

FREE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 194

Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.

Down with the old...



W. Scott Berry/Special to the Daily Press
Margot Alofsin, chair of the city's landmarks commission, looks over the debris of a 1920's-era Sunset Park home on the corner of Euclid and Cedar Streets last week that was torn down to make way for a new, larger two-story home. Ironically, the homeowner had a 'No Historic Districts' sign posted in the front lawn for a month before the home was demolished.



Promenade merchants furious at SM City Hall

Retailers frustrated with city's enforcement of Promenade panhandlers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Retailers on the Third Street Promenade are fed up with transients sleeping in front of their stores, chasing tourists away and creating foul smells.

But even more, they are tired of their complaints falling on deaf ears in City Hall. Merchants say city officials won't respond to a problem that has manifested into the serious degradation of the Promenade's business climate.

About 50 retailers, property owners and

restaurateurs met last week with Bayside District Corp. representatives and the Santa Monica Police Department to air their grievances regarding public safety and maintenance on the Promenade.

The Bayside District oversees the outdoor mall and serves as a bridge between private business and the public sector.

However, not one city official came to the meeting, which affirmed retailers' suspicions that the current city government is not willing to do anything about the high number of transients in Santa Monica.

"I don't care how busy they are, I'm tired of coming to these meetings without any city representation," said Promenade property owner Ernie Kaplan. "Who are they? We elect them. We pay them, why

See MERCHANTS, page 6

Lawsuits may be interesting but unnecessary

Jurors growing tired of unsettled cases

BY DAVE DANFORTH
Daily Press Staff Writer

At the start of court last Wednesday, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Robert Letteau tried to put his jurors at ease. The 3-day trial should produce "kind of an interesting case," he said. Evaluating it would be "relatively easy." He reassured their obvious skepticism by assuring them the case hadn't settled for "legitimate" reasons.

But by Monday, the judge had changed

his tune. With the jury out of earshot, he became miffed enough to threaten a mistrial over a sticky issue in the jury instructions which might turn a 3-day case into a 10-week one.

Letteau's growing irritation might have paled compared to that of some of the jurors. Nobody could blame them for continuing to wonder why the case, over a 1999 fire which broke out in the Culver City home of a graphic artist, hadn't been long since settled. Indeed, the judge himself told the lawyers at one point that he didn't think it was possible to determine why the fire started.

Down the hall, in the courtroom of Judge Linda Lefkowitz, a similar scenario

was unfolding. During jury selection, one potential panelist wondered aloud why the case, a personal injury claim by a 60-year-old set designer, hadn't settled. Judge Lefkowitz was left to hum the same tune as Judge Letteau: telling potential jurors that a case hadn't settled for good reason without actually telling them why.

It is a familiar story to jurors, who, many observers say, are growing increasingly impatient that their service is required — at \$15 a day — over injury and damage liability cases which they believe should have been settled.

More worrisome is the prospect that jurors could hold one side or the other responsible for their indentured servitude,

swinging the outcome of the trial. The two-part nature of liability cases almost appears too inviting to pass up — declare they can't find fault, and jurors won't have to sit through more proceedings to award damages.

Judge Letteau felt compelled to bring the issue to the surface Monday immediately before closing arguments were to begin.

The issue of juror malcontent has spawned proposals for change, but few can say whether they will work or not. One change involves the "one-day, one-trial" system. Rather than have a potential juror on the hook repeatedly for jury service by

See LAWSUITS, page 3

Home prices in California surge 25.5 percent

BY SIMON AVERY
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Statewide home prices soared to a new record in May, increasing 25.5 percent from a year earlier during a flurry of buying and selling activity, according to industry figures released Tuesday.

The median price of an existing single-family, detached home in California hit \$321,130 last month, up from \$255,860 in May 2001, the California Association of Realtors reported.

It was the third consecutive month when the median state price topped \$300,000.

Housing experts warned that there will likely be no relief in pricing as the peak summer buying period begins.

"While we don't expect home sales to maintain this frenetic pace, the state's ongoing shortage of affordable

homes for sale will continue to exert upward pressure on the median price," said Leslie Appleton-Young, CAR's chief economist.

Sales of existing homes increased by 22.7 percent last month compared to the year-ago period.

Closed escrow sales totaled 620,300 in May at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate. That compares with 505,590 a year earlier, CAR said.

The sales figures represent what the total number of homes sold during the entire year would be if sales maintained the May pace.

The state housing market continues to draw strength from near record-low mortgage interest rates and from a tight supply of affordable properties.

Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged

See HOUSING, page 8

The ten communities with State's highest median home prices

By The Associated Press

The 10 cities and communities with the highest median home prices in California during May 2002:

- Malibu, \$995,000.
- Pacific Palisades, \$872,750.
- Beverly Hills, \$863,750.
- Palos Verdes Estates, \$860,000.
- Manhattan Beach, \$849,500.
- Mill Valley, \$835,000.
- San Marino, \$811,500.
- Orinda, \$779,000.
- Lafayette, \$761,250.
- Coronado, \$740,000.

Source: California Association of Realtors

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Understand what motivates a boss, and you might be able to avoid a problem. Kowtow if need be, but understand just where you're going. Others prove to be far more responsive if they see you as a friend rather than someone challenging. Tonight: A midweek get-together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Detach from immediate reactions to the past few days and take an overview. Someone offers you a deal. You won't want to say no to an associate who means a lot to you. Accept responsibility for a final decision. It is how you say no that counts. Tonight: Go till the wee hours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Listen to an associate, and help this person sort out his or her options. You might not be exactly sure what is acceptable. Listen carefully to feedback that comes your way. Important news heads in late in the day. Prepare to work late, or at least be on the phone. Tonight: Do what you must.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You finally feel justified, as others confirm a similar experience or perspective. Your positive attitude helps others understand where you have been coming from. Effective communication is a must. Schedule a late meeting. Tonight: Talk turkey.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Get into work, clearing out paperwork. You will find that staying focused could take a lot of talent. Don't push limits with an associate. Be easygoing. Give that extra 100 percent with another. A secret you hear or that someone lets out should be kept mum. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ A meeting proves to be strategic and/or lucky. Run with the ball once it's dropped in your lap. You have the wherewithal now to make what you want happen. A key individual in your life supports you and cheers you on. Tonight: Clear out your errands first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Deal with your family, but also make time for an important authority figure in your life. Your diplomatic talents are tested. You know what you want and where you're heading. Carefully consider your options with a child or loved one. Tonight: Make time to enjoy a loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ How you see a variable situation could change because of news from a distance or, perhaps, because of some office gossip. You feel optimistic about a trip or vacation in the near future. Start talking about possibilities with someone you care about. Tonight: A relaxing night at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Know what you want when discussing a ballpark figure for work. Another might be too extravagant. Be willing to discuss what is workable for you. Others might need some time to think through a decision. Give it to them. Tonight: Join a pal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your personality draws others to you. You have many more options than you might be aware of. Work with others and help them establish more of what they want. A financial matter gets tossed onto your plate. Who is surprised? Tonight: Pay bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be unusually discreet, for you, during the early day. You're also focused on getting your job done. A lot seems to be happening quite quickly. Remain comfortable with your talents and abilities as you clear out work. Tonight: You're top dog.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others get together. You're more than happy to join your pals, be it work associates or personal friends. A loved one or a child does whatever he or she can to make your path easier. Get as much done as possible. Tonight: Do your thing!

QUOTE of the DAY

"Here's to our wives and sweethearts — may they never meet."
— John Bunney (1866-1939)

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Woman kicks attacker, escapes threat

By Daily Press staff

■ A woman successfully escaped being robbed at knife point recently after she kicked her assailant.

The 20-year-old woman was walking in the 300 block of Washington Avenue when she was approached by the suspect at about 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. The suspect showed the woman a knife and demanded her purse.

She kicked the suspect, and when he fell to the ground, the woman ran home and called police.

The suspect is a white male about 45 years old, six feet and eleven inches tall, 160 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a long sleeve blue shirt, and appeared to be a transient.

Lt. Frank Fabrega of the Santa Monica Police Department says that "Police do not recommend you fight with a subject that is holding a weapon."

■ Santa Monica police were called to Santa Monica High School Wednesday, June 12 after school officials apprehended a student carrying marijuana at 7:15 a.m.

Police issued a citation to the student for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

■ Two men parked in the 1550 beach parking lot were held up and robbed of their cell phones.

The two men were talking in their car at 5:41 a.m. on Sunday, June 16 when two men approached their car and began talking to them. The first suspect grabbed the driver by his shirt through the open window, pulled him from the car and took the cell phone from the driver's shirt pocket. Both suspects then went to the passenger and stole his phone too.

Both suspects fled in a truck parked nearby, which is described as a black Mazda pick-up.

