

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

05, 23, 39, 01, 18

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 2, 7

Evening picks: 6, 0, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 04, Big Ben
2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms
3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44:94



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Ken Rohrer, an elementary school principal in Michigan City, Ind., resigned in April, two weeks after he had (apparently as a joke) decided to appear on the school's classroom TV system making his daily announcements while portraying an Iraqi character, denouncing "lying" Americans and the Bush administration and charging that the upcoming school ice cream social would be held as scheduled, even though Iraqis were starving.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or the money to do it right."

— Kurt Herbert Adler



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Pico mechanic found guilty of manslaughter

Bell faces up to 21 years in prison

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Michael Ward Bell, a local auto mechanic who shot and killed a transient last July, was found guilty Tuesday of voluntary manslaughter.

Jurors threw out the prosecution's first-degree murder charge but said they didn't believe Bell's story that he was acting in self defense.

"The fact that he had the gun showed he had some intent," said jury foreman Brad Evans, a 53-year-old marketing director who lives in Manhattan Beach. "But (the prosecution) didn't give us enough as far as proving malice."

In order to be convicted of first or second degree murder, the law demands a defendant act with malice.

Bell, 55, sat motionless in the courtroom dressed in a black suit and jail-issued black slippers as the jury delivered innocent verdicts to first and second degree murder.

After the jury found him guilty of voluntary manslaughter, Bell, the son of a former Santa Monica

"The fact that he had the gun showed he had some intent."

— BRAD EVANS
Jury foreman

Police Department officer, crossed his hands in his lap and cast his eyes downward.

Bell faces a maximum sentence of 21 years in prison.

But his public defender, John Raphling, said he will ask the court for probation at Bell's sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for July 18.

"They were wrong," Raphling said of the jurors. "Mr. Bell acted in self defense. The man was not guilty. The man was innocent."

On July 1, Bell shot Andre Watson, a homeless man with a history of mental illness. Bell said he was acting in self defense after being attacked by Watson, who died about 90 minutes later from a loss of blood.

Raphling filed for a mistrial early Tuesday, claiming the jury was tainted because one of the jurors mistakenly received an unedited transcript of Bell's inter-

rogation by police on the night of the shooting and discussed it with other jurors.

In the unedited version, Bell asked police repeatedly for an attorney, a request that may have made him appear guilty to some jurors, Raphling said.

But Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen, who heard the case at the Airport Courthouse by LAX, denied the motion for a mistrial. He acknowledged the juror received the document in error but ruled that it would not affect the jury's ultimate decision.

See VERDICT, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Signature gatherers, who work as independent contractors for \$1 per signature, ask people to sign a petition in front of Santa Monica Place.

Store's customer service has gone to the dogs

Staples customer barks in court, judge bites

BY JULIET MCSHANNON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A local retailer has been hit with an unusual order to pay punitive damages after a patron's visit to buy a fax machine ended in a forced visit to the emergency room.

The way Stephanie Schatz told it, her April trip to the Staples Office store on Lincoln Boulevard turned into a customer service nightmare.

It's rare that a small claims judge awards punitive damages in Santa Monica. But commissioner pro tem Richard Bisetti concurred last week in Schatz' claim that Staples treated her outrageously in denying her service because she had with her a dog which was

"All I went in for was a fax machine. Who would have believed it?"

— STEPHANIE SCHATZ
Plaintiff

medically necessary.

He awarded her \$2,000 for pain and suffering in the episode, another \$1,000 because the store wouldn't let her back in the next day to complain and more than \$600 in medical expenses she incurred when police whisked her off to an emergency room.

Schatz, of Mar Vista, visited Staples with her service dog, Miles, a golden Labrador that

See STAPLES, page 6

Duped into signing?

Questions arise over method used by signature gatherers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

If Santa Monicans are asked to sign a petition to save teachers' jobs, they may want to read the fine print.

Signature gatherers stationed in front of Santa Monica Place for the past two weeks are telling people that their signature will stop teacher layoffs.

That may be the intention, but the petition really is an effort to squash the recall effort against Gov. Gray Davis.

Signature gatherers, who are

being paid \$1 per signature by an organization called the Taxpayer Against The Recall, aren't apologizing for their method in attracting people to take notice of their cause.

Joe Kirkendoll, who has recruited the signature gatherers in front of the mall on the Third Street Promenade, said using an universal topic like education gets people's attention. What's more, if people hear the word "recall" they automatically think the petition is in favor of it.

"They are just coming into the mall to shop and you have only a quick minute in their lives for this," he said, adding there is a statement on the petition indicating that it's against the recall.

See PETITION, page 7

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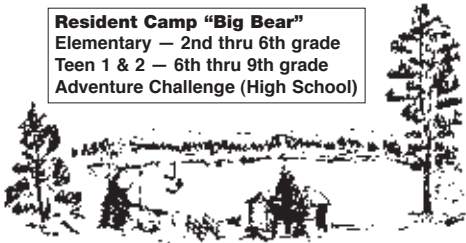
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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, June 25, 2003:

Your year will be marked by sudden opportunities, especially in the financial arena. For your sake, don't spend money before you have it, as extravagance does appear as a vulnerability. Be careful with a partner, as he or she might be wearing rose-colored glasses. Work on realism, and you will head toward the winner's circle. Network and expand your immediate circle of friends. Possibilities will greet you from left and right. A new car or computer could be in the offing after summer. If you're single, the world offers you a multitude of choices, though you might be unusually discriminating and/or flirtatious. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from a stronger financial situation. You will enjoy each other much more come September. TAURUS cheers you on.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Blind optimism can be a problem, especially when dealing with the almighty dollar. On the other hand, positive thinking can take you far right now, even financially. Just be sure the check is in your account before you spend it. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Treat a friend or loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Though you often feel buffered by the many winds that head your way, know that you can handle whatever comes down your path. Your strong personality directs events and those around you. Gracefully accept the role of leader. Tonight: What would make the Bull happiest?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Slow down, knowing your limits within a certain realm. Understand what might be motivating others by stepping back; you could pretend you are Freud. "Observation" needs to be your byword right now. Your popularity soars. Return calls. Tonight: Continue to maintain a low profile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your immediate advisers and friends push you toward a risk that might feel a bit uncomfortable. Honor your feelings, then approach the situation logically, if you can. Brainstorm with a trusted associate. Tonight: Follow your friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ When you beam into a room, others turn to look. Your magnetism takes you over any hurdle that might appear, but still, you've got to do your work. You and spontaneity are natural friends. Go with the moment, but continue to manage your responsibilities. Tonight: A late get-together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your ability to see through the obvious and read between the lines could play a substantial role right now. Work with what you see rather than acting on it. Do needed research if you need to confirm facts. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Focus on friendship and your long-term goals within a partnership. Start laying out long-term objectives with an associate or partner — be it individually or together. Trust your inner sense, especially around a key person in your life. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to consider what is happening in your immediate circle. An opportunity that seems too good to be true probably isn't. Do needed footwork, and you will like what you hear. Get feedback, because someone is likely to offer it anyway! Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Pace yourself evenly and allow greater flex, at least with your ideas. Everyone, including you, can get into locked thinking. Use an opportunity to get past this limitation. Matters dealing with attorneys, publishing and those at a distance are highlighted. Tonight: Work as late as need be, with an eye to the upcoming weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your imagination combined with someone's creativity allows greater flex and possibilities. Together, at least at present, you could be a veritable powerhouse. Work as a team and surprise even yourself. Tonight: What would make the Goat happy?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with the basics within your immediate circle and family. Understand more of what you want and where you're coming from in your dealings with a certain romantic attachment or partner. Success will be more likely. This person just needs some feedback. Tonight: Make your home your castle.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You're likely to speak your mind to an associate or two, but somehow, others take your message differently than you intend. Much might be occurring so quickly that communication could be overwhelming. Deal with one person, one item at a time. Tonight: Out and about.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A free ride in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Who says you can't get a free ride?

