

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

16, 21, 28, 01, 33

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 8, 2

Evening picks: 2, 4, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:45.61



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Recently, police, faced with thieves whom they suspected had swallowed their contraband in order to avoid detection, had to wait and let nature take its course in order to recover the incriminating evidence. Carpet cleaner Daniel Dyament, 19, finally expelled (after 72 hours) the \$3,000 ring he allegedly stole from a customer's home in Bloomfield Township, Mich. (June).

In March, Chicago police reportedly used White Castle "sliders" to coax suspect Peter J. Mannix to yield (after 96 hours) a stolen \$37,000 diamond. But in Santa Cruz, Calif., jeweler Joy Kilner concluded in June after days of waiting that the \$1,800 diamond that her pet basset hound swallowed was not coming out and was probably stuck in the dog's intestines.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One reason I don't drink is that I want to know when I am having a good time."

— Nancy, Lady Astor



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It's about time



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

The old clock on Main Street was refurbished this week after years of disuse. "Time is moving forward on Main Street," said a local merchant. "This has been a dampening, dispirited, dead spot for too long."

Celebrate America tonight

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's only fireworks show to celebrate our nation's independence will occur tonight.

The free event, called "Celebrate America" will be held at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field at 6 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m.

The event has been held for the past 20 years and attracted more than 20,000 people last year.

The event was canceled earlier this year because of the SMC's gaping budget deficit. College officials said it didn't seem right to stage a party while teachers were being laid off and whole departments were being eliminated.

But after the city launched an intense fundraising effort, residents

and local businesses began mailing in checks earmarked for the event, which costs \$50,000 to put on.

The city canceled its popular Fourth of July event in 1991, citing liability concerns. Controlling the massive crowds that congregated along the Palisades Park bluffs and the beaches below became too difficult, city officials said.

At this year's celebration, the barbershop group the Santa Monica Ocean Aires, the Santa Monica High School Marching Band and the J.D. Hall Band are expected to perform, with fireworks handled by Fireworks & Stage FX America, Inc.

SMC is located at 1900 Pico Blvd.

Living wage supporters call for investigation

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Supporters of the Santa Monica living wage asked state and local officials on Friday to investigate the campaign tactics of their opposition.

They claim the group that campaigned against the living wage last November deliberately misled voters using so-called "slate mailers," thereby defeating the measure by a mere 1.7 percent.

The mailers incorrectly inferred that the Democratic Party, women favoring abortion rights, education activists and some candidates for office all opposed the living wage. It also indicated with an asterisk that a campaign favoring a school tax that was also on the ballot and advertised on the mailers helped

pay for them.

However, November 2002 filings with the California Secretary of State's office revealed the anti-living wage campaign was the only group who paid for the mailers. The group maintains that a third party paid for the advertisement with a small contribution that fell below the state's disclosure requirement.

While it may be deceptive, it's unclear whether it's illegal.

That's why a special commission was formed earlier this year to investigate the campaign.

"I've never seen anything quite so deceptive," said Xandra Kayden, co-chair of the Santa Monica Living Wage Commission

See LIVING WAGE, page 5

Schools spend city's \$2.25M donation

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The local school district voted unanimously Thursday night to restore \$2 million in jobs for next year.

More than 45 positions will be restored as a result of the decision, which follows last week's commitment by the City Council to give the cash-strapped district \$2.25 million in one-time funds.

In addition to the restored positions, a \$250,000 summer school intervention program will be brought back.

The remaining cash will be used to hire six new teachers for Santa Monica High School, at approximately \$440,000.

Using the Santa Monica money and a one-time \$380,000 commitment by Malibu officials, the district plans to bring back the following positions:

Four elementary library coordinators, one high school library assis-

tant, one health coordinator, three computer technicians, 11 administrators, two personnel workers, two special assignment workers, one financial supervisor, one textbook coordinator, more than three nurses, more than one middle school library assistant and more than 10 physical education specialists.

In order to create the six new teaching positions at Samohi, board members voted to wait on restoring more than seven positions Superintendent John Deasy recommended be brought back.

Those positions are: One high school library assistant, four custodians, one personnel worker and more than one classroom aide.

Dr. Jose Escarce, vice president of the school board, made the motion to substitute the teachers for the other workers. Board members said they still need to hire four to six teachers before the ratio of students to teachers is the same at Samohi as

See SCHOOLS, page 5

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, June 28, 2003:

Your work could transform before your very eyes. Don't resist the inevitable; just go with it. Otherwise, you could put your job in jeopardy when you least expect it. Learn to absorb the new and different, if possible. Much is going on behind the scenes, and you understand a lot more than the majority. You have much to offer, but pick and choose whom you allow in your immediate circle. Associates could be difficult early this summer. You start a new life cycle this year, which will last 28 years. You might be greeting more responsibility. Make choices carefully, with an eye to the long term. Fall provides greater happiness and openness. You also might make a major purchase. If single, you could meet someone very special this year. This bond might be a major relationship in your life. If attached, your relationship will flourish, especially if you make plenty of downtime together. CANCER understands you.

