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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 8 5
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1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 04 Whirl Win
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RACE TIME: 1:41.56

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

According to a February report in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, Itzik Simkowitz is suing a pet shop owner in Beersheeba for selling him a sickly Galerita-type cockatoo (price: the equivalent of about US\$2,000) that died shortly after Simkowitz got him home. As in a classic Monty Python sketch, the shop owner initially insisted that the parrot was merely lethargic and needed time to adjust to his new surroundings, but when the parrot (to use the Python dialogue) was shown to be "a late parrot," "an ex-parrot," "a stiff," and to have "joined the choir invisible," the shop owner still refused to return the money.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 174th day of 2005.
There are 191 days left in the year.

On June 23, 1969, Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief U.S. justice by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

In 1868, Christopher Latham Sholes received a patent for his "Type-Writer."

In 1938, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Suffering without understanding in this life is a heap worse than suffering when you have at least the grain of an idea what it's all for."

MARY ELLEN CHASE
AMERICAN AUTHOR (1887-1973).

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica High School's Class of '05 will celebrate on campus tonight, entering through this makeshift cruise ship following commencement ceremonies. Planned for inside the event area are a casino, food, entertainment and dancing.

Class of '05 shipping out

Close to 1,000 students bid adieu to their schools

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — School officials said hundreds of graduating seniors have much to look forward to as they prepare to toss their tassels.

Close to 1,000 students between Santa Monica's three public high schools will be taking part in commencement ceremonies today, amid a forecast that calls for clear and sunny weather. It's also the last day of school for thousands of other local students who will return to school in the fall.

But for the graduates, parents and students are set to share tears of joy and sorrow — both relieved and sad that four tumultuous, hormonal-driven years are winding down.

The commencement ceremonies will be followed by the traditional "grad nite" celebrations, starting at about 9 p.m. and lasting well into the pre-dawn hour, according to organizers. The parties are to be held at Malibu and Santa Monica high schools, for which parents and teacher volunteers raised thousands

of dollars and dedicated untold hours of time to help make an event their children should remember fondly for years.

When the party ends and the sun rises, students said they will be gearing up for an adult life that will take some of them to four-year universities and others more directly into the local workforce.

As many as 175 students are expected to walk the line at Malibu High School at 2 p.m. today. More than 59 percent of Malibu's graduating class is set to attend four-year universities.

"We have kids off to Stanford, Princeton ... a lot of them going to college back east," said Mark Kelly, Malibu High School principal.

About 37 percent of the students will be attending two-year colleges in the fall.

"Several of them will be going to Santa Monica College," Kelly said.

Malibu will be honoring six students who received a 4.0 grade-point average during their high school careers — Elizabeth Beryt, Beau Campbell, Paget Kegy, Nicole Oida, Eva Post and Kelly Stewart.

See **CLASS OF '05**, page 9

SMPD has sobering thoughts for grads

By Daily Press staff

Local police are cracking down on drunk drivers tonight in anticipation of graduates possibly celebrating too much.

The Santa Monica Police Department will conduct a saturation patrol today, meaning more officers will be on the streets looking for drunk drivers. Hundreds of students are graduating from Malibu and Santa Monica high schools today. (See related story).

More than 59 percent of fatal car crashes among teens involving alcohol or other drugs happen during prom and graduation season, SMPD officials said.

The saturation patrol is part of the "Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws" grant and is funded in cooperation with the state of California, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Office of Traffic Safety and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Utility hikes passed

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monicans can expect to pay more utility fees as early as July, and City Hall officials expect to explain to them why.

The first part of a series of expected utility rate increases were approved at Tuesday's City Council meeting after elected officials — expressing concern how the rate changes were proposed — directed staff to undertake a serious study that will explain the costs of City Hall's solid and water waste services in coming months.

City Hall's solid waste, water, wastewater and stormwater fund balances have been decreasing by varying degrees over the last four years and need to be corrected in order to keep the bonds that support the funds in legal compliance.

In order to begin restoring the funds to a healthy level, the City Council adopted a rate schedule that will increase the cost of water rates

See **HIKES**, page 9

City Hall OKs '05-06 budget

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monica groups vying for a slice of City Hall's \$433 million pie made their last-minute appeals late Tuesday before next year's budget was adopted.

Dozens of speakers associated with several organizations partially funded by City Hall took their turns at the podium to tell the Santa Monica City Council why their requests for a boost to their

See **BUDGET**, page 10

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Talk to a pal tonight, Gem

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)
 ★★★ Confusion, demands and misunderstandings abound. How can you take charge and get this situation under control? You might not feel OK with anything that happens. Just make the right choices, as far as you can see. Tonight: Could be a late night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ No matter what you hear, you find contradicting information. Right now, seek out experts and hop on the Internet if you can. Verify gossip and hearsay. Postpone any major decisions for now. Don't get overwhelmed. Tonight: Relax your mind by playing a game or listening to music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ A partner or associate presents facts that don't coincide with what you know or think. Instead of having a major disagreement, get more facts. Postpone all deals and decisions for at least a day. Tonight: Talk to a pal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★ Conflict seems to be the nature of the day. Don't even try to convince others of their mistakes or that another approach could work. Let others run the show for now. Just avoid any firm commitments. Tonight: Swap war stories with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★ There are times when you will need to duck. Right now, stay out of conversations. Concentrate on items that you can do on your own. If you are tired, call it an early day. Taking some time off could be the perfect solution. Tonight: Stay cool.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★ What you thought was a given might not be. Also, others could simply be acting up, as the pressure has been rather intense for everyone. Use your creativity through the many obstacles you encounter. Know that this, too, will pass. Tonight: Let off steam with a favorite pastime.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Listen, though you might not agree. Still, right now, whatever you say or do does not seem to fall right. Others are contrary. Juggle your demands as well as you can. Don't have great expectations. Avoid stress by taking frequent breaks. Tonight: A late dinner or get-together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ What you hear could radically conflict with what you think. News could change your plans. Though you're a fixed sign, you will need to be flexible. Detach and avoid getting into others' issues. Screen your calls if you must. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ Your finances get tossed into chaos no matter how well you have managed your personal budget. A partner could be a problem. Save a disagreement or a discussion until later, when everyone (mainly you) has calmed down. Tonight: Only start talking when you are ready.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Others seem to act up or challenge you no matter what you do. You need to act independently. Be gracious about a misunderstanding or a difference of opinion. In the long run, everything will pass. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Some days you cannot do anything right, especially if you listen to others. Right now, head in your own direction, keeping in mind what you need to do. The smart Water Bearer will keep his or her opinions to him- or herself — for now. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ You could easily feel pulled in many directions. Satisfying anyone could be close to impossible. Detach, but don't lose sight of your long-term goals. If you follow that advice, in a few days you will discover that everything is fine. Tonight: Head for the hills.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jazz — shaken, not stirred

By Daily Press staff

Get ready to hear jazz — redefined.