Anyone who rides Line 4 on the Big Blue Bus will be able to travel for free until July 3.

It's the bus company's way of breaking the news to users of the MTA's Line 22 that the service is being canceled as of June 28.

Passengers who ride Line 28 will find Big Blue Bus Line 4 as the best alternative to the discontinued service.

Passengers boarding any Line 4 bus can ride for free anywhere on that route. Transfers to other Big Blue Bus routes will be free. But transfers to other transit systems will still cost 25 cents.

Big Blue Bus Line 4 serves many residential and commercial areas including the VA Hospital, Santa Monica Place and Third Street Promenade, Brentwood and Westside Pavilion. The line operates from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., seven days a week. Line 4 traverses Fourth Street, Carlyle Avenue, San Vicente and Sawtelle boulevard, and Pico and Olympic boulevards around the Westside Pavilion.

The Big Blue Bus operates a fleet of 200 vehicles transporting more than 73,000 passengers daily across a 51 square mile service area. Since 1928, the Big Blue Bus has been providing service to Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area. This year marks the Big Blue Bus' 75th anniversary of moving people.

The Big Blue Bus also operates paratransit services and the electric TIDE Shuttle. For more information contact customer service at (310) 451-5444, TDD (310) 395-6024 or www.BigBlueBus.com.

Tax lesson offered

By Daily Press staff

Operators of nonprofit and exempt organizations can learn a thing or two about the tax man.

And they can do it for free at Lincoln Middle School on Friday, June 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State Assemblymember Fran Pavley, the State Board of Equalization and the city of Santa Monica are hosting a free tax seminar for nonprofit and exempt organizations.

Representatives from the State Board of Equalization, the Franchise Tax Board, the IRS, the State Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State's Office and the Los Angeles County Assessor, will give presentations.

People can learn about the recent developments and legislation affecting nonprofit and exempt organizations, as well as nonprofit corporations and unincorporated associations, property tax exemptions, new laws affecting raffles and fundraising for nonprofits, compliance with the Employment Development Department regulations, and sales and use tax issues and compliance.

The seminar will be held at the school auditorium, located at 1501 California Ave. Anyone interested can call (213) 239-8506 or via e-mail at ben.wong@boe.ca.gov for more information.

Deals offered from the street

By Daily Press staff

Merchants are making shopping on the Third Street Promenade even more of an outdoor experience.

During the weekend of July 11-13, the annual Sizzling Sidewalk Sale will feature retailers along the Promenade who will offer deals on the street. For an updated list of participating stores, visit www.downtownsm.com and click on What's Happening.



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Let the inconsistent swells roll in. The best — and most exposed — spots will pull in some chest-high plus waves today.

BAD NEWS: Neither this S nor the pending SW are very consistent.

GOOD NEWS: No drought of swell, especially with the (inconsistent) NW wind swell in the background all week.

OUTLOOK: A new, shadowed SW will hit this weekend. Another S should land early next week. And some thunderstorms off of Mexico that are brewing could mean even more surf.

Today the
water is:

67°

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:09	0.7	11:34	2.1	3:19	3.9	5:16	4.6
SUNDAY	10:55	1.2	N/A	N/A	4:45	3.5	5:53	4.8
MONDAY	12:37	1.6	(11:38)	1.5	6:08	3.3	6:25	5.1
TUESDAY	1:26	1.0	12:17	1.9	7:19	3.3	6:54	5.3
WEDNESDAY	2:06	0.5	12:53	2.1	8:17	3.3	7:23	5.6
THURSDAY	2:42	0.1	1:27	2.3	9:05	3.4	7:53	5.8
FRIDAY	3:16	-0.2	2:00	2.4	9:47	3.5	8:23	5.9

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To help meet a \$16.1 million budget shortfall, city officials agreed last week to raise the cost of most parking tickets issued by the City of Santa Monica.

Now, for example, parking in a "preferential" spot will cost \$47 instead of \$38. That's right, nearly 50 bucks. The fee for an expired meter is set to go from \$28 to \$35.

There are more than 50 types of parking violations in Santa Monica and the city controls the fee levels for 30 of them. The increases are expected to generate \$2.2 million for city coffers.

Councilman Bob Holbrook, who cast the sole dissenting vote against the increases said, "The rates that are proposed are excessive."

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Is \$47 too much to pay for a parking ticket? In what other areas could the city make some extra cash?"

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

Ticket the tourists

Editor:

Regarding the price of parking tickets going up \$10.

The city is going about this all wrong. They should be lowering the cost of educating the children, not raising the cost for residents trying to park outside our homes, at the same time avoiding vandals, street cleaning truck times and new meters being installed everywhere in the county. The Daily Press reports, "there are more than 50 types of parking violations in Santa Monica."

Here's an idea: Make it 51. Ticket every tourist parking west of Centinela who doesn't pay a homeless person to guard their rent-a-car.

Hank Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

Donating organs is not a simple check

Editor:

A couple of months ago columnist Michael Tittinger wrote about the importance of checking off the box that says YES to organ donation.

Tittinger made good points about the ease and importance of just putting a check mark in a little box that could save lives. One would be not aware, or care one way or another what the fate of their kidneys was when it is time for that check mark to take effect.

Until recently I would have agreed with him wholeheartedly. It makes no sense to me what people are holding onto their organs for.

The other day I was having a conversation about this with a friend of mine. She is married and has two children. I asked her if she was an organ donor. She told me that she nor her husband was an organ donor.

She said with tears forming in her eyes that if anything would happen to her husband, she would want all of him whole and know where he was.

"If someone else got his heart they would have to come live with me," she said, half joking.

