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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$12 Million

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DAILY 3
Daytime: 0 5 9
Evening: 2 7 5

DAILY DERBY
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:48.98

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Tony Young, 35, made the news in January in Flint, Mich., when he tried to stop the theft of his Mustang ("my pride and joy") by grabbing the spoiler and hanging on for 20 minutes as the thief drove through Flint and on two interstate highways at speeds up to 80 mph, trying to shake him off. Young still managed to call 911 on his cell phone and describe his route until police could join the chase, which ended when the driver fled on foot and was captured. (Two weeks later, "Young" was arrested and charged with breaking into a home, and police discovered that his real name is Anthony Barry and that he has served two stretches in prison.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 180th day of 2005.
There are 185 days left in the year.

On June 29, 1776, the Virginia state constitution was adopted, and Patrick Henry made governor.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed ... Great necessities call out great virtues."

- ABIGAIL ADAMS

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Spending habits, tourist traffic on the rise in SM

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE —Tourists spent \$840.6 million in Santa Monica last year, with the average person spending \$110.50 a day, a recent study shows.

About \$250 million of that money was spent on shopping and gifts, but dining and restaurants also saw quite a bit of the revenue — \$196 million. Hotels raked in \$188 million.

And not only did visitors spend more here, but there were more of them. The report, commissioned by the Santa Monica Convention & Visitor's Bureau, shows that the number of visitors here has grown significantly since 2000, which was a peak year in the tourism industry. Since then, visitor volume has increased from 3.8 million people to 4.7 million people annually, according to the report, prepared by Lauren Schlau Consulting and Skip Hull, an economist based in San Diego.

The 9/11 terrorists attacks nearly halted travel in the last part of

2001, but it appears the industry is on the rebound. Business and international travelers to Santa Monica are on the upswing; the city in 2004 realized a record-breaking \$23.8 million in transient occupancy tax, a 14 percent tax paid by hotel guests.

"People had more money in 2004, and we had more of them here," Schlau said.

The increase isn't just good for City Hall coffers, but for local merchants too, because overnight visitors tend to spend more.

"This crucial research shows the importance of domestic and international overnight hotel guests who spend more — \$198.20 per day — compared to the day visitor spending of \$73.47," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of the visitor's bureau. "While overnight hotel visitors comprise only 11 percent of the total number of Santa Monica's visitors, they contribute nearly half of the total spending."

The TOT, which is about 35 percent of City Hall's total general fund revenue, has grown by \$11



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

A pedestrian on Tuesday steps off the sidewalk into the street while walking up the Santa Monica Pier ramp. City Hall is considering widening the sidewalks, as well as redesigning the entire entrance to the pier.

Economic Impacts of Tourism in Santa Monica

Summary: In 2004, Santa Monica's vital travel industry surpassed record estimated visitor volume and spending levels set in 2000 but not seen since. International and business travelers, two of Santa Monica's key segments, rebounded, but leisure, especially U.S. domestic which is the strongest segment, led the growth during this period.

Total Number of Visitors¹	4.74 million (2004) +1.3% 4.68 million (2003) +22.8% 3.81 million (2000)
Total Annual Visitor Spending	\$840.6 million (2004) +8.3% \$776.0 million (2003) -1.5% \$787.9 million (2000)
Total Annual Visitor Spending by Category (2004)	Shopping/gifts \$242.9 million Meals out 196.1 million Lodging 188.4 million Beverages 80.6 million Transportation 69.3 million Admissions 26.9 million Groc./incidentals 22.3 million Health/spa 14.0 million
Hotel Tax Revenue to City²	\$20.2 million (2004) +15.4% \$17.5 million (2003) - 6.4% \$18.9 million (2000)
Visitor Sales Tax Revenue³	\$ 5.04 million (2004) +7.5% \$ 4.69 million (2003) - 1.3% \$ 4.75 million (2000)
Santa Monica Jobs Supported by Tourism	9,380(2004) +15.5% 8,122(2003) -29.3% 11,481(2000)

Economic Impact of Santa Monica Visitors By Segment (2004)

Measure	Hotel Visitors	Private Residence Visitors	Day Visitors	International Visitors	U.S. Domestic Visitors
Total Annual Visitors	522,000	177,000	4,038,000	2,240,000	2,490,000
Percent of All Visitors	11%	4%	85%	47%	53%
Total Spending Impact (in millions)	\$407.3	\$136.8	\$296.7	\$489	\$352
Percent of total Spending	49%	16%	35%	58%	42%
Spending per person/day	\$198.00	\$90.00	\$73.00	\$218	\$141
Percent of visitors that walk while in Santa Monica (2000 study)	78%	59%	70%		

¹ A visitor is defined as someone who resides outside of Los Angeles County, visiting Santa Monica for the day or overnight, for leisure, business, a meeting or special event, but not for regular work or to attend school.
² Based on estimated visitor spending, not taxes reported by the City of Santa Monica.
³ Sales tax based on estimated visitor spending, not taxes reported by the State and City of Santa Monica
Source: Lauren Schlau Consulting and CIC Research, Inc. © Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau 06/05

million in the last four years, Kerns said.

The TOT was raised from 12 percent to 14 percent late last year, following voter approval. The new tax went into effect in January. The study forecasts that 2005 TOT income will push \$27 million.

"I'm pleased to see the number

of people staying in local hotels," Schlau said of the study's results. "It's a great sign in a resurgence of people spending money on hotels. That's a good sign for Santa Monica."

Day visitors still account for 85

See **TOURISM**, page 5

City Hall ramping up for easier pier access

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER — A project intended to make it easier to get to the Santa Monica Pier will be available for public review in coming months.

City officials said a project on the table since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake that would expand the bridge leading onto the Santa Monica Pier will undergo its first public evaluation this fall following the release of an environmental impact report, which will require set guidelines for the project.

Once complete, the upgraded

ramp would improve traffic flow on and off of the pier, which some say is often too crowded, even dangerous, during busy hours. In addition, the new ramp could be designed to free up congested areas near the Santa Monica Freeway.

Miriam Mack, the city's economic development manager, said federal disaster funds from the Northridge quake would likely be used to seismically retrofit and expand the pier bridge.

"There are funds available to upgrade the bridge, and pedestrian and vehicle traffic speaks to the