The L.A. Martini Kings are set to perform a style of music for Santa Monican ears termed “cool jazz” — a form that emerged in the early 1950s. Comprised of brothers Anthony and Frank Marisco, the duo has been featured on television and the silver screen.

“After all these years hoofing around, playing in this sort of retro-cool Manciniesque bag, it seems the public has finally caught on to what we do. And really, what we do is what we’ve always done,” Frank Marisco said.

The L.A. Martini Kings will play for Santa Monica on Monday, June 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Third Street Promenade.

Fashion show raises money for cancer research

By Daily Press staff

The catwalk has become anti-cancer.

Two Westside non-profit organizations, L.A. Goal and the Santa Monica American Cancer Society Discovery Shop will host a fashion show entitled: “Real Clothes for Real People” at L.A. Goal’s facility in Culver City to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The members of L.A. Goal have worked closely with Discovery Shop to plan the event. Members of LA Goal and volunteers from Discovery Shop will model the clothing and accessories supplied by the shop, which is located at 26th Street and San Vicente Boulevard in the Brentwood Country Mart.

“This event provides the members of L.A. Goal with an opportunity to work with another non-profit organization and not only learn what ‘give back’ means, but actually do it,” said Petite Konstantin, executive director of L.A. Goal. “Many of our members have been touched by cancer in some way. During one of the monthly members meetings, the members voted on to donate half of the proceeds from the event to the American Cancer Society to help with conquering cancer.”

Based in Culver City, L.A. Goal is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 which provides programs for adults with developmental disabilities, such as autism, mental retardation, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. Their programs include counseling, employment training, physical fitness, and training in social skills and interactions for more than 100 adults, as well as practical and emotional support for their families. L.A. Goal’s objective is to empower each individual to reach his or her fullest potential, according to officials.

Discovery Shops are upscale resale shops owned and operated by the American Cancer Society. All items are donated and the shops are staffed by volunteers. Gently-used clothing, housewares, collectibles, jewelry and furniture are displayed in a boutique fashion and sold to raise funds that support the society’s programs and services. Volunteer opportunities include pricing, sorting and processing of donations, sales, cashiering, pick-up and delivery, and serving on special committees.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service, officials say. Founded in 1913, and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the society has 14 regional divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States.

The fashion show will take place at L.A. Goal, which is located at 4911 Overland Ave., Culver City, on Sunday June 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$25, which includes light refreshments.

Tour SM homes

By Daily Press staff

Envision your dream home and then go find it.

The American Institute of Architects/ Los Angeles (AIA/LA) has announced the

See BRIEFS, page 10



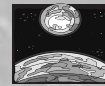
SURF REPORT

Thursday is looking like a moderate SW swell day with remnant sets in the waist-high range, occasionally chest high on the better set waves when the tide is right. NW is looking nil. Winds this morning are light and variable most everywhere with a light offshore effect in SoCal.

Today the water is:

65°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
TUESDAY	3:46	-1.4	2:35	2.3	10:21	3.8	9:02	7.1
WEDNESDAY	4:32	-1.7	3:24	2.4	11:10	3.8	9:49	7.2
THURSDAY	5:19	-1.7	4:17	2.4	12:00	3.9	10:38	7.0
FRIDAY	6:05	-1.2	5:09	2.3	12:52	3.7	11:25	6.7

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The **Q**Line

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For the first time in a few years, the city’s budget shows a surplus. The majority of the surplus already has been earmarked for programs intended to improve the quality of life in the Pico neighborhood; help better address homelessness; streamline the planning process; better maintain streets, parks and landscaping; increase the focus on the arts; and build the new library.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Where do you think the budget surplus should be spent? Are the city’s major needs being covered or has something been overlooked?”

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

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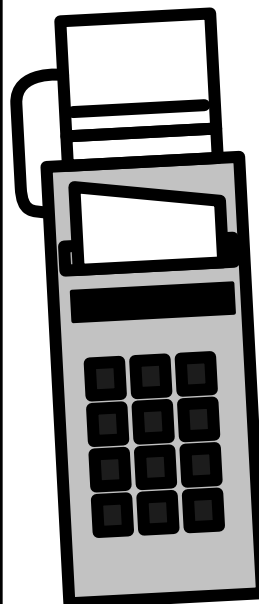
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop Macerich before it’s too late

Editor:
Step aside if you have no spine. We need people to fight for us, not soil themselves every time a big developer flexes his muscles. If Macerich’s “downsized” project is still not financially viable, tough beans, it’s not our problem.
To paraphrase Nathaniel West, “Nothing is so sad as the truly monstrous.”
Do what’s right and stop Macerich from ruining our city.

Dan Manross
Santa Monica

Parks overrun with transients

Editor:
Regarding the Euclid Park article, (SMDP , June 16, page 1), City Councilperson Bob Holbrook, who with Mr. Shriver, declined to back the park project, stated that the controversy surrounding Euclid Park reminded him of a green space he once saw in Sausalito. That park had been fenced up and closed off to the public because it had become overrun with transients and criminal activity. He goes on, “You could look, but you couldn’t touch. I hope we haven’t reached that point.”
Oh, but we have, Mr. Holbrook, we have. If you doubt it, walk by the park at Lincoln and Wilshire. Walk down Lincoln toward Montana and see what that park has become. I am living in a city where my granddaughter refuses to walk on the sidewalk next to the park, let alone go in and play. Sad but true.
And Mr. Genser, who supported the project without fences, stated that the concerns the citizens expressed were “not well founded.” What city do you live in, Mr. Genser? He goes on, “I do get complaints about activities that occur at park, but those activities are usually during the day. The police are there to enforce.” Mr. Genser, the people who would like a safe place for their children and families to enjoy would like to go to the park in the day. Duh. And if the park at Lincoln and Wilshire is any example, the police are not enforcing drug use, public urination and defecation, etc.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Jackson Browne event music to schools’ ears

Editor:
On Sunday June 5, our community was extremely fortunate to experience a world-class concert that not only entertained thousands of spectators, but also raised much needed funding for music programs in the SMMUSD. The concert was held at Santa Monica High School’s Memorial Greek Theatre and featured Venice, Jackson Browne and Ozomatli. It also involved many Santa Monica High School students as both student musicians and student ushers and volunteers. The concert was organized by the Guacamole Fund and directly benefited the Education Foundation’s For The Arts campaign.
The proceeds from the event will continue to fund the general music program at Title I elementary schools that was funded last year by the Jackson Browne and Venice concert at Barnum Hall. In addition the proceeds will support the “Dreamwinds” program at John Adams Middle School and Lincoln Middle School. “Dreamwinds” is a program designed to offer free semi-private lessons to students of need.
Last, but not least, the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu’s “For The Arts” endowment campaign will receive a donation towards fulfilling their goal of raising an endowment for the arts programs in the SMMUSD.
I would like to thank the members of Venice, Ozomatli, and Jackson Browne for making this incredible event a reality.
I would also like to thank For The Arts, the Education Foundation, the staff at Santa Monica High School, music teachers and members of the community that came out to support the cause of music and the arts in our public schools.