Another co-worker came by and got caught up in the conversation. He mentioned that his son passed away a few years ago. He related to us that when his son's body

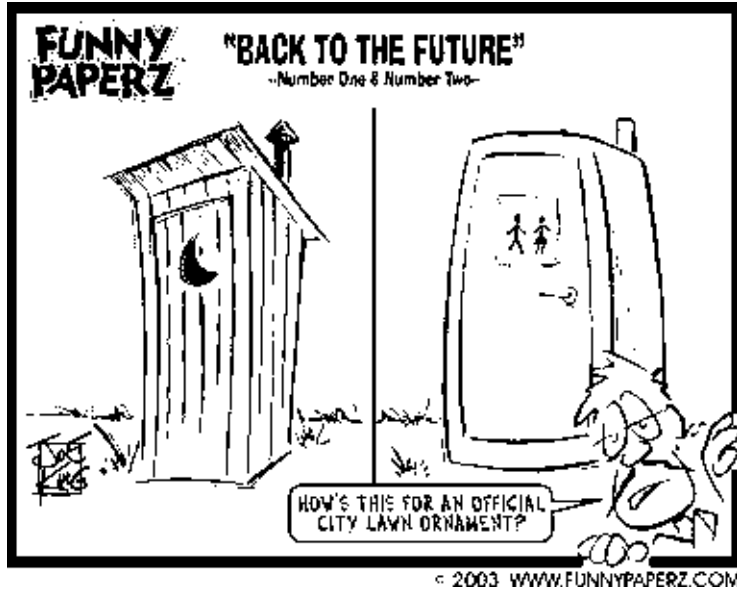
was in the morgue he requested that they did not cut him open.

I understood their reasons for being wary about organ donation and they admitted that if a loved one was in need, they would want someone to donate their organs.

The point of this letter is that I do not think that this bipolar thinking is unusual, making that little box not so easy to check off as Tittinger makes it out to be.

The fact is that many people who do have themselves down as an organ donor end

See LETTERS, page 5



Story of the three little Pegs is a grim fairy tale



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Once upon a time there lived three little girls named Peg. Actually they were named Peggy Sue, Peggy Anne and Peggy Jo, but everyone called them just Peg. The three little Pegs were very happy until one day, from out of the dark and evil land ... known as Texas, came a Big Bad Elephant. You may remember him from when he posed as a compassionate conservative Grandma only to be uncovered by Little Red Riding Hood when she observed, "Grandma, what big campaign contributors you have." But that's another story.

Peggy Sue lived in a kingdom filled with golden fields of straw. It was called Kansas. Every Sunday all the town's people would go to the church and sing and clap and pray.

Peggy Sue's parents loved her very much and wanted to protect her from evil things such as evolution, so they taught her at home. One day, when Peggy Sue had lived through 15 planting seasons, she met her Prince Charming. Actually his name was Ned, but he was very cute. Peggy Sue and her Prince were inseparable. They would skip through the fields of straw and frolic in the haystacks. The latter was where Ned suggested that they play a special game. Peggy Sue didn't know anything about sex, but she loved the Prince very much and he was extremely persistent. So it came to pass that Peggy Sue found herself with child. When she informed Prince Charming he told her he'd rather be turned into a frog than have an heir. Peggy Sue reluctantly agreed, but

before they could act, the Big Bad Elephant huffed and he puffed and he blew Roe V. Wade away.

Peggy Sue was beside herself and Prince, well, actually he was off playing in a haystack with Cinderella. Peggy Sue needed help, but she couldn't talk to her parents because they would surely banish her from the kingdom. But then one day Peggy Sue heard about an Ogre who lived in a little shack that smelled like sour mash. Peggy Sue went to the Ogre and gave him several gold coins. The Ogre ordered her to lie on a soiled bed linen and with a few thrusts of his (less than clean) magic wand, the Ogre made the baby go away. It hurt Peggy Sue very much, even more than when she caught her finger in the combine. And when Peggy Sue returned to her home with the golden fields of straw, she slowly bled to death.

Now Peggy Anne lived surrounded by vast wooded forests in a mystical place called Idaho. Peggy Anne spent her days happily wandering through the trees and if she were particularly quiet, she would often see all manner of endangered beasts. Actually they were fleeing from the Big Bad Elephant who was huffing and puffing and clear-cutting the trees to protect them from fire, but that's also another story.

Unlike Peggy Sue, Peggy Anne attended public school where she learned about sex ... after a fashion. You see, the Big Bad Elephant had huffed and puffed and blown away all the education stuff and left "abstinence only" instruction. It wasn't long before a Knight in Shining Armor appeared and swept Peggy Anne off her feet. And Peggy Anne did indeed try to remain abstinent, but her limited sex education (along with her God given raging hormones) had done little more than pique her curiosity. After a proper interval, which for a 14-year-old is three weeks,

Peggy Anne threw herself upon her Knight's mighty sword and continued to do so whenever the opportunity arose. And like Peggy Sue, Peggy Anne soon found herself with child.

Peggy Anne and the Knight loved each other and wanted to have a family, but there was so much she still wanted to do, such as finish high school and go to the senior prom. Peggy Anne was so very confused. They needed help. Peggy Anne and her Knight went out in search of an old wise person or barring that, expert counseling. But the Big Bad Elephant was one step ahead of them. He had huffed and he puffed and blew away all the funding for any family planning that included birth control or abortion.

But Peggy Anne wasn't licked yet. She entered the magical realm called the Internet. Peggy Anne logged onto the Health and Human Services web site where, to her dismay, she discovered a study conducted by a bunch of wizards that linked increases in breast cancer with abortions. What Peggy Anne didn't hear about were the many other studies, by even more powerful wizards, that totally disproved the first study. This was because, as you've probably guessed, the Big Bad Elephant had huffed and puffed and blown those studies right off the HHS web site, along with information about condoms, because it didn't agree with his limited and scientifically baseless point of view.

And her doctor was forced to tell her the same because the Big Bad Elephant threatened to throw him in the dungeon if he told her the truth. Peggy Anne and the Knight were afraid of breast cancer and after several moons they were blessed with a beautiful baby squire. But their happiness was short lived as both baby and mother grew sickly. Peggy Anne feared that they must have eaten a poi-

soned apple. Actually she had contracted an evil curse called AIDS which she had transferred to her baby all because she had never been provided information about condoms and AIDS awareness, thanks to the Big Bad Elephant. It wasn't long before the baby was dead. And soon thereafter (a period filled with terrible pain and suffering) Peggy Anne and her Knight were dead as well.

Finally there was Peggy Jo. She lived in a place of mighty brick called New York. Peggy Jo knew all about sex. She was taught about it in school and her parents answered all her questions openly and honestly. Peggy Jo met her share of Prince Charmings and Knights in Shining Armor and even a hunk named Vinney, but she had more information and less curiosity. Peggy Jo didn't start having sex until much later than Peggy Sue or Peggy Anne and she insisted on using a condom. Of course the Big Bad Elephant huffed and puffed and huffed and puffed, but in the kingdom of bricks lived some nasty old donkeys that could kick the crap out of the Big Bad Elephant. So it was that one magical day, after finishing law school, Peggy Jo would meet her true love. And they would get married and have two beautiful children. It seemed like a fairy tale ending, but a third pregnancy went bad and the Big Bad Elephant had huffed and puffed and blew away late term abortions, even if the mother's health was in danger so Peggy Jo died during childbirth.

