to Broadway, and Wilshire Boulevard. It is an obscene waste of money at a time when the city is cutting back on education and you name it. So, who, I ask is responsible for the expenditure on these unnecessary "islands" at a time when there is little, to no money to spare.

Who exactly is benefiting from this construction madness? Personally, I would like an accounting. Not only does it seem unnecessary, it creates a hazard in the event that there is an unexpected turn of events which requires the immediate evacuation of Wilshire Boulevard, as in the possible event of a tragedy of mythic proportions related to terrorism. All those who traverse those thoroughfares are sitting ducks in the event of such a disaster. I remember when Santa Monica was an idyllic, lazy, pleasant place to be, but, alas and alack, no more. I long for the good ole' days when Santa Monica was a peaceful place to live and travel in. What price is progress?

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica



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Sharpton for president, Easter Bunny for governor



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

My mother once said that if you don't have anything nice to say about someone you shouldn't say anything at all. So here goes. I thought Sharpton had a good line in the Democratic Presidential debate when he compared Bush's newest tax cut to drinking Kool-Aid in Jonestown. He said, "It tastes real good ... then it kills you."

But being at a loss for words has never been Sharpton's problem. Where the "good" Reverend runs into trouble involves the veracity of those words. There is a book about Hollywood called, "Hello He Lied." This should have been the title of Al Sharpton's autobiography, in which, as Peter Beinart in the New Republic points out, Sharpton told a slew of fibs that included his age and where he lived. Of course lying in itself does not disqualify one from politics. In fact it's probably a job requirement. But many of the Reverend's lies are not so benign.

As a former New Yorker I clearly remember the Tawana Brawley incident in which the 15-year-old black girl was dis-

covered in a garbage bag, her body smeared with dog excrement and racist epitaphs, claiming she had been raped by several white men including one wearing a badge. It would later turn out that the girl had staged the incident to avoid a beating from her abusive stepfather, but not before Sharpton, along with Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason, accused Steven Pagones, assistant prosecutor from Dutchess County, of participating in the teen's rape. Even as evidence brought these charges into question, Sharpton held fast to his highly questionable accusations devastating Pagones' reputation. Pagones sued Sharpton for defamation and won a substantial judgment.

Pagones has yet to collect that judgment and Sharpton has yet to apologize. This is particularly surprising when you consider Al Sharpton is the first to demand retribution from anyone who makes even the most innocuous comment that can be remotely construed as racially negative. But character has never been a strong point for this wannabe Pol.

Let's start with, is Sharpton actually running for President? Well, that depends on the moment. When he received criticism on his failure to report his first quarter fund-raising results, Sharpton claimed he didn't have to file a report because he hadn't officially announced his candidacy. Yet he was participating in events featuring declared candidates. Aside from his shift-

ing status, questions about his fundraising have emerged. Religious leaders complained when Sharpton came to their churches soliciting contributions for his presidential run he, as reported in the LA Times, deposited the money into the account of one of his civil rights organizations. This is clearly illegal.

Even more troubling than Sharpton's web of lies, half-truth and deceit, or even his questionable ethics that have led to, among other things, a conviction for tax evasion, is that he is one of the country's most racially divisive public figures. As reported in the New Republic, in 1995 Sharpton railed against a Jewish store owner doing business in a black neighborhood.

Though Sharpton points out he never advocated violence, his vicious attacks so incited residents that it likely resulted in the racially motivated murder of seven of the store's employees.

Of course Sharpton didn't apologize for the murders. And God forbid you criticize him because, as Al Sharpton told Tim Russert on Meet The Press, the behavior of Al Sharpton is synonymous with civil rights so that any criticism against Al Sharpton is, by definition, an attack on racial justice. If Sharpton was white and made these types of statements he would either be a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan or a Republican Majority Leader. The

one thing he would most definitely not be is President of the United States.

But let's not split hairs. We know, as well as Al does, that he's not going to be President. So what is his objective? Probably to create enough support to become a thorn in the Democrats' side and seek a settlement that produces maximum publicity and personal gain for the Reverend. Of course, such a settlement will probably leave Democrats vulnerable to attack by the Republican right, but then again Sharpton doesn't really care about the Democrats. He was instrumental in bringing down the party in New York and handing victories to Republicans such as Pataki and D'Amato. When it gets down to it, the only thing Al Sharpton really cares about is Al Sharpton.

And before the Reverend organizes a protest march on my lawn, let me state that there are black politicians who have the capabilities to be President. Sharpton has no real platform, is uninformed about almost every issue and has never held any public office. And for the press or voters to waste time on his political circus does far greater harm to legitimate black politicians, endorses unethical behavior and makes a mockery out of the entire political process.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. You can log your vote on edsincites@aol.com.)

LOCAL



Tenant takes on City Hall

SUIT, from page 1

very clear to us that (the Bisnos) were not living there."

Bisno presented the hearing officer with pieces of mail addressed to Janette Bisno at the Shores, a copy of her registration for art courses at Santa Monica College this summer and pictures that show the apartment has been used by her and their 10-year-old child.

While Bisno waits on the hearing officer's ruling to be handed down, Zanger said the lawsuit will be scheduled for a preliminary hearing in the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Doris Ganga, the attorney for the Rent Control Board, wouldn't comment on the lawsuit. She said she hasn't yet been formally served with documents.

While the legal wrangling goes forward, an increasing number of tenants are being served by landlords who are challenging their residency under the new law in order to lift the protection afforded to tenants by rent controlled rates.