Juror discontent rising in injury liability cases

LAWSUITS, from page 1

remaining in an available "pool," jurors not chosen to serve on a panel the first day would be excused for the next year.

Another reform, which has attracted debate, involves curtailing the length of questions during jury selection. It is this process which doubly irritates some. First summoned to show up with scores of others, potential jurors then must sit through questions about a particular case designed to ferret out their prejudices. Then, having stewed while waiting for the "voir dire" process to end, they are passed over, left for another possible jury another day.

Judge Letteau actually apologized to potential jurors last week for inadvertently keeping them waiting while he spoke with attorneys. It would never happen again, he pledged.

Some believe that changing expectations are at the root of juror discontent.

"There's a sophistication level now that they know insurance is involved and they know most of these cases settle," said Josiah Boggs, a defense attorney in the case before Judge Lefkowitz. That has underlined the need for judges to warn potential jurors against wondering why cases don't settle and why an insurance companies don't own up.

Yet the insurance question cuts both ways, Boggs added.

"It used to be that they'd say 'insurance can pay,'" he noted. "Now, they worry that their premiums might go up."

If jurors have to stew, at least they can do so in comfort. The Santa Monica Courthouse is renovating the juror waiting room — where multiple potential jurors have to hang out before the jury-picking starts. The makeover is scheduled to be complete in July and the architects' rendering suggests it should compete with a world class airport lounge.

Whether the case before Judge Letteau is actually as interesting as he suggests also will be up to the jurors. Jeffrey Ganz, 41, a lifelong graphic artist and musician, is suing landlord Clarence Taylor. Ganz claims the 1999 fire which destroyed much of his work and took the life of his dog was due to an electrical flaw at the home.

Taylor's lawyers say Ganz was at least partly to blame by overloading the circuits or building shelves which might have involved driving a screw into a conduit.

The other case in Judge Lefkowitz's courtroom involves Ildefonso Goris, a "greensman" who had risen to the top of his profession designing outdoor sets when an accident on the set of a May 2000 commercial injured him. He's suing Jackson Shrub Supply, which is suggesting that Goris hurried its employees into unloading a bin of sand that broke the lift-gate of its truck.



Surf looks flat. Northwest wind and ground swell continues to miss local spots, southwest exposures mostly. Expect average waves to measure knee high.

Negative low tides wash out dawn patrol, but Venice and Porto will offer inconsistent waist-highs midmorning.

Weather reports predict increasing wind swell Thursday.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	A
Zuma	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	A
Surfrider	0-1'/Poor	0-1'/Poor	A
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	A
Breakwater	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
Tides:	5:40 a.m. Low / 1.03'	12:16pm High / 3.65'	4:42pm Low / 2.40'
			10:46pm High / 5.88'



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Last week Santa Monica's Recreation and Parks Committee recommended the city council ban smoking in all 15 of its public parks. Beverly Hills declared its parks smoke-free zones two years ago and Los Angeles is currently moving forward with plans to do the same. Meanwhile, recent scientific studies suggest second-hand smoke contains far more carcinogens than previously believed.

This week's Q-Line question is, "Can you think of any reason Santa Monica should not completely ban smoking in its parks?"

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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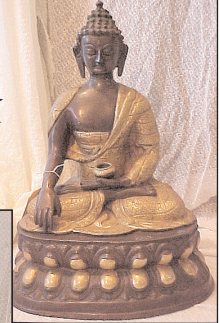
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OPINION

LETTERS

Library vital to city

Editor:

It is reported that the library is experiencing difficulties finding a two-year, substitute location to house its entire stocks of books, magazines, computers and word processors. Consequently, it may be forced to settle for smaller quarters, holding only a fraction of its vital materials.

The huge number of people who depend on all this will be placed in painful situations — unable to get the computers, books, reference books, etc. they require — for two long years. To realize how vital the existing library is just look at the Sunday 1 p.m. line of folks who want to use the main library. Often that line extends around the corner.

The loss of \$1.5 million, then, I hope will persuade the library to make more modest changes, those that will not shut it for two years or more.

Joanne Gamlin
Santa Monica

In response to accusations of inaccuracies

Editor:

Bea Nemlaha contended in her letter published on June 25 that there are several misleading statements in a flyer recently distributed by Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation ("HVP"). However, it is her statements that are inaccurate.

First, Ms. Nemlaha disputed HVP's statement that the Landmarks Commission can take control of your home without your consent. She states that the "Landmarks Commission controls nothing." Try telling that to the owner of 224 18th Street who has been prevented for almost a year from demolishing an old dilapidated house solely because of the Landmarks Commission. Or the owners of 1304 Cedar Street and 249 Euclid who were threatened with structure of merit designations, escaping only after extensive vocal neighborhood opposition.

Second, Ms. Nemlaha objects to the flyer's assertion that "all single family homes are under siege." She asserts that only 40-year-old homes are the only ones which are ever restricted from demolition or substantial remodeling. Setting aside for a moment the fact that most homes in Santa Monica were built before 1962, a historic district affects all homes in the district, not just those with historic or architectural value.

Third, as stated in the flyer, HVP strongly believes that the Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative is "vital to homeowners rights and property values in our city." Ms. Nemlaha disagrees, stating that property values have been enhanced by ordinances such as the Landmarks Ordinance and that the ordinance is no more dangerous to property rights than zoning laws.

I believe that in some areas, such as West Adams, property values have been enhanced by historic preservation laws; however, I do not agree that this will be the effect in Santa Monica. (In fact, a large sale north of Montana recently fell through solely because of the impact of the Landmarks Ordinance.) In any event, the point of the Initiative is to simply allow people to make their own choices about their homes. If historical designation will enhance property values, that argument should be made in the context of that choice, not as an excuse for allowing the city to decide what is best.

The notion that the Landmarks Ordinance is nothing more than a form of zoning is fallacious. Zoning laws apply equally to everyone, which is why courts will not permit individual parcels to be zoned differently from surrounding parcels — referred to in the law as "spot zoning." However, this is precisely what the ordinance allows. Instead of all property owners being permitted to participate in the debate about generally applicable zoning laws, individual parcels are singled out for selected treatment.

Fourth, Ms. Nemlaha states her "understanding" that the few homeowners negatively affected financially were "small developers in for a quick-turn profit." Whether this is relevant or not, it is not my understanding of the facts. However, the point of the Initiative is to prevent homeowners from being affected without their consent. I know several homeowners who acquired their homes many years ago and are not wealthy. The impact of the Landmarks Ordinance is that those homes will undoubtedly lose significant value if a buyer cannot be confident that the old home can be replaced by something more in keeping with modern tastes.

Of course, real estate values fluctuate with the strength of the economy, interest rates and a myriad of other factors, including zoning regulations. And of course, there are no guarantees that homes will ultimately sell for any particular price, or for even the price they might sell for today. But there is something that should be guaranteed — that certain homeowners will not be singled out for disparate treatment simply because some government agency thinks it beneficial, particularly when the risk of loss falls on the individual, not the government.

Opponents of the initiative have only one simple theme — trust us to know what's good for you. I don't.

Tom Larmore
Santa Monica

See LETTERS, page 5

OPINION LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

Disgusted with parks and rec board

Editor:

I'm thoroughly disgusted with Santa Monica's Parks and Recreation Commission. At their recent meeting, they recommend banning smoking in all public parks, then they approved a location for a skatepark that most of them don't like.

While they are so concerned about the public's health in regard to smoking, they ignore the consequence of our city's many drunks and transients who urinate and defecate in the parks on a daily basis. While that "health hazard" is ignored, we ban smoking — but not completely. The parks and recs chair suggested that Palisades Park not be included because tourists who come into town on buses might need a cigarette after a long ride. What sense does that make?

What really upsets me is their recommending to city council to approve a location for a new \$560,000 skate park in Memorial Park.

Skateboarding originated in Santa Monica's Ocean Park area — sometimes referred to as "Dogtown" in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Skateboarders used Ocean Park streets, beach parking lots near Pacific Ocean Park and Cactus Park for their sport.

The city's staff report warns that the beach would be a "bad location" for a skatepark because the City of Santa Barbara took 10 years to get Coastal Commission approval for their beachfront skatepark. The truth is that the city council in Santa Barbara debated the skatepark for eight years before approving it and sending it to the Coastal Commission for their OK. When Santa Monica wanted a transit mall it received Coastal Commission approval within a year and a half. So, comments about a beach skatepark taking too long to be approved is typical city bull.

The thought that a second \$560,000 skatepark would be built at a later time on the beach is like waiting for the city to fix-up another beachfront recreational facility: 415 PCH. Not in my lifetime.

Most of the commissioners agreed that Memorial Park was not the best location for a skatepark but felt that it could be completed at 14th and Olympic quicker than on the beach. But what is the rush all of a sudden? One of skateboarding's founders, Tony Alva, advised the commissioners, "Don't rush it. Do it right."