The moral of the story is: If this country doesn't wake up soon, the Big Bad Elephant is going to be the only one to live happily ever after.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and happy endings can be sent to edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

up not being one because it is still the family's final decision — the family who loves them that was just told that the donor in question just passed away. When the doctor approaches, chopping them up and divvying out the person's body parts is not an easy decision and more likely one that is not made.

There is legislation being discussed in some cities, or maybe it is a national movement, now that will allow the check that the donor in question made on their license application to trump the family-in-grief's feelings about the body of the deceased.

I think that this is wise considering the most difficult feelings and loss of clear thinking happen at times of such loss.

I still agree with Michael Tittinger that everyone should be a donor, but now I do not agree with what he talks about when it comes to the ease of the check mark, or the ease to honor a check mark that has been made before death, especially for those who have never experienced the need of an organ before.

Maybe the problem is not simple ignorance or laziness of people when they are filing for their license. I think that the problem is much deeper.

How many people would be willing to be inconvenienced because their spouse is helping another? Are husbands happy if dinner is not ready until 8 p.m. because his wife is out cooking at a soup kitchen? Are wives pleased that they have to wait 30 minutes more to be picked up from work because their husband drives their elderly neighbor to therapy at 5 p.m.?

I told my friend, acknowledging that I had the fortune of not being in the midst of such a decision, that if I had to give the doctors the OK to share my husband's organs for the good of others, I would be proud. I would be proud of my husband to be able to continue to help others, even in death.

The widespread resistance to organ donation is not indicative of people's laziness or misconception of how organ donation works. I think that it is an attitude that is rampant, not just when filling out applications. It is the attitude when we see others struggling and we do not practice the pain of our inconvenience to help them in our daily lives. If we practiced such an attitude on a daily basis, we are better prepared when death is so near.

Jo ana Kubiak
Santa Monica

Man should've been in jail

Editor:

As I write this, I don't know the verdict in the murder trial in the Watson case (SMDP, today, page 1.) But according to one of your articles, Watson was released from jail after eight days. He had been arrested for menacing two teenage girls with a box cutter. Why was he not sent away for several years? Watson was obviously not fit to be in society.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

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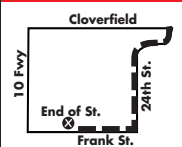
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LOCAL

Lawyer: Jury was tainted

VERDICT, from page 1

If the motion for a mistrial had been granted, new jurors would have been selected and the entire case would have presented again.

Fifteen minutes after the motion was denied, the jury reached a verdict.

The jury of eight women and four men reached their unanimous decision after three days of deliberations and seven days of testimony. Jurors said Tuesday the fact that Bell shot Watson six times didn't affect their decision.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Mark Burnley had maintained that Bell shot Watson methodically and deliberately while he lay curled up in a fetal position on the sidewalk about 100 feet from BT Automotive, the Pico Boulevard auto repair shop that Bell managed.

Bell said he shot Watson out of self defense. Throughout the day, Bell had a series of heated arguments with the heavily intoxicated Watson that began after Watson made a gesture indicating he wanted to slice Bell's throat.

Bell said Watson — who threatened to kill him, his family and his dog — tried to enter his shop with a knife in his hand. When he went to lock the door but heard a noise in the garage, Bell said he panicked and grabbed a .357 Magnum from his file cabinet.

He said he ran into the street and walked down the sidewalk towards a trash

bag he believed to be Bell's belongings. When he leaned down to inspect the bag, Watson said, "F--k, a f--king gun," and attacked Bell, he said.

More than three dozen witnesses took the stand in the course of the trial, describing Watson as a highly intelligent but psychologically impaired man who was prone to fits of rage and violence.

Just before the shooting, which took place in the 2600 block of Pico Boulevard, Watson was released from jail after being sentenced to 15 days for attacking two teenage girls with a box cutter on Santa Monica Beach.

Bell will remain in custody without bail. For nearly 12 months he has been held at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown L.A. on \$2 million bail.

No friends or family were present for the verdict, though Bell's aunt, Bea Bell, and three of Bell's friends did attend most of the trial.

Bea Bell, a Santa Monica native, said after the ruling that she didn't know what verdict to expect and was relieved it wasn't worse. She said Bell was innocent and only shot at Watson to protect himself.

"It will haunt Mike the rest of his life," she said of the shooting. "If anyone deserved a break, Mike did. He's worked hard all his life. He's the kind of guy that would stop to help if he saw you broken down on the side of the road. Everyone that knows him speaks highly of Mike."

Staples blames inadequate staff training in complaint

STAPLES, from page 1

assists her due to a disability affecting her balance. She testified that upon reaching the check-out counter she was told by the cashier that she couldn't be served until her dog left the store. Schatz said she tried to explain that Miles was a service animal legally allowed inside regardless of the store's no-dog policy.

Schatz said she waited in line another half-hour while an on-duty manager was summoned. Then, feeling unsteady and dizzy, she sat down on the floor, she told the court. When no manager appeared Schatz reached for her cell phone and, in exasperation, called police, she said. By this time, the shop had closed at 6 p.m.

After police and paramedics arrived, they concluded that Schatz was unable to drive home and that she needed medical attention, she recalled. Her subsequent required visit to the Daniel Freeman Hospital in Marina Del Rey cost her four hours and \$659.80.

"All I went in for was a fax machine. Who would have believed it?" she exclaimed in court.

Schatz said she returned to the store the next morning to fetch her car. When she sought entry to complain to the manager about her treatment, she was blocked by an employee who pointed to a sign. It said, "No Dogs Allowed Except Those Exempt from State Law."

"The employee didn't seem to understand that my service dog constitutes such an exception," she said during the hearing.

Her lawsuit requested \$659.80 for her medical bills plus an award for pain and suffering that she set at about \$1,980 — three times the medical costs.

Commissioner Bisetti ordered Staples

to pay it all, plus another \$1,000 for the store's conduct the next day. It's unclear whether Staples will appeal.

Clark Colvin, a Staples representative admitted in court that the store felt some responsibility in the case and offered to settle the matter.

"We encourage any person who believes they have been wrongfully denied access to contact my office."

— ADAM RADINSKY
Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney

Colvin said Staples offered Schatz \$500 plus a \$100 merchandise allowance. Schatz laughingly termed the offer insufficient and said she decided to go to small claims court instead.

Colvin chalked the episode up to inadequate staff training but noted that Staples "has an obligation to train staff."

Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky later applauded the ruling. Radinsky, who has been involved in hundreds of consumer cases, noted it's illegal to refuse service to a patron accompanied by a legitimate assistance animal.