♋ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You innately put your best foot forward and feel good about yourself. How you phrase a comment could make all the difference in the manner that it is received. Others express interest in your opinions on all subjects. You're in your glory. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Expressing your feelings is natural for you when it comes to your well-being. This quality remains one of your best traits. Others need to know where they stand. By expressing your boundaries, you help others do the same. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You're personality plus. What you say falls on welcoming ears. Others absolutely enjoy hearing your opinions and ideas. Your charm draws many. You have a very positive interaction with others. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Continue to play it cool. Make the day about one special friend who means a lot to you. Lie back. Someone does not always have the free time to share feelings and news. Use this moment to relax together. Take a walk at a favorite spot. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Friends head in many different directions. The gregarious Lion does his or her best in social situations. Dance away and enjoy your friends and loved ones. You could be delighted by what comes up for you. Express how much you value a special person. Tonight: You are the party.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Respond to a boss or parent who means a lot to you. Think through a change that might involve an older relative or someone you really care about. Handle responsibilities, which might even include heading in to work. Tonight: Enough seriousness. Time to play.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Visualize. Let your creativity come out when planning your day. A lot goes on. Stay tuned in to your higher self by not reacting but also by expressing the depth of your feelings. Recognize how someone close might feel. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine. Do something exotic.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Build on an existing relationship or friendship. Focus on the plusses versus the negatives, and you will draw the two of you closer. Investigate what might be going on with a key financial or emotional investment. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. Your popularity soars to a new dimension. You suddenly realize just how many people are fond of you. Others present you with a multitude of options. Have fun picking. Others really enjoy you. Tonight: Follow the gang out the door.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Pace yourself during the day, especially if you want to get together with others later. Enjoy yourself in the company of others. You find that fun surrounds whatever you do. The plans aren't important. Tonight: Take a nap, then decide.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Pressure occurs no matter which direction you go, but you can turn a situation around. Your playfulness and spirit make a big difference in what goes down. You have the ability to make light of what others deem as serious. Tonight: Play until you're too tired to continue.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Handle family first, worrying less about what might be going down elsewhere. Deal with domestic and personal issues right now. You might not find time in the near future to clear out as much. Schedule special time with a child or loved one. Tonight: Go for the Saturday night spirit.

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LOCAL

The road to Baghdad is anticipated to be rough

BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press



4 p.m., AMMAN, JORDAN — I'm convinced there is no way to fully prepare for this trip over the road to Baghdad. I haven't slept more than five hours in the last three weeks and the last few days have

been no exception. Nerves, heat, jet lag, anticipation pop me awake at 3, 4 and 5 a.m.

We leave for Baghdad in eight hours — at midnight. The strategy is to make it to the Jordanian-Iraqi border by dawn and be among the first to queue up to cross. The delay isn't with getting into Iraq, but with getting out of Jordan. Once across, we will join other cars to form a caravan over what has been dubbed the world's most dangerous highway. We've been told to reach Fallouja by 3 p.m., before the "Ali Babas" come out.

We've sprung for an extra van and driver to provide a little insurance in case one of our other two vans breaks down. We've hired Iraqi drivers, considered the safest. (In a change from our February trip, Iraqi drivers are now allowed into parts of Amman. In February, we loaded our luggage into Jordanian cars, drove 20 minutes out of Amman and switched cars and drivers for the remainder of the trip.)

Three of us have secured press passes to ease our border crossings. Our group includes two Iraqi-Americans, a Japanese-American and a veteran. We have introduction letters from Veterans for Peace and EPIC — the Education for Peace Center in Iraq, to whose national board I was recently elected.

We've done all our last-minute shopping, made copies of our passports and spread around our hidden cash. My bags are filled with cases of Power Bars and my heart is filled with memories of strangers' unbelievable generosity, genuine compassion and deep desire to find a new way toward peace.

Three weeks ago, I received an out-of-the-blue call from a retired minister in Oklahoma. He had heard I was going to

Baghdad and asked me if I would visit his brothers and sisters. He knew his family was alive, but he had not had more than an excruciating 60-second call from a nephew who had traveled an hour from Baghdad to place the call. The minister said the last two months of not being able to speak with his family have been "Hades on Earth." He sent me — a total stranger — a \$500 check to cash to bring to his family. I was so moved by his trust and agony and faith in me.