One commissioner suggested taking a few months and poll skateboarders and others as to what they wanted but another commissioner cut off debate by suggesting that it was not necessary to wait or find the best location. This was a good idea that was ignored.

The parks and recreation commission needs to stop showing its ignorance and do its job. Supervising public health is not their job. Finding the best place for a skatepark is and it should be at Cactus Park.

Chuck Allord
Santa Monica

Smoking ban makes sense

Editor:

I strongly support the city proposal to ban smoking in public parks. This measure is not only good for public health, but will keep our parks clean. I would like to see this ordinance enacted further, as Councilman Richard Bloom is proposing. Aside from obvious negativities, smoking presents an environmental concern. Every year, cigarette butts continue to be the number one source of litter found in the Santa Monica Bay. By enacting a citywide ordinance, Santa Monica would benefit from a cleaner environment on both land and water. This sustainable proposal deserves our support.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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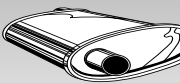
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LOCAL

Merchants: panhandlers chase away our shoppers

MERCHANTS, from page 1

the hell aren't they doing their job?"

It's widely known that Santa Monica is a safe haven for vagrants because city government views people's civil rights equally. But critics say elected officials fail to enact laws that prevent vagrants and panhandlers from disrupting business. Other cities don't have high transient populations and merchants wonder why Santa Monica can't pass tougher laws to protect businesses, which are the bread and butter for the local tourism economy.

Some say Santa Monica caters to transients by allowing them to loiter and be fed in public parks by outside church groups.

"We are the dumping grounds for every other city," said Ye Old Kings Head bar owner Phil Ewell, whose statement generated applause from the group. "Why should we be taking care of everybody? The proportion is out of control for the size of our city."

Up to 75 vagrants sleep on the Promenade each night, and many of them defecate and urinate in doorways of businesses. Once they are awoken by police at about 6:30 a.m., they spread out and begin their day panhandling tourists.

"We are not going to be able to survive if we continue to go downhill like this," said Bayside Executive Director Kathleen Rawson. "Our long term vitality is at stake and we don't know how many people won't come back."

It's not just out of town visitors that aren't returning to the Promenade. Ewell said locals won't even shop on the Promenade anymore because they fear for their safety. They also don't want to be hassled by beggars and think it smells "like piss," according to one merchant.

"We've lost our local voters," Ewell said. "They don't shop in their own city."

Among the many horror stories that were shared, Ewell described a recent incident in which a tourist witnessed a panhandler urinate on a seat in Centre Court and then told the tourist she wasn't going to leave the area until she made "50 bucks."

Another merchant said a customer from the Midwest came into his store two weeks ago saying he was physically threatened by a transient outside the store. The visitor asked him to do something, but the merchant doesn't feel he has any support from city officials to do anything.

"He is looking to me to do something so he can enjoy his public space," the merchant said.

Steve Meltzer, owner of Puppitolio on Second Street, said the behavior allowed on the Promenade has created an atmos-

phere that not only is unsettling to visitors but has created unrest with merchants.

"Visitors are blown away by what goes on here and we lose sight of that because we get used to it," he said, adding the city's inaction shows local government is not adequately representing the will of the people. "What we are doing for (the homeless) is actually destructive and enabling; not being sensitive and socially concerned. I think the time has come for something to be done."

Mike Ayoub, owner of Gift Time on the Promenade, has gotten nearly 100 merchants to sign a petition lobbying the Santa Monica City Council to address the problem.

"We the retailers of the Third Street Promenade, want to make the Bayside District Corporation and the city aware of how the lack of cleanliness, the vagrant problem and the noise from the street performers is driving our business away," the petition reads. "Our sales figures are down 20 percent. More and more people are disgusted with the idea of coming to the Promenade because of the element of people they find in the streets. It is not inviting."

"It is up to the city to create and enforce laws that do not allow vagrants to just hang out in the most viable shopping area in Santa Monica," the petition continues. "We the retailers, feel that the city needs to focus on the business community."

However, as Santa Monica Police Sgt. Calisse Lindsey pointed out to the group, the Promenade is a public street and it's everyone's right to be there. And the police can only do so much — officers enforce the laws that are on the books and the department will never have enough resources to bust every panhandler and drug dealer on the Promenade.

"Homelessness is not a crime, sorry," she said. "It's public property and people can sit on a bench all day long."

One merchant wondered aloud whose rights the city is protecting.

"Is the city pro business or not pro business?" he asked. "From what I've seen, they are not pro business."

Even though a few suggestions were debated on how to solve the problem, merchants walked away from the meeting clearly frustrated that their grievances most likely will not be addressed.

Rawson said their best recourse is to flood City Hall with formal complaints that outline specific incidents to show there is a problem.

"This is the political will of our current city council," she said. "This is an election year, people will start to notice."

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STATE



Feds to pay farmers to uproot their grape vines

BY KIM BACA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — The federal government has agreed to pay raisin farmers in California's San Joaquin Valley to uproot their vines or prune them back in order to reduce the crop and raise depressed raisin prices.

Raisin farmers are expected to prune or yank out about 8,000 acres of grapevines. Richard Garabedian, Raisin Administrative Committee chairman, said the vine-pull program will help California's 5,000 raisin growers by encouraging higher prices for raisins.

"In the past two years, the prices have been so bad that a lot of farmers are losing their ranches," he said. "Some banks are refusing to lend ... because they are afraid they are not going to get paid back."

California, primarily the San Joaquin Valley, supplies most of the nation's raisins, producing about 40 percent of the world crop. But prices have dropped because of imports from Turkey, Iran, Greece, Chile, Australia and South Africa, where labor costs are lower, said Stephen Vasquez, a farm adviser at the University of California.

The acreage of grapes planted has remained at 280,000 for the past decade. But growers who once sold fruit to gro-

cery stores, or the juice or wine industries, have shifted to raisins because of escalating labor and other costs.

The vine-removal program will help growers like 80-year-old Harry Rustigian of Fowler, who makes about \$540 for a ton of raisins, though it costs him an average of \$800 a ton to grow them. In 2000, a grower received \$1,211 a ton.

This season, Rustigian and other growers will get federal payments from the Raisin Administrative Committee if they prune their vines by July 31. They will get a bonus if they pull out the vine completely, Garabedian said. It takes a grapevine three years to produce grapes. The amount of the payments has not been determined.

While vine-pull programs are relatively common, this is the first time it has been requested and approved this late in the season, which ends in three months.

The USDA approved the committee's request because of declining shipments of raisins in the country in the past seven years, department spokesman George Chartier said. About 366,000 tons of raisins were shipped in the nation in 1994, compared with 295,000 tons in 2001. But about 400,000 tons of raisins are expected to be harvested through September.

Last year's crop was 373,000 tons. In 2000, raisin producers had their largest crop to date, about 433,000 tons.

Timber gives \$105K to Davis, industry tax killed

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Gray Davis blocked a \$22 million tax on the timber industry this spring, just months after five timber companies and a trade group donated a combined \$105,000 to his re-election campaign, it was reported Tuesday.

Timber company representatives and aides to the Democratic governor denied a link between the contributions and Davis' opposition to the proposed tax increase. Some environmental groups accused Davis of yielding to campaign contributors, but Davis officials and legislators from logging areas said the tax would have hurt struggling companies.

Davis is already under fire for fundraising practices critics say create the impression of a "pay to play" administration. The findings reported in the Los Angeles Times could add to the controversy and provide ammunition to Davis' opponent in November, Republican businessman Bill Simon.

The nonpartisan legislative analyst's office, which advises the Legislature on the budget, proposed in February imposing new fees on timber companies to cover the cost of reviewing logging permits and enforcing compliance with timber harvest plans. The fees would have cost timber companies \$22.1 million.

The state faces a \$23.6 billion budget deficit, and the timber tax hike, embraced by some Democratic lawmakers, was put forth as a way to close it.

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection opposed the proposal in April and Davis left it out of the revised budget proposal he issued in May.

Sen. Wes Chesbro, D-Arcata, who represents the state's largest timber-producing county and opposed the tax, said Davis' opposition was key to killing it. Chesbro, of Humboldt County, sits on the budget conference committee.

Traditionally timber companies have supported Republicans, but after Davis' election in 1998 their money began to flow into his coffers.

California Forestry Association President David Bischel praised Davis as taking a "balanced" approach to issues surrounding the timber industry, which he said has been shrinking for years and can't afford more taxes.

The forestry association donated \$15,000 to Davis in March. Sierra Pacific Industries and Simpson Investment, a Seattle-based timber concern, along with two Oregon-based firms, donated a combined \$65,000 in March. Pacific Lumber Co. donated \$25,000 in February.

The timber industry's donations are a concern, said Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club.