Seventy-one cases have been filed with the rental board since the law went into effect March 15. Of those, five tenants have conceded that they are not full-time tenants and accepted the rent hikes.

Fifteen cases have been dismissed because the landlord failed to adequately build a case against the tenant and 10 hearings have been held.

"We looked at it as a very straightforward case."

— **ALLAN GOLAD**
Director of property management,
Douglas Emmett

Though no rulings have been made, the decisions will begin coming down very soon, said Tracy Condon, the Rent Control Board spokeswoman.

In the meantime, Bisno also is embroiled in an ongoing battle over Lincoln Place, a low and middle-income property that he plans to redevelop into townhouses and apartments.

Lincoln Place sits between Lake Street and Palms Boulevard in Venice. Residents and tenants have long fought to have the property, which was built shortly after World War II, recognized as an historical landmark.

Council listens to testimony before passing city budget

RALLY, from page 1

School supporters, desperately looking for the other \$7.2 million to close the district's deficit gap, have recently been pressuring the Santa Monica City Council to bear the responsibility of balancing the school's budget.

City Hall in the past has regularly contributed \$3 million to the school district on a voluntary basis, which is about 1 percent of the city's total budget. Last year, the City Council gave an additional \$1.5 million to the district because of a previous budget deficit.

"We are not whole ... right now we simply want to be made whole," said Superintendent of Schools John Deasy. "Right now we simply have to have what our kids had last year and nothing less."

"We are fortunate to live in this city, a city with means," he added.

Some school supporters think City Hall should pay an additional \$4 million on top of its \$3 million contribution. They have written letters to their elected leaders and to the local newspapers, held rallies and started a fund-raising campaign that has been difficult to ignore.

The Council was scheduled to approve the city's \$353 million budget on Tuesday night, but not until they heard hours of testimony from parents, school staff and faculty, and other community members who argued for how important the future of the schools are to Santa Monica and its kids. At times, Council Chambers was so packed that people had to stand in the aisles or wait outside.

With City Hall facing its own \$16 million budget deficit this year, council members have said in the past that giving more money to the schools would be nice, but it isn't realistic.

However, comments made by council members at Tuesday's rally seemed to indicate that perhaps additional funding would be given to the district. The council

had not made its decision or passed the budget by press time.

"You know we have a tough situation tonight," Mayor Richard Bloom said to the crowd shortly before the meeting. "We're going to go back upstairs and make things work for this city ..."

"We know how important this issue is to the children and to the people of the community."

— **RICHARD BLOOM**
Santa Monica Mayor

"We know how important this issue is to the children and to the people of the community."

Councilman Mike Feinstein told the group that he would vote to give the schools money and Council members Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser also said they hoped funding could be restored to the district.

Now that the Measure S funding is secure, officials plan to rehire many of the 200-plus workers who were laid off in March.

The positions to be brought back are: 21 elementary teachers, two elementary assistant principals, one elementary principal, 20 middle school teachers, 25 high school teachers, two nurses, more than six elementary music teachers, five music aides and accompanists, one fine arts coordinator, four groundskeepers, four administrative assistants, two fiscal service workers, two personnel positions, one career center specialist and five elementary librarians.

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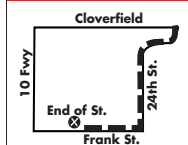
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By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A woman was sentenced to life in prison for her role in torturing an infant who suffered broken bones, rat and cockroach bites and a bacterial infection that ravaged the 7-month-old girl's left leg.

Calling it the worst child abuse case he has ever seen, Superior Court Judge Christian Thierbach on Monday sentenced Eileen Merchant, 47, on torture and child endangerment convictions. He also sentenced Michael Gramaje, 39, to six years for child endangerment.

"I don't think you or Mr. Gramaje are necessarily bad people, but, my God, what you allowed to happen to that child defies any notion of humanity," Thierbach told Merchant. The infant was abused during the weeks Merchant lived with Gramaje and his wife, Terri, in Wildomar in early 2001.

During the trial, Merchant's son Rahim testified that he had seen his mother hold down the baby as Terri Gramaje used a box cutter to slice into the infant's blackened and infected leg.

Gramaje and Merchant were the last of four adults convicted in the case. During trial last month, defense attorneys argued it was a bad tempered Terri Gramaje who inflicted injuries to the baby. She was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty in February to torture, mayhem and other charges.

During Monday's sentencing hearing, the baby's new adoptive mother graphically described the painful reconstructive surgeries, skin grafts and other medical procedures that the child has undergone since she and her husband started caring for the child two years ago.

Welcome to Santa Ana or 'Little Saigon?'

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Despite protests by neighbors who called it divisive, the City Council approved placement of a "Welcome to Little Saigon" sign in west Santa Ana.

The council approved the sign 5-2 after two hours of heated public comment. The Little Saigon Business District Committee will pay for the sign, which will be similar to ones that have been approved in Garden Grove and Westminster.

Proponents of the sign said it was a way to market the area for the benefit of all merchants and it would also serve as acknowledgment of the hard work and success of Vietnamese immigrants.

"It will be a testament to past immigrants and to present and future immigrants wherever they come from that they will always be welcome in our neighborhood," Phat Bui said.

Neighbors who opposed the sign said it would open the door to other ethnic signs when residents should be united by the name Santa Ana alone.