The night before I left, I was interviewed by Earl Olifari Hutchinson on his KPFK Tuesday evening show. His listeners donated money for me to buy Power Bars to take to Iraqi children. The

Pakistani manager of my neighborhood corner store gave me a rock-bottom price on cases — and threw in a few extra boxes for free. As we were clearing out every case in the store, strangers from my Ocean Park neighborhood handed me \$10 bills to help purchase the food.

Students Against War and Violence, high school students from Santa Monica High School, donated \$150 from their T-shirt sale proceeds. They're facing potential losses in their music, athletic and arts programs from the most severe budget cuts in their lifetimes yet they raised money to reach out to Iraqi students.

A quarter of the money raised for the trip was donated during the last three days. Total strangers and old friends came by my office to wish me well, give a hug and drop off donations.

While addressing the Westminster Episcopal Church on Father's Day, I got embarrassed when I choked up talking about my father's apprehension about my trip. A beautiful elderly woman approached me after the service and said, "Honey, I'm going to quote the shortest sentence in the Bible: 'Jesus wept.' And if he can, so can you." Then, she handed me an envelope with an \$100 bill.

Graced with such love and faith, I've come to realize it's not the road itself that's dangerous, but the fear that keeps us from taking it.

(Santa Monica resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt traveled to Iraq in February, just five



surf report

There is swell out there, even if it is weakening.

The conditions are sometimes weak — look out for evening cheese breeze — but there is a good cross up of swells and a new, shadowed SW should start hitting us today. All in all, the morning is your best bet, with shoulder-high sets not uncommon.

OUTLOOK: Tropical depression Carlos looks like it is dying over Mainland Mexico. Stay tuned.

Today the water is:

66°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:50	-0.5	2:34	2.5	10:26	3.5	8:55	6.1
SUNDAY	4:24	-0.6	3:08	2.5	11:04	3.6	9:29	6.1
MONDAY	4:59	-0.7	3:45	2.6	11:42	3.6	10:04	6.1
TUESDAY	5:35	-0.7	4:25	2.7	(12:22)	3.6	10:41	6.0
WEDNESDAY	6:12	-0.6	5:11	2.7	(1:04)	3.7	11:21	5.7
THURSDAY	6:51	-0.4	6:09	2.8	N/A	N/A	1:48	3.8
FRIDAY	7:32	-0.1	7:23	2.8	12:07	5.3	2:32	4.1

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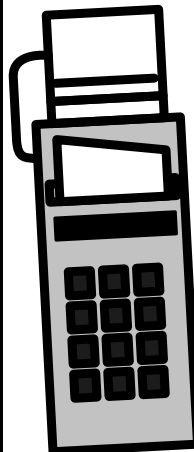
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weeks before the bombing. She is returning to reconnect with the people she met. Her reports from Iraq can be heard during the drive-time news on KNX-AM 1070 on Monday, June 30, Wednesday, July 2 and Friday, July 4. She also will be interviewed by KNBC's Channel 4 Patrick Healy for the 11 p.m. news on Monday, June 30, by Earl Olifari Hutchinson on KPFK live at 7:50 p.m., Tuesday, July 1, and by Blase

Bonpane on KPFK on July 6. If you like the radio reports please call the station at (323) 460-3343 and let the newsroom know that you want more reports from Baghdad. Finally, she will call in live to the DPSFV/Valley United's Forum at Taft High School in Woodland Hills on Saturday, July 12. To schedule Kelly to speak to your community group or congregation, call Areen at (310) 581-4421.)

The QLine

Look out for the new question of the week Monday and call us back with your response.



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LETTERS

Amazed at assumptions

Editor:

In connection with Janet Hand's, ADA Coordinator, City of Santa Monica, opinion letter (SMDP, June 24) it is interesting to me that she zeros in on my references in my letter appearing on June 18 to the "down/up ramps on every street corner in Santa Monica."

My letter related more to the construction of the traffic islands, especially on Wilshire, and to the traffic problems connected therewith. I think I hit upon a sore point regarding the ramps, which was not the central issue of my letter.

However, one reason why I am writing in response to her letter is that today, in less than 30 minutes, I was suddenly accosted by a bicycle rider coming silently from behind me, who blithely glided down the ramp on his bicycle, while shortly after that, I was confronted with a woman who blithely glided up the ramp, riding towards me on the sidewalk — both of whom were in violation of the law and were abusing the reason for which the ramps were constructed in the first place.

Furthermore, I again repeat that I rarely, if ever, see a seriously handicapped person using the ramps and for Ms. Hand to state as she does, that she "can confidently say that many of the people she (meaning me) sees using them have a permanent or temporary disability" is a major assumption on her part.