John Deasy, superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Tom Whaley, coordinator, visual and performing arts, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

City Councilman still on the dais

Editor:
A confusing letter to the editor in the Daily Press last week (“Give me some Greens,” June 17, page 4) left some with the impression I’d resigned from the Santa Monica City Council. Not so. I resigned from the Green Party, although I continue to support strongly their social justice and environmental values.
Many in Santa Monica know of the financial questions lingering around certain Green activities. I’ve seen the disputed checks, and the donor statements, and the unequivocal statements of the Green Party’s own treasurer and finance committee.
After a statewide Green Party meeting last month declined to deal with the legal requirement to report fully all political donations and expenditures, I was forced to a difficult decision. Resigning from leadership positions in the national and state Green Party signaled my stand on integrity, not any weakening of my commitment to local quality of life, secure affordable housing, sustainability or education here in Santa Monica.
Independents in California usually are called “decline to state.” I guess I re-registered “embarrassed to state.”

Kevin McKeown
City Council

When the chips fall, play the Clinton card

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



If you think it’s tough being you, how would you like to be poor Sean Hannity these days?

In the name of all that’s right for America, he and his ilk of super-patriots have recently been reduced to rolling out reports of how Chelsea Clinton is a “rape-child,” the victim of her daddy forcing himself upon her mommy, and that’s just about how bleak it’s gotten for the conservative media lock-steppers nowadays in an America firmly under the rule of their own types — from the White House down through both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court — a righteous hierarchy that desperately attempts to hold onto the old order while a nation relentlessly evolves beyond them right before their very eyes.

That’s right, there was Hannity the other day spraying this new Clinton poison all over America’s airwaves, promising he would never stoop so low as to use it while telling us all about it. That Bill raped Hillary and thus begot Chelsea, according to Hannity comes from a book climbing up the Amazon bestseller list, “The Truth About Hillary: What She Knew, When She Knew It, and How Far She’ll Go to Become President.” God help Hillary and us all — it’s still three and a half years until the next presidential election.

You know, it must be a daunting task to continually have to spin a train wreck into a good thing. Like the one that jumped the tracks in Iraq where our kids get picked off daily, when their reason for being there is based on faulty intelligence crafted around a pre-conceived policy that had us going to war with Saddam come hell or high water. High water has yet to be found but the hell thing has fully arrived in a war that is nothing less than an unconscionable catastrophe, and you try defending that thing for going-on-three-years-now and tell me you wouldn’t jump at the chance to talk about Hillary getting raped by Bill.

You try defending torture at Abu Ghraib, institutionalized kidnapping at Guantanamo, and the creation of an Iraqi insurgency so fierce it seems it’s about to blow the face right off of its own newly liberated country. You try defending an ongoing Afghanistan occupation — where opium crops are now harvested at record levels, and where the Taliban are slowly coming back, bad as ever. That

bunch attacked and overran a remote district in southern Afghanistan last week, as their own insurgent rebellion begins to take hold, and this is a hard, mean crew, as they proved to the Russians some years ago with our help, and Bin Laden’s. Anyone who thought they would lay down and let intruders have their way over the long run is naïve, stupid, or both.

You try defending all that along with the price of gas, the dismantling of Social Security, and John Bolton too, and tell me you wouldn’t rush back to the tried and true Clinton-bashing that got you to your multi-million dollar salary in the first place.

Axis-of-evil? They don’t seem to be talking that talk much anymore. North Korea would appear to be a ripe subject for colorful national chat yet none of them goes near it. Earlier this month that nation’s top envoy to the stalled nuclear disarmament talks boasted that his country was building “more nuclear bombs” and were able to mount nuclear warheads onto their formidable arsenal of missiles. “I should say that we have enough nuclear bombs ... as for specifically how many we have, that is a secret.” Wait a minute. We don’t allow secrets like that, do we?

This North Korea bunch is getting right up in the president’s face. Kim Jong Il recently called him “a half-baked man” who has “turned the world into a sea of blood,” and demanded the U.S. declare it has no “hostile intent” toward North Korea as a pre-condition for returning to the disarmament talks, prompting one of our senior State Department officials to fire back, somewhat less than menacingly, “We don’t want to be reduced to a sort of circus animal doing an act, being told to jump through hoops at the behest of the North Koreans.” He really had to put us in the same sentence as circus animals jumping through hoops? Just to keep it real, Kim Jong Il then went on to announce that in the future they would only discuss mutual nuclear disarmament with the U.S., rather than any one-sided abandonment of the weapons, and really, how can you or I, Hannity or Bush, argue with the inherent logic of that notion?

Go ahead, try to keep your pride and bluster up while defending this stuff day in and day out.

There is a sliver lining for you though, as Larry Elder, another of the Bush media lackeys put it to a sympathetic listener who fretted over the difficulties facing conservatives — “The good news, in light of it all is, at least the President got reelected.” At least that.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Lodi terror suspects enter not guilty plea

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A father and son from Lodi pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges that they lied to authorities investigating links to Pakistani terrorist training camps connected to al-Qaida.

Hamid Hayat, 22, is charged with lying to the FBI earlier this month when he said he did not attend a terrorism camp in Pakistan in 2003 and 2004. He was indicted last week on two counts of lying to the FBI.

His father, Umer Hayat, 47, was indicted on a single count of lying to investigators when he denied that his son had attended such camps. The FBI said the elder Hayat later admitted flying his son to Pakistan and paying for the camp, which was run by the friend of a relative.

Neither spoke during the brief hearing. Their pleas were entered by their attorneys as the two men sat cuffed and shackled, wearing orange jail jumpsuits.

The men, U.S. citizens, were previously denied bail. Umer Hayat's attorney, Johnny L. Griffin III, said he wants to see the government's evidence against the men before he asks a judge to set bail.

The FBI alleged in an affidavit that Hamid Hayat returned to the U.S. last month intending to wage attacks but said its agents had found no immediate threat or terrorist activity.

Another hearing was scheduled for

Friday to determine whether the government will release all the evidence the defense is requesting, including why the younger Hayat was on a federal "no fly" list. His inclusion on the list led to the diversion of his flight back to the United States last month until he was questioned in Tokyo and released.

Their attorneys are preparing to seek evidence the government might want to shield because the case deals with national security issues.

"If they're not going to give it to us, let us start fighting those issues now," Griffin said.

He said the FBI has spent several years investigating possible links to terrorism in Lodi, an agricultural town of 62,000 about 30 miles south of Sacramento.