"I'm very happy to have the Vietnamese community in our area," Maria Sandoval said. "We want their business. We want their families. We want to be a together community, not separated."

Garden Grove already has dedicated two 4-by-10 foot signs paid for by the Little Saigon Business District Committee. The front of the signs along Brookhurst Street say, "Welcome to Little Saigon, Vietnamese Business District," and the back reads, in English and Vietnamese, "Together We Build A Better Future."

The city of Westminster also has agreed to have two signs along Bolsa Avenue.

Santa Ana has the county's third-largest Vietnamese population, at 19,226 residents, according to census data.

Insurance hikes damage Long Beach budget

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — Insurance costs are adding \$7 million to the city's budget shortfall, which is now \$59 million for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Finance officials warned Monday that the city's Insurance Fund, which pays insurance premiums and claims, is at risk of insolvency without immediate help.

The growing shortfall estimate and insurance concerns are the result of a haywire insurance market, rising workers' compensation costs, increased flights at Long Beach Airport and two new police helicopters that are costing more to insure, officials said.

The City Council is being asked this week to renew four insurance policies whose annual premiums have increased as much as 420 percent since 2001.

"The whole insurance industry has just kind of been spiraling," city budget manager Mike Killebrew said.

The bleak insurance picture comes as the city struggles with a three-year budget shortfall that stands at \$97 million with the new projection. That shortfall is in the General Fund, which pays for most city services, including police and fire protection, libraries and parks.

The \$7 million increase was not factored into the recent three-year plan the council adopted to solve the budget crisis.

County board balances budget by cutting jobs

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.2 billion county spending plan balanced by cutting 267 jobs and holding public safety funding increases to their lowest level in a decade.

The 2003-04 Ventura County budget reflects an overall 6.3 percent revenue

See BRIEFS, page 7

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STATE



California House is full of wealthy lawmakers

ISSA, from page 1

His campaign for Congress cost about \$1.5 million.

In an interview last week, Issa refused to say how much he might spend trying to replace Davis. "Look, I've shown a willingness to put my time, my energy and my money behind things I believe in," he said. "I haven't put a number on it and I don't think I will."

Issa holds a diverse mix of investments. He owns two real estate companies that are together valued between \$30 million and \$75 million.

He also owns between \$25 million and \$50 million in Merrill Lynch's S&P 500 stock fund and another \$21 million to \$87 million in other mutual funds.

He holds between \$15 million and \$75 million in California public agency bonds.

"Like everyone else, I had money in mutual funds. They haven't done well," he said. "I have a conservative array of a little bit of real estate, bonds, stock mutual funds. So I'm seesawing up with the rest of the population."

All 535 members of Congress are required to submit financial disclosure forms every year, listing outside sources of income, assets, liabilities, travel paid by private interests and speech honoraria.

Most lawmakers have less money than

Issa, although California's 53-member House delegation has several people with considerable wealth.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, the House Democratic leader, reported owning a vineyard in St. Helena, Calif., valued at \$5 million-\$25 million; another vineyard in Rutherford, Calif., listed at \$1 million-\$5 million; and an option on San Francisco commercial property valued at \$1 million-\$5 million.

Pelosi, the daughter of a former mayor and congressman from Baltimore, holds her assets jointly with her husband, Paul, a San Francisco businessman.

They also listed as liabilities a mortgage on the St. Helena property and a line of credit, both listed at \$1 million-\$5 million.

Rep. David Dreier, a Republican from San Dimas, the Rules Committee chairman, owns a Kansas City, Mo., apartment complex valued at \$5 million to \$25 million. Dreier is a Kansas City native. Rep. Christopher Cox, a Republican from Newport Beach, has \$1 million to \$5 million in a money market account.

Near the other end of the financial spectrum is Rep. Bill Thomas, a Republican from Bakersfield, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He reported no assets.

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 6

increase over the previous year's funding, but costs have spiraled much higher. Supervisors were forced to approve about \$17 million in job and service reductions.

Supervisor Linda Parks, the board's newest member seated in January, made the sole dissenting vote. Parks asked the board to consider work furloughs or pay freezes to free up more money for public safety.

The sheriff, district attorney, public defender and probation chief will each receive at least 3.75 percent budget increases in the coming year.

The supervisors warned, however, that additional reductions may be necessary once the cash-strapped state passes its own budget.

"Stay tuned," board Chairwoman Judy Mikels said. "The sequel could be worse."

Wild animals get new homes

By The Associated Press

COLTON — The operator of a wild animal sanctuary who is facing animal cruelty charges has been given 30 days to find new homes for the critters, which include about 70 tigers, lions and leopards.

John Weinhart and his wife Marla Smith already are under a court order temporarily banning them from possessing or caring for any animals, including those at Tiger Rescue, pending the outcome of a Riverside animal cruelty case.

In a letter mailed Monday, the California Department of Fish and Game gave Weinhart until July 15 to find facilities to accept the animals. If he fails to do so, Fish and Game officials will oversee the transfer of the animals to new owners.

Weinhart and Smith have declined all interview requests since their April 22 arrest for investigation of child endangerment after Fish and Game agents raided their Glen Avon property and found dozens of dead tigers, including 58 cubs in a freezer.

They also found live cubs in an attic and two alligators in a bathtub.

Steve Jeffries, who has acted as Tiger Rescue spokesman, declined to comment Monday, saying he had not seen the letter.