Unless she resides in the part of my brain reserved for vision, she has not a clue as to what I see. Mothers pushing strollers are perfectly capable of maneuvering up and down curbs. However, I do admit that ramps make their journeys more facile. I did not know that it was legal for "skaters" to skate on sidewalks reserved for pedestrians, thereby endangering pedestrian safety, but, by all means, let's make their trav-erses easier.

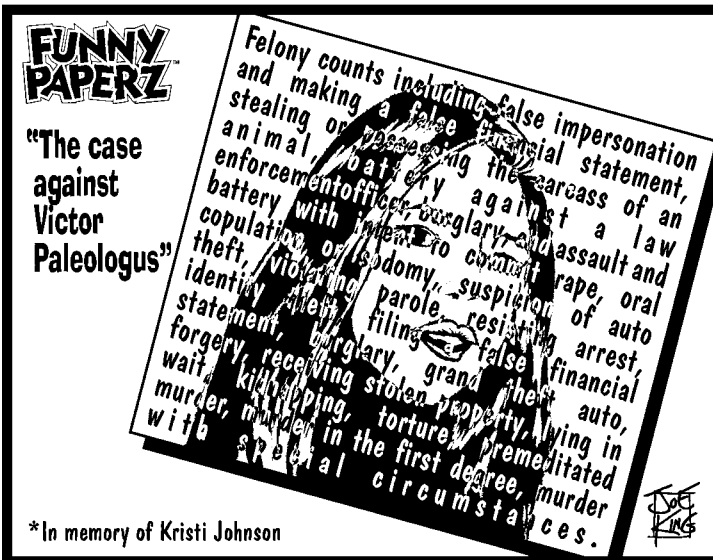
Regarding Ms. Hand's statement that "Non-apparent disabilities that limit mobility include arthritis, heart disease, respiratory illness, multiple sclerosis and a host of other conditions" does not mean that any one of these individuals are incapable of raising a foot up or down a curb without causing them harm. As a matter of fact, this minute mobile action might in fact be good for them. With all due respect to individuals suffering from these maladies, I believe it is good for their spirits, as well as their inherent infirmities to shake a leg or two, or climb up or down a curb.

How can anyone assume that I myself, do not have arthritic knees as M. Iles has done in the opinion letter appearing in SMDP of June 20? It is amazing to me how

many uninformed assumptions people make. As for the island being havens for those suffering thusly, we'll see!

Lastly, I am enlightened regarding the fact that "curb ramps are required by both state and federal law to allow full physical access to sidewalks for people with physical disability that does not permit them to step up on (or down from) a curb."

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica



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Don't be embarrassed when memory starts slipping



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Forget Viagra, forget Botox, forget marrying that person who's 20 years too young for you. In fact, forget forgetting.

There has been an important breakthrough in our desperate attempt to delay aging. We are no longer doomed to forgetfulness. There is real hope for those of us who are always misplacing our keys or can't remember the name of that person we met at lunch yesterday.

Thirty years ago, baby boomers launched the physical fitness craze and now many of them are participating in the mental fitness craze. The bad news is that the average person's memory starts going downhill at around age 35.

The good news is that experts believe there are things that all of us can do to

improve our memory. So many people today are eating healthy "memory foods," and taking vitamins and supplements. They're also buying books, software, and videos as well as enrolling in memory classes. I just hope they remember where the classes are held.

The key to keeping mentally fit is the same as keeping physically fit — use it or lose it. Experts have shown that mental exercise, like doing crossword puzzles, is helpful in improving memory. Even just reading will stimulate your brain — so reading my column is making you more mentally fit right now. (Imagine what great shape you'll be in if you remember to read it every week.)

In addition to using your brain as much as possible, there are some tricks that memory mavens recommend. When you put your glasses on the hall table, they suggest you say out loud, "I'm putting my glasses on the hall table."

Supposedly, you'll remember hearing your voice later on. Unfortunately, anyone who witnesses you talking to yourself like this will think you're in a lot worse shape

than someone who just can't find his glasses.

Another suggestion is that when you meet someone, imagine that person's name written on his or her forehead. I don't think this would work for me — my handwriting is so bad, I wouldn't be able to read it later on in my imagination.

The big memory trick is to come up with outlandish associations. For example, if you meet somebody whose name is Barry Fish, you might picture a person who is about to bury a fish in the sand. I'm not so sure about this. If I managed to remember that image, I'm just as likely to think the person's name is Sandy Carp.

So I'm excited about this new research, but since these techniques aren't perfect, I have a feeling that many people are still going to hold onto their old methods of dealing with forgetfulness. You're still going to make lists — lots of lists.

And you're going to try really hard to remember where you put those lists. If you run into someone whose name you should know, after panicking, you'll smile at them and then call out to whomever

you're with, "Hey, look who's here!"

If you're alone, you might resort to, "Wow, you have really lost weight!" hoping that they'll be so thrilled by the compliment that they might not notice you have no idea who they are.