See **PIER RAMP**, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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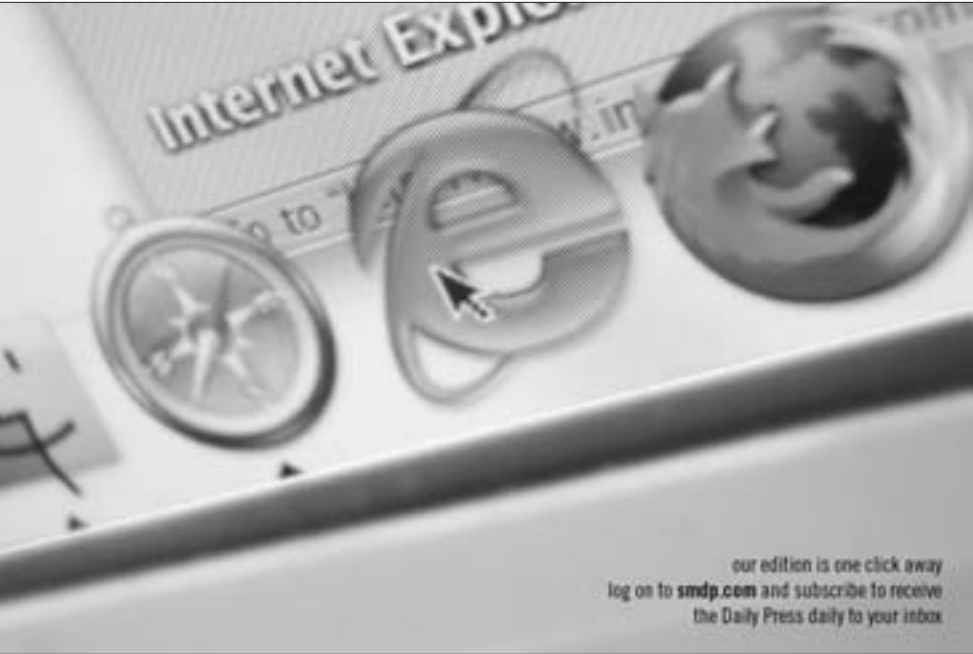
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Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Share your ideas in a meeting or with key associates. Others are nothing but enthusiastic. You get the go-ahead and feel good about the support and general enthusiasm you receive. You might need to do some research. Tonight: Your wish is another's command.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Much needs to happen, but let someone else carry the ball. You intuitively know how to handle a superior. Do just that. A partner changes his or her tune. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Though others could be reactive, you get solutions from a specific individual. In fact, this person might wish he or she was as innovative as you. Discussions bring mutuality and a new understanding. Tonight: Out.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Responsibilities fall on you, whether you like it or not. Revamp your plans in order to get the job done. If you want some inspiration, tap into a special creative friend. Accept new technology, if possible. Tonight: A must appearance.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might not be clearly seeing someone who's significant to your life. Do your best to see this person realistically, because he or she could only fall off his or her pedestal. Detach and take a new look at those close to you. Tonight: Get into a game of Scrabble, or do some other mind exercise.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Listen to a key associate or partner, especially when this person has suggestions that will make your daily life work better. Sometimes you need to push harder. Revise your thinking if need be. In fact, you'll gain a new perspective. Tonight: Exchange ideas with a partner.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Others seek you out with news you'll want to hear. You find a loved one especially desirable. Realize that someone could be pulling the wool over your eyes. Ask more questions, and observe the body language as well as the answers. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Give that extra push at work or in your daily routine. You might have an idea you are mulling over. Be careful if it involves an investment. Asking for a pay raise or promotion might be a whole different issue. A boss might be receptive. Tonight: Push into the wee hours.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You cannot help but share what you think and feel. Make that OK, because you seem to have some unusual ideas. Let your creativity flow into the different realms of your life. Be careful with your innate flirtatiousness. Tonight: Take a midweek break.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Deal with family. You might find that money slips right through your hands. Be careful. You might want to add to your home or make an investment that feels good. Don't. Wait. Take your time. Tonight: Relax at home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your unusual ideas come out. Others might need to hear some of your thoughts. Return calls; schedule meetings. By all means, stay up-to-date on news. Use your sixth sense in a conversation. Tonight: Find your favorite person.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your intuition comes through in a financial matter. Check in with someone you admire and care about. You gain a new perspective from this person. Listen, because this person knows more than you. Tonight: Fun doesn't need to cost.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com PRODUCTION DESIGNER Frantz Lovell dandemite@hotmail.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger ...somechum@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL

**SMPD lieutenant races for the cure**

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans next month will rally together for 24 hours to battle cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight team event that raises awareness of cancer in the community and raises money to fight the disease. Teams are made up of people who will walk or run around a track in shifts. The registration fee is \$150, and

each team member is encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100. Team participants camp out and enjoy music, entertainment and refreshments as well as build team spirit in the fight against cancer.

Organizers say the power of the event relay allows the community to grieve for those who have been lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of those who have successfully survived. It gives everyone, from the newly diagnosed patient to the caregivers of those who have struggled with the disease, an opportunity to be with others who have been touched by cancer.

The event begins on Saturday, July 23, at 9 a.m. and runs continuously until 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 24. It will be held at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Leading up to the event, the Daily Press will highlight volunteers' stories.

**Frank Fabrega****Age:** 51**Residence:** Santa Monica**Profession:** Santa Monica Police Lieutenant**What is your role in the Relay for Life?**

"Event chair for 2005."

How did you get involved in Relay for Life?

"The police department became involved with Relay For Life since its inception in our community four years ago. The Chief of Police, James T. Butts Jr., is on the

executive board for the American Cancer Society and strongly felt this was a great community outreach event."

What has been your experience so far?

"I've been involved with relay for the past four years. I enjoy working with everyone on the committee who dedicates their time and efforts at making this event a success. I measure success by how many residents and participants become more educated with the American Cancer Society and the programs being offered to the community of Santa Monica."

What has been your experience with cancer?

"Two years ago I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Now I am cancer free, and it was through early detection that the cancer was discovered. After being diagnosed with cancer, I utilized the services offered by the American Cancer Society. Their Web site and their two-hour 800 phone number helped me learn what options I had to fight this disease."

What would you tell someone about this event who doesn't know about it?

"I tell individuals that this is a community event and the purpose is to raise awareness about cancer and that money raised goes toward education, advocacy and research, and this impacts everyone in our community. Cancer affects our family, friends and co-workers. Relay helps us celebrate survivorship, and we remember those who lost their battle to cancer."

Why are you involved in this event, and not others that raise money for cancer?

"Relay is an event run by volunteers who are truly dedicated at making a difference in our community."

What does your committee need?

"We are always looking for individuals that want to get involved with our committees. We are looking for teams to join our relay."

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (310) 348-0356 or visit www.acsevents.org/relay/ca/santamonica.

**SURF REPORT**

Wednesday the SW swell is expected to back down with early AM sessions seeing chest- to head-high sets when the tide is right, but as the day progresses, evening sessions may only see chest-high sets.

Today the water is:**58°**

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

**LOW TIDES****HIGH TIDES**

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
TUESDAY	9:28	0.5	10:52	1.7	2:48	4.3	4:25	5.0
WEDNESDAY	10:18	1.1	N/A	N/A	4:20	3.6	5:13	5.3
THURSDAY	12:15	1.1	11:09	1.6	6:00	3.2	5:58	5.6
FRIDAY	12:42	0.9	11:47	1.3	7:14	3.8	6:37	5.2

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The Q Line

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Pier officials are working on a plan to bring sport fishing and boating back to Santa Monica.

Currently they are considering two options: an estimated \$13 million plan that would restore the breakwater just north of the Santa Monica Pier to accommodate commercial boating and a harbor, or a substantially less expensive gangway that might achieve the same goal. A recommendation could be presented to the City Council as early as August.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Which plan do you favor — the breakwater rebuild or the gangway? Why? Is there another option that should be considered?"

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homeless veterans might not want help

Editor:
Being a veteran of Vietnam, let me comment on the V.A. to help the homeless vets. I used the V.A. for five months (lived there). They have wonderful programs for all vets. Homeless vets are always welcome, so why are they homeless?
1.) Drugs and alcohol.
2.) Wore out their welcome at all V.A. facilities.
3.) Don't want help.
All vets can use the V.A. but they must enter an alcohol and drug program. They give every vet three chances to get help (i.e., wore out their welcome or don't want help).
How is the V.A. to allow homeless vets who go out and drink and do drugs every day then go back and sleep there? Is that fair to the vets who want help?
Vets who are homeless choose it.

Michael Rudy
Santa Monica

Protesting is a patriotic duty

Editor:
Regarding the two letters critical of the behavior of the protests protesting Mr. Schwarzenegger's presence at the SMC commencement, (John Faulk and Bunnie Meyer, SMDP, June 20, page 4), I have the following opinion.
We live in a country founded on protest. Get over it. And as for Bunnie Meyer calling the students "snot nosed kids whose mothers taught them nothing," these students and others across the country will be leading this country before long and perhaps their mothers — and fathers — taught them to learn and speak their minds.
If the students of the '60s and '70s hadn't held mass protests and even gave their lives (Kent State) to protest the war in Vietnam, we would still be over there.
President Theodore Roosevelt declared that it was the patriotic duty of each American to protest the government's actions, a point that the George Bushes and the Johns and the Bunnies of the world seem to think disgraceful.
And if Mr. Schwarzenegger can't stand the heat, let him stay in his insulated, cigar-smoke-filled cabana in Sacramento, and continue to cheat the police, the unions, the firemen, the educators, the poor, the elderly and the children of his state and then lie about it at his true special interest fundraisers.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Real action needed for real problem

Editor:
Enough time has passed for the Santa Monica City Council to discuss in broad-brush strokes the idea of a dedicated position to tackle the homeless issue in Santa Monica and to work with surrounding communities, as well as work with levels beyond that, as needed (SMDP, June 6, page 1).
For the dissenters in the City Council, get onboard with Shriver's idea and make it work to achieve real solutions to homelessness. Shriver is new to the council, has ideas and can draw media attention, as well as the attention of heavy-hitters in the political and entertainment realm. The City Council needs to embrace the new position and use what Shriver can bring to the table to solve problems. In other words, there's no room for road-blockers and obstructionists at this point.
The homeless issue has been a major problem for more than 15 years. City Council may justifiably point to success stories getting people off the streets. That's all to be applauded. But the reality is that the numbers of people living on the streets — drugged out, mentally ill or simply down and out — don't seem to ever change. The perception — and the reality — is that Santa Monica is a homeless haven, and City Councilmembers who have served for years bear a lot of responsibility.
So it's fine to talk about input and plans from Bring L.A. Home. But without even knowing the specifics, I bet it's not going to be nearly enough to fix the problem. Put some powerful legs in Santa Monica for this position.