Mike McBride, assistant chief for the Department of Fish and Game office in Chino Hills, said a decision to resolve the issue of ownership came out of concern for the well-being of the animals and of the volunteers caring for them.

"We have volunteers that are there day in and day out," McBride said. "We need to bring this to an end."

Although Weinhart and Smith have not been convicted in court, McBride said California law authorizes the agency to order the transfer of animals if violations are discovered.

Fish and Game agents found violations at the Glen Avon property in April and during an inspection of Tiger Rescue last fall.

Weinhart does not possess a current Fish and Game permit.

McBride said he has been contacted by a number of sanctuaries and preserves willing to take the animals.

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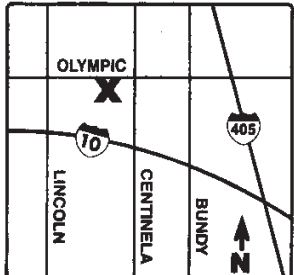
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STATE

‘Extreme’ fire danger forecast in Southern CA

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Fire safety officials have drawn up evacuation plans for mountain communities east of Los Angeles and are suggesting that parents reconsider sending their kids to summer camp there this year, amid fears of major wildfires in forests of beetle- and drought-killed trees.

They projected “extreme” fire danger Tuesday for mountain areas from north of Los Angeles to the Mexican border.

Lower elevations in much of the rest of California will see above-average fire danger this year, particularly because heavy, late spring rains brought a bumper crop of grass that now is drying to tinder. But a normal fire season is projected at higher elevations in most areas.

Fire officials are particularly concerned, however, about more than 400,000 acres of dead, standing trees in a beetle-affected area in and near the San Bernardino National Forest in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties.

“The situation ... has the potential to be an immense human and ecological tragedy. That is not an exaggeration,” said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes. “That’s an entire forest that is dying.”

Mountain communities and heavy urban use there means more chance for human-caused fires, and more danger for people if one ignites.

“That’s a true perfect storm waiting there,” warned Jim Wright, chief deputy director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “A fire starting in an environment like this will get out of hand very quickly. We see this as a very critical situation.”

Local planning groups in Lake Arrowhead and Idyllwild have drawn up evacuation plans for residents and are beginning to inform them where they should go and how they should get there in the event of a major fire.

“We’re going to be battling panic, chaos,” Wright said, as residents flee along twisting, congested mountain roads even as firefighters move in heavy equipment to fight the blazes.

A major concern is the more than 300 organizational camps that dot the moun-

tains surrounding Southern California cities. In a normal year, buses drop off children and then leave. That leaves “a hell of an evacuation plan to deal with,” Wright said.

“A fire starting in an environment like this will get out of hand very quickly. We see this as a very critical situation.”

— JIM WRIGHT

Chief deputy director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

This year, fire planners are asking camp organizers to keep buses available for an immediate exit, Wright said, and are advising parents, “You may choose not to send your kids to camp this year.”

The U.S. Forest Service has given the state about \$3 million to remove and replace trees killed by the drought-aggravated beetle infestation. Other national forests are shifting money and manpower to the San Bernardino to help in the effort.

And the Forest Service has taken the rare step of shifting a contingent of smokejumpers from their usual Redding base to Southern California to help stamp out wildfires as soon as they spark.

Fire planners are asking utilities to trim trees along power lines, residents to clear brush and trees from around their homes, and recreational users of wildland areas to pay particular attention to fire prevention. More than 90 percent of fires are caused by humans, Wright said.

The 2003 wildfire season has begun slowly, with the National Interagency Fire Center reporting that the number and acreage of large wildfires nationally is running about 30 percent below average. However, the agency said much of the Interior West, Northwest and portions of California and the Northern Rockies still are expected to have an above-normal fire season.

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NATIONAL



Finally, parts of the West getting a break from drought

BY CATHERINE TSAI
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — The drought that has crippled much of the West for four years is finally easing in eastern Colorado, with a cool, wet spring wiping out watering bans and boosting ranchers' hopes.

"We're starting to claw our way back out of the drought," said climatologist Mark Svoboda of the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Neb.

The government's latest seasonal forecast for the nation will be released Thursday, but the U.S. Drought Monitor already shows severe and extreme drought gone from the East and much of the Midwest. The worst of the drought is

centered in the Four Corners region, with Utah as its epicenter.

Experts say weather models are offering good news as the West heads into the hot, dry summer: The La Nina weather phenomenon, expected to contribute to a dry summer, might not hit as strongly as predicted.

"The fact is that right now it looks like we're not going to switch into it any time soon," climatologist Klaus Wolter said Tuesday. "That's good news for us in northern Colorado, into Utah and southern Wyoming."

Drought specialist Rich Tinker of the NOAA Climate Prediction Center said the drought has been over in northeast Colorado since at least late May, though there are lingering effects.

Already, Boulder, Longmont, Louisville, Westminster, Pueblo and Walsenburg across Colorado have lifted mandatory watering restrictions for homeowners. Heavily populated Denver and suburban Aurora will re-examine their water rules as the summer progresses. Community officials are crediting recent rain, the blizzard in March and customer conservation for keeping reservoir levels relatively healthy.

Still, Colorado and other Western states will face issues of water supply. Only California, Washington, Idaho and Montana have reservoirs near statewide averages, said Brad Rippey, a meteorologist with the Agriculture Department.

In tiny Kim, in Colorado's southeastern

corner, fourth-generation rancher Kelly Bader has been selling off cattle the past two years because of drought. He is waiting until November to decide whether to bring back dozens of animals he sent to Kansas so the drought-stricken grass on his 17,000 acres can recover.