But let me suggest an even bolder approach — maybe we should just tell the truth. What's so bad about saying, "I'm sorry, but I can't remember your name?" Giving ourselves permission to say that can be quite liberating.

We don't have to be embarrassed just because we don't remember as well as we did when we were kids. We're wiser now, and there are lots of other things we do better today than we did then. I just can't remember what they are.

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

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 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, 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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LOCAL



Commission wants to alter laws governing slate mailers

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

of Inquiry, at a Friday press conference that attracted about 50 people.

The self-appointed commission, which is made up of politicians, academics and community leaders, lodged formal complaints with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office and the state's Fair Political Practices Commission on Friday asking that the groups responsible for the mailers be investigated for election law violations.

Slate mailers are created by for-profit companies that sell space on the fliers to candidates and causes as an inexpensive way to reach potential voters. As a result, mailers can often be a hodgepodge of groups and candidates that sometimes may have conflicting platforms or agendas.

Opponents of the measure said Friday they doubt the district attorney will pursue the investigation.

"You see this sort of thing all the time," said Tom Larmore, a local attorney who worked on the "No on JJ" campaign. "When you lose an election you often times think that the other side didn't play fair. But at some point you just have to move on."

Fighting Against Irresponsible Regulation, which was also known as "No on JJ," spent more than \$2 million fighting the living wage.

Santa Monica's living wage would have required businesses near the coast that generate more than \$5 million a year in revenue to pay all employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether workers receive health benefits.

The commission is pushing for a reform on how these kinds of mailers are created. Commission members said the reforms will be geared toward penalizing companies that send intentionally deceptive slate mail, as well as educating the electorate.

One of the mailers the "No on JJ" group paid \$14,000 to appear on was titled a "Pro-Choice Voters Guide," which featured a headline that read, "Santa Monica's Pro-Choice Leaders Agree: No on Measure JJ."

FAIR paid another \$13,000 to appear on the "Quality Schools Coalition" mailer, in which another headline read "For Our Schools, For Our Children, For Our Future."

Finally, the group paid \$12,000 to appear on the "Democratic Voters Ballot Guide," which pictured Congressman

Henry Waxman and State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley over a line that read, "Important Santa Monica Issues For Women, Our Young & Our Poor."

The content of the mailers appears to indicate that FAIR was supported by these Democrats and left-leaning organizations, when in fact most of those parties supported the living wage.

Commission members said Friday they don't expect the legal action to be anything more than a slap on the wrist for James Lacy, whose company created the three mailings in question. Lacy has reportedly netted millions as a designer of slate mailers.

The commission does hope, however, to change the laws that govern slate mailers before the living wage goes back on the ballot in 2004.

They plan to ask the Santa Monica City Council on July 8 to form an ethics committee and require the city clerk in Santa Monica to publish within 24 hours all contributions to slate mailers. They also will ask that information about the laws governing slate mailers be printed in the ballot book.

The commission plans to make a series of recommendations to state and local officials. One is to implement a "three strikes" law that would penalize repeatedly deceptive campaigners by disqualifying them from paid election work for 10 years. Another is to require slate mailers to list their contributors on the actual mailer.

Kayden said the current laws don't do enough to protect voters, who assume the causes on a mailer are connected.

"There's no law against lying," said Kayden, who added that courts traditionally have frowned upon limiting any election-related dissemination of information. "It's an unfortunate truth, but unless you lie under oath, there's no law against it."

Several politicians — including Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilman Kevin McKeown — spoke in favor of the commission's actions at Friday's press conference, which was held on the beach boardwalk between Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach, two hotels that would have been affected by the living wage.

"We're going to close the shutters on these types of activities in California," former State Sen. Art Torres said. "Santa Monica (is going) after these greedy peddlers of mistruths."

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Dennis C. Hardin, M.F.T., Ph.D., is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor specializing in personal growth and goal achievement. He is the author of **THE ETHICS OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT**. He has also been certified by the Albert Ellis Institute in the techniques of rational-emotive behavioral therapy. His specialty is developing self-help methods which enable clients to retake control of their lives and remake their own destiny.

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School millions go quickly

SCHOOLS, from page 1

it is at Malibu High School.

School supporters expressed mixed emotions at the board's decision.

"The school board made tough choices," said Cheri Orgel, former president of the Parent Teachers Association. "All those positions are important. But the plain fact remains — there's still not enough money to do all the things we need to do to make our schools whole again."

Earlier this month, the district restored more than 108 positions based on income that will be generated by a school parcel tax, which was narrowly passed by voters June 3.

The flat \$225 tax, which is estimated to generate \$6.5 million annually for the

district, will be levied on all properties in Santa Monica and Malibu for the next six years.