Blaine Ivy
Santa Monica

Kill the squirrels

Editor:
It saddened me to read Kevin McKeown's letter, "stop poisoning the squirrels" (SMDP June 8, page 4). Is this our City Councilman? Last time I checked, squirrels were considered rodents.
Potential disease doesn't send up a red flag? By the time there is an outbreak of a flea-borne disease, it's too late. Prevention should be the name of the game when it comes to morbidity and mortality.
The analogy of "just because your dog has fleas, you don't kill your dog," doesn't fit the case about rodents in a public park. It's your dog, on your property.
If poison wasn't put out, how many squirrels would be at Palisades Park when it has an unnatural habitat for squirrels? There are no predators. There are people who feed the squirrels. There is even cat food left out on the ground, west of the fence, for ferile cats — which again brings up the concept of caring for animals that are on your property.
Has Kevin seen all of the rodent burrows in the bluffs?

L. Kane
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY MICHAEL S. BERLINER

Put the 'independence' back in Independence Day

America's cities and towns will soon fill with parades, fireworks and barbecues. They will be celebrating the Fourth of July, the 229th birthday of America. But one hopes that — on this fourth post-September 11 Independence Day — the speeches will contain fewer bromides and more attention to exactly what is being celebrated. The Fourth of July is Independence Day, but America's leaders and intellectuals have been trying to move us further and further away from the meaning of Independence Day, away from the philosophy that created this country.
What we hear from politicians, intellectuals and the media is that independence is passé, that we've reached a new age of "interdependence." We hear demands for mandatory "volunteering" to serve others, for sacrifice to the nation. We hear demands from trust-busters that successful companies be punished for being "greedy" and not serving society. But this is not the message of America. It is the direct opposite of why America became a beacon of hope for the truly oppressed throughout the world. They have come here to escape poverty and dictatorship. They have come here to live their own lives, where they aren't owned by the state, the community or the tribe.

"Independence Day" is a critically important title. It signifies the fundamental meaning of this nation, not just of the holiday. The American Revolution remains unique in human history: a revolution — and a nation — founded on a moral principle, the principle of individual rights. Jefferson at Philadelphia and Washington at Valley Forge pledged their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor." For what? Not for mere separation from England, not — like most rebels — for the "freedom" to set up their own tyranny. In fact, Britain's tyranny over the colonists was mild compared to what most current governments do to their citizens.
Jefferson and Washington fought a war for the principle of independence, meaning the moral right of an individual to live his own life as he sees fit. Independence was proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence as the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." What are these rights? The right to life means that every individual has a right to his own independent life, that one's life belongs to oneself, not to others to use as they see fit.
The right to liberty means the right to freedom of action, to act on one's own judgment, the right not to have a gun pointed at one's head and be forced to do what someone else commands. And the right to the pursuit of happiness means that an individual may properly pursue one's own happiness, e.g., one's own career, friends, hobbies and not exist as a mere tool to serve the goals of others. The Founding Fathers did not proclaim a right to the attainment of happiness, knowing full well that such a policy would carry with it the obligation of others to make one happy and result in the enslavement of all to all. The Declaration of Independence was a declaration against servitude, not just servitude to the crown but servitude to anyone. Even though some signers still owned slaves does not negate the fact that they established the philosophy that doomed slavery.
Political independence is not a primary. It rests on a more fundamental type of independence: the independence of the human mind. It is the ability of human beings to think for themselves and guide their own lives that makes political independence possible and necessary. The government as envisaged by the Founding Fathers existed to protect the freedom to think and to act on one's thinking. If human beings were unable to reason, to think for themselves, there would be no autonomy or independence for a government to protect. It is this independence that defines the American Revolution and the American spirit.
To the Founding Fathers, there was no authority higher than the individual mind, not King George, not God, not society. Reason, wrote Ethan Allen, is "the only oracle of man," and Thomas Jefferson advised us to "fix reason firmly in her seat and call to her tribunal every fact, every opinion. Question with boldness even the existence of a God." That is the meaning of independence: Trust in your own judgment, in reason; do not sacrifice your mind to the state, the church, the race, the nation or your neighbors.

Independence is the foundation of America. Independence is what should be celebrated on Independence Day. That is the legacy our Founding Fathers left us. It is a legacy we should keep, not because it is a legacy, but because it is right and just. It has made America the most free and prosperous country in history.

(Michael S. Berliner is a member of the board of directors of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead." Send comments to reaction@aynrand.org.)

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 editor@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.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

LOCAL



Visitor's bureau will get extra \$500K from hotel tax

TOURISM, from page 1

percent of all tourists in Santa Monica, the study shows.

Since 1983, the visitor's bureau has conducted an economic impact study every three years to gauge what type of people are coming to Santa Monica and where they spend their money. Similar analysis was done in 1997, 2000 and 2003. But since the market dramatically changed in 2000 and business appeared to be on the upswing in 2003, officials decided to get an annual update to better determine how to spend their limited marketing dollars for 2005.

"This is the only visitor's bureau that I know that does these analyses so frequently and with such detail," Schlau said.

The recent study includes on-site interviews with 600 visitors near hotels and in high traffic areas during September, the most representative month of the year, Schlau said. Her firm also surveyed hotels that provided data on their occupancy levels and rates for every month. Another 300 households that hosted guests were surveyed in December. The entire study took about six months, Schlau said.

Those results were then given to Hull, vice president of CIC Research Inc. and a noted economist. The numbers were crunched and analyzed, resulting in the percentage of day, overnight and visitors staying with residents, which was translated into the total volume of tourists and their spending habits.

Schlau said her firm also drew information from a host of other sources, including private and public national and state tourism agencies, as well as the Los Angeles International Airport, to determine the change in domestic and international arrivals into LA from 2003 to 2004.

Santa Monica also saw a resurgence of the business traveler, who typically stays at more expensive hotels than the international visitor. However, international tourists usually stay longer and spend more than domestic travelers, officials said.

Market research shows that 78 percent of hotel visitors walk or use public trans-

Key findings from the 2004 economic impact study include the following estimates:

■ Total visitor volume: 4.74 million (up 1.2 percent from 2003)

■ Total visitor spending: \$840.6 million (up 8.3 percent from 2003 and ahead of the previous record of \$787.93 million in 2000)

■ The breakdown of total spending by major spending categories: shopping (28.9 percent); meals out (23.3 percent); lodging (22.4 percent)

■ Daily visitor spending in 2004 was estimated at \$110.50 (up 6.8 percent from 2003).

■ Average daily hotel visitor spending increased 11 percent from 2003 (\$186.76) to 2004 (\$198.20).

■ Although the majority of visitors to Santa Monica were day visitors, hotel guests accounted for 11 percent, generating 49 percent of the total spending. Home visitors accounted for 4 percent of overall visitor volume and 16 percent of total spending.

■ International visitor volume is slowly and steadily returning to Santa Monica, comprising 47 percent of total visitor volume. Visitors spend more than domestic visitors, accounting for 58 percent of total visitor spending.

portation once they arrive in Santa Monica.

The visitor's bureau for the past few years has stepped up its marketing efforts abroad, specifically in the United Kingdom. Before 9/11, Japan was the No. 1 market for Santa Monica's international marketing efforts, Kerns said.

The visitor's bureau, which operates on a \$2 million annual budget, will receive an additional \$500,000 from TOT revenue for increased marketing efforts. The visitor's bureau currently spends about \$500,000 on sales and marketing, \$400,000 on services that include staff and the rest on operational costs. The 2004 study is estimated to cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

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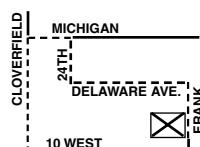
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New ramp, gangway may be coming to pier

PIER RAMP, from page 1

need to make it more accessible and improve conditions, hopefully with wider sidewalks," Mack said.

Currently, pedestrians and vehicles enter and exit the Santa Monica Pier on the same ramp. The pedestrians use two sidewalks, each no more than a few feet wide, located on either side of the two-lane vehicle path.