"When a special interest is giving substantial campaign contributions, and the governor is not keeping his campaign commitments — which on forestry issues, he is not — you've got a very serious problem," he said.

The Sierra Club endorsed Davis in 1998 but has not yet taken a position in this election.

Some environmentalists are concerned opposition from timber and agricultural interests will keep the Davis administration from designating the coho salmon as a threatened or endangered species. Hearings on the issue are upcoming.

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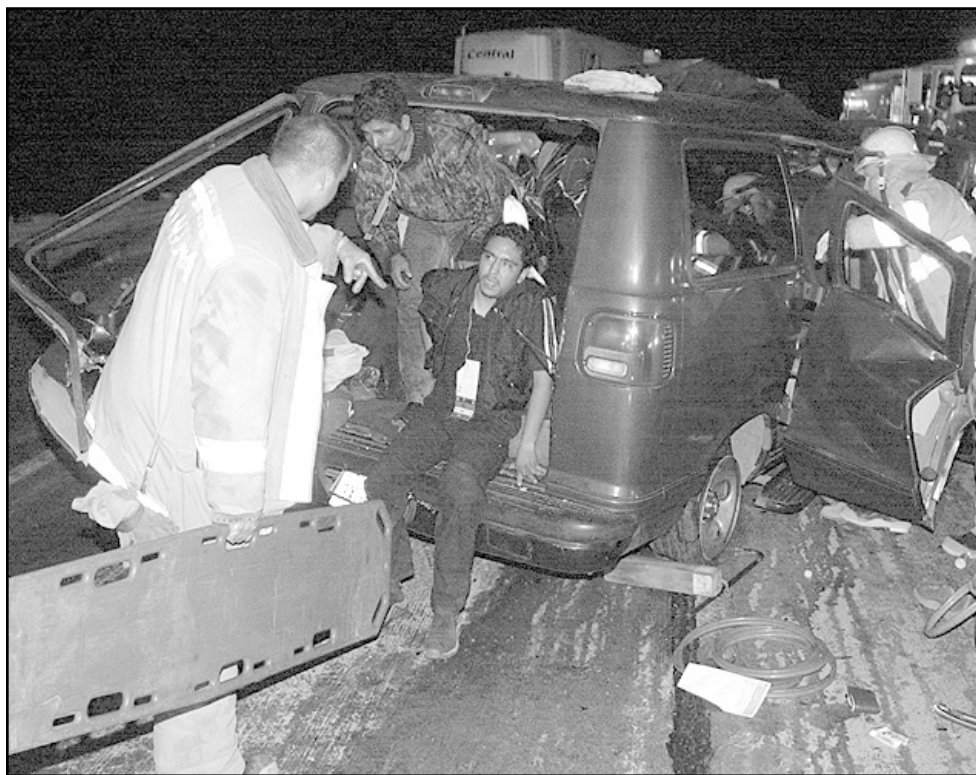
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STATE

Van carrying immigrants causes deadly Calif. crash



Rescue workers at the scene of a four-vehicle accident 50 miles east of San Diego Monday, June 24, 2002. Loaded with 33 illegal immigrants from Mexico and Brazil, the Dodge van at left sideswiped two cars and then collided with a Ford Explorer about 15 miles north of the Mexican border Monday night, the California Highway patrol said. Seven people were killed and 31 injured. The van was driving with its lights off into oncoming traffic apparently in an attempt by the driver to avoid an immigration checkpoint.

AP Photo/San Diego Union-Tribune, Jim Baird

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A van carrying 33 illegal immigrants smashed head-on into two other vehicles late Monday as it drove the wrong way on an interstate, apparently to avoid an immigration checkpoint. Seven people were killed and 31 others injured.

The Dodge van had been driving with its headlights off, apparently to avoid being seen, California Highway Patrol Officer Larry Landeros said Tuesday.

Loaded with immigrants from Mexico and Brazil, the van was heading westbound in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 8 in a remote area about 45 miles east of San Diego when it sideswiped two cars and then collided head-on with a Ford Explorer about 9 p.m., California Highway Patrol Officer Larry Landeros said Tuesday.

The Explorer, driven by Larry S. Baca, 50, of Albuquerque, N.M., flew over a guardrail and down an embankment. Baca died at the scene.

The van then crashed head-on with a

1989 Toyota van before coming to rest across both lanes of the eastbound interstate.

The driver of the Dodge van and four passengers died at the scene, the highway patrol said. Their identities were not known since most people in the van did not carry any form of identification, Officer Steve Lopez said.

The highway patrol said a seventh person died early Tuesday, but it was not clear whether the person had been a passenger in the van or the Explorer, Lopez said.

A total of 31 people were taken to eight hospitals in San Diego County. Medical helicopters landed on the freeway to transport the victims.

Most of those hospitalized suffered minor to moderate injuries, Lopez said.

The area, about 15 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border, is commonly used by smugglers' vehicles that are overloaded with people.

Landers said the accident was "one of the worst that we've had."

The Border Patrol maintains a checkpoint on the interstate about 3 miles west of the accident site.

Home prices top \$300K for the past three months

HOUSING, from page 1

6.81 percent during May, down from 7.16 percent in May 2001, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Adjustable mortgage interest rates, meanwhile, averaged 4.79 percent, compared with 5.88 percent a year earlier.

Year-over-year prices rose in almost all areas of the state during May.

In the San Francisco Bay area, where the economy is still feeling the effects of the recession, the median price rose 13.6 percent to \$540,460.

In Los Angeles, the median home price climbed 18.1 percent to \$274,830. And in San Diego, it increased 26.3 percent to \$370,310.

CAR figures are based on closed escrow sales reported by more than 90 local real estate agent associations statewide.



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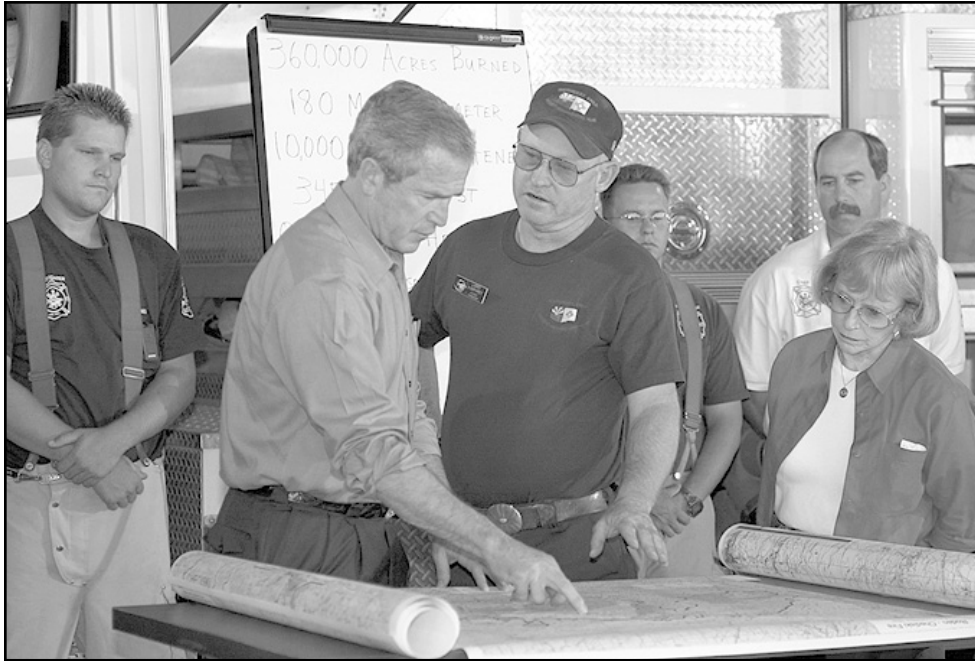
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NATIONAL



Susan Walsh/Associated Press

President Bush is briefed on the Arizona wildfire by incident commander Larry Humphrey, of the Bureau of Land Management, in hat, as Arizona Gov. Jane Hull, right, looks on at a hanger at the Springerville Babbitt Field in Springerville, Ariz., on Tuesday. Others in photo are unidentified.

The West's nightmare realized as wildfires leave hundreds homeless

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA
Associated Press Writer

PAYSON, Ariz. — In a year when forests are drier than cut wood, the West's worst fears are being realized across the region: Huge fires burning out of control at once. Tens of thousands evacuated. Hundreds left homeless. Fire crews fatigued and stretched thin as more blazes erupt.

It is unprecedented — and with summer not even a week old, it is unlikely to end anytime soon.

By this point in the 2000 fire season, the nation's worst in a half-century, 1.3 million acres had burned across the United States. This year, that number has topped 2.3 million.

In 2000, the worst fire of the season was the one that tore through Los Alamos, N.M., scorching about 43,000 acres and leveling 235 homes. This year, two fires burning simultaneously in Arizona and Colorado have burned almost a half-million acres and destroyed at least 462 homes.