"We'll know by then if we've grown enough grass to bring them home," he said.

Rippey said years of drought have made recovery of range and pasture land difficult. Gov. Bill Owens last week asked for a federal disaster designation for six southeastern Colorado counties that showed substantial losses to crops and livestock forage due to the drought.

Public resources help man become global entrepreneur

BY DAN VOELPEL
Associated Press Staff Writer

TACOMA, Wash. — Turkey needs cows. But not just any cows.

Holstein heifers, 600 head, all artificially inseminated and four- to seven-months pregnant on delivery.

Enter "Cowboy" Bill Pullen of Auburn.

Call him an entrepreneurial matchmaker. He rounded up a supplier, secured financing and arranged for shipping. Then he made an offer to the Organik Tarim Urunleri, a Turkish agricultural consulting company that wants to start dairy production near Ankara.

Pullen should learn by the end of June whether the company will accept his offer to ship the U.S. cows to the Middle Eastern country just northwest of Iraq.

But this isn't just a story about cows. It's a story about finding new opportunities in a bad economy.

The nation's unemployment rate climbed to a nine-year high of 6.1 percent in May, according to the Labor Department. Around here it's worse: 7.3 percent in Washington. Now's the time for frontier-minded entrepreneurs like Pullen to explore new business opportunities.

Pullen got his start in the bovine business as a kid. He milked cows for Grade A

dairies in northeastern and central Oregon and later became an inseminator for Oregon dairy breeders. Then his career took a turn into construction, where he spent much of his life running roofing crews and building homes.

At 63, Bill said he can't do that physical work any longer. He needed a fresh start, a new job.

So he turned to the federal government and the World Trade Center Tacoma for help.

This spring, Pullen took a six-week course through the center that taught him and 26 others how to get started in international trade. And he logged on to the Department of Commerce Web site - www.statusa.com - free through the King County library computer and searched for deals.

On that Web site, foreign governments and companies list products and services they need. Pullen found the Turkish agricultural company looking for pregnant cows.

"What I do at that point is I put out feelers over the Internet to cattle buyers and suppliers. I put out hundreds of inquiries," Pullen said. "I found a cattle buyer who had the capacity to gather, stockyard, feed, breed and meet the requirements of this type of order."

Pullen contacted Expeditors International of Washington, a Seattle-

based freight specialist. Expeditors found a Dutch firm with a fleet of 10 cattle ships, complete with air-freshened comfort coaches to keep the cows content on the ocean cruise. The company has two shipments lined up for Pullen's pregnant cows.

Finally, the World Trade Center put Pullen in touch with Union Bank of California for the required letter of credit. And guess what? Turkey qualifies for a Department of Agriculture credit guarantee program. That means the U.S. government will pay Pullen if Organik defaults on the deal - worth about \$2.5 million.

"That's a darn good deal," Pullen said. "Your bankers and shippers are working for you. They make life very easy and a whole lot simpler."

Consider Pullen's story a lesson for others looking for a new line of work, for new opportunities, said Beth Willis, trade specialist for the World Trade Center Tacoma.

And it's not just Turkey. You can find deals waiting to be done and matches waiting to be made all over the world.

Willis will head to Peru later this month with Lt. Gov. Brad Owen to work on specific opportunities to connect the South American country with the Northwest. In one case, an entrepreneur wants to buy old ships from the Peruvian navy and barge them to China for scrap recycling. In another, a Kent cold storage company wants to import Peruvian flowers. A Fife candy company wants to bring home some Peruvian nuts.

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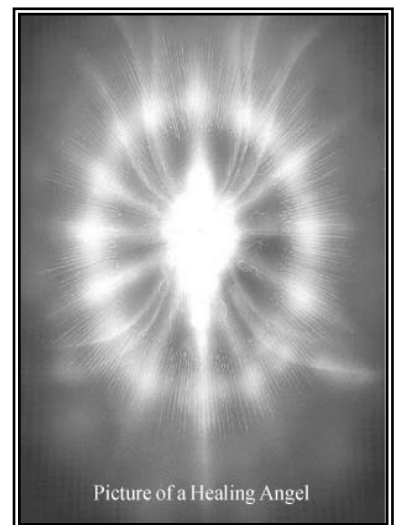
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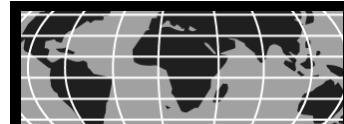
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WORLD BRIEFLY

FBI: Less crime, but there are more rapes and murders

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Crime resumed its decline overall last year, even though the numbers of murders and rapes increased, the FBI reported.

The FBI's preliminary Uniform Crime Report found a 0.2 percent decrease in the number of crimes reported to the police or other law enforcement agencies in 2002, as compared with 2001. That resumed a trend that began in 1991, broken only in 2001 when crime rose by 2.1 percent over 2000.

The figures should be considered good news, said James Alan Fox, a professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University.

With financially plagued cities laying off police officers and switching others to homeland security, with people losing their jobs because of the economy's problems and with increases in gang activity, overall crime easily could be going up rather than down, Fox said.

"The fact that it isn't a success," he said. "We're holding our own despite difficult times that we're in."

Still, the FBI said in the report released Monday, the number of reported rapes rose by 4 percent and the number of murders grew by 0.8 percent.