Several ideas have been discussed in the past to better separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the pier bridge to improve safety and traffic flow. The hope has been to direct vehicular traffic from the ramp to the parking area below the pier, while providing more walking space.

Michael Klein, former chair of the non-profit Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., said he proposed one of the more recent ideas that was met warmly by city groups a few years ago.

Klein suggested that pedestrian traffic be limited to the left side of the pier bridge on

an expanded walkway. Vehicular traffic — much of which he said comes from Colorado Avenue — would be allowed one-way access down the right side of the bridge, then veer below and to the right on a new ramp toward the 1550 beach parking lot.

Vehicles would then exit the parking lot onto the Pacific Coast Highway, leading back to the freeway. That would prevent congestion along main freeway corridors, such as on Colorado Avenue at Lincoln Boulevard and Fourth and Fifth streets. Klein said those areas take the brunt of cars going to and from the pier.

Abby Arnold, who served for years as a PRC board member, said the longer the ramp is not redeveloped, the longer the public is exposed to danger.

"This is certainly the time to make the project happen, if not for any other reason but safety," Arnold said.

Arnold, who began her term on the commission shortly after the Northridge quake, said she and others have been pushing for the bridge expansion ever

"This is certainly the time to make the project happen, if not for any other reason but safety."

—ABBY ARNOLD

Former board member of the Pier Restoration Corp.

since, but it has always been put off.

"It never got to the priority level," Arnold said. "The city has been balancing the needs against the new police building, library, resurfacing the streets."

Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone said it was impossible to know in any reasonable period of time the number of accidents that might have occurred on the pier ramp as a result of its current configuration.

He said the ramp's redeveloped ramp would be useful.

"I do think a wider or differently configured ramp with sidewalks more conducive to pedestrian traffic would be a benefit to better separate vehicle traffic

and improve overall safety," Hone said.

The ramp expansion also might pave the way for other pier projects City Hall is considering. The creation of a gangway at the end of the pier is being discussed that would serve as a docking point for boating activities.

Mack said Rincon Consultants, Inc., will be conducting the bridge expansion environmental impact report.

"There are a number of alternatives being looked at for the impact of environmental issues, such as traffic and circulation," Mack said. "The public will have an opportunity to review the report before it goes to council."



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STATE



Court OKs music downloading lawsuits against software firms

BY TED BRIDIS
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — Hollywood and the music industry can file piracy lawsuits against technology companies caught encouraging customers to steal music and movies over the Internet, the Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The justices, aiming to curtail what they called a "staggering" volume of piracy online, largely set aside concerns that new lawsuits would inhibit technology companies from developing the next iPod or other high-tech gadgets or services.

The unanimous ruling is expected to have little immediate impact on consumers, though critics said it could lead companies to include digital locks to discourage illegal behavior.

The justices left in place legal protections for companies that merely learn customers might be using products for illegal purposes.

The justices said copying digital files such as movies, music or software programs "threatens copyright holders as never before" because it's so easy and popular, especially among young people. Entertainment companies maintain that online thieves trade 2.6 billion songs, movies and other digital files each month.

"I am pleased that the Supreme Court has considered this important case and determined that those who intentionally induce or encourage the theft of copyrighted music, movies, software or other protected works may be held liable for their actions," Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said.

The ruling represents a significant victory for Hollywood and record labels, which have resorted to suing individually the thousands of computer users caught sharing music and movies online.

"We will no longer have to compete with thieves in the night whose businesses are built on larceny," said Andrew Lack, chief executive for Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

In a tweak at entertainment companies — and a demonstration of legal purposes for file-sharing — computer users circulated the court's published opinion over Internet file-sharing services. Government-produced documents generally are not protected by copyright.

The court said Grokster Ltd. and Streamcast Networks Inc., developers of leading Internet file-sharing software, can be sued because they deliberately encouraged customers to download copyrighted files illegally so they could build a larger

audience and sell more advertising. Writing for the court, Justice David H. Souter said the companies' "unlawful objective is unmistakable."

The court noted as evidence of bad conduct that Grokster and Streamcast made no effort to block illegal downloads, which the companies maintained wasn't possible.

But the court also said a technology company couldn't be sued if it merely learns its customers are using its products for illegal purposes. That balancing test, the court said, is necessary so that it "does nothing to compromise legitimate commerce or discourage innovation having a lawful promise."

The court said it wanted to protect an inventor who must predict how consumers months or years in the future might use new technology.

"The price of a wrong guess ... could be large," Justice Stephen G. Breyer wrote.

The lawyer for the software companies, Richard Taranto, said he will argue in a new trial that they did not encourage computer users to download music and movies illegally. He complained the Supreme Court's ruling was so vague it was impossible to know which companies might be sued.

"You can't be terribly sure how it might apply to you," Taranto said.

Taranto's partner in the case, Fred von Lohmann of the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation, predicted the decision will "unleash a new era of legal uncertainty on America's innovators" and that unresolved questions "will probably tie up courts for a long time."

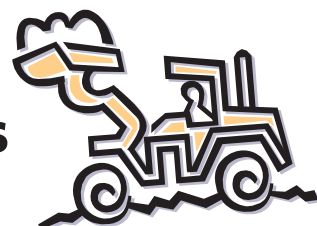
Justices said a federal appeals court in California mistakenly applied too broadly the landmark 1984 Supreme Court ruling. The court decided in the case that Sony Corp. could not be sued over consumers who used its VCRs to make illegal copies of movies because most people used VCRs legally to tape programs and watch them later.

"Nothing in Sony requires courts to ignore evidence of intent to promote infringement," the court said. It declined to go further, saying it wanted "to leave further consideration of the Sony rule for a day when that may be required."

Monday's decision did not affect the illegality of computer users downloading copyrighted materials over the Internet without permission. The ruling also was not expected to affect the thousands of copyright lawsuits filed already against computer users by the trade groups for Hollywood studios and the largest labels.

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STATE

CNOOC wages public relations, lobbying battle for Unocal

BY GARY GENTILE
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Chinese state-controlled oil and gas company CNOOC Ltd. is waging a high-stakes public relations campaign to focus its bid for U.S. energy producer Unocal Corp. on shareholder value, and away from politics.

The company has hired high-powered public relations and lobbying teams to steer Unocal shareholders, regulatory bodies, legislators and the media away from the notion that the proposed deal is an attempt by the Chinese government to deprive the U.S. of vital energy resources.

CNOOC's CEO Fu Chengyu wrote in a letter to Congress Monday that the company is eager to have the U.S. government scrutinize the national security implications of the deal — seeking to address concerns already circulating among lawmakers.

Even before making public its \$18.5 billion for Unocal last week, competing with a \$16.6 billion deal with Chevron Corp., members of Congress sent President Bush a letter warning him of the threats posed by China's "pursuit of world energy resources."

A separate letter was passed around Congress late last week, also calling on the Bush administration to investigate — through the aegis of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States — the national security implications of the proposed deal.

In the face of such scrutiny, CNOOC has aggressively sought to paint its bid as a straight economic deal.

"This is a commercial deal, a commercial bid from one New York Stock Exchange listed company to another New York Stock Exchange listed company designed to improve shareholder value for both," said Mark Palmer, a managing director at Public Strategies Inc. of Austin, Texas, one of two public relations firms hired by CNOOC.

Public Strategies has close ties to President Bush. One of its top executives, Mark McKinnon, served as a media adviser to the Bush-Cheney campaign.

McKinnon is not working on the CNOOC account, and Bush spokesman Scott McClellan sidestepped a question about the firm's close administration ties at a press briefing Monday.

In his letter to Congress, Fu attempted to address some of the concerns the deal raises about America's energy security by noting that Unocal's oil and gas production amounts to less than 1 percent of all U.S. consumption.

He also reiterated his belief that CNOOC's all-cash offer would benefit the shareholders of Unocal and that substantially all of the company's U.S.-based workers would retain their jobs if the merger were completed.

"We know this bid is historic for both companies and will be closely scrutinized by everyone involved," he said. "I want you to know that we encourage that review and welcome the opportunity to participate."

Last week, CNOOC also said it would continue to sell "substantially all" of the crude oil and natural gas produced by Unocal domestically to the U.S. market.

Even the choice of words is an issue. CNOOC has been framing its bid as a "friendly" offer and has objected to media describing the bid as "hostile" or even "unsolicited."