"This much activity spread across this large an area that is threatening peoples' homes and communities is unprecedented," said Nancy Lull, a spokeswoman at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

The devastating fire season grew more dire this week as two explosive blazes linked in the mountains of Arizona, forming a 330,000-acre beast that destroyed at least 329 houses and forced 30,000 people from their homes in a half-dozen towns.

For the experts, this season is the culmination of years of warnings about forests thick with brush and other debris, about the dangers of building more and more homes farther into the woods, and about what can happen when drought is thrown into the mix.

For those the flames threaten, it is simply their worst nightmare come true.

"It wasn't a fear that it could materialize, but a certainty," Paula Harvey of Show Low, Ariz., said from an evacuation shelter this week. "We just hoped it would be somewhere else."

The fire season started months early because of a long drought. In early spring, with moisture levels in trees, grasses and brush at record lows, analysts already were warning that this could be one of the most dangerous fire seasons on record.

By May, 2,744 wildfires had scorched more than 100,000 acres in the West and Alaska. Over the past two months, that has grown to 9,700 fires across 1.8 million acres.

"It wasn't a fear that it could materialize, but a certainty."

— PAUL HARVEY
Show Low resident

Among the most damaging: a blaze southwest of Denver, which investigators say was set June 8 by a U.S. Forest Service employee. It quickly inflated to Colorado's largest wildfire ever, charring 137,000 acres and destroying 133 homes. Two weeks later, it is just 69 percent contained.

And now the Arizona fire, which began as two side-by-side blazes that merged on Sunday. A week after it began, the colossal fire was still raging out of control on a destructive march toward Show Low, the commercial hub of a region that relies on recreation and tourism in its pine-blanketed mountains.

What usually douses the Southwest fire season is the summer monsoon, which generally develops the first week of July in New Mexico and Arizona. But while the monsoon should arrive on time, it is not expected to bring the widespread rains necessary to significantly reduce the fire risk, said Tom Wordell, a fire analyst at the Idaho center.

Worse yet, the monsoon often is accompanied by lightning, which generally starts most wildland fires in the West. At least half of the fires in any given season in the Southwest occur after July 1.

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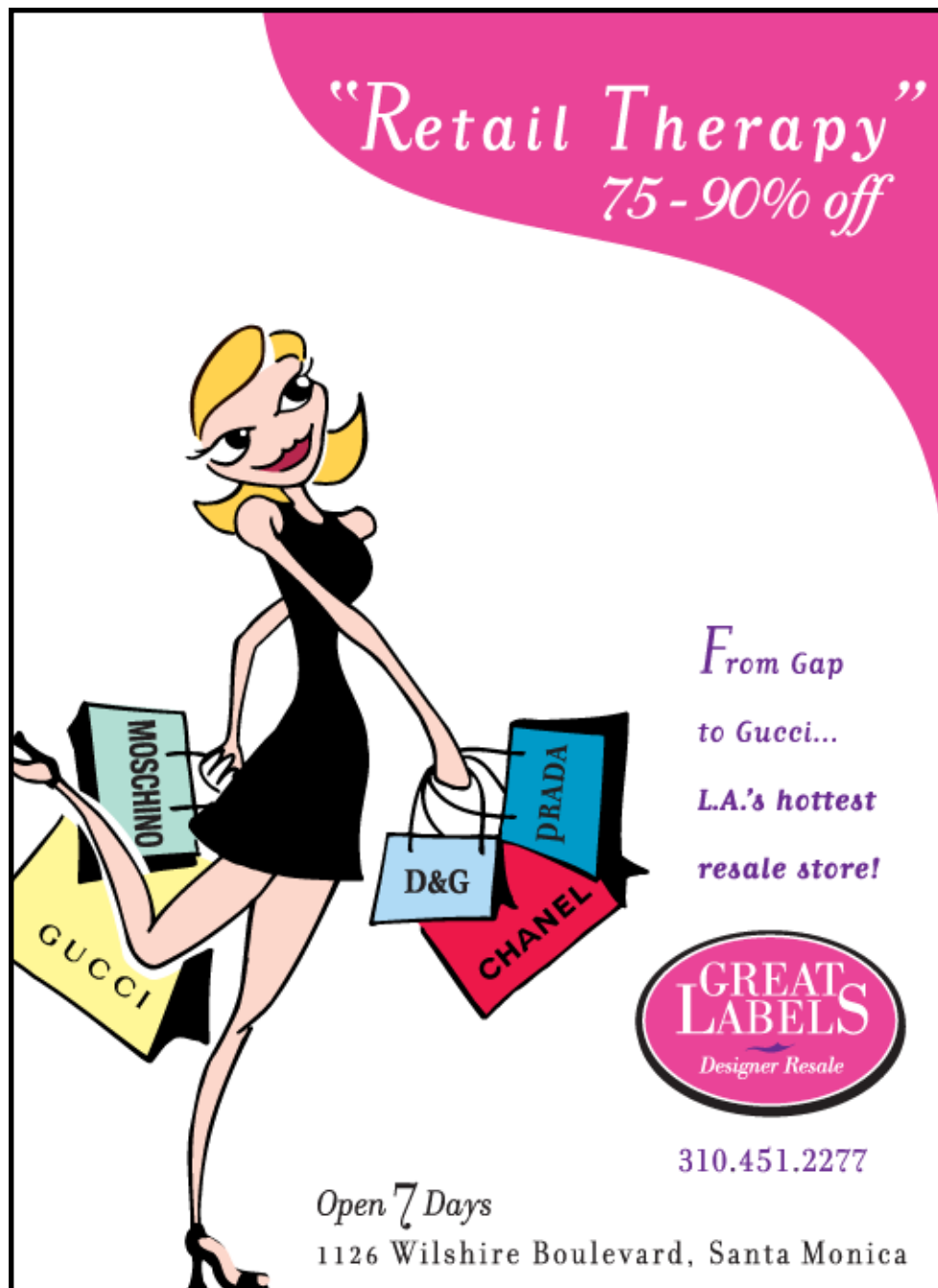
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NATIONAL

Five injured, two critically, in blast at chemical lab

BY SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press Writer

GROTON, Conn. — A chemical drum exploded Tuesday at the Pfizer Corp. research lab, injuring five people, two critically, authorities said.

The explosion happened at about 8:15 a.m. inside a small facility used to store chemicals for making batches of test pharmaceuticals, said Pfizer spokeswoman Liz Power.

The chemical drum smoldered, then exploded, setting off a fire that was contained to the metal building, Power said. She didn't know what chemical was in the drum or what caused it to blow up.

Two people were taken by helicopter to Bridgeport Hospital, said hospital spokesman John Capiello. Both were in

critical condition with burns over large parts of their bodies.

Three other people suffered less severe injuries and were treated at the plant's health center, Power said.

About 6,000 people are employed at the Groton facility. Four buildings in the complex were evacuated, Power said, and roads in the area were blocked off.

No residents were evacuated, and police said there was no danger to the community.

Marilyn Goodman, 56, who lives two blocks from the plant, was out walking her dog when she heard the blast.

"You hear loud sounds like that a lot ... a car backfiring. But when we heard the screams, there was no doubt something terrible had happened," she told The Day of New London.

Court rules allowing kids to sue in event of ski accident

By The Associated Press

DENVER — Parents of minors have no right to sign liability waivers for their children, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled, clearing the way for children to sue ski resorts for negligence once they turn 18.

In a case that could affect the state's entire recreation industry, the court said its Monday ruling was based a 1978 law and other statutes that give broad rights to children to file lawsuits once they reach majority age.

The justices overturned a lower-court ruling that would have barred lawsuits if a parent had signed a form acknowledging a sport's risk and waiving the right to sue in case of an accident.

"If this had been affirmed, the doors to the courthouse would be locked," said attorney Jim Chalot, who specializes in recreation accident cases.

"This will make skiing and all other sports in Colorado safer for children. It doesn't mean large awards," he said, noting that such negligence lawsuits are rare.

The Aspen Skiing Co., a defendant in the case, did not return a call seeking comment.

The decision stems from the case of David Cooper, who was 17 when he was training on a ski race course and crashed into a tree, suffering injuries including blindness

Both he and his mother had signed a release. The trial court found that his mother's signature bound him to the terms of the agreement, barring his claims against defendants that also included the Aspen Valley Ski Club and the U.S. Ski Association.

"This will make skiing and all other sports in Colorado safer for children. It doesn't mean large awards."

— JIM CHALOT
Attorney

The Court of Appeals affirmed the ruling.

The state Supreme Court said Colorado law affords minors significant protections that preclude a parent or guardian from releasing a minor's own claims for negligence.

While the case involved a ski company, attorneys said it would also apply to horseback riding, rafting, mountain climbing and any other sport involving children.