"I have a client sitting in jail who's accused of being a terrorist. I want the information that the government's relying on as soon as possible," Griffin said. "They don't have a case for terrorism, because if they did they would have charged him with that."

"I also don't believe they have a case of lying to the government, and once I have the discovery I think that will become clear."

The Hayats also have hired James Wedick, a private investigator who spent 34 years with the FBI, to help them sort through the government's evidence and develop their own.

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Desert fire threatens hundreds of homes

By The Associated Press

MORONGO VALLEY, Calif. — An 1,100-acre wildfire raced through this Mojave Desert community Wednesday afternoon, burning at least seven homes and threatening up to 700 more, authorities said.

Meanwhile, a second fire about 35 miles away burned 400 acres but was not threatening any structures, authorities said.

The Morongo Valley blaze began spreading just before 1 p.m. after a house caught fire, said Bill Peters, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in San Bernardino.

The flames were burning into an area about 100 miles east of downtown Los Angeles which includes about 2,000 scattered ranches and homes on acre lots, said Dave Dowling, a spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

"It's burning in and around them," Peters said, sending up flames up to 30 feet high.

"Because of the winter rains, we've had a grass crop out there this year," Dowling said. "That's where we're having the trouble."

Footage from television news helicopters showed flames burning in pockets through oak scrublands and high grass, yucca and desert sage. Weather helped the fire's spread — sustained winds were around 10 mph and the afternoon temperature topped 100 degrees.

A voluntary evacuation was called. About 200 firefighters were on scene, one of whom suffered a minor knee injury, Peters said. They were supported by six airplanes and two helicopters.

Gene Rotstein, owner of Morongo Hardware, and his wife Leslie fled their home on Paradise Avenue.

Rotstein, 67, said he and his wife were "bombed" with fire retardant from heli-

copters as they scrambled to leave.

"The last I saw as I was evacuated, it was burning the house above mine, about 50 feet away," Rotstein said from his store, where he and his wife gathered with their dogs.

Sharon Aiken, 48, said parents came to evacuate children from her Sharon's Playhouse Child Care.

One parent couldn't get out of her house, because the fire was two blocks away, she said.

"The parents were all panicked, calling. I let them know that we were in no danger," Aiken said. "But the wind is really whipping up here. ... In an hour's time, the fire moved fast."

The fire was burning on both sides of state Highway 62, which was closed at both ends of unincorporated Morongo Valley, officials said.

By around 4 p.m., flames reached into Joshua Tree National Park, home to the famous spiky plants, some thousands of years old.

In neighboring Riverside County, a 400-acre fire was burning in the area of San Jacinto.

About 1,000 firefighters aided by aircraft and bulldozers were carving firelines and no homes were immediately threatened, said Cassandra Burleson of the Riverside County Fire Department-California Department of Forestry.

The fire began at 12:46 p.m. and no injuries were reported, Burleson said.

The fire was several miles from the reservation of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, said Joe Garcia, the tribe's environmental programs director.

"It's up on the hills, so you can see the flames," he said. "We're waiting to see if it gets closer."

Tribal workers were removing brush near reservation homes in case flames approached, he said.

Gibson stalker is sentenced to three years in state prison

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — An Idaho drifter convicted of stalking Mel Gibson was sentenced Wednesday to three years in state prison.

Zack Sinclair, who had confronted Gibson after the release of the actor-director's film "The Passion of the Christ," was convicted in March of one felony count of stalking.

Sinclair was arrested in September 2004. Prosecutors said he went to the gate of Gibson's Malibu estate repeatedly that month after evading neighborhood security and asked to pray with the star.

The 35-year-old Sinclair acted as his own lawyer. He declined to speak during the brief

sentencing hearing in Superior Court.

He has remained in custody and will immediately begin serving the sentence.

Gibson, 49, wasn't in court for the sentencing. A message left for his spokesman wasn't immediately returned.

During the trial, Gibson testified that he was attending church services in September when he got up briefly and returned to find Sinclair sitting in his seat. Sinclair moved within a few inches of his face, Gibson said, telling him, "Hi, I'm here to pray with you."

Gibson said Sinclair wasn't "overtly threatening," but he worried about his family's safety.

"My wife was upset and worried. She didn't want to find him in the living room drinking tea," Gibson said.



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NATIONAL



Residents not carefree after lightning strikes

By The Associated Press

CAREFREE, Ariz. — Flames from one of two lightning-caused brush fires about eight miles apart in the Tonto National Forest forced evacuation of an estimated 200 to 400 homes Wednesday from a subdivision here, a Tonto National Forest spokesman said.

Flames reached within about a mile of some homes, and firefighters used controlled burning to remove fuel between residences and the fire, fire spokesman Vinnie Picard said.

Homes in the Tonto Hills subdivision — about 20 miles northeast of Phoenix — potentially threatened by the Bronco fire were evacuated by Maricopa County sheriff's deputies, along with some homes in scattered nearby communities, including Rackensack and 44 cabins in the Camp Creek recreation area, Picard said.

North of here, authorities evacuated a few families in an island of private land

called Red Rover that was potentially threatened by the Humboldt fire, centered near Humboldt Mountain.

Picard said flames from the Bronco fire were burning about a mile from the nearest structures.

"The Bronco definitely is more immediate in terms of threatening residences," Picard said.

No injuries were reported, and there were no reports of structural damage from either blaze.

Lt. Paul Chagolla of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department said there were no firm figures on evacuations for either fires..

That Humboldt fire had burned more than 300 acres in the Tonto, Picard said.

The Bronco fire had burned more than 100 acres", said information specialist Lindsay Sostrom.

There was no containment on either fire.

Polygamist sect leader removed from church's multimillion trust

BY JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — All trustees including the reclusive leader of a Mormon splinter group which still practices polygamy were permanently removed Wednesday as managers of the church's multimillion dollar trust fund.

Warren Jeffs and five other high-ranking members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were barred by a judge from spending or selling any of the church's assets.

The assets include most of the property in the twin border towns of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz., where nearly 10,000 church members live. The trust, called the United Effort Plan, also includes businesses and most homes in the two towns.

The state of Utah, fearing Jeffs was liquidating the trust as he built a new church enclave in West Texas, got a temporary restraining order last month freezing the trust's assets. An independent auditor in Salt Lake City will remain in charge of the trust until new trustees who will appointed by the court July 21 replace him.

It's not the only legal problem for Jeffs, who hasn't been seen publicly in a year, although an attorney for some church members claimed Jeffs was seen last weekend in Canada.

Jeffs was indicted in Mohave County, Ariz., earlier this month on sex-related charges for allegedly arranging a marriage between a teenage girl and a 28-year-old man who already was married.

Utah officials also are looking for Jeffs so they can serve him papers after two lawsuits filed against him, including one by Jeffs' nephew who is claiming the church president sexually abused him.