Democrats call on factions to reorganize their values

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Faced with Republican domination of offices across the country, a group of moderate Democrats is calling for the party's factions to reorganize with a set of values that will convince Americans they will provide the best leadership.

The schedule for the New Democratic Network's annual meeting Tuesday included speeches from presidential candidates Bob Graham and Joe Lieberman, who called for help for people living in poverty.

"Turning back the tide of poverty is a priority that I am accepting for my presidency," Lieberman said in a telephone interview. "This is something that I want to set as a national goal because it tests us, it tests the honesty of the American promise of equal opportunity."

Leaders of the NDN hope to tap into the void felt by Democrats who are still reeling from their trouncing in last year's election and facing a battle against a popular incumbent president.

NDN President Simon Rosenberg says the first step Democrats have to take is to acknowledge that the GOP has built a superior political machine, then try to start building their own.

Rosenberg proposed a party agenda that focuses on economic prosperity, global leadership and homeland security.

Sniper shoots U.S. soldier with a single shot

By The Associated Press

KHALDIYAH, Iraq — A sniper killed a U.S. soldier on patrol in Baghdad with a single shot, the military said Tuesday, while Iraqi officials in nearby towns were targeted by drive-by shootings likely designed to intimidate them against cooperating with Americans.

The violence came as U.S. military officials announced that American troops had detained 371 people in three days of sweeps in Baghdad and northern Iraq meant to "isolate and defeat remaining pockets of resistance that are seeking to delay the transition to a peaceful and stable Iraq."

During the attack on the U.S. soldier Monday night, the sniper escaped as the soldier collapsed on the ground. He was hustled into a military vehicle and evacuated to a first aid station, but died shortly afterward, said Maj. Sean Gibson, a U.S. military spokesman.

In Fallujah, 35 miles west of Baghdad, suspected anti-American insurgents fired shots into the mayor's office and the courthouse. In the nearby town of Khaldiyyah, more shots were

fired into a police station overnight Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

The shootings were the first known attacks directed against Iraqi officials for cooperating with U.S. forces and represented a new front in the insurgents attempt to undermine U.S. forces in Iraq.

Talking about peace, Mideast leaders meet to reach deal

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The Palestinian prime minister, who is making a final push to halt attacks on Israelis, met Tuesday with a U.S. envoy dispatched to the region to supervise implementation of a troubled Mideast peace plan.

The head of the U.S. monitoring team, John Wolf, held talks with Mahmoud Abbas ahead of the prime minister's meeting with Palestinian militias later in the day.

On Monday, Egyptian mediators went home without a firm agreement from Hamas and other armed groups to lay down arms, but Palestinian officials said they are confident a deal could be reached in the coming days.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told parliament Monday that he would continue his offensive against Hamas and said his government would pursue terrorists "in every place and at every time until victory."

Keating: Church's actions mirror criminal organization

By The Associated Press

Even as he resigned as head of a panel keeping tabs on the U.S. Roman Catholic hierarchy's sex abuse reforms, former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating had defiant parting shots for some bishops.

"To resist grand jury subpoenas, to suppress the names of offending clerics, to deny, to obfuscate, to explain away; that is the model of a criminal organization, not my church," he said Monday.

Keating had been criticized by Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony — and by fellow members of the National Review Board — for comments comparing secretive bishops with the mafia. Keating insisted in his resignation letter that those remarks "were deadly accu-

rate. I make no apology."

He added, however, that "most of America's bishops are fully supportive" of the board he chaired the past year and "have stood up for virtue."

Keating and the other members were appointed by Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. hierarchy, who received Keating's resignation by fax Monday. Board members are vowing to stay vigilant and say Keating's departure won't affect any plans.

Ten of the 12 continuing members of the board held a conference call Monday to discuss the situation. Keating did not participate and declined an interview request.

With sense of bipartisanship, Senate to debate Medicare bill

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Debate over improving Medicare kicked off with a tone of bipartisanship in the Senate, but the mood was decidedly less cooperative in the House.

House Democrats were releasing an analysis by Consumers Union that found Republican bills in both the House and Senate lacking.

The group calculated that the proposed drug benefit was so meager that in just a few years, given inflation, seniors would be spending more than they do today on prescription drugs.

"Medicare beneficiaries have waited a long time for help, but unfortunately, this legislation falls far short of what seniors and disabled Americans have been waiting for," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who planned a news conference Tuesday to take apart the GOP bill.

The bill was being considered by two House committees starting Tuesday, with a vote expected by July 4 on the floor.

Across the Capitol, there were few harsh words. Rather, both parties claimed credit for the legislation, which represents the largest expansion of Medicare since its creation nearly four decades ago.

The Senate will now spend the next two weeks debating the bill, with passage a virtual certainty.

In southwest New Mexico, high-tech helps monitor border

BY RICHARD BENKE

Associated Press Writer

ANTELOPE WELLS, N.M. — Crossing the pincushion of cactus and barbed wire on the U.S.-Mexico border has become a daunting affair for illegal aliens who must elude electronic eyes geared up for terrorism.

These days, people who try to sneak across the border into the sparsely populated Bootheel region of southwestern New Mexico run a gantlet of tower-mounted video cameras with heat-seeking night vision capabilities.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, controls are tighter than ever. Night-scope-equipped off-road vehicles patrol known smuggling corridors, plus there are motion sensors, magnetic sensors and, soon, vehicle-proof fences made of welded pipe filled with steel-reinforced concrete. The barriers are supposed to be strong enough to stop the 18-wheelers that currently thunder across.