Illinois will borrow \$1B to pay \$1.22B in overdue bills

By The Associated Press

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. — Illinois will borrow about \$1 billion to help pay its bills, some of which are two to three months past due, Gov. George Ryan said.

Ryan said he expects a borrowing program to be in place by the end of this week. The short-term borrowing will not need legislative approval.

"We're doing our best," Ryan said Monday. "We're going to borrow the money and get the bills paid as quickly as we can."

The state owes \$1.22 billion in overdue bills to its vendors, particularly health care providers such as pharmacies and nursing homes that care for Medicaid patients.

Some haven't been paid for months because of the state's budget crisis, which forced lawmakers to make \$450 million in cuts earlier this month to close a \$1.35 billion deficit. The budget deal also raises \$230 million in cigarette taxes and increases riverboat casino taxes by \$130 million.

SPORTS



Seles makes short work of rookie

BY DENNIS PASSA

Associated Press Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — Silverware rattled as late lunchers nibbled in the Members' Enclosure high above Court 2. Before the main course arrived, Monica Seles had finished her first-round match.

The nine-time Grand Slam champion needed just 37 minutes to beat Spain's Eva Bes 6-0, 6-0 on one of the show courts at Wimbledon on Tuesday. Bes, making her Wimbledon debut, won just 15 points.

"I think she was having a hard time adjusting to grass," Seles said. "For my first match, I was happy to have an opponent like her."

Things got ugly for Bes late in the second set. When Seles broke at love in the fifth game, then won the first two points of the final game, the crowd let out a loud cheer for Bes after Seles' attempted backhand shot went wide.

Bes couldn't help but smile at the applause — and at her plight. Two points later, the match was over, Seles looking up and waving to two fans holding a "We Love You Monica" banner in the stands.

Seles said she has been struggling with a cold.

"I really didn't want to sweat too much," she said. "I haven't got to be as prepared as I want to be. But hopefully the matches will get tougher and tougher."

It is Seles' ninth appearance at Wimbledon, where her best finish was a loss in the final to Steffi Graf in 1992. Since being stabbed on court in 1993 and missing the next two years, she has won just one Grand

Slam — the 1996 Australian Open — and is seeded fourth this year.

"That made me the person that I am," Seles said of the long layoff. "Certain things you cannot forget. That changed the course of my career."

"There's no need to go back there day in, day out. That's part of me and that will always stay there."

Seles said she still believes she can win another Grand Slam.

"I definitely wouldn't be out here if I didn't," she said. "But you can't let your mind get too far ahead."

In her way stand the Williams sisters. But Seles said she doesn't feel slighted by the all the attention they're getting.

"I went through that in the early '90s," she said. "It's tough pressure when you're on top, and it's tough pressure when you're struggling with your game as we've seen with a few players."

"Venus and Serena deserve that honor. They've played very well coming into Wimbledon, being in the finals of the French and Serena winning it. So they are definitely the players to beat at this tournament."

At 28, Seles said she doesn't feel in any rush to retire.

"My main goal is to make sure I'm still enjoying it," she said. "I really am at a stage in my career where truly I'm playing it because I want to, for no one else, (not) for money, or for whatever else reasons."

"But at the same time, I look forward to the time when I can come to Wimbledon without the pressure of playing a match and practicing. Just really enjoying it."

First round shot



Alastair Grant/Associated Press

Michael Chang of the U.S., returns to Germany's Lars Burgmuller, during their Men's Singles, first round match at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Germany wins to end South Korea's world cup run

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — Only one thing could have stopped the singing, swaying sea of red. It came in the 75th minute off the foot of German midfielder Michael Ballack, no stranger to breaking hearts.

Ending the most improbable run in an upset-filled World Cup, Germany advanced to its record seventh final with a 1-0 victory over co-host South Korea on Tuesday night.

"It was absolutely fantastic," Germany defender Carsten Ramelow said. "We are proud to have beaten not only 11 Korean players but the 64,000 spectators."

South Korea didn't get to paint the nation red for yet another all-night celebration by its millions of devoted fans.

Instead, it was the Germans in white jerseys who repeatedly took victory laps at Seoul World Cup Stadium, thanks to the goal from Ballack off a rebound of his own shot. His game-winner came four days after he eliminated the United States with a goal on a header in the Germans' 1-0 victory in the quarterfinals.

Little was expected from this team, but now it will get a chance to win a fourth World Cup for its country — the first for a united German team — and get the respect accorded the West German champions of 1954, 1974 and 1990.

The Germans were just too experienced and well organized for South Korea, controlling the ball and doing most of the attacking to advance to Sunday's final against Brazil or Turkey in Yokohama, Japan.

Germany scored after Bernd Schneider intercepted Kim Tae-young's pass and sent it ahead to Oliver Neuville, who ran down the right flank, drawing two defenders. He went almost to the end of the field, then bent the ball back to the center.

Ballack, unmarked, charged toward the goal and his initial low, right-footed shot off the pass was saved by sliding goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae. But the hard rebound went right to Ballack, who volleyed in a left-footed shot from about 8 yards for his third goal of the tournament.

A month ago, South Korea's dream was just to win a World Cup game after going 0-10-4 in five previous appearances. But after beating Poland, Portugal, Italy and Spain, the "Red Devils" had hopes as large as the 40-by-60-yard South Korean flag unfurled during the national anthem. They were hoping to become the first team not from Europe or South America to play in a World Cup final.

Ballack's goal only silenced the crowd in the stands for a few seconds. The fans, almost all dressed in red, then resumed singing and cheering, hoping in vain for the equalizer. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was among them.

When it was over, many of the South Korean players collapsed, but seconds later they bounced back up.

Germany has never trailed in the tournament, outscoring opponents 14-1. While the Germans don't have a charismatic goal scorer like stars of the past, such as Gerd Mueller, Franz Beckenbauer or Juergen Klinsmann, they succeed nonetheless with their physical play and aerial dominance.

The crowd groaned when South Korea's last best chance,

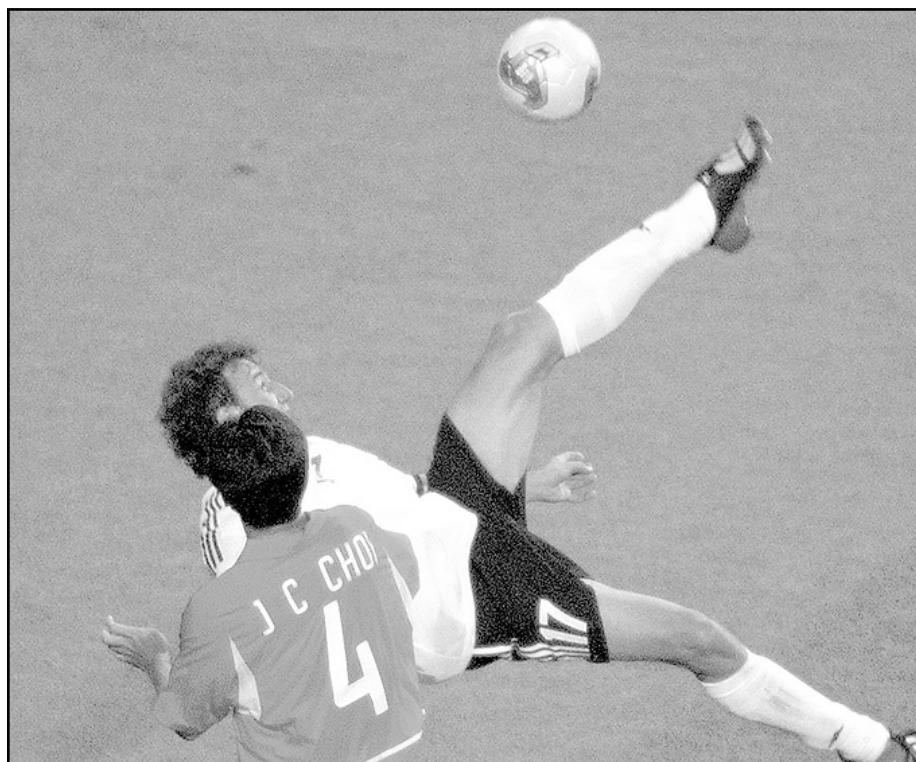
Park Ji-sung's shot in second-half injury time, went well high and wide right from the top of the penalty area.

South Korea, the first Asian team in the World Cup semifinals, will play in Saturday's third-place game in Daegu against the loser of Wednesday's semifinal in Saitama, Japan.

The South Korean players were all national heroes, and fans gave them a five-minute standing ovation after the final whistle. After they quickly headed to exchange jerseys with the Germans in a show of good sportsmanship, they went to each of the four sides of the stadium, lined up and saluted their supporters.

Hiddink was swarmed by fans when he climbed into the stands about an hour after the game.