Officials worry as Jeffs and others began selling FLDS property, it would leave some out-of-favor church members fearing they could have their homes sold out from under them. There also is concern that since Jeffs is not defending him-

self against lawsuits, it could leave the trust vulnerable to settlements.

The exact value of the trust is unknown, although Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff says it could hold as much as \$100 million.

Authorities in both Utah and Arizona also have kept the church and its leaders under close scrutiny amid allegations of welfare fraud, sexual abuse and forced marriages.

Removed along with Jeffs as trustees Wednesday were Truman Barlow, LeRoy Jeffs, William E. Jessop (aka William Timpson) and James Zitting. None appeared in Third District Court to contest the removal.

Trustee Winston Blackmore was in court, but didn't contest his removal. The leader of an FLDS offshoot in Canada is on the list of eight people who could be named next month as new managers of the church's trust, originally formed six decades ago.

Besides Blackmore, other former church members among the eight are Rayo Johnson, John Neilsen, Roger Williams, Don Timpson, Carolyn Jessop and Margaret Cooke. Also nominated is Lee Van Dam, a Salt Lake-area property manager who has no connection to the church.

Excommunicated members Jessop and Cook could become the first female trustees, attorney Roger Hoole said.

Cooke, who with her eight children was kicked out of the FLDS in 1994, says the church has changed and she wants to help protect church members from losing their homes.

"Mostly for the women in general that need to have a voice in what happens to their children," she said.

Two of her daughters are still active church members.

The FLDS church traces its roots to Joseph Smith, founder of the mainstream Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1890, the mainstream Mormon church officially abolished plural marriage and members who advocate it are excommunicated.

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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

A dog day afternoon at the office

By Daily Press staff

It's time to put your dog to work

Friday, June 24 is National Take Your Dog to Work Day, established by Pet Sitters International (PSI), the world's largest organization for professional pet sitters. The event, now in its seventh year, was originally conceived by the organization to encourage businesses to devote one special day to dogs and their owners as a means of spreading the word about what great companions dogs make. The idea has since become so popular that, according to PSI, more than 10,000 companies from around the world will be celebrating the occasion this year.

Joining IAMs, Animal Fair Magazine and other companies in sponsoring the 7th Annual Take Your Dog to Work Day. One of the nation's leading manufacturers of healthy dog treats, Dogswell is joining in the effort. The company was recently singled out as one of the "top 25 companies to watch in 2005" by Pet Product News.

Currently headquartered in Northern California but moving later this summer to Beverly Hills, Dogswell introduced its line of premium dog treats in late 2003. The products are now sold in more than 4,000 specialty pet stores and retail outlets nationwide, including the Whole Foods Market Southern Pacific Region.

All Dogswell products are made from premium, natural chicken breast but unlike many dog treats on the market, they come in a variety of supplements that are healthy for your dog. The product line includes Happy Hips™, Happy Heart™, Vitality, Mellow Mut™ and Breathies™.

Made from all natural chicken breast filets, Dogswell products contain no binders, colorings or hormones. Owners of dogs with weight problems also need not be concerned because all of the products are extremely high in protein but low in fat.

Later this year, Dogswell expects to launch a new line for felines called "Catswell." For more information about Dogswell products, visit www.dogswell.com.

Jewelry designer rocks on

By Daily Press staff

Debra Savage, designer and co-owner of 1700 Ocean is fast becoming the "go to jeweler" in Santa Monica.

Savage's "now" jewels are rocks of a different kind — stones. Not just ordinary stones, but rocks that are individually picked by free divers off of some of the most exotic coastlines in the world. Diving for more than 50 years, the husband and wife team of Gerard and Maryvonne Minot of company Bijou De La Mer (Jewels of the Sea) select only the rocks they feel are conduits for positive energy.

"This positive energy flow can be used by whomever wears the rock," Savage said. "If you open your mind to rock therapy you can connect to your emotional and spiritual self through simply holding the rock."

Savage is big on the Hindu tradition of believing in the body's seven charkas, or energy points. "When a customer comes into (1700 Ocean) and feels a connection to one of the rocks, they immediately buy it," Savage continued. "It's been impossible to keep them in stock."

The cost of being phobia free and having your energy field elevated to a whole new level starts at \$240. Clients include actors, athletes, and producers and most recently Scott Peterson's sister, Anne Bird, who used one of the "power stones" to get her through the recent press junket for her new book, "Blood Brother: 33 Reasons My Brother, Scott Peterson, Is Guilty."

1700 Ocean is located at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, 1700 Ocean Ave.

For more information, visit www.1700ocean.com.



PAULA ABDUL AT 1700 OCEAN

Carpenter nails top UCLA administrative post

By Daily Press staff

UCLA Healthcare has announced the appointment of Posie Carpenter as chief administrative officer at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

Most recently, Carpenter was director of nursing at the 337-bed medical center, which serves as a vital part of UCLA Healthcare's primary-care network. She came to Santa Monica-UCLA in 2004 from the Southern California Orthopedic Institute in Van Nuys, where she was director of surgical services.

"I'm thrilled to be taking on this challenge at a very exciting time in Santa Monica-UCLA's long and illustrious history," Carpenter said. "We are about to begin our much-anticipated partnership with Orthopaedic Hospital and are making excellent progress with our rebuilding project. Both developments will be extremely beneficial to the Westside community and beyond."



Investing for income? Consider long-term dividend paying stocks



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AUGER

Q. I am more interested in investing for income over the long term rather than in participating in the daily ups and downs of the stock market. What would be a good investment strategy for me?

A. One choice for income seekers may be quality, long-term dividend-paying stocks. Many "name brand" companies have not only paid dividends consistently since the early 1900s. In some cases, they also have steadily raised their dividends.

Q. What makes these stocks attractive to long-term investors?

A. Consistent dividend growth stocks may be attractive for long-term investors who can hold the stocks as dividend payments rise. Although the stocks' current yields may not seem competitive at first, growth in dividend payments can significantly increase the yield on an original investment.

Q. Why is dividend growth so important?

A. An investor seeking income could purchase conservative fixed-income investments, such as Treasury bonds. In fact, every well-balanced portfolio should contain such investments. However, without the power of dividend growth, inflation will take its bite, and these investors may end up losing ground to inflation over time.

Q. What should I look for in a quality stock?

A. Consider three factors that can help limit your risk and keep your income growing when you are looking for income among stocks:

1. A low pay-out ratio gives the dividend room to grow. The pay-out ratio is the percentage of a company's earnings per share (EPS) paid out as dividends in the current year. The lower the ratio, the more room for potentially boosting the dividend. Remember, for a leading company to retain its leadership position, it will have to channel a good portion of its earnings toward growth. Thus, pay-out ratios may be lower for these stocks than they are for electric utilities or other companies in slow-growth industries.