The company points out that Unocal had invited bids from companies, including CNOOC, before accepting Chevron's offer. CNOOC submitted its bid after the agreement between Chevron and Unocal only because its board insisted on doing an independent review of the transaction, delaying its offer.

CNOOC also notes that four of its eight board members are independent, non executive members in keeping with Securities and Exchange Commission guidelines for corporate governance. Those four are non-Chinese and the company's business, including board meetings, are conducted in English, the company points out.

CNOOC's lobbying and public relations effort also is focused on correcting what it sees as an outdated image of Unocal as an American oil and gas company.

The vast majority of Unocal's reserves are located in Asia and the company that once was famous for its "Union 76" filling stations sold that business long ago.

Unocal shares rose 32 cents, or 0.5 percent, to close at \$66 on the New York Stock Exchange. Share for CNOOC Ltd. American Depositary Share rose 86 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$55.76, on the NYSE.

Assembly committee OKs bill allowing licenses for illegal immigrants

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — An Assembly committee approved legislation Monday that would allow illegal immigrants to get California driver's licenses, despite opposition from Schwarzenegger administration officials who said the bill was premature.

Representatives of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the state Office of Homeland Security said lawmakers should wait until the federal government issues regulations spelling out the details of requirements for the licenses.

Mike Dayton, deputy director of the Office of Homeland Security, went further, suggesting that terrorists could use the licenses to "carry out their evil deeds."

But the measure's author, Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, said it would implement security requirements sought by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and required by federal legislation signed by President Bush.

The licenses would have to be of a different color or design than driver's licenses held by other motorists and they could be used only for driving, he said.

Cedillo has been trying for seven years to enact legislation allowing the licenses, saying they would improve highway safety by getting more drivers tested and insured.

Former Gov. Gray Davis signed one of his license bills in 2003, but lawmakers repealed that law after Davis was recalled by voters.

Cedillo said he thought he had an agreement with Schwarzenegger to sign a revised license measure last year, but the Republican governor vetoed it, contending it lacked security requirements.

This year Cedillo said he'd met Schwarzenegger's concerns by dropping his opposition to licenses that looked different from the standard ones, but the governor's office has raised new objections about the timing of the bill.

"I hoped that we could do this in a bipartisan manner, the manner in which Congress did," he said. "I wish we

could support the president in a bipartisan manner. It's our duty today to ensure highway safety."

But Republican lawmakers argued that bill would undercut efforts to prevent illegal immigration.

"The biggest problem I have with this bill is it's making a mockery of the law of the land," said Assemblyman Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar. "It sends mixed messages."

"Those that are in this country should not have the right to anything," added Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy.

But Democrats said allowing the licenses would have no impact on illegal immigration, that many California businesses depend on illegal immigrants for employees, that employers are seldom penalized for hiring them and that other drivers suffer when all motorists aren't licensed and insured.

"When you want to have a serious discussion about strengthening employer sanctions and raising the minimum wage so so-called American workers will clean bathrooms and mow lawns, then I'm willing to have that debate," said Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, D-Fremont.

Michael Gunning, a lobbyist for the Personal Insurance Federation of California, said the bill would lead to "trained, tested and insured drivers, which will increase highway safety for all."

A 7-5 vote sent the bill to the Appropriations Committee, the last stop before the full Assembly.

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NATIONAL



Bush tries to ease doubts on first anniversary of Iraqi sovereignty

BY NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush is using the first anniversary of Iraq's sovereignty to try to ease Americans' doubts about the mission and outline a winning strategy for a violent conflict that has cost the lives of more than 1,740 U.S. troops and has no end in sight.

In a prime-time address from Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division, Bush was to argue that there is no need to change course in Iraq despite the upsetting images produced by daily insurgent attacks.

His assessment comes on the heels of a recent Associated Press-Ipsos poll that showed public doubts about the war reaching a high point.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday that Bush will stress the need for patience as Iraq moves toward establishing a permanent democratic government. She acknowledged that continuing insurgent violence and the loss of life makes it hard for Americans "to focus on the quiet process that's going on in Iraq of building a political consensus toward a stable and democratic Iraq."

"I know it's difficult and the president will acknowledge that," Rice said on NBC's "Today" show. "But the United States has been through difficult times before to come out on the other side with a more stable world."

As of late morning, ABC was the only broadcast network planning live coverage. CBS, Fox and NBC had announced no decision. The cable networks CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC were planning to carry it.

Although attacks frequently take the lives of American troops, Bush has said they will not leave until Iraqi security forces are trained and equipped to keep the peace. He has refused to give a timetable for troop withdrawal, even though some Democrats and a few Republicans in Congress are supporting a resolution that calls for Bush to start bringing them home by Oct. 1, 2006.

"The key to success in Iraq is for the Iraqis to be able and capable of defending their democracy against terrorists," Bush said Monday, then turned to what has been the signature achievement of the conflict that began in Baghdad more than two years ago. "Parallel with the security track is a political track. Obviously, the political track has made progress this year when 8 million people went to the polls and voted."

Bush's 2004 Democratic presidential opponent, Sen. John Kerry, urged the president to "tell the truth to the American people."

"Happy talk about the insurgency being in 'the last

throes' leads to frustrated expectations at home," Kerry, D-Mass., said in an op-ed piece that appeared in Tuesday's editions of The New York Times.

"The president must also announce immediately that the United States will not have a permanent military presence in Iraq," Kerry wrote. "Erasing suspicions that the occupation is indefinite is critical to eroding support for the insurgency."

The administration appears to be shifting its strategy subtly, focusing more on political solutions to the insurgency. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has confirmed that talks have taken place with some insurgent leaders, and the U.S. commander of the multinational coalition in Iraq has said the conflict will ultimately be resolved in a political process.

Tapping into Americans' emotions over terrorists attacks in the United States, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush will talk about insurgents killing innocent people and how stopping the violence "will be a major blow to the ambitions of the terrorists."

"This is a time of testing," McClellan said. "It is a critical moment in Iraq. The terrorists are seeking to shake our will and weaken our resolve. They know that they cannot win unless we abandon the mission before it is complete."

Bush also scheduled two and a half hours to meet with families of soldiers who have died, as he usually does when he visits military bases. Outside the base, opponents of the war planned protests.

"There's a groundswell against this war," said Bill Dobbs, spokesman United For Peace and Justice, an anti-war coalition of more than 1,300 local and national groups. "You can see it in Congress, you can see it in newspaper editorials and what young people are saying to military recruiters: 'No.'"

Bush's speech is part of a new public-relations campaign from the White House to try to calm anxieties about the war. It comes after several conflicting or perplexing messages about the nature and duration of the conflict.

Vice President Dick Cheney made headlines last month with his assertion that the insurgency in Iraq was "in its last throes." He was later contradicted by the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, Gen. John Abizaid, and by Rumsfeld, who said the insurgency could drag on for years.

Rumsfeld also told an interviewer this month that Iraq is "statistically" no safer today than it was before the ouster of Saddam Hussein, although he maintains progress is being made.

New case of mad cow brings talk of national ID system

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The latest case of mad cow disease has brought new talk of a national livestock tracking system, something the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee says the beef industry can create more quickly than the government.

The government is still trying to pinpoint the herd of the infected cow, a "downer" that could not walk and was at least 8 years old. The Agriculture Department, which confirmed the new case on Friday, is using DNA analysis because the cow's breed was mislabeled and its tissues got mixed with parts from other cows.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said a system to track the movements of the nation's 96 million cattle needs to be running "as soon as possible." The government's goal is to make a system mandatory by January 2009, but Goodlatte said the industry can create a tracking system more swiftly.

The dominant cattle ranchers' group, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, is creating its own identification system. The plan is to test the system starting Oct. 1, then have it up and running by October 2006, said Jay Truitt, lobbyist for the group.

The industry is hoping to persuade the department to use the cattlemen's system instead of its own. Other groups of livestock producers are also resisting the idea of a mandatory system.

"We definitely do not believe that this should be a top-down operation where folks here in Washington know best how cattle producers should keep track of their cattle," Goodlatte said. "And we definitely do not believe the government should have control of this information."

Canada has a tracking system that its livestock industry created, said Goodlatte. He acknowledged that the Canadian government ultimately ordered mandatory participation and said that might need to happen in the U.S.