Santa Monica's one-time contribution to the district complements its annual \$3 million contribution to the district. And Malibu's pledge to give \$380,000 comes in addition to its \$110,000 donation for next year.

Even with the new money, the district is still underfunded by more than \$4 million for next year. Some council members wanted to give the schools more money, but because the city had to bridge a \$16.1 million deficit of its own, there was not enough support for a larger donation.

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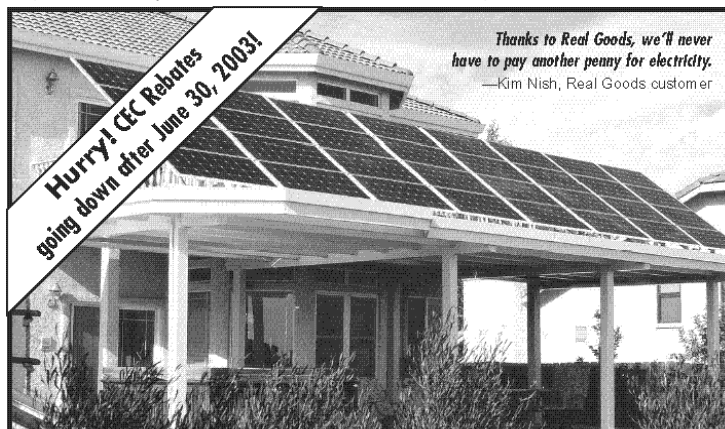
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Wastewater station gets make over

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — The harbor's 74-year-old Henry Ford sewage pumping station has been reincarnated with a nearly \$4 million state-of-the-art makeover that's more than capable of handling wastewater from the Hanjin mega-terminal at Pier A.

The facility, which can process 4,200 gallons per minute, was unveiled Thursday. It was the product of a rare partnership between the Port of Long Beach and the Los Angeles Public Works Department.

"We had to rebuild the pump station because of the new Hanjin terminal," Port of Long Beach Chief Harbor Engineer Doug Thiessen said.

But the facility, across the street from Pier A, was technically in Los Angeles so it had to go through that city's public works department for work to be done.

The two agencies worked out an agreement: The port would finance the design, construction and construction management, while Los Angeles would be responsible for approving all construction work, while still maintaining ownership of both the plant and tributary sewer system.

AYSO soccer suing volunteer for embezzlement

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The youth soccer group AYSO is suing its former Region 97 volunteer commissioner for allegedly embezzling more than \$100,000.

Anthony L. Anish of Costa Mesa allegedly used AYSO funds to write a \$39,790 check to his financial services company, AM Capital, and to buy four season passes with preferred parking to Los Angeles Galaxy matches, according to the Superior Court suit announced Thursday.

Newport Beach police are investigating a possible theft from AYSO but they wouldn't disclose details or name a suspect.

Anish denied wrongdoing Thursday and referred questions to his attorney, but he earlier said his former AYSO colleagues have grudges against him because he pushed players to a higher level of competitiveness than the volunteers wanted.

"I love the sport, and I just wanted to give the kids that same love," he said. "It's the biggest sport in the world, and the United States needs to get there."

The American Youth Soccer Organization's mission statement says its goal is to create a positive, "everyone plays" atmosphere. AYSO Region 97 has about 1,500 children from Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, and it had \$120,000 in reserves when Anish took the helm.

The suit said it is now \$40,000 in debt.

Anish said he worked about 35 hours a week as commissioner. He held the office from February 2001 until he was asked to resign in April.

College tuition jumps by \$7

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Students at Ventura County community colleges are facing a 64 percent tuition hike this fall — from \$11 per unit to \$18 per unit.

James Walker, acting chancellor of the 35,000-student district, announced Thursday that Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura colleges will raise tuition in anticipation of mandatory fee hikes from the Legislature.

The announcement came on the eve of a trustees meeting to authorize a tentative spending plan that cuts \$15 million out of next school year's operating budget.

Although a final budget for community colleges has not been determined in Sacramento, Walker said it was time to alert incoming students of higher costs before fall registration begins July 14.

"That's what's so frustrating about this whole thing. We don't know what our budget or the fees will be while they're playing their games in Sacramento," Walker said. "Try to run a business like this and you'll go bankrupt."

If lawmakers approve a smaller increase, or none at all, Walker said the district will make refunds to students.

Streets to be wider on the Red Line

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is spending an extra \$3 million for street widening and other expenses related to the Red Line's subway stop in Universal City.

In addition to the street-widening money, the MTA board on Thursday agreed the agency should pay \$1.4 million to the builder of the overpass connecting Lankershim and Ventura boulevards near the stop.

The overpass was finished in 2002, but the contractor wanted more money because it was forced to wait through a costly delay of nearly a year. The delay was caused by city Bureau of Engineering concerns over the type of retaining wall planned by Fontana-based Brutoco Engineering and Construction Inc.