2. Capital appreciation potential can enhance returns. Regardless of whether or not they receive a dividend, most investors buy a stock hoping its share price will rise. Consider how the value of your investment would increase if, in addition to annual dividend increases, the company's stock price also rose, for example, in line with the S&P 500 average.

3. Dividend payment history can provide clues about the future. Although past performance does not guarantee future results, a company with an unbroken record of paying dividends for 30-plus years would seem to be reliable for income. A history of growth in the dividend is equally important.

However you choose your income stocks, the key is holding them for the long term, which means that daily and monthly price swings may not be as important. Remember that time in the market, not timing the market, is most important to investment success.

(To reach Kirk Auger, call him at Morgan Stanley's Santa Monica branch office at (310) 319-5220. This article is published for general informational purposes and is not an offer or solicitation to sell or buy securities or commodities. Any particular investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your specific circumstances and objectives.)



Promotions? Record sales? New hires? If your business has news to share, send press releases to editor@smdp.com



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Samohi seniors get an early start on reminiscing, paging through their yearbooks on Wednesday.

Seniors prepare for some pomp, parties

CLASS OF '05, from page 1

Samohi is expected to graduate up to 800 students during its ceremony, to be held at 5:30 p.m. on the campus.

Sixty-three students also are set to graduate from Olympic High School, 25 of whom will walk at Samohi's ceremonies.

There are 13 students who qualify for Samohi valedictorian, according to Ilene Straus, Samohi principal. Straus didn't say who the valedictorian would be and was unavailable to provide further information about this year's graduating class.

Janie Gates, Olympic High School principal, said the majority of her gradu-

ating class will be heading to two year-colleges.

They will likely pursue career trades, many in automotive engineering or cosmetology, but first will take courses in business, since many wish to own their own business some day.

"One of our students will be attending the Berkeley College of Music in Boston," Gates said.

This year's Olympic students qualified for \$17,000 in scholarships.

Olympic students will be joining Samohi for grad nite, which will have a "Greek isles" theme. The fun starts at 9 p.m. on the tennis courts and is expected to last until 5 a.m., organizers said.

Staff to study rate hikes in search of some answers

HIKES, from page 1

by 6 percent and solid waste rates by 10 percent citywide beginning in July.

The rate increase means water bills for single-family residences in Santa Monica, which average \$52.09 per month, will bump up to \$55.22. The average cost of a water bill for a 10-unit apartment building will increase from \$153.67 to \$162.89, and for a medium-sized restaurant the rates will go from \$1,235.66 to \$1,309.80.

The rate increase means trash bills for single-family residences in Santa Monica, which average \$62, will increase to \$68.20. The average cost of a trash bill for a multi-family complex will increase from \$120 to \$132, and for commercial trash — \$157 to \$172.70.

The new rates will be in effect for at

least this year. Staff and consultants will evaluate the costs and revenues for services that have resulted in the city's utility funds — which are expected to be depleted by as much as \$20 million in the near future — if the rate changes had not been put into effect, city officials said.

"You've put me in what I would call an almost untenable position (to increase the rates), without knowing what happened to the capital," said City Councilman Bobby Shriver to staff.

Shriver explained to the public how he had received several notices from local business interests, which questioned the utility hikes and claimed that City Hall had adequately addressed the issue.

"I'm told (this business group) might have interest in taking over some of the city's functions, but I believe their ques-

A little fine-tuning



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Maintenance and restoration of the 'Singing Chairs' by artist Doug Hollis are currently underway at Santa Monica Beach. Restoration crew members from the Sculpture Conservation Studio are busy sanding and painting the chairs, which were last restored in 2002.

tions have to be part of any analysis," Shriver said. "It bothers me we don't have the answers."

Some of the information came from Sam Chandler, a consultant based out of Tucson, Ariz., who has more than 17 years in the refuse business.

Chandler is associated with San Kardashian, owner of the privately-held Southern California Disposal Company located in Santa Monica, a group which argues City Hall may have been doing a disservice to the public by not fully disclosing information associated with disposal costs, which could be used to improve service.

Chandler said he and his associates were optimistic by the steps taken by the council and promised by city staff.

"The most important thing to know is where the city stands, and we'll know that now," Chandler said. "It's a step in the right direction."

In addition to the rate studies, City Manager Susan McCarthy said the council should consider appointing members to a committee which will help oversee the study, as well as other upcoming issues related to City Hall's utility services.

"It was an excellent compromise the city manager probably came up with to bring the parties together," Chandler said. "She proved how quickly the city can adapt, and it may need to, in order to grapple with Santa Monica's needs."

City Hall is expected to develop its refuse study plans and present its suggestions to council later this summer.

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LOCAL

Lobbyists plead for their piece of budget pie

BUDGET, from page 1

programming — hovering around \$500,000 in total — should be squeezed in before balancing next year's budget. "Miraculously," according to some, the 2005-06 budget was approved close to midnight, with the council managing to honor many local lobbyists' requests.

The new budget will go into effect on July 1.

Of the 36 individuals who spoke, some represented the arts affairs council, historical society, symphony, child-care providers, and homeless and traffic activists.

Councilman Kevin McKeown set the stage for the night's daunting task after

hearing from each of them.

"We have two lists, one with the things we'd like to have, and one with the list of our funding sources," McKeown said. "Guess which list is longer?"

City Hall provided the council with a list of "trade-offs" — consisting of staffing positions and capital improvement programs intended to be filled in next year's budget — but which could be altered by the City Council to fulfill some of the public's requests.

City Hall had originally included the proposed positions and projects in the budget to restore levels of public services that had to be scaled back in previous years because of revenue loss during the recession.

City officials and individuals speaking

at the Tuesday meeting have been hoping to take advantage of the strengthening economy as a basis for their requests. Santa Monica is expected to enjoy a nearly \$12 million surplus during the next fiscal year, of which all but a few hundred thousand dollars had already been committed before Tuesday night.

Increased funding for issues and projects will be allotted in an attempt to permanently shore up recent funding decreases. Financial "restoration" is underway in the following areas:

■ \$170,000 will be added for staff to address local homeless issues.

■ \$60,000 will be added to assist the development of 1,500 infants needing child care in the city.

■ \$50,000 will be added for another year to the Santa Monica Historical Society's funding for a project underway to preserve information related to the city's founding.

■ \$50,000 will be added to the overhaul process to determine the historic value of Santa Monica buildings.

■ \$41,000 will be added to local art grant funding.

■ \$13,400 will be added to purchase 13 more breathing devices citywide to help people in emergency situations.

■ \$12,200 will be added to help beef up Santa Monica Symphony children's programming.

One-time funding projects will include:

■ \$200,000 for Councilman Bobby Shriver's concept of hiring a regional homeless secretary to help streamline the process to address homelessness between government agencies.