"With that in place, then you can look at what the government needs to do to make sure that it is comprehensive in nature and works in as many circumstances as possible," Goodlatte said. "But I think the department is at risk of getting that backwards if they think they should step in and mandate something first, and then see how it works."

The department wants a system that cattle producers will want too, Agriculture Department spokesman Ed Loyd said. He said officials are open to different ideas.

The department released a "thinking paper" last month saying it envisions mandatory participation in an identification system by 2009.

"It would give us a tool that we don't have today, and we certainly want to have as many tools as possible to be able to deal with these types of situations," Loyd said.

The program won't come cheaply, but Truitt said Tuesday it may not be as expensive as was originally thought. The cost to producers could be as low as 20 cents to 40 cents a head, he said.

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The homeowner's tax advantages



**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR
& BRENT PARSONS

If you bought a home last year, you may deduct many of the costs associated with your home loan or acquisition mortgage.

Did your lender quote an interest rate plus points for the loan? A point equals 1 percent of the loan amount. Check your escrow closing statement for the amount of the loan fee or points — that amount qualifies as an itemized deduction. If you obtained a home improvement last year, the points also are deductible. With either a purchase or home improvement loan, you may have been charged a prorated interest amount for the month you closed escrow. Check your closing statement for this deduction. If you simply refinanced the loan on your home or borrowed against other real property to take cash out or secure a lower interest rate, the points or loan fees must be deducted annually over the life of loan. If you refinanced last year and forgot to deduct the points, prorated interest or loan fees, you can take the deductions on this year's return.

PROPERTY TAX

If you bought property last year, escrow would prorate the portion of property tax paid by the seller. Your closing statement may reflect a property tax charge (deduction) from the date you took title to the property.

The seller would have received a corresponding credit. However, if you agreed to pay the property tax owed by the seller, you could not claim that amount as a deduction, but you could add it to your basis.

PREPAYMENT PENALTY

If you paid off an existing real property loan last year and were charged a prepayment penalty, that amount is tax deductible.

SELL YOUR HOME AT A PROFIT?

If it was your primary residence for two of the last five years, up to \$250,000 in profit is tax-free for single taxpayers. Married couples have \$500,000 in tax-free gain from a qualifying home sale. The two-year occupancy need not be continuous. Only one spouse need be on title, but both must meet the residency requirement.

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?

As a general rule, no gain or loss is recognized, or inter-spousal title transfers during marriage or divorce. However, an exception is made in cases where the spouses agree to delay the sale of their primary residence. For the welfare of the children, a divorce decree may allow one spouse to reside in the home until some time in the future when the property will be sold and the proceeds divided equally. If the resident spouse qualifies for the \$250,000 home sale exemption, the non-resident spouse also qualifies for the \$250,000 home sale exemption.

SURVIVING SPOUSE

The widow may claim the

\$500,000 exemption if the home is sold during the year the spouse died. If the surviving spouse inherits the deceased spouse's half of the residence, the adjusted cost basis on the half is usually "stepped up" to market value on the date of the surviving spouse's taxable gain upon sale.

HOUSE PARTNERS

Unmarried co-owners who sell their residence after two years may each claim the \$250,000 exemption.

RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

As long as the taxpayer meets the two-year residency requirement for each sale, the individual \$250,000 and the married \$500,000 tax exemptions can be claimed every two years.

CHANGE JOBS AND RELOCATE?

A homeowner or renter can deduct almost all of their moving costs if your new job location is at least 50 miles further from your old home than your previous job. The second requirement is that you work at least 39 weeks in the vicinity of your new job location, 78 weeks for self-employed persons. You do not need to itemize deductions to take advantage of the moving cost tax adjustment if your situation qualifies. The distance from your new job is not a consideration.

(Read part two next week on tax advantages. Contact The PowerHouse Team for further questions at 310-482-2015 or brent@pwrhteam.com.)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, CONDOS AND INCOME HOMES

Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	2025 CLOVERFIELD BLVD #A SANTA MONICA 90404 SqFt: 474 HOD: \$212 List Price: \$329,500 Sold Price: \$329,500	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/22/2005	1125 PICO BLVD #102 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 850 HOD: \$183 List Price: \$469,000 Sold Price: \$462,500	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 06/23/2005	2308 SCHADER DR #201 SANTA MONICA 90404 SqFt: 865 HOD: \$222 List Price: \$499,000 Sold Price: \$525,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	834 6TH ST #102 SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: 759 HOD: \$221 List Price: \$529,000 Sold Price: \$534,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/27/2005	3101 3RD ST #3 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 695 HOD: \$140 List Price: \$545,000 Sold Price: \$576,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	1037 9TH ST #C SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$179 List Price: \$599,000 Sold Price: \$615,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	1218 9TH ST #7 SANTA MONICA 90401 SqFt: 1,260 HOD: \$290 List Price: \$599,000 Sold Price: \$670,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	1834 11th ST #1 SANTA MONICA 90404 SqFt: 1,360 HOD: \$155 List Price: \$649,000 Sold Price: \$662,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	737 PIER AVE #3 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,229 HOD: \$250 List Price: \$689,000 Sold Price: \$695,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 06/22/2005	201 OCEAN AVE #B1103 SANTA MONICA 90402 SqFt: 906 HOD: \$603 List Price: \$719,000 Sold Price: \$700,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	950 6TH ST #A SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: 1,907 HOD: \$216 List Price: \$779,000 Sold Price: \$792,500	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	34 VILLAGE PARK WAY SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$320 List Price: \$780,000 Sold Price: \$785,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	2441 14TH ST SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 954 Lot Size: 4,434 List Price: \$789,000 Sold Price: \$850,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	2930 NELSON WAY #307 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,352 HOD: \$672 List Price: \$839,000 Sold Price: \$852,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	817 5TH ST #1 SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: 1,615 HOD: \$300 List Price: \$899,000 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.75
Sold Santa Monica 06/27/2005	211 CALIFORNIA AVE #301 SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$460 List Price: \$989,000 Sold Price: \$970,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	122 OCEAN PARK #408 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,427 HOD: \$675 List Price: \$999,000 Sold Price: \$1,012,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	2129 21ST ST SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,487 Lot Size: 4,860 List Price: \$1,095,000 Sold Price: \$1,100,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/23/2005	1352 GRANT ST SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 5,760 List Price: \$1,185,000 Sold Price: \$1,160,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	2257 21ST ST SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,548 Lot Size: 6,750 List Price: \$1,199,000 Sold Price: \$1,225,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/27/2005	2707 6TH ST SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,596 Lot Size: 6,000 List Price: \$1,448,000 Sold Price: \$1,425,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/24/2005	42 SEA COLONY DR #42 SANTA MONICA 90405 SqFt: 1,855 HOD: \$870 List Price: \$1,589,000 Sold Price: \$1,803,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 06/21/2005	843 25TH ST SANTA MONICA 90403 SqFt: 1,856 Lot Size: 8,350 List Price: \$1,600,000 Sold Price: \$1,600,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 3.00

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Building basics for a healthier environment



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Did you know that cement is the critical ingredient that makes sand and gravel bind together and become hardened concrete? Manufacturing cement is energy intensive and hard on the environment. Research reveals that when a ton of cement is made, up to a ton of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

A solution is to be able to reduce the amount of cement mixed into concrete without affecting its structural integrity. Try fly ash, an industrial waste created at coal-burning power plants. Fly ash is said to strengthen the concrete because it changes its chemical properties. Another option, opt in recycled glass cullets for gravel — made in part from the glass bottles.

Such are the choices when you're green building. Green building encompasses several different areas of construction, but the concept of green building is "any structure that is designed, constructed, renovated or operated in such a manner as to minimize its impact on the environment, protect the health of its occupants and utilize resources efficiently," notes property columnist Paul Bianchina.

"Green Building Products," a guide for residential building products, states that a product may be considered "green" if:

cinogen. This toxic eye and nose irritant can cause respiratory problems. Ironically, certain floor coverings, particle board, insulation and other materials that utilize formaldehyde in their make-up can make the air inside a building worse than the air outside. Green building practices make extensive use of products that do not contain formaldehyde.

Paints, finishes for floors and other components, some types of adhesives and other materials commonly found in building construction may cause volatile organic compounds that can be harmful to building occupants. Green building concepts aim to utilize materials that are manufactured without VOCs.

Additionally, furniture, wall coverings and drapery emit VOCs. Furniture can be made with as many as 30 different materials including glues, resins, foam padding and upholstery fabric, and many of them emit toxins.