"We encourage any person who believes they have been wrongfully denied access to contact my office," he said.

Schatz decided to buy her fax machine at another Staples store on Bundy Avenue. She and Miles did so without incident.

LOCAL



Petition is a show of support for Governor Gray Davis

PETITION, from page 1

However, the statement is often covered by a rubber band strapped around a clipboard and not easy to read.

Last Friday afternoon, two women were in the process of signing the petition, but then they noticed the small print on the top stating it was against the recall of Davis. They immediately scratched their name off the petition and told the signature gatherer that "you should be more upfront about what you're doing."

One of the women said she had actually signed a petition last week supporting the recall of Davis.

The petition is not a formal election document, rather a statement of an abuse of the recall process.

Kirkendoll said he and others explain to people that by opposing the recall, the millions of dollars being spent on it could go towards education and public services.

Signatures against the recall are being collected all over the state and will be presented to Sacramento lawmakers as a show of support for Davis.

A signature gatherer was stationed at the farmer's market on Main Street this past Sunday, who stated clearly that the petition was against the recall.

Kirkendoll said the difference in how people are approached depends on where they are. At the farmer's market, Kirkendoll argues that people are more liberal and politically savvy. In front of Santa Monica Place, there are many more tourists and residents who are not as informed, he said.

Because it's not a formal election document or doesn't seek to change any law, the petition doesn't fall under local or state campaign disclosure laws, officials said.

If it was a formal campaign petition, signature gatherers are required under Santa Monica law to provide an information sheet

to people which includes a summary of the initiative, that the signature gatherer may be getting paid and cites the penal code that states it's a crime to falsify the information about the content of the petition.

Kirkendoll said it's common practice for signature gatherers to be paid. He noted that the signature requirement for Davis' recall is between 1.1 million and 1.3 million.

"Everyone is signing the petition. I don't like the whole process being in ill repute."

— LEN RICHMOND
Santa Monica resident

"It would impossible to get only volunteers to collect them all," he said.

He also said the effort against the recall is a "people's lobby" to end it.

"In order to be impeached, you have to have broken a law and that's why we think it's an abuse because (Davis) hasn't," Kirkendoll said.

Santa Monica resident Len Richmond said he's watched the signature gatherers for the past two weeks and hasn't liked what he's seen. He contacted the Secretary of State's Office, which is the authority on state elections. Investigators reportedly checked out the Santa Monica operation and found nothing illegal.

While it may not be illegal, it is misleading, Richmond said.

"Everyone is signing the petition," he said. "I don't like the whole process being in ill repute."

Davis recallers claim they will get enough signatures

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Republican-led campaign to recall Democratic Gov. Gray Davis has collected nearly 400,000 signatures, close to half the number needed to put it on the ballot, elections officials in California counties reported this week.

Recall proponents have claimed they were well on their way to collecting the 897,158 needed valid signatures, but Monday's deadline for counties to report totals to the secretary of state was an important date for them to prove they actually were.

The submitted signatures were those collected as of June 16. Many counties said they'd collected thousands of additional signatures since then.

Recall supporters said the numbers indicate they will collect the needed signatures by mid-July and force a special election in the fall, when they believe they would have the best chance of prevailing.

"We're definitely on target" said Dave Gilliard, director of Rescue California. Gilliard estimated the group has collected around 900,000 signatures total, many of which have not been submitted.



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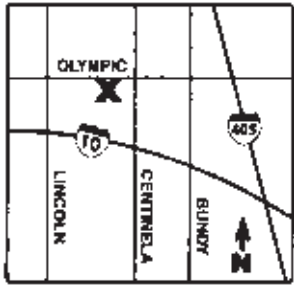
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

More than a dozen immigrants pack into a jeep

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM HILLS — Fifteen suspected illegal immigrants fled a Jeep Cherokee pulled over by the California Highway Patrol for a license registration check.

Ten were found hiding at a construction site a short time later Monday night and were turned over to the Border Patrol, CHP Officer David Ferrer said. The driver and at least four others escaped.

"I've had 10 people stuffed into a Honda Civic before," Ferrer said. "That's how desperate they are. ... They'll stuff in as many as they can."

A CHP officer stopped the white Jeep Cherokee on the westbound Riverside Freeway because there were no registration tags on the license plate. The Jeep pulled off the freeway at Lakeview Avenue and the driver stopped near the Santa Ana River.

City loses to woman for \$60K

By The Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY — The city lost its appeal of a 1998 civil rights lawsuit in which Simi Valley was ordered to pay a woman \$60,000 after a police SWAT team handcuffed her, searched her home and caused \$2,000 in damage.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday affirmed a federal jury's 2001 decision that police had violated Iris Mena's right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. On Feb. 3, 1998, police entered Mena's home to search for a suspect in a gang shooting.

"We felt that the officers had acted properly, given the circumstances," City Attorney David Hirsch said. Hirsch said that he would meet with the City Council to discuss how to proceed.

Mena originally sued the city and police Officers Darin L. Muehler and Robert Bril, because she was held in handcuffs for more than two hours and questioned about her immigration status while the police carried out a search warrant against Raymond Romero, a renter in her home.

The court held that Mena should have been released from handcuffs when it became clear she posed no threat and did not resist arrest. The opinion also said the police did not have a right to question Mena's citizenship status or search her purse for immigration documents.

The appeals court also denied a request to grant the police officers a new trial. Attorneys for the officers had argued that the judge gave bad jury instructions.

Mena attorney James S. Muller said Monday he originally offered to settle the case for \$27,000. Hirsch declined comment.

School board member accused of stealing

By The Associated Press

MOORPARK — School board member Chris Evans was charged with grand theft for allegedly misappropriating more than \$12,000 from an employer and customers.

The felony charge against Evans, 45, involve three checks exceeding \$11,000 written to his consulting company for money owed to ProSource Wholesale Floorcoverings, where he was district manager of the company's North Hollywood and Fullerton stores.

Three additional referral checks, totaling less than \$1,000, that should have gone to others were deposited in Evans' personal account, according to court documents.

Defense attorney Alan Baum said it was a misunderstanding and his client had permission to process certain ProSource orders through his private company. When Evans fell behind in payments, ProSource took the matter to the police.

"Chris has got the money. It's not like he was stealing to pay his home mortgage or anything," Baum said. "This was a misunderstanding."

A hearing is scheduled July 15 to determine whether Evans will fight the charge or arrange to pay restitution and settle the case. His June 12 arraignment was postponed to allow his participation in the Los Angeles County district attorney's early disposition program.

Evans, a former Moorpark City Council member who was elected to the school board in November, was arrested May 7 and is free on bail. Baum said he will seek to have the criminal charge dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor.

Boeing heads to trial with residents claiming illness

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to rehear a case involving claims of contamination by residents living near Rocketdyne's Santa Susana Field Laboratory near Simi Valley.

Boeing Co., which owns the Rocketdyne nuclear and rocket-testing laboratory, had sought the rehearing after the 9th Circuit issued a similar ruling in November.