■ \$75,000 to conduct an Ocean Park traffic/parking/crosswalk study.

■ \$144,000 will be used to help with the historic building inventory process.

The City Council opted to reduce the following programming options from the originally-proposed budget in order to balance it:

■ \$231,000 was taken out of capital improvement to re-pave seven city blocks.

■ \$100,000 was taken from a borderline study to evaluate the re-furbishing needs of some neighborhoods.

■ \$25,000 was taken from facilities maintenance improvement projects.

■ \$23,000 was taken from City Hall's contribution to the Santa Monica Festival, which staff said may have some impact on event planning.

The City Council said funds might become available throughout the year that could be used to re-direct money to those immediate sources.

The council directed staff to evaluate funding the programs first, or when funding is available.

"We did it," Councilman Richard Bloom said to the rest of the council and staff, as the budget adoption and meeting finished after 12:30 a.m., more than five hours after it started.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

final installment in its 2005 summer home tour schedule, featuring stunning, contemporary homes by Los Angeles' leading architects and designers, officials say. Homes designed by John Friedman, Alice Kimm, Larry Scarpa, Roger Sherman, Robert Thibodeau will be shown.

This event will take place on Sunday, June 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Venice will call station will be open the day of tour from 10:30 a.m. to noon only. The tour will begin at Westminster School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, between Brooks Avenue and Westminster Boulevard. Tickets are \$65 per person and \$80 on the weekend of the tour. For tickets call (213) 639-0777 or visit www.aialosangeles.com

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Governor can let hair down

BY RACHEL LA CORTE

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Democrat Gov. Christine Gregoire doesn't dwell on the months of uncertainty that overshadowed her victory to the state's highest office.

After a roller coaster election that ended after three counts, a tiny margin of victory and a two-week court challenge, Gregoire said she never considered herself a governor in limbo. And now that the cloud has lifted, it's business as usual.

"You're not going to see me govern any differently," she told The Associated Press during a Wednesday interview in her inner office at the Capitol. "I wasn't cautious. I wasn't anything other than myself. You're going to see more of the same."

In her first full-scale interview since a judge dismissed Republican claims of fraud and other misdeeds in last fall's election, Gregoire acknowledged that the months of attacks on her legitimacy had weighed on her.

"Of course, no matter how much I was focused on being governor, it was there at the forefront every day — on the front page, above the fold, in every newspaper," she said. "It was difficult for the family, there's no question about that ... and it was hard on the state."

But Gregoire said she tried to push it out of her mind — instead focusing heavily on the legislative session and shaping her new administration.

"My attitude was: As long as I am here, I'm going to govern and I'm going to do everything I can to do right by the state of Washington," she said.

Now that her peripheral vision is clear of the election challenge, the former three-term attorney general said she's not looking back.

Fresh from her first overseas trade mission, Gregoire on Wednesday spent her first day back in the office heading back to the Suquamish Tribe the 1-acre Old Man House State Park.

She then was off to speak to business groups about what she learned during her eight-day trip to France, Germany and England.

Gregoire, the state's second female governor, won by the tiniest of margins — just 129 votes after a third count, a hand count paid for by state Democrats.

On June 6, Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges refused to nullify Gregoire's narrow victory, denying Republicans' claims that election errors, illegal voters and fraud stole the election from GOP candidate Dino Rossi, who won the first two tallies.

Gregoire knows that many still have raw feelings about the drawn-out drama.

"To those people who feel like they do, I respect that, I understand their feelings," she said. "But for the good of the state, we need to move forward."

But state Republican Party Chairman Chris Vance said Gregoire can't wish the bad feelings away.

"She never acknowledged that anything was wrong. She just stomped her foot and said 'I won, I won,'" he said. "She's not a legitimately elected governor in the eyes of most people."

Vance said there is increasing anger over taxes, most specifically the gas tax. An initiative is circulating aimed at overturning the 9.5-cent-per-gallon increase.

Gregoire noted that the 16-year, \$8.5 billion transportation package anchored by the gas tax was a bipartisan effort. She said that Democrats told her it would be a tough vote for them, and Republicans told her it would be politically risky for her.

"I was very upfront about the political consequences for them and for me, but if I was willing to take the risk, if I was willing to put my career on the line, I was hoping they would consider doing the same thing," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, said Gregoire's decisions — even with the legal challenge — didn't appear to be tied to whether she'd be in office weeks or months down the road.

"If anything, it gave her the determination to be bolder than a first term governor would have been with four years breathing room," Brown said.

Gregoire proposed a \$200 million tax package that included increased taxes on cigarettes and a new state estate tax, arguing it was necessary to fund education and transportation. She ultimately signed off on a tax package that was more than double that.

"I made some very difficult decisions during those five months that were politically challenging and I put my head forward and said I'm going to do what I think is the right thing, irrespective of the political consequences of the decisions," she said.

Independent pollster Stuart Elway said he doesn't think the ghost of November 2004 will affect Gregoire if she seeks a second term.

"Four years from now, the election is going to be about her record as governor and what the conditions of the state are," he said. "By 2008, there's a whole lot of water under the bridge."

But Gregoire said she's not thinking about re-election or the prospect of a higher political office.

"I don't want to make decisions based on whether they're going to be good for me in a re-election campaign or not," she said. "If we have a tough issue, I'm ready to take it on."

International community rallies for Iraq at key conference on country's future

BY CONSTANT BRAND

Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Iraq's neighbors and other nations Wednesday to reassure the country it has the world's support as Iraqis work to rebuild.

Annan joined the United States, the European Union and Iraq in opening a one-day conference at EU headquarters on Iraq's future. Dozens of senior officials from more than 80 nations and organizations attended the meeting at the request of Iraq's 6-week-old transitional government.

"You send an important message which I hope is heard loud and clear both in Iraq and elsewhere: The international community supports the government and the people of Iraq, and we are determined that the reconstruction of Iraq ... must succeed," Annan said.

In return, Iraq's new government must improve security, open up its economy and "open political space for all members of Iraqi society who reject violence," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said his government would ask for help in training its military and for its neighbors to take serious action in controlling their borders to prevent insurgents from entering Iraq.

He said he will lay out his government's plans for the

political transition before elections, reconstruction and establishment of security — and then ask for help with expertise, from legal advice to training for police and judges.

"What we need from you is exactly what your people need from you: The children of Iraq are just like yours — they don't want to lose their fathers and turn to orphans," he told the conference.

After opening the conference, delegates held closed-door talks at the EU Council.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said the Iraqis would ask their neighbors to normalize diplomatic relations with Baghdad. He was to announce Wednesday that Egypt will be the first Arab nation to send an ambassador to Iraq, according to a speech obtained by The Associated Press.

Arab nations withdrew their ambassadors from Baghdad under Saddam Hussein. Some nations, including Egypt, have diplomats in Baghdad, but none at the ambassador level.