One place to find information about low-emitting products is the Web site of the Greenguard Environmental Institute. Greenguard tests for 65 chemical compounds. Find out more at www.greenguard.org.

BASIC EFFICIENCY

In the Northern Hemisphere, it is most efficient to orient the building with southern exposure. This allows for passive solar heating and improved natural lighting, which conserves energy usage.

- It's made with recycled, salvaged or agricultural wastes — most commonly crop straws.
 - It conserves natural resources because it's especially durable or it's made with a rapidly renewing material such as bamboo that can be harvested every 10 years.
 - It enhances indoor air quality because it has low or no emission of toxic chemicals into the air or because it helps block the introduction of indoor contaminants such as mold.
 - Its manufacture does not produce toxic emissions.
 - It saves energy or water.
 - It reduces the environmental impact of the construction itself. For example, porous driveway paving products absorb a substantial amount of the rain that hits them, and this reduces the amount that runs off into a local and often-overwhelmed stormwater collection system.
- There are two particular parts to green building — materials and occupant health:

ENGINEERED BUILDING MATERIALS

Plywood, oriented-strand board, glued-laminated beams, I-joists and many other similar products make use of smaller, fast-growing trees harvested from tree farms like any other crop. The result is stable, uniform and structurally solid building materials that minimize the impact on existing old-growth and even second-growth forests.

For further information about the Building Green go to www.BuildingGreen.com.

OCCUPANT HEALTH

The World Health Organization has confirmed formaldehyde is a human car-

Colorado Court, located on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Fifth Street, is a 100 percent green affordable housing project. The building features 44 single-room occupancy units, each with its own kitchen and bath. The small units feel spacious because of the high ceilings and efficient use of natural light.

"The original schematics for the building were east/west," Scarpa said. "That is the worst way to orient a building for solar conditions. We changed the orientation to north/south so it would be more efficient."

A combined effort of the city of Santa Monica, the Community Corporation of Santa Monica and local architects Pugh Scarpa Kodama, Colorado Court utilized energy efficiency on everything from solar heating to ecologically appropriate building processes.

Additionally, actor/director and conservationist Robert Redford and the Natural Resources Defense Council's Southern California office at 1314 Second Street in downtown Santa Monica is constructed to the highest green building standards. The property is being considered by the U.S. Green Building Council for a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Version 2 Platinum green building rating — the highest possible level of sustainable design — and may become the first structure in the United States to receive the status.

There is a Green Building Resources Center at 2218 Main Street.

(Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. Contact her at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call 310-309-4219.)

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11963 Mayfield #102, Brentwood.....3BR,2.5BA, 1,961 sq.ft(A).....\$1,189,000.....Open Sun 2-5pm

727 22nd Street, Santa Monica.....3BR, 2BA, 2,013 sq.ft(A).....\$ 5,500 per month lease.

1228 14th Street, Santa Monica.....3BR, 2BA, 1,552 sq.ft(A).....\$769,000.....In Escrow

1330 Yale Street, Santa Monica.....2BR, 1.5BA, 1,552sq.ft(A).....\$499,800.....In Escrow

856 Cliff Street, Pacific Palisades.....1BR, 1BA, 6,500 sq.ft (A).....\$1,295,000.....Sold and Saved \$39,050

1736 Palisades Dr. Pacific Palisades.....2BR, 2BA 1,776 sq.ft(A).....\$699,000.....Sold and Saved \$34,990

7909 Winsford, Los Angeles.....2BR, 1BA, 792 sq.ft(A).....\$558,600.....Sold and Saved \$18,130

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6639-6641 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey

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Shortcake: Combine Dry Ingredients, With A Pastry, Blender Or A Knife Cut In Butter Until Mixture, Resembles Coarse Crumbs. Add Milk, Stir Until , Dough Sticks Together. Lightly Oil And Flour, A 12" X 15" Baking Sheet, Spoon Dough , Into Center And Press Into A 9" Circle. Cut Dough Into 8 Wedges. Bake In A 450 Degree Oven Until Golden Brown, About 15 Minutes, Transfer To A Rack, Pull Wedges Apart, Slice Horizontally Into Halves. Serve Warm Or Cool. Filling: Combine Strawberries And Blueberries. Spoon Fruit Mixture Between Shortcake Wedge Halves. Top Fruit With Whipped Cream And Cover With Another Shortcake Wedge. Top With Powdered Sugar (Optional)



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Relieved residents find firefighters saved their homes from a wildfire

BY JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Writer

NEW HARMONY, Utah — Relieved residents of a southwest Utah housing development that was nearly consumed by a 12,000-acre wildfire returned to their homes Tuesday, and they took the time to thank firefighters who worked through the night.

"I've got nothing but kudos for the fire department," Emily Jones said. The fire stopped within 50 feet of her home.

"God was looking out for us. Our property was unharmed," she said.

High winds pushed the fire toward Harmony Heights and New Harmony late Monday, forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,000 people. Eight hundred firefighters, who got unexpected help when winds calmed, worked all night to keep the fire way from homes.

Air tankers and a rare night-flying helicopter provided other support for the fire about 20 miles north of St. George in Utah's southwest corner. Officials lifted the evacuation order for New Harmony Tuesday.

There was more good news nearby, where the state's largest wildfire, the 68,264-acre Westside Complex fire, was declared contained late Tuesday. Officials also lowered the acreage estimate for the fire near New Harmony after mapping it from the air, lowering it by 4,000 acres to 12,000 total.

Linda and Jack Reed didn't know what to expect when returning to their Harmony Heights home Tuesday after being ordered to evacuate.

"When we left here, there was a wall of fire at the end of the neighborhood. I've never seen or heard anything

like it," she said. "It was obviously very, very scary."

But she said they "were amazingly lucky" to find their home intact Tuesday. "It's a big destruction to your life. And, of course, it's very scary when you think it's all going to go up in smoke."

The NIFC said 21 large fires were burning on more than 769,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

In Nevada, firefighters dug in Tuesday as a buffer between a railroad town and two huge wildfires covering more than 315,000 acres narrowed to 10 miles.

"The No. 1 concern is to ensure that it doesn't continue to travel north toward Caliente," said David Chevalier, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

Many of the 961 firefighters on the massive Mesquite and South Desert fires worked to stem flames in mountains south of Caliente, while others protected a Union Pacific Railroad line through Meadow Valley, 50 miles north of Las Vegas.

However, Caliente was believed to be a safe distance from the fire, and Chevalier said incident commanders expected flames to slow in green, wet vegetation in the mountains near the town.

"Everyone's concerned," said Bud Sanders, owner of the Knotty Pine Restaurant, a breakfast meeting place in the town of about 1,100. "We've got a lot of smoke and the air's pretty nasty. But this valley is pretty green. It would be pretty hard to catch anything here."

Arizona's biggest blaze, about 30 miles north of Phoenix, had grown to 124,000 acres Tuesday, but it was burning away from populated areas that had been threatened by the lightning-sparked fire. It was 25 percent contained, fire officials said.

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INTERNATIONAL



Mexican lawmakers approve absentee voting for migrants

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — To chants of “Viva Mexico!” legislators on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved a law allowing millions of Mexicans living abroad to vote by mail in the 2006 presidential election — a measure that could reshape the race for the country’s next leader.

By a vote of 455 to 6 with 6 abstentions, a special session of the lower house of Congress passed an absentee voting scheme already approved by the Senate. President Vicente Fox has pledged to sign it into law.

As the congressmen cast votes on the electronic board, dozens of visiting migrants waved flags and sang the Mexican national anthem.

“Today is historic,” said Maria Sara Rocha, of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. “It’s a triumph.”

The support came despite fears expressed by members of all major political parties that the country’s notoriously slow and corrupt postal service will handle mailing out ballots.

“Voting by mail has its advantages and disadvantages, but it is the consensus that has been agreed upon,” said Juan Jose Garcia of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party.

An estimated 11 million Mexicans, as much as 14 percent of the country’s electorate, live overseas, the vast majority in the United States.

Expatriates are legally allowed to vote and hold dual citizenship but have been effectively barred from participating in elections because of the lack of an absentee

ballot system.

When President Vicente Fox ended 71 years of PRI rule during elections in 2000, thousands of Mexicans crossed from the United States into their homeland to seek special voting booths along the border — many of which soon ran out of ballots.