Residents claimed in about 300 separate lawsuits filed against Boeing and Rockwell International Corp. that toxic discharge from the site caused cancer and other illnesses.

In November, the Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling that tossed out some of the residents' lawsuits on grounds the statute of limitations had run out.

The latest decision means that all 300 cases will now proceed to trial, plaintiff's attorney A. Barry Cappello said.

STATE

Agriculture secretary says biotech can end hunger

BY KIM BACA
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — An international biotechnology conference began Monday with the U.S. agriculture secretary hailing genetically modified food as a tool to reduce global hunger and demonstrators outside decrying it as a health threat.

Eight protesters were arrested as the demonstration grew to more than 1,500 people marching in the streets of the state capital at the start of the three-day event.

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman told agriculture ministers, scientists and health care experts from 120 countries that biotechnology can help developing nations reduce hunger while improving nutrition and their economies.

"Biotechnology is already helping both small and large-scale farmers around the world by boosting yields, lowering costs, reducing pesticide use and making crops more resistant to disease, pests and drought," Veneman said.

Demonstrators claim that biotechnology isn't the antidote to the complex food problems facing developing nations and that the conference is a means for the United States to lower trade barriers and push altered crops on smaller countries.

Veneman said reducing global hunger and poverty is a priority of President Bush, who has announced a 50 percent increase in foreign funding over three years and the largest increase in U.S. foreign assistance in 40 years.

The conference is focusing on farming methods, irrigation and pest management to help developing countries cut world hunger by 2015, a goal set by agriculture secretaries at the World Food Summit last year, Veneman said. More than 800 million people face chronic hunger or malnutrition.

However, technology alone wasn't a solution, Veneman said. She suggested countries will also benefit by promoting free trade and by creating policies to implement and regulate biotechnology.

Demonstrators rallied on the steps of the state Capitol, under the scrutiny of hundreds of police and California Highway Patrol officers and then spread out through downtown chanting slogans such as, "Feed the needy, not the greedy."

Sacramento police and CHP said there were eight arrests, revising initial reports of 11 apprehensions. Authorities didn't have any information about what charges they would face.

After the planned march, about 20 protesters doffed their clothes and danced on the steps of the state Capitol, then began an unauthorized march through downtown. The naked protesters, and about 50 followers, dispersed when the CHP brought in buses and threatened to arrest them.

"Biotechnology is already helping both small and large-scale farmers around the world by boosting yields, lowering costs, reducing pesticide use and making crops more resistant to disease, pests and drought."

— ANN VENEMAN
Secretary of Agriculture

Earlier in the day, more than a dozen demonstrators dressed as butterflies, giant tomatoes and ears of corn sang "Old Monsanto Had a Farm."

On Sunday, police in riot gear, on bicycles and on horseback faced off demonstrators and arrested 22 people on charges of unlawful assembly, vandalism and possessing weapons, including a switchblade and other sharp objects, authorities said.

Another 14 people were arrested late Sunday at the site of a former community garden in Sacramento that is slated to become a 118-unit housing development. They were expected to be charged with trespassing, police said.

Some offices and restaurants downtown had closed for fear of disruption threatened by demonstrators.

The conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture convenes at a time when the debate over genetically modified foods has reached a fever pitch. The United States is demanding that the World Trade Organization force the European Union to end its ban on genetically modified food. The EU ministers were absent from the conference.

Opposition to biotechnology is galvanizing outside the United States, and the protesters say inside the country as well. Activists fear the conference is an attempt by corporate farming and biotech interests to push into new markets.

The Bush administration "is trying to force dangerous and untested food on poor countries," said Patrick Reinsborough of the Mobilization for the Food and Sovereignty, Democracy and Justice, the umbrella group organizing the protest.

But one of Ghana's ministers said he is interested in getting help from American companies.

"There is water available but accessing the water for irrigation is a problem because of the limited financial resources in the country," said Clement N. L. Eledi, agriculture deputy minister of Ghana. "Resources determine productivity in agriculture. It affects food supply."

SoCal Edison sues city over purchase

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — Southern California Edison, critical of the city's plan to buy electricity on the open market and sell it to the Victoria Gardens Mall and surrounding developments, is suing the city.

Edison's suit claims \$15 million in loans from the Redevelopment Agency should not be used to fund the municipal utility. The city plans to accept unsecured loans from the agency to be paid back over 30 years, beginning in 2008.

"Redevelopment agencies are supposed to eradicate blight," Edison attorney Michael Montoya said. "Clearly,

a spot municipal utility doesn't fit that purpose."

Edison would supply the mall with electricity if it wasn't for the city's open-market purchase plan. If other cities move to finance municipal utilities with redevelopment money, Edison would lose more market share.

"The lawsuit could have the effect of quashing that," Montoya said.

City officials defended the project Monday, calling it both fiscally prudent and legal.

"We've reviewed it and we still feel it's appropriate," said Redevelopment Director Linda Daniels. "As far as I know, nothing in the lawsuit would cause us to have concerns about the project."

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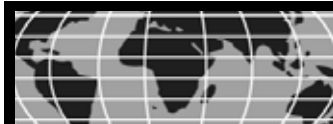
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WORLD BRIEFLY

It's OK to travel to Beijing

By The Associated Press

BEIJING — The World Health Organization lifted its travel warning against Beijing on Tuesday, giving a clean bill of health to the capital of the nation where the SARS outbreak began.

Beijing was the last place in the world under a WHO advisory urging travelers to avoid nonessential travel because of concerns about severe acute respiratory syndrome, which first surfaced in southern China in November.

Toronto and Taiwan remain on a WHO list of places with recent local transmissions of the disease, but travel advisories against them have been lifted.

The SARS crisis peaked in March and April before ebbing worldwide as officials moved to isolate patients in quarantines and screen travelers for symptoms. The disease killed more than 800 people, and infected more than 8,400.

Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director for the western Pacific region, said the decision to lift the Beijing advisory was based on factors including the number of current SARS cases, quality of surveillance and the effectiveness of prevention measures.

Fallout of the war results in attacks

By The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Iraqi insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the mayor's office in this restive city west of Baghdad — the latest in a series of attacks against people thought to be cooperating with U.S. occupation forces.

U.S. troops shot and killed one of the assailants in the attack on the mayor's office late Monday in Fallujah, a town 35 miles west of Baghdad, U.S. reports said. But local residents at the scene said the man killed was not involved in the attack and was caught in the crossfire.

A U.S. Army Military Police officer was slightly wounded late Monday in Khaldiyyah, about 35 miles west of Baghdad, when insurgents fired a rocket-pro-

pelled grenade which struck a Humvee, said 1st Lt. Charles Mulcahey, a platoon leader with the 115th Military Police company.

An infantry platoon found no suspects or weapons after combing the thick palm scrub alongside highway 10, where the ambush took place.