"We can be proud of the boys and what we did," he said. "Not just tonight ... but the long run of the tournament."



Yun Jai-hyoung/Associated Press

Germany's Marco Bode attempts a scissor kick past South Korea's Choi Jin Cheul (4) during their 2002 World Cup semifinal soccer match at the Seoul World Cup stadium in Seoul, South Korea on Tuesday.

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INTERNATIONAL

Israel expands control over the West Bank

BY SUSAN SEVAREID

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops took over the seventh of the West Bank's eight major cities Tuesday, after President Bush laid out a peace plan widely interpreted here as an American nod of approval for an offensive that is confining at least 700,000 Palestinians to their homes.

Smoke billowed over Hebron when the Israeli army blew up a building within the fortress-like municipal compound. Israeli soldiers exchanged heavy gunfire with Palestinian police inside the compound throughout the day, and four officers were reported killed. Security officials said about 200 Palestinian officers had been detained.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat seemed the lone Palestinian optimist following Bush's Monday speech, saying the American president certainly wasn't referring to him in the call for Palestinians to elect new leaders who are "not compromised by terror."

Speaking to reporters at his Ramallah headquarters, Arafat said it was incorrect to conclude Bush's speech was critical of him, saying Bush had spoken about a Palestinian state and elections. Palestinians proudly carried out democratic elections in 1996, he said, repeating "democratic" three times for emphasis.

Asked if Bush's call for a change in leadership referred to him, Arafat said: "Definitely not."

In Washington, the State Department said U.S. diplomats had opened talks with Arab governments to seek support for Bush's plan to remove Arafat and push the

Palestinian Authority toward democratic reform. The president planned to discuss the plan with his counterparts at the Group of 8 summit in Canada.

Internationally, Bush's speech received words of praise, but his call for a change in Palestinian leadership got no endorsement from the European Union, the United Nations or Russia.

Asked if Bush's call for a change in leadership referred to him, Arafat said: "Definitely not."

Britain, a close U.S. ally, did not endorse the call either. In London, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told Parliament that if Arafat were re-elected, Britain would continue to work with him. Britain's Press Association news agency quoted Prime Minister Tony Blair as saying Palestinians would choose whom they wished, but it was important to have leaders "prepared to make a deal."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Palestinians must choose their own leaders. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana offered the bloc's assistance to the Palestinians in organizing elections.

Arafat aide Saeb Erekat said the Palestinian Authority would announce on Wednesday its reform plans and dates for municipal, legislative and presiden-



Nasser Nasser/Associated Press

A Palestinian security officer stands guard inside the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday.

tial elections.

Erekat shied from saying Bush had effectively endorsed the military operation, but said: "Sharon's endgame since he came to office has been to pursue the occupation."

Israel re-entered Palestinian areas in the West Bank after suicide bombers carried out back-to-back attacks that killed 26 Israelis. Israeli troops have met little resistance in the operation, which began a month after they wrapped up a six-week West Bank cam-

paign in which dozens of Palestinian militiamen were arrested or killed.

The only major West Bank town free of Israeli troops was Jericho, isolated in the Jordan Valley.

The army has barred journalists from all the key cities and towns it has entered, but the army escorted a group to the outskirts of Nablus near the Balata refugee camp Tuesday. The city was under curfew and looked largely deserted. A trench severed the road into town.

Passengers experience Tanzania's worst rail accident

BY ANDREW ENGLAND

Associated Press Writer

MSAGALI, Tanzania — What started as a slow roll backward for a passenger train crossing central Tanzania accelerated into a screaming, 25-minute runaway ride that ended when it crashed into a lumbering freight train at about 125 mph, survivors and officials said Tuesday.

By late Tuesday, 174 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage.

Survivors from the Monday morning crash described how most of the 1,200 people on board were praying — some quietly, some loudly — while others screamed as the train swayed from side to side, throwing luggage out of the overhead bins and knocking people down as they tried to run for the doors.

"I knew I was going to die. I said my last prayers," said Bismus Lwangisa, a 42-year old fish dealer. "The speed was very high, it was more than the speed when the train moved forward."

The cross-country trip began when the train pulled out of Dar es Salaam, the eastern Indian Ocean port city, Sunday night, bound for Mwanza in the west. At some point the train stopped on the crest of a hill because of engine problems and mechanics tried to make repairs, the train's crew told local officials Tuesday. Then the brakes failed and the train began rolling backward, survivors said.

"There were people shouting 'We are dying, We are dying,'" said Joyce Mwinani, who was on her way home from a Christian Evangelical meeting. "Some were singing praise songs until the train overturned."

After 25 chaotic minutes, Lwangisa said the last thing he remembered before he lost

"There were people shouting 'We are dying, We are dying.' Some were singing praise songs until the train overturned."

— **JOYCE MWINANI**
Traveler

consciousness was being thrown forward and a deafening roar of crunching metal.

Ole Saitabau, the district commissioner in neighboring Kongwa, said investigators estimate the train traveled 12 miles and reached 125 mph before it rammed into the back of a slow-moving freight train going the same direction near Msagali, 190 miles west of Dar es Salaam.

Piled up and twisted into a huge knot of wreckage, many of the decades-old maroon

and tan train coaches were barely recognizable after the crash. Volunteers were having trouble getting inside the crumpled carriages because they were smashed together like crushed soft drink cans.

In one mangled coach, the bloody hands, legs, heads and torsos of at least a dozen men, women and children — crushed together — protruded through smashed windows.

Dr. John Mtimba, the regional medical

officer in Tanzania's political capital of Dodoma, said 174 bodies had been recovered by midday Tuesday and 924 people had been hurt. Bodies were being taken to a local sports stadium for identification, he said.

Thousands of people gathered at a local sports stadium to identify the bodies of victims laid out on green mats in groups — men, women and children.

Lwangisa was one of the lucky ones. He said he was pulled out of the wreckage through a window just hours after the accident Monday morning.

Rescuers used a crane Tuesday morning to try to rip apart the mangled carriages while soldiers wearing surgical gloves — or just socks on their hands — helped remove the dead. By Tuesday afternoon, there was little hope of finding anyone else alive.

Princess Margaret leaves estate to her children

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Princess Margaret left the bulk of her estate, valued at \$11.4 million to her two children, who will face a large bill for taxes, the family said Tuesday.

Margaret, 71, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died Feb. 9.

After inheritance tax of 40 percent is paid and personal bequests made to friends and former staff members, Lord Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto

will share about \$6.75 million in cash and property from their mother's estate, Linley's office said.

The spokesman said Linley and his wife, Serena, who moved into Margaret's lavish suite at Kensington Palace when her health deteriorated, would move out now that the will had been finalized.

No decision has yet been made on the future use of the apartment, he said.

Queen Mother Elizabeth,

who died March 30 aged 101, left her entire estate to the queen, who is not subject to inheritance tax.

Inheritance tax is payable at 40 percent above a \$375,000 threshold, but the queen has been exempted on a rule that covers bequests from sovereign to sovereign or from the consort of a sovereign to a reigning monarch.

The rule was formulated with government agreement in 1993 in recognition of the need

for the monarch to avoid erosion of the royal family's wealth.

The queen inherited her mother's entire estate. The value of the estate was not announced, but British newspapers have estimated its worth at some \$75 million in art, jewelry and race horses.

The queen has decided the most important of her mother's paintings and other art works should be held in trust for the nation as part of the Royal Collection.

COMICS

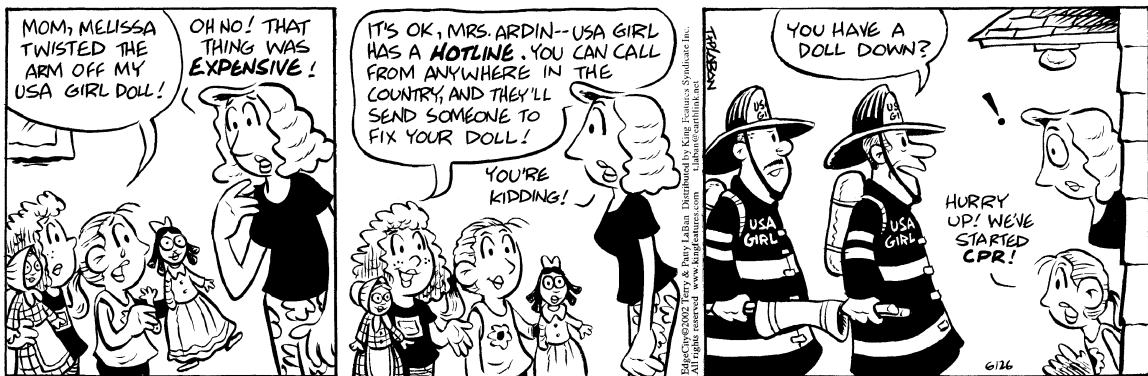
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