“An election that excludes millions of Mexicans is an election that doesn’t count,” said Gustavo Santiago, a proponent of migrant voting rights who first immigrated to Los Angeles from the southern state of Oaxaca in 1973. “It means a democracy for the country that is incomplete. A president chosen only partially.”

The bill was passed with little time to spare. An absentee ballot system must be approved by the end of the month to take effect in time for the July 2, 2006, presidential election.

Last week, PRI lawmakers voted in committee to modify the bill to install polling places abroad. That would have sent it back to the Senate, which might not have had time to convene a special session.

But the PRI legislators eventually agreed to support the Senate version.

Santiago said the mail-in ballot system was not ideal because of logistical challenges but added that “it’s a starting point, a positive step.”

Those who voted against the measure complained that voting by mail was unworkable.

“We accept programs that humiliate them (migrants), hurt them, cut them,” complained Eliana Garcia of Democratic Revolution. “We even accept programs that cause them to die. And the only thing we’re offering today is an undignified vote by mail.”

It was not clear which parties might benefit from the migrant voting.

PRI, which controls the largest bloc of seats in Congress, had long been rumored to fear that migrants would vote against it because they were forced to leave the country for lack of work during its rule. However, it is the only party so far to have elected a migrant to Congress.

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Car bombs kill Shiite parliament member along with U.S. soldier; western offensive launched

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide car bomber killed an influential Shiite member of parliament and his son as they drove to the capital Tuesday, an attack likely to stoke ethnic tensions on the first anniversary of the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis.

The attack that killed Dhari Ali al-Fayadh, his son and two bodyguards was one of several around the country carried out by suicide bombers. Other attacks killed one U.S. soldier in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, and one in Tikrit. Two soldiers were wounded. At least 1,743 members of the U.S. military have died since the war began in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The attacks came as more than 1,000 U.S. troops and Iraqi forces launched “Operation Sword” in a bid to crush insurgents and foreign fighters in western Iraq.

The campaigns have not been able to stem a resilient insurgency that has killed more than 1,350 people since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his Shiite-dominated government on April 28.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani nevertheless praised the anniversary because it led to the Jan. 30 election, country’s first free balloting in decades.

“This is a blessed day which saw the restoration of independence and national sovereignty,” Talabani said after meeting U.S. and British envoys. “But we think that the restoration of independence started after the epic, the legend, of the elections.”

Al-Fayadh, who was in his late 80s, was killed while traveling to parliament from his farm in Rashidiya, 20 miles northeast of Baghdad, said parliamentarian Hummam Hammoudi, who heads a committee charged with drafting a new constitution.

Four people were wounded, police Maj. Falah al-Mihamadawi said.

The group al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the assassination on an Islamic Web site, saying a “suicide car bomber, in a heroic attack, exploded himself at the motorcade of the assembly member, his guards and his companions.” The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Al-Fayadh was the eldest member of the new parliament, and he was the interim speaker until one was elected. He was a member of the country’s largest Shiite political party, the Supreme Council of the Islamic

Revolution in Iraq.

Al-Fayadh also was a senior sheik from the al-Boamer tribe in the Mahmoudiya area, about 20 miles south of Baghdad and a hotbed of the insurgency. Al-Boamer includes both Sunni and Shiite clans.

“Those who killed the sheik are the enemies of the Iraqi people at large,” Hammoudi said.

Al-Fayadh was the second Shiite legislator to be killed since the parliament started work in March. Lamia Abed Khadouri al-Sagri, a member of the Iraqi List party, was killed April 27 in eastern Baghdad.

Al-Fayadh’s seat will be taken by the runner-up from the same party.

The country’s Shiites already are on edge following car bombings last week that killed nearly 40 people in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad. With the Sunni-dominated insurgency targeting the Shiite majority, the wave of killings has raised fears of civil war.

A car bomb north of Baghdad killed five people and injured nine, police said. The explosion occurred near the headquarters of an Iraqi quick-reaction police force in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of the capital, police Capt. Nihad Jamal Ibrahim said.

Two other car bombs in Baqouba caused no injuries, police said.

Near Musayyib, 40 miles south of Baghdad, a bomber wearing explosives blew himself up at a checkpoint, killing one policeman and wounding 17, police said.

In Kirkuk, a suicide car bomber slammed into a convoy carrying traffic police chief Brig. Gen. Salar Ahmed, killing one of his bodyguards and a civilian, said police Lt. Assad Mohammed. Four others, including Ahmed and three of his bodyguards, were wounded in the city 180 miles north of Baghdad.

U.S. soldiers killed an Iraqi news executive when he did not pull over as an American convoy passed on a road in Baghdad, said Dr. Muhanad Jawad of Yarmouk Hospital. Ahmed Wael Bakri worked as a director at al-Sharqiya TV. The U.S. military said it was investigating. Bakri was the third Iraqi journalist alleged to have been killed by U.S. forces in similar incidents in the past week.

A U.S. reconnaissance helicopter was hit Monday night by small-arms fire in Tal Afar, about 95 miles east of the Syrian border, and forced to land, but there were no reports of injuries, said Sgt. John Franzen, a spokesman.

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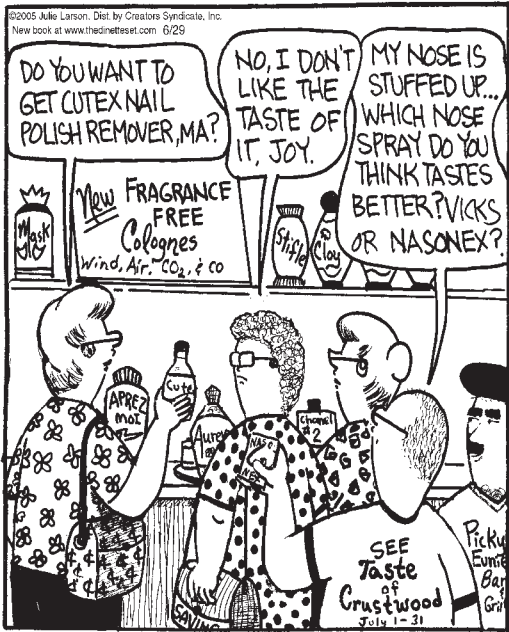
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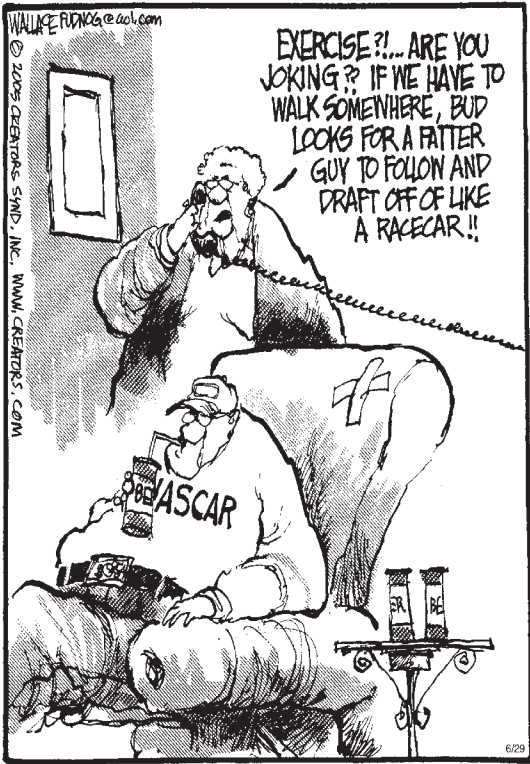
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- 15 Refuge
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- 20 Sluggish
- 23 Ostrich's cousin
- 24 Symbol of might
- 26 Worthless
- 27 Brewpub order
- 28 "— had it!"
- 29 Gradual assimilation
- 31 Habit wearer
- 32 Irritate
- 33 A long time
- 34 Prepare for a big day
- 37 Lockup
- 39 To some extent
- 43 Card collection
- 44 Temple support
- 45 Thus
- 46 Erotic

DOWN

- 1 Window-sill sitter
- 2 Put away
- 3 "Small-ville" role
- 4 Tibetan brothers
- 5 Calls on
- 6 Hot, in a way
- 7 Check number
- 8 Seething
- 9 Bar "rocks"
- 10 Summer cooler
- 16 Preferences
- 17 Monk's music
- 18 Tickle
- 19 Estivating

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