Insurgents fired two more rocket-propelled grenades at U.S. troops in Habaniyah, about three miles west of Fallujah, but they exploded without causing injuries, reports said.

9-11 won't be campaign fodder for Bush

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Bush banked \$4 million for his re-election campaign Monday, telling donors in this city scarred by Sept. 11 that "terrorists declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got."

Bush was careful not to directly mention the Sept. 11 attacks or the demolished World Trade Center in his campaign speech here. Aides have said they won't use the attacks as campaign fodder. But the fight against terrorism that was prompted by Sept. 11 loomed large in his speech about 80 blocks from Ground Zero.

Bush opened his address by saying that "We have captured or killed many key leaders of al-Qaida, and the rest of them know we're hot on their trail."

Outside, hundreds of protesters lined the streets, angrily chanting slogans and carrying signs like "Bush Lies, People Die," and "Bush Leaves No Millionaire Behind."

In all, it was a \$5.7 million day in the Bush-Cheney effort to collect \$170 million for primaries in which they face no challengers.

Vice President Dick Cheney chipped in another \$1.7 million at fund raisers in Virginia and Massachusetts.

Commandos give chase to Iraqi border

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Information from a former top aide of Saddam Hussein led American commando forces to chase a convoy of suspected Iraqi fugitives to

the Iraqi-Syrian border.

The chase ended in a shootout with Syrian border guards. When the shooting was over, there was a scene of devastation with burned-out vehicles — and casualties and prisoners from both sides of the border.

Officials have disclosed few details of the incident last Wednesday, but U.S. forces ended up releasing some 20 people captured in the operation.

Working partly on information from the highest Iraqi captured so far — Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti — special operations soldiers attacked a convoy of several vehicles in an attempt to stop what they believed were high-level fugitives linked to the fallen Iraqi government, defense officials said.

Yet another official said a site exploitation team would attempt to collect remains of the dead and that DNA testing would be done. He did not know the number killed and would not say how many vehicles were in the convoy.

All of the officials discussed the incident on condition of not being identified by name.

Bush to thank Pakistani president

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush will thank Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, on an arms-buying trip to the United States, for valuable help in the war on terror but will press him to try to ease nuclear tensions with his neighbor India, U.S. officials say.

Bush and Musharraf were meeting Tuesday at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

The Pakistani is spending six days in the United States, where he is shopping for non-nuclear military equipment to strengthen his country's defenses, Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Massod Khan said ahead of the visit.

After Musharraf backed the U.S.-led effort in 2001 to oust the ruling Taliban militia from Afghanistan, the Bush administration lifted many sanctions imposed against Pakistan because of its nuclear arms program and the 1999 coup that brought Musharraf to power.

Some penalties remain, however, over both the nuclear program and the coup. For instance, Congress continues to block release of 28 F-16 fighter jets that Pakistan bought 13 years ago, and U.S. officials said Monday that Bush was unlikely to recommend now that the fighters be released.

Supreme Court declines to hear Mormon free-speech case

BY ROBERT GEHRKE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court declined Monday to review a ruling that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints cannot limit offensive speech in a park it purchased from Salt Lake City.

The court's decision lets stand an October ruling by the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that said because the church had guaranteed the city pedestrian access through the park at the time of the purchase, free-speech rights along the sidewalks through the plaza must be retained.

However, the church and the city may have found a way around the ruling. The city is surrendering its pedestrian easement through the plaza — a move the 10th Circuit suggested would give the church authority to restrict speech.

"Unfortunately it doesn't signal the end of the case because Salt Lake City has done the unimaginable and surrendered all its interest, completely abandoned the public interest in this right of way in this very central stretch of Main Street," said Mark Lopez, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued the church. "Now there's going to be another fight over that issue."

The plaza dispute began in April 1999, when the Mormon church paid the city \$8.1 million for one block of Main Street adjacent to the church's temple.

The church agreed to the city's demands of public

access to the block, but demanded that church officials be allowed to restrict smoking, sunbathing, bicycling, and what it deems obscene or vulgar speech, dress or conduct on the plaza.

"We thought this problem was best solved at a local level."

— VON KEETCH
Church attorney

The ACLU and First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake sued, arguing the restrictions were unconstitutional. A federal judge sided with the church, but the appeals court overturned that ruling in October, ruling that the city couldn't create a "First Amendment-free zone."

The Supreme Court announced its decision without comment Monday.

"The court denied our application for them to take the case. Obviously, that's disappointing. But it's also not too surprising," church attorney Von Keetch said Monday. "The court takes so few cases, getting on the docket is difficult."

The dispute widened a chasm that exists between the city's dominant Mormon population, and non-Mormons who complain of being forced to live by the church's precepts.

But the four-year legal battle likely will continue.

After first saying he'd abide by the appeals court ruling, Salt Lake Mayor Rocky Anderson, who's running for re-election this fall, proposed giving up the easement. In exchange, the church would give the city two acres of land in Glendale, a neighborhood west of downtown, for a community center.

Earlier this month, the all-Mormon City Council voted 6-0 with one abstention to approve the deal.

A group called Alliance for Unity pledged \$4 million to the Glendale project. Philanthropist James Sorenson pledged \$1 million, and the church said it would donate \$275,000 to the alliance.

The church didn't withdraw its request for appeal after the council's action.

"The church wanted to keep both options open. Even now, the deal hasn't closed yet, and won't close for another 30 days," Keetch said. "We thought this problem was best solved at a local level."

Lopez said the ACLU will likely sue again to stop the deal.

"We think everything they did here was a sidestep around the court of appeals decision to advance the interest of the church and against the speakers with whom the church disagrees," Lopez said.

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SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASKETBALL

■ **DEERFIELD, Ill.** — The Chicago Bulls believe Jay Williams will miss next season because of the broken pelvis and knee injuries from a motorcycle crash last week. Bulls general manager John Paxson also confirmed that Williams has a broken pelvis as well as damaged ligaments in his left knee. He would not give further details on Williams' injury or care, citing federal privacy laws. While Paxson wouldn't discuss Williams' playing future beyond next season, a source close to Williams has told The Associated Press his injuries are severe enough to jeopardize his career. The No. 2 pick in last year's draft remains in intensive care and is expected to have more surgery.

■ **NEW ORLEANS** — Jan van Breda Kolff, dismissed from St. Bonaventure after a player eligibility scandal abruptly ended the team's season, is back coaching — this time in the NBA. Van Breda Kolff was hired as an assistant with the New Orleans Hornets, joining the staff of new head coach Tim Floyd. Van Breda Kolff was fired from St. Bonaventure last season following a players' boycott of the Bonnies' final two games after center Jamil Terrell was ruled ineligible. The Bonnies were stripped of six Atlantic 10 Conference victories and barred from postseason play. St. Bonaventure's president and athletic director both resigned.