In a draft declaration, participants "urged all countries to ... re-establish or strengthen diplomatic relations with Iraq at the earliest possibility," according to a copy seen by AP.

Diplomats said participants also committed to carrying through on some \$32 billion in pledges made at a donors conference last year to help reconstruction efforts, and reiterated commitments "to provide debt relief on generous terms."

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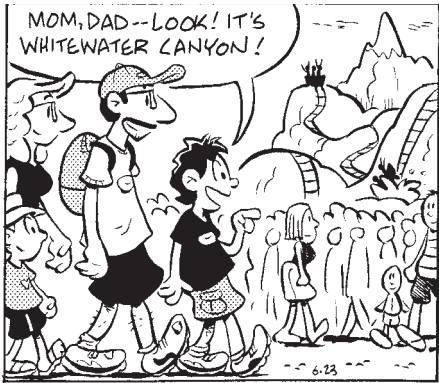


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- 23 Cheering cry
- 24 At — (baffled)
- 25 Socrates' student
- 27 School setting
- 28 Haitian practice
- 29 Bugs Bunny's creator
- 32 Navigating aids
- 36 Writer Gordimer
- 39 Folk stories
- 40 Wolf pack members
- 41 Genealogy chart
- 42 High-school students
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DOWN

- 1 Sudan neighbor
- 2 Boxer's wear
- 3 High point
- 4 "Listen, ..."
- 5 Worthless matter
- 6 Louvre entrance designer
- 7 "Scram!"
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- 11 Glue
- 15 Field experts
- 17 Alumnus
- 18 Alliance since 1949
- 19 "Scram!"
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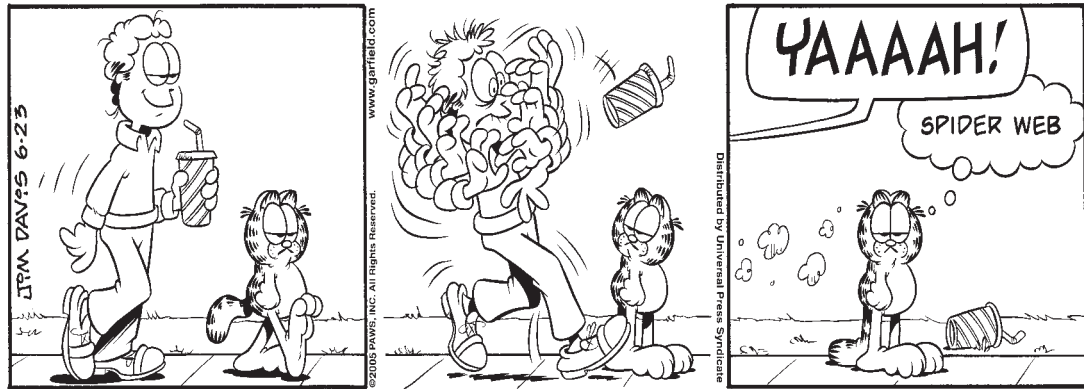
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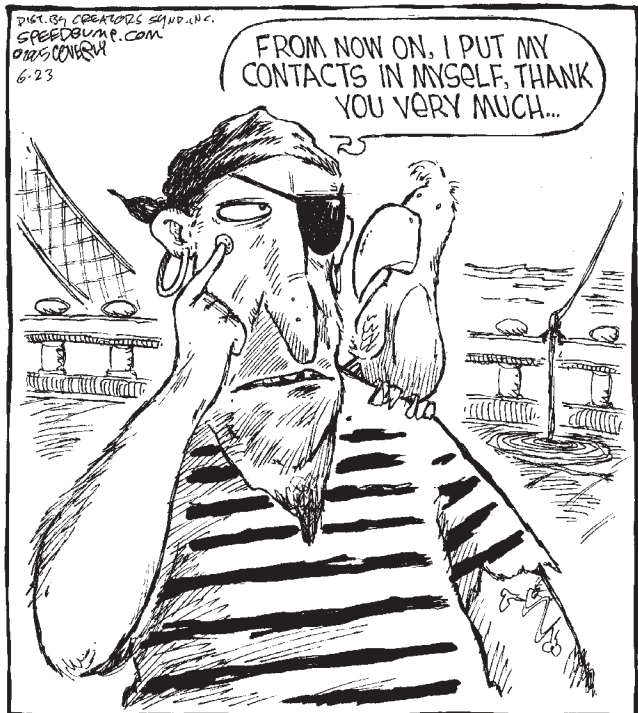
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Obituaries

WALTER CLINTON WARDLAW

Mr. Walter Clinton Wardlaw was born August 23, 1907 in LaGrange, GA. He departed this life on Saturday, June 18, 2005. Walter was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and stationed in California where he was assigned to the 10th Calvary Regiment (the famed Buffalo Soldiers) G Troop. Their duty was to guard the California-Mexican border as well as many installations along the border. His tour of duty included Casa Blanca, Morocco and Naples, Rome and Florence, Italy. He met the love of his life Allene Dixon, they were married August 10, 1944. After receiving an honorable discharge in 1945, Walter and Allene resided in Santa Monica, CA for 53 years until her passing in 1998. Walter returned to live in Atlanta with niece, Gloria Das and family where he remained until his passing. "Uncle Walter" leaves behind to cherish his memory nieces, Mrs. Gloria Das of Atlanta, Mr. And Mrs. Bobby (Marie) Arnold and family of Charlotte, NC, Ms. Shanti Das of New York City, NY; nephews, Mr. And Mrs. Ashok (Jerri) Das and family of Kennesaw, Mr. Calvin Wardlaw and family of Atlanta, Mr. And Mrs. Harold (Jean) Wardlaw and family of Atlanta, Mr. Walter Garrett and family of Newark, NJ; Mrs. Ida Wardlaw of Philadelphia, Pa; Mrs. Mary Wilson and family, Converse, TX; Mr. William Wardlaw, Jr. and family of Raleigh, NC; Mrs. Sabira Abdullah and family of New York, NY; Mr. Charles Wardlaw and family of Media, PA; Mr. And Mrs. Kenneth (Debbie) Wardlaw and family of Marietta; Mr. Kevin Wardlaw and family of Philadelphia, PA; other relatives and friends. Services were held Wednesday, June 22, 2005 at 11 a.m. at Murray Brothers Funeral Home Cascade Chapel in Atlanta, Georgia. Graveside Services will take place Saturday, June 24, 2005 at Simpson Family Mortuary, in Inglewood, CA, in charge of arrangements.

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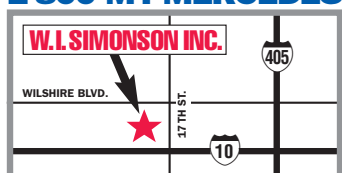
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