The city wanted additional soil tests and reviews.

The additional costs increased the budget for the freeway overpass construction project to more than \$37 million. In 1999, when the deal with Brutoco was approved, the contract was to cost nearly \$28 million.

The roughly \$9 million increase comes from scores of change orders approved by the MTA since then.



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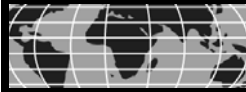
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Soldier ambushed in Iraq, killed

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An American soldier was killed in an ambush in southern Iraq, the U.S. military said Friday, after it announced arrests in the possible abduction of two U.S. servicemen.

The soldier was killed while investigating a car theft Thursday in Najaf, 100 miles southwest of Baghdad, a statement from U.S. Central Command said. The soldier was attached to the 1st U.S. Marine Expeditionary Force.

The soldier's name was being withheld pending notification of relatives, Centcom said. It said the soldier died before a medical evacuation team arrived.

Also Friday, Sgt. Patrick Compton, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, said three suspects were detained in the disappearance of two American soldiers. U.S. forces kept up ground and aerial searches in search of the two soldiers, Compton said.

The men were guarding the perimeter of a rocket demolition site near the town of Balad, north of Baghdad, on Wednesday when they failed to answer a radio call, Compton said.

Liberian government robs families

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Government forces roamed house-to-house under a barrage of rockets and mortars Friday, robbing desperate families trapped in a four-day rebel siege of the city.

Monrovia's mortuaries filled as the death toll climbed into the high hundreds, leaving civilians to hastily bury the dead on the city's Atlantic Ocean beaches, at times with rockets slamming into the sand around them.

With the city's food stocks tied up in the embattled port, rice, flour and other staples tripled in price — if they could be found at all. Hunger and disease spread in the city of 1 million, swelled by hundreds of thousands of more refugees living in school yards, the national soccer stadium and the city's once-grand Masonic temple.

Insurgents are fighting a 3-year-old campaign to oust President Charles Taylor, a newly U.N.-indicted war crimes suspect blamed for much of West Africa's gun-running and war-making since he launched Liberia into civil war in 1989.

Woman who hit homeless man convicted of murder

By The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Convicted of murder in the death of a homeless man she hit with her car, Chante Mallard tearfully recounted driving home after a night of drinking and drugs when she was suddenly hit in the face with flying glass.

She soon realized she had hit a man, whose head and torso were in the car and whose leg was sticking through the jagged windshield. She got out, touched his leg, then got back in and drove home where she parked in her garage.

Mallard said she heard the man moan and knew he was alive, but never called for help. She was too afraid she'd be arrested, she said.

Mallard, 27, testified Thursday during the punishment phase of her trial, hours after she was convicted. Jurors were expected to decide her penalty Friday.

Mallard, who faces the possibility of life in prison, said she deserves to go to prison but did not say for how long. She said she "couldn't think to do the right thing" after hitting 37-year-old Gregory Biggs because she was high on Ecstasy.

NASA to do what it takes to prevent another tragedy

By The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA will meet and even exceed the safety recommendations of the Columbia accident investigators, doing everything "humanly possible" to prevent another disaster, the space agency's chief says.

"The effort we need to go through, the high bar we need to set for ourselves, ought to be higher than anything else anybody else would levy on us," Administrator Sean O'Keefe said Thursday during a visit to Kennedy Space Center.

"We've got to not only focus on the findings and recommendations, but beyond that, to correct everything we think may stand in the way of flying as safely as humanly possible."

O'Keefe said he hopes to resume shuttle flights by April.

His statements came two days after the Columbia Accident Investigation Board outlined what NASA should do before launching another shuttle. Among the suggestions that will be in the board's final report next month: eliminate as much fuel-tank foam loss as possible, strengthen the shuttle's exterior so it can withstand debris, and improve astronauts' ability to repair damage from such blows.

Government seeks retirement money from Enron

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is seeking to recover hundreds of millions of dollars in retirement money that Enron employees lost, bringing suit against the now-bankrupt company and former executives and directors.

The Labor Department filed a civil lawsuit Thursday alleging that the company and its officials, including President Bush's friend and contributor Kenneth Lay, mismanaged retirement plans full of overpriced company stock.

The energy trading company spiraled toward bankruptcy in late 2001 and the stock collapsed. Employees were not told about the deteriorating finances and were blocked for a time from selling the declining Enron stock in their retirement accounts.