BASEBALL

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Fred McGriff went on the disabled list for the first time in his 18 major league seasons. McGriff, who has 488 career homers, had missed eight straight games with a nagging injury to his right groin. Faced with losing McGriff for the entire week if they waited any longer, the Dodgers put him on the DL retroactive to June 14, making him eligible to return on Sunday. The move was disconcerting to McGriff, who's been a model of consistency and durability during his career — but he agreed with it.

■ **MIAMI** — Jose Canseco was ordered to jail to await a hearing on whether he violated probation by testing positive for steroids. The former American League MVP was being held without bond until a July 21 hearing. He had been under house arrest for earlier violating his probation stemming from a nightclub brawl and was arrested Friday on the results of a June 3 drug test. State prison spokesman Sterling Ivey has said Canseco recently tested positive for steroids. Canseco, who retired from baseball last year, was charged with his twin brother, Ozzie, for the 2001 brawl in Miami Beach. He was sentenced to probation after pleading guilty last year.

TENNIS

■ **NEWPORT, R.I.** — Gladys Heldman, whose work in covering and promoting women's tennis helped pave the way for the start of the women's pro tour in the United States, has died at age 81. Heldman died Sunday at her home in New Mexico, the International Tennis Hall of Fame announced. Heldman became involved in tennis after her 1942 marriage to former U.S. Junior Champion Julius Heldman. In 1953, she founded World Tennis magazine, and for over two decades, she was a leading promoter of women's tennis. She was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1979 for her work on behalf of the sport.

GOLF

■ **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, Ontario** — Defending champion Sergio Garcia won four skins worth \$60,000 to take the lead on the first day of the Telus Skins Game. Ian Leggatt of Canada, who is playing in the event for the first time, won two skins worth \$35,000 while Vijay Singh had one for \$15,000. John Daly was shut out. The second nine holes at the par-73, 7,212-yard Royal Niagara Golf Club will be Tuesday.

COLLEGE SPORTS

■ **NEW YORK** — UCLA softball star Natasha Watley was honored as the Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year, winning the Honda-Broderick Cup. Watley, a senior shortstop who led UCLA to the NCAA championship, will play in the Pan American Games this summer, then try out for the Olympic team that will seek a third straight gold medal in Athens next summer. Watley batted .440 in the Women's College World Series. For the season, she hit .481 with 10 homers, scored 64 runs and stole 35 bases. She had more than 100 hits in a season for the third time and a career average of .450, seventh best in NCAA history.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Photos of Streisand's estate a matter of 'public concern'

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A photographer Barbra Streisand is suing for putting photos of her Malibu estate on the Internet asked a court to dismiss the entertainer's action on grounds that it infringes on his right to free expression.

Lawyers for Kenneth Adelman also said in documents filed Monday that his photo of the property, along with more than 12,000 other aerial images posted on a Web site, "address a matter of serious public concern — the preservation of the California coastline."

A Superior Court hearing on the motion was scheduled for July 14.

Streisand's lawsuit, filed May 20, seeks \$10 million from Adelman and others for violating her right to privacy by identifying routes to enter her property and providing details on the residence's features that can't be seen from a public vantage point.

Others named in her complaint include Adelman's Web service, Layer42.net, and Pictopia, a photo agency that distributes his work.

The lawsuit asks the defendants to stop disseminating the photographs, saying they use "enhanced technology" and deprive the 61-year-old "of the economic value of the use of the images of her property and residence."

Adelman has said his California Coastal Records Project Web site, californiacoastline.org, provides an aerial photography survey of the coast for scientists and other researchers.

"No California court has ever restrained or punished the publication of an aerial photograph that merely depicts a neighborhood and the exteriors of prominent homes," according to Adelman's motion.

■ **NEW YORK** — Snoop Dogg isn't wild about "Girls Gone Wild" anymore.

The rapper, who appeared as the host on one of the raunchy strip videos, told The Associated Press he's done with the series because it doesn't feature women of color.

"If you notice, there hasn't been no girls of (ethnicity) at all on none of those tapes," Snoop Dogg complained during a recent interview. "No black girls, no Spanish girls — all white girls, and that (stuff) ain't cool, because white girls ain't the only hos that get wild."

Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, said he plans to do his own version of "Girls Gone Wild" to "bring some flavor to the table" — and to satisfy women of color waiting for their chance to go topless for the camera.

"They've been complaining to me like crazy," the 31-year-old rapper said. "They think I like the white girls because I'm on there with them, and I don't, I just did that for money."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Hollywood celebrities led by actor-director Tim Robbins called on Gov. Gray Davis not to slash funding for public arts programs, saying children would suffer most and the money would scarcely make a dent in closing the state's \$38.2 billion budget deficit.

The celebrities, joined by entertainment executives, arts advocates and a Los Angeles school board member, presented a letter urging Davis to reconsider his proposed 73 percent cut in funding for programs in visual art, theater, film, dance, music, literature and arts in education.

"For the state to remove financing from arts organizations is going to be disastrous," Robbins said at a news conference Monday at the Actors' Gang Theater in Hollywood.

"You should make a connection between this cutting of arts programs and the fact that the people that are going to suffer most from it are going to be children," Robbins said.

Davis spokeswoman Hilary McLean said his critics should look at his record in arts funding and "the big picture."

"There aren't good choices," she said. "The governor would personally rather not be cutting any funding for the arts. This is a year in which we just don't have

enough money to do all the things we want to do."

■ **SAN DIEGO** — A 25-year-old man accused of selling tickets to a nonexistent concert by Icelandic singer Bjork pleaded guilty to grand theft.

Aleso Conate, who pleaded Monday, is likely to receive probation and credit for time served when he's sentenced July 22.

Conate will be turned over to authorities from San Luis Obispo, where he was wanted on a warrant for violating probation and an elder abuse conviction, officials said.

During a preliminary hearing in April, police Detective James Borg testified that Conate had duped the manager of a small San Diego nightclub into believing that Bjork had agreed to perform there on Jan. 15.

He allegedly sold at least \$9,000 worth of bogus tickets at \$40 each, before fleeing to Hawaii. Conate was arrested in late January in Honolulu, after authorities learned he spent about \$1,900 tipping female dancers in an adult club.

■ **BOSTON** — Green Monster, meet The Boss.

For the first time in history, Fenway Park, a shrine to the Red Sox faithful, may be used as a venue for a major rock concert — and the featured performer is Bruce Springsteen.

"We know what Fenway means to the people of Boston and are very appreciative to the Boston Red Sox for the opportunity to play at this great symbol of the city of Boston," Springsteen's manager, Jon Landau, said in a statement.

Also announced Monday were concerts in three other major league ballparks: Chicago's U.S. Cellular Field, Detroit's Comerica Park and Milwaukee's Miller Park. Concerts at stadiums in Chapel Hill, N.C., and in Buffalo, N.Y., also were announced.

Springsteen, 53, is in the midst of a tour that began in August 2002 and will extend to the end of September. Nearly 3 million tickets have been sold, according to his publicists.

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