Unmanned, remote-control reconnaissance planes are being considered as well.

The seven 60-foot-tall video surveillance towers each has a range of five miles in border flatlands, says Richard Moody, agent in charge of the Border Patrol station in Deming, northeast of the Bootheel.

He plans an additional 10 towers by October and hopes to set some of them on mountaintops where visibility should extend miles beyond present capacity. National Guard technicians help the Border Patrol operate the equipment from a room packed with video monitors at the Deming station.

Agents along the porous frontier known for drug-smuggling and illegal alien traffic are increasingly alert for nuclear terrorism.

"The ports of entry are using radiological testing devices extensively," Moody said.

But while the Border Patrol is turning to high-tech, so are the smugglers, who

use cell phones, night vision goggles, secure radios and other high-tech tools.

"Their budgets are unlimited," Moody said. "If they need a bunch of cell phones, a new repeater (radio tower), a new tunnel _ they buy it. Anything we can get, they can get. It's available for the price."

Crackdowns on illegal Arizona border traffic have pushed some of the overflow into New Mexico, said U.S. Attorney David Iglesias, chairman of a panel that advises Attorney General John Ashcroft on border matters.

Iglesias envisions a Border Patrol staffing increase, too.

"I think we could easily double our Border Patrol agents," he said after his second border tour and multiagency briefing in six months.

While Mexican citizens form the vast majority of illegal immigrants, there are others, including potential terrorists called "special interest aliens," and the Border Patrol may hear about their movements

long before they arrive at the border, Moody said.

The long, hot, often disorienting walk, posted with signs warning of poisonous snakes and other dangers, discourages many. They choose easier places to cross.

But in the post-Sept. 11 era, one intruder could inflict greater damage than an army. The International Conference on Security of Radioactive Sources, moderated by Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham in Austria, concluded there was a "need for greater international efforts to detect and interdict trafficking in high-risk radioactive sources," especially along borders.

With barbed-wire border fence often down to a strand or two, people just drive through what's left _ or step across and walk, carrying contraband in burlap backpacks. Cargo has included everything from cocaine, heroin and marijuana to a recent 500-pound shipment of bologna, said Moody. The fear is that terrorist weapons could join the list.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

FOOTBALL

■ **JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — The Jacksonville Jaguars signed J.J. Stokes to a one-year contract on Monday, meeting their need for a No. 2 receiver and giving the former first-round draft pick a second chance in the NFL.

Stokes' deal includes a \$150,000 signing bonus and is worth \$805,000. He is expected to be in uniform for a minicamp Tuesday.

In eight years with the 49ers, Stokes never quite lived up to the hype he produced when he was picked 10th in the 1995 draft. He averaged 41 catches a year and never had a 1,000-yard receiving season.

Still, he immediately becomes a favorite for the second receiver position with the Jaguars, across from Jimmy Smith. The other candidates are Donald Hayes, Kevin Lockett and seldom-used Micah Ross and Jimmy Redmond.

BASEBALL

■ **CHICAGO** — A man was awarded \$475,000 in damages from the Chicago Cubs for a lawsuit stemming from a melee that broke out in the Wrigley Field stands over three years ago.

A Cook County jury sided with Ronald Camacho in the lawsuit he filed against the Cubs roughly 10 months after he was mobbed by visiting Los Angeles Dodgers players and arrested for disorderly conduct, said Gregory Adamski, Camacho's attorney.

The fight, in May 2000, broke out after a fan grabbed the cap of Dodgers catcher Chad Kreuter and ran off with it. Kreuter gave chase, and several teammates followed him into the stands.

■ **OAKLAND** — When Miguel Tejada struggled so much earlier this season that it seemed he couldn't buy a hit, he publicly campaigned to stay in the lineup.

He insisted a day off would only stand in the way of breaking out of the slump. He never was held out of the lineup, though Oakland manager Ken Macha did say he considered sitting the reigning AL MVP.

On Tuesday, the star shortstop for the defending AL West champion Athletics will play in his 500th consecutive game, the longest active streak in the majors. He will become the 34th player in major league history to reach the mark.

Since Cal Ripken Jr. began his record streak of 2,632 games on May 30, 1982, only two others have had streaks of more than 500 games — Dale Murphy (740) and Joe Carter (507).

"I've done it because I love to play this game," Tejada said. "Even when I'm not doing good, I like to play. Some players when they're not doing good like to take days off."

That doesn't mean Tejada expected to appear in 500 straight games.

"For me, I'm proud to reach 500 games," he said. "It's good. I'm not looking to play a certain number of games — 600 or 700 games. I just like to play baseball."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

■ **SAN DIEGO** — Former UCLA basketball coach Gene Bartow was hired as the interim athletic director at San Diego State on Monday.

Bartow, who also served as coach and AD at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, will begin a three-month term on July 1. San Diego State is rebuilding its department after an audit found poor management practices and misuse of equipment.

Rick Bay, the Aztecs' athletic director since 1995, resigned last month in the wake of the audit by the California State University. The university fired senior associate athletic director Jana Doggett and placed equipment room manager Steve Bartel on leave pending disciplinary action.

SDSU President Stephen Weber said he plans to name a permanent athletic director by Jan. 1. He announced that a search committee has been formed and will have its first meeting next week.