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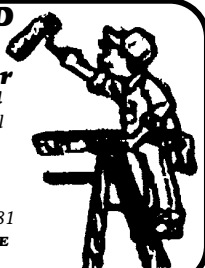
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BACK PAGE

Special effects can't help budget, Schwarzenegger says

By The Associated Press

■ **BURBANK** — Arnold Schwarzenegger won't terminate rumors of a run for governor while promoting his latest movie, joking that: "You haven't seen special effects like this since the California state budget."

The action star's advisers have said he'll decide whether to run after the July 2 release of "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," and only if it becomes clear that an effort to recall Gov. Gray Davis will qualify for the ballot.

If voters decide to oust Davis, they'd also have to choose a successor.

At Thursday's taping of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" at NBC Studios, the talk show host introduced Schwarzenegger as "the next governor from the great state of California."

Afterward, the two left for Camp Pendleton in San Diego County, where they surprised 1,300 Marines with an advance screening of "T3," the third film in the "Terminator" series. Schwarzenegger made the special effects quip to Marines, who gave him a boisterous ovation.

During "The Tonight Show" taping, Leno suggested campaign slogans for the Austrian-accented actor, such as: "Who better to represent a state where no one speaks English?" and "Not a good enough actor to fool you on taxes."

Schwarzenegger, 55, told Leno he's traveling to Iraq over the Fourth of July to screen his movie for U.S. troops.

"There is no money over there. There's no leadership — pretty much like California," he said.

Also appearing on the show was Snoop Dogg, and Schwarzenegger said the rapper had given him a hip-hop nickname: "The Notorious GOP."

■ **NEW YORK** — Bonnie Fuller has resigned as editor of Us Weekly, a once struggling celebrity magazine that she revived, to become editorial director of American Media Inc., a major publisher of supermarket tabloids including The National Enquirer.

Fuller resigned Thursday, 16 months after taking over Us Weekly, magazine spokeswoman Samantha Rosenthal said Friday. Us Weekly is owned jointly by Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner and Walt Disney Co.

During her tenure, Fuller boosted Us Weekly's newsstand circulation, a key measure of a magazine's draw with readers, with splashy cover lines and aggressive graphics and stories. Us Weekly faces fierce competition for celebrity news with Time Inc.'s dominant People magazine.

Fuller is a veteran of the magazine world, having previously edited Cosmopolitan, published by Hearst Corp., and Glamour, owned by another major publisher, Conde Nast.

In her new role at the Boca Raton, Fla.-based American Media, Fuller will oversee 14 magazines, including the Enquirer, the Star, and Globe. American Media, which relies heavily on single-copy sales at supermarkets, has been concerned that it was losing share to celebrity weeklies.

David Pecker, who took over as chief executive of American Media in 1999, has been trying to reposition the company's publications as more mainstream to draw advertisers.

In March, he closed a \$350 million acquisition of Weider Publications, a Woodland Hills, Calif.-based publisher of seven magazines, including Shape, Men's Fitness and Natural Health.

Us Weekly's single-copy sales jumped by 55 percent to 505,000 in the six-month period ending in December, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

■ **NEW YORK** — Clint Eastwood's "Mystic River" will flow into the New York Film Festival as this year's opening-night film.

The actor's latest directorial effort, which made its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, is a crime thriller starring Sean Penn, Tim Robbins and Kevin Bacon. It screens at the festival Oct. 3 and opens

in theaters Oct. 10.

"It's always an honor and a pleasure to welcome Clint Eastwood back to the Festival," said Richard Pena, chairman of the New York Film Festival selection committee and program director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center. "Watching the film, one is immediately struck by his brilliant yet always subtle control over every aspect of the cinema."

Eastwood, 73, appeared at the 1988 New York Film Festival with "Bird." He also received a career achievement award from the Film Society of Lincoln Center, which runs the festival, in 1996.

He previously directed films including "Pale Rider," "The Bridges of Madison County" and "Unforgiven," the 1992 film that won the Academy Award for best picture and earned Eastwood a best-director Oscar.

Now in its 41st year, the New York Film Festival runs from Oct. 3-19. The complete schedule will be announced in August.

■ **NEW YORK** — Lizzie Grubman, the publicist who backed her SUV into a crowd of clubgoers in the Hamptons two years ago, says she has a new philosophy on the media: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Grubman plans to begin a new job as a gossip and entertainment reporter for the radio station WNEW-FM, "102.7 Blink." Her first report will be on goings-on in the Hamptons over the Fourth of July weekend.

"Now, I decided that if I can't ... beat the media, I'm joining the media," she told sister station 1010 WINS.

Grubman, whose company promoted singer Britney Spears, rapper Jay-Z and the Backstreet Boys, served 37 days in jail after pleading guilty to assault and leaving the scene of the July 7, 2001, crash outside the Conscience Point Inn that injured at least 16 people.

"So many people were involved, and you know, it breaks my heart every single day," she said. "I still think about it, and it'll never go away."

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