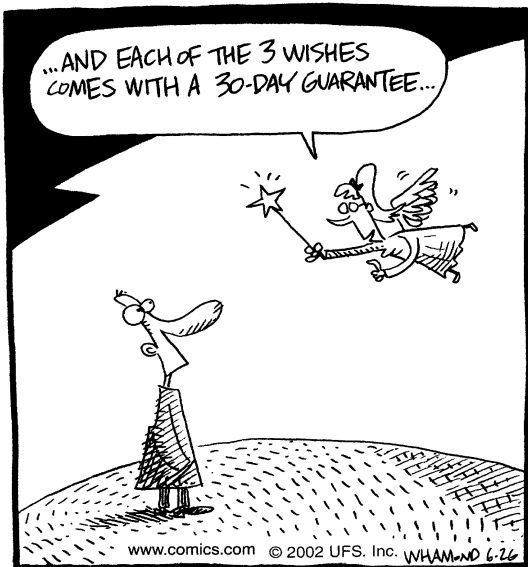
Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



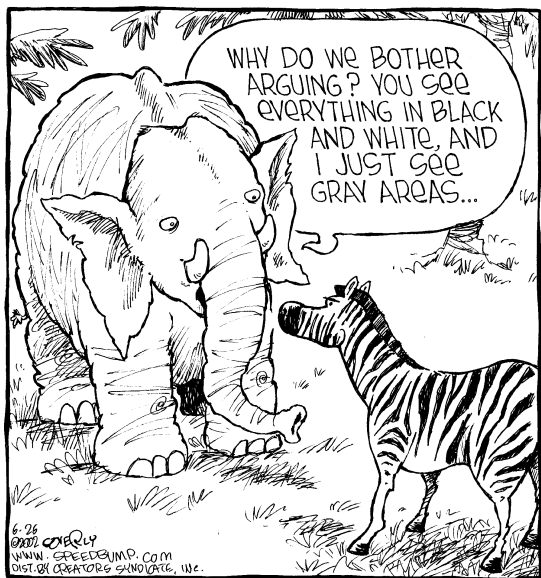
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 It's a long story
- 5 The Red Planet
- 9 Packing box
- 11 "Letters to Olga" writer
- 12 Add on
- 13 Concert setting
- 14 Baseball's Crew
- 15 Letter after xi
- 17 Member of a certain college
- 19 Use a stool
- 20 Shower feature
- 21 A pop
- 22 Tales of tomorrow
- 24 Owed
- 26 Uses a stopwatch
- 29 Broadcast
- 30 Steve Martin film
- 32 The going price?
- 34 Afternoon social
- 35 Assertion
- 36 Less cooked
- 38 Little ones
- 39 Hägar's dog
- 40 Tarzan's family
- DOWN**
- 1 Alarm
- 2 First name in action flicks
- 3 Look
- 4 Had a bite
- 5 Painter
- 6 Opposed
- 7 "The Bathers" painter
- 8 Italics feature
- 10 Strangely enticing
- 11 Locks
- 16 Computer store buy
- 18 Box
- 21 Strong cotton
- 23 Repairmen
- 24 Like some Internet connections
- 25 Polished
- 27 Menu choice
- 28 Contemptuous looks
- 29 Capital of Ghana
- 30 Farm butters
- 31 Third planet
- 33 Tantrums
- 37 Tiny worker

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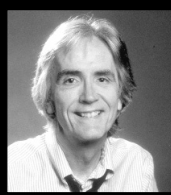
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38					39			
40						41		

6-26

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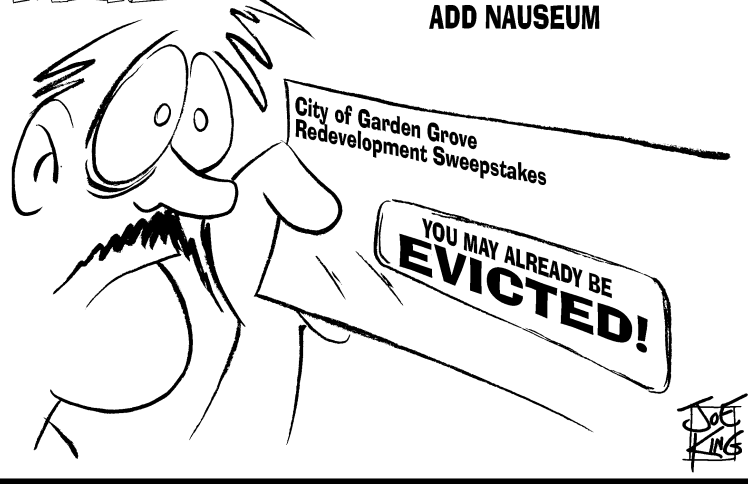
by Chuck Shepard

'Dork bandit' on the loose

- Police put out bulletins for the "dork bandit," named for his demeanor, who is wanted in three robberies (Atlanta).
- Through bureaucratic error, sensitive U.S. Air Force spy-plane parts, originally intended for destruction, wound up in private hands and were up for auction on the online eBay service (May).
- Also through bureaucratic error, 50 large boxes of sensitive abuse reports and medical records of foster children and other clients of Florida's embattled Department of Children and Families were offered at auction and purchased by a TV reporter for \$5 (May).



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SANTA MONICA Children's Theatre Company. Professional training in singing, acting and dancing. Musical productions. (310)995-9636.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

Services

ELECTRICAL WORK all types. Reasonable rates. \$35.00 Service Call. 25 years experience.

(310) 722-2644

GUITAR LESSONS IN YOUR HOME. Learn guitar & have fun! Pete (818)563-2021.

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER \$99.95! A weeks worth of food (10 meals) professionally prepared, dropped off at your home or office. Save time, eat healthier. Call Eat The Bread at (310)458-1617.

JAPANESE & Chinese tutoring. Language and culture. Office or home. \$24/hour. (310)738-4429

MEDICAL/DENTAL BENEFITS \$49.99/month for the entire family. (310)281-1920.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT! Responsible/organized/energetic/punctual. Here to help keep your business organized and stress free. Brenda (310)450-3829.

Services

QUICK AND Dirty (if the newsprint rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

REMEDIES BY ROTH Carpentry, Handyman Services. Reasonable rates. Contact Michael: (310)829-1316 MSG. (323)610-1217 Cell.

TALENTED, DECORATIVE Painter. Walls, cabinets, furniture, moldings...glazing, antiquing, refinishing and much more! Call for estimate. (310)612-6042.

Computer Services

COMPUTER & Networking Services Home or Office. PC & MAC. Honest & reliable w/ best rates. Includes 30 days Telephone Support & Warranty. 12 years exp. w/ References. Call Skye, Your Local Computer Guru @ 310-395-3939 anytime.

DURING THE day I work in High Technology Management. Everyone in the company relies on me for my computer expertise. I would rather work on my own. Digital Duchess 799-4929.

Classified Advertising Conditions

DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

Calendar

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About a Boy (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 *The Sum of all Fears* (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Windtalkers (NR) 12:40, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40. *Minority Report* (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. *Bad Company* (PG-13) 11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:45. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Spider-Man (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35. *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* (PG) 12:10, 3:15, 6:30, 9:35. *Scooby Doo* (PG) 11:50, 12:45, 1:50, 3:00, 4:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:50. *Undercover Brother* (PG-13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:30. *Lilo & Stich* (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15. *Insomnia* (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30. *Juwanna Mann* 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Thirteen Conversations About One Thing (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. *The Fast Runner: Atanarjuat* (NR) 11:30, 3:15, 7:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55. *The Importance of Being Earnest* (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45. *Sunshine State* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10.

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Today Community

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Classes

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

Entertainment

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382.

Soul Station, Soul Jazz Soul, Dwight Tribe & Friends, Damon Aaron, Babalade Olamina. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Thursday Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for

safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

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Entertainment

Earl Harvin Trio, 9:00 pm, Los Hombres Calientes feat. Bill Summers & Irvin Mayfield, 11:00 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

Larry & Christian Show: sketch comedy, 8p.m. Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. *The showtime entrance is in the alley. Show info/Reservation line: (310)451-1800. No drink minimum!

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301

Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

Theatre

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Piel! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

join us at **KidsWorld LA**, a **free summer series** of live entertainment and imaginative activities for kids ages 3 to 7.

fridays at 11am & again at 1pm, kids enjoy musical shows and performances by the LA children's museum reader's theatre project in the community room on level 3.

saturdays noon to 4pm, the UCLA ocean discovery center, pacific park, children's nature institute and other leading LA organizations host activities in center court.

KidsWorld LA **starts friday, july 5** and **continues through friday, august 30**. For an event schedule and information about weekly prize drawings, visit **www.santamonikaplace.com** or call 310-394-1049.

bring the kids to our place

130 shops & restaurants
just 2 blocks from the beach
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