Bartow, 72, spent 23 years at Alabama-Birmingham, where he served in the dual roles of basketball coach and athletic director, before retiring in 2000. In his first nine years as coach of the Blazers, he led them to seven straight NCAA tournaments.

"My goal is to make this department run as smoothly as possible. I will try my hardest to serve San Diego State in an honorable manner," Bartow said. "The image, in my opinion, that San Diego State enjoys nationally is one of great respect when you think of the coaches we have on this staff."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

■ **COLUMBUS, Ohio** — Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel signed a new six-year contract worth at least \$1.3 million this season and escalating to \$1.8 million in the final year.

The new deal came after Tressel led Ohio State to its first national championship since 1968 with a 31-24 double-overtime win over Miami in the Fiesta Bowl.

The contract, which replaces a deal that would have expired after the 2005 season, includes a base salary of \$285,700 that increases to \$405,300 in the final year.

Tressel will earn \$420,000 from radio, television and public relations and \$335,000 from the university's deal with Nike in the first year. Both amounts will increase yearly.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Strom Thurmond becomes grandfather at 100

By The Associated Press

■ **COLUMBIA, S.C.** — Former Sen. Strom Thurmond has become a grandfather for the first time at 100.

Martin Taylor Whitmer III was born Monday afternoon at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. He's the son of Julie Thurmond Whitmer and Martin Whitmer. All are said to be doing well, according to U.S. Attorney and proud uncle Strom Thurmond Jr.

"We are overjoyed and grateful to God with the safe arrival of baby Tate," the elder Thurmond and his wife, Nancy, said in a statement. Tate is the child's nickname.

Nancy Thurmond flew to Washington to be with her daughter, while Strom Thurmond remained at his private suite at the Edgefield County Hospital. He has lived there since retiring in January after 48 years in the Senate. Thurmond was replaced by fellow Republican and former U.S. Rep. Lindsey Graham.

Nancy Thurmond said the Whitmers want to travel to Edgefield soon so Strom Thurmond can see his first grandchild.

Julie Whitmer surprised the former senator at his 100th birthday party in December by announcing she was pregnant.

"I believe you're going to give me what I wanted," Thurmond said at the time.

■ **BERLIN** — Susan Sontag was awarded the German book trade's prestigious Peace Prize Tuesday for her role as

an "intellectual ambassador" between the United States and Europe and for her human rights activism.

"In a world of falsified images and mutilated truth, she has stood up for the dignity of free thinking," the prize jury's citation said.

The 70-year-old writer is to receive the \$17,700 annual prize Oct. 12 during this year's Frankfurt Book Fair.

"Through her work, which has never lost sight of the European heritage, she has become the most prominent intellectual ambassador between the two continents," and has stood up for the rights of victims of war, the jury said.

Sontag, whose works have been translated into more than 30 languages, is popular in Germany. She also spent time in Sarajevo during the Serb siege of the Bosnian city in the 1990s and has campaigned on behalf of jailed and persecuted authors.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, she accused U.S. public officials and media commentators of trying to "infantilize" the public.

"Where is the acknowledgment that this was not a 'cowardly' attack on 'civilization' or 'liberty' or 'humanity' or 'the free world' but an attack on the world's self-proclaimed superpower, undertaken as a consequence of specific American alliances and actions?" Sontag wrote in The New Yorker magazine shortly after the attacks.

Last year's prize went to Nigerian-

born writer Chinua Achebe. Past winners include Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa and former Czech president and anti-communist dissident Vaclav Havel.

■ **MADRID, Spain** — Novelist Paul Auster voiced scathing criticism of the U.S. government, calling its policies stupid and expressing confidence that American voters will end what he called a shift to the extreme right.

Auster, on a vacation tour of Europe, gave a lecture Monday at the Circulo de Bellas Artes cultural foundation along with his publisher in Spain, Jorge Herralde.

"In the long run I don't think the American people are going to be asleep the way they are right now," Auster said. "I think eventually they are going to wake up."

Auster criticized the Bush administration on issues ranging from foreign policy and the Iraq war to education and the environment.

"The policies we are living through right now with the Bush administration seem to be so stupid, so counterproductive to any kind of healthy society that most Americans want to live in, that a moment will come when it will become intolerable and the right will be voted out of office," he added.

Auster is popular in Spain both for his books and for his film screenplays, including "Smoke" and "Lulu on the Bridge."

He came to Madrid after visiting his wife, writer Siri Hustvedt, in Barcelona, where she's spending the summer on a grant while writing an essay on Francisco de Goya.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Author Hubert Selby Jr., whose "Last Exit to Brooklyn" and "Requiem for a Dream" took his work from the written page to the movie screen, now gets his own life story on film.

"A Couple of Things About Hubert Selby Jr." chronicles the 75-year-old's youth in Brooklyn, N.Y., his stint in the Navy as a teenager, his writing and his history of addiction and surgery because of lung disease. The documentary is making its U.S. debut Wednesday at the New Filmmakers of Los Angeles moviemakers' forum in Hollywood.

Selby is set to read from his works, which also include "Song of the Silent Snow" and "The Room."

The self-effacing writer acknowledged that it was exciting to see the documentary screen in Europe.

"The people were so terrific and the reception so enthusiastic," Selby said Tuesday. "After the people down in the breakfast room at my hotel saw me, I got extra croissants, so that was kinda nice."

Selby appears as a laughing prison guard in the final minutes of the 2000 drug drama "Requiem for a Dream," for which he adapted his novel into a screenplay.

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