



Santa Monica Daily Press

July 3-4, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 200

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY 3

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

After 13 wrongful years in prison and five more detained as a "violent sexual predator," James Rodriguez, 43, finally realized last year that he would have to start lying and "confess" to molesting those two boys in the 1980s and seek "rehabilitation." Otherwise, California's Atascadero State Hospital would never release him. He told an Associated Press reporter that he sought advice from the hospital's pedophiles on what to say and how to act, and he finally convinced doctors that he was, indeed, so very remorseful for his "attraction to kids." Then, as he was set for a hearing in April, his two "victims" finally recanted, telling officials that they had made up the whole thing.

Scottish Gas Corp. headquarters in Edinburgh drew stares earlier this year when it filled its landscape with rows of square trees whose branches will, in 15 years or so, form the shape of green cubes resting on the trees' trunks. Right now, each tree resembles a bank of lights on a pole at a ball park, with five rows of branches vertically flat. As the branches grow, they will be braced horizontally and vertically so as to expand symmetrically in three dimensions ("pleaching") until the cube shape is obtained.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.

— BILL GATES

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Shock jock: Coach denies sex allegations

Hearn faces nine felony counts for alleged relationships with three underage girls

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — A Santa Monica High School coach pleaded not guilty Friday to nine felony charges stemming from his alleged sexual relationships with three different teenagers.

Mike Hearn, 37, was arrested last

month and freed on \$42,000 bond. Prosecutors have charged Hearn with six counts of unlawful sex with a 17-year-old girl, two counts for allegedly having oral sex and performing a lewd act upon a 15-year-old girl, and one count for sharing pornographic materials with a third girl, also 15.

Hearn, through his lawyer, declined to comment. The assistant basketball and football coach has been placed on home assignment until the matter is resolved.

School district administrators main-

See SEX CHARGES, page 7

Fourth and long to go



Photo courtesy

Lt. Dennis Wilson, of Santa Monica, will spend Independence Day in Iraq.



Daniele Hamamdjian/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monican Sonja Ramsey is worried about her husband's safety. Lt. Wilson is an officer in the California National Guard.

BY DANIELE HAMAMDJIAN

Special to the Daily Press

Freedom comes at a greater price this holiday weekend for at least one native Santa Monican.

Dennis Wilson, a 2nd Lt. in the California National Guard, will be dealing with a different set of fireworks on this Fourth of July — just south of Baghdad.

"He is a devout believer in freedom for all people and believes in improving the quality of life for everyone," said his wife, Sonja Ramsey, also a Santa Monica native. "All of us here in Santa Monica, many do not have someone in Iraq, so this does not hit home as hard, but for the Wilson family and friends from Santa Monica, the cost of freedom and the immense sacrifice is felt every moment of every day."

Ramsey, 37, has been trying to make the best of their first of year of marriage, despite that Wilson has been serving as the executive officer at Camp Kalsu, located south of Baghdad, since March. Wilson is in charge of ordering supplies for American soldiers stationed in the area.

Ramsey's biggest concern right now is the lack of military personnel in a camp that is, according to her, on open land with barely enough fences surrounding it.

See IRAQ, page 8

Four-play



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

As part of a weekly contest, the first reader to accurately describe where this mystery photo was taken will win a prize. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

You're fired: Skies to fill with fireworks

By Daily Press staff

While the City of Santa Monica has ceased staging elaborate Fourth of July festivities due to overwhelming crowds, Santa Monica College will play host to an Independence Day Festival on Saturday, July 3.

SMC's "Celebrate America" features music, the USC Trojan Marching Band and a fireworks show. Admission is free. The gates to SMC's Corsair Field at 16th St. and Pico Blvd. will open at 5 p.m. Music is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and fireworks should commence at 9 p.m.

Meanwhile, several nearby cities are planning a variety of Independence Day celebrations, many of which also include fireworks:

Marina del Ray will host a traditional fireworks show over the main channel, starting at 9 p.m. The show should last approximately 20 minutes. The fireworks will be timed to music broadcasted over FM radio KXLU 88.9.

Burton Chace Park, located at 13650 Mindanao

See BLAST, page 7

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Relax, relax tonight Virgo

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)**
*** Consider today a mixed bag. The smart Ram will handle responsibilities in the a.m. Confirm plans, but don't be surprised by a mix-up. Flow. Friends surround you. Perhaps you would enjoy a movie or baseball game. Tonight: You are the party.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
***** Quickly take off for a day trip or for the weekend. Responsibilities could grab you and force a change of plans. Do you want that? Don't fight a family member who wants to rearrange the house or to do something different. Tonight: Out on the town.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
**** Spend time with a dear friend or loved one. Don't let a difference of opinion cause a problem; rise above it. Agree that it is OK to disagree. Visit a friend at a distance or meet halfway. Tonight: Try someone else's preference or choice.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
**** You might have to say "no" to an invitation or a friend. Don't let it become a big deal. A special loved one needs your time and attention. You need time to bond and catch up on each others' news. You might think you know this person, but everyone changes. Tonight: Careful with spending.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
**** Sleep in late, or do something leisurely this morning. Once you appear, you might be impossible to stop. Whatever the reason, you're with friends and loved ones or at a party. Enjoy the many people you meet. Tonight: Dance off stress. Don't lose your temper.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
*** Meet a friend for an early brunch, but by the afternoon, you'll want some time for yourself. You might have a project that has been on hold for way too long. Tonight: Only do what is relaxing.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
**** Handle personal matters first. Visit with family. Schedule plans for the p.m., which you will enjoy. Some will choose to be with their kids; others will act as if they are kids. Either works. Let the fun roll in. Make the most of the moment. Tonight: Be a romantic.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
***** You might want to dig into a project, make calls and/or visit with relatives and neighbors. You can do it all, but don't expect to move far from home. You have many reasons to smile, as you mellow out and don't feel pushed. Tonight: As you like it.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
**** Balance your budget and check out your weekend spending needs before romping out the door. You won't want to stop once you start visiting with friends. You might not go far, but you'll have a good time wherever you are. Tonight: Hang out at a favorite spot.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
**** You wake up all smiles, but some confusion could mar your morning if you decide to make a big deal out of what is happening. You could go overboard with spending or celebrating. Do you really care? Tonight: Treat a friend.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
**** Take your time getting moving this morning. You might need some time to yourself to read or simply to take care of a personal matter. By the afternoon, you're all smiles. The world is your oyster. Go for what you want. Tonight: Your wish is another's command.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
*** Call friends and visit on the phone or have an early lunch together. Later on, you will want to vanish and get away from the crowds. Do something you absolutely love, be it by yourself or with a loved one. Keep it calm. Tonight: Be mysterious.

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LOCAL



RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay an inspiring event for volunteer

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Later this month, Santa Monicans 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. The Santa Monica community has raised more than \$100,000 since 2002, when the first American Cancer Society Relay For Life was held. This year, the third annual Relay For Life will be held at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field on July 24-25.

Teams are made up of at least 10 to 20 people who will walk or run around the SMC track in shifts, with the goal being that someone is on the track at all times. Each team member raises money in the weeks leading up to the event. The event is not only to raise money to fight cancer, but also to remember loved ones who lost their battle to the disease and celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

There will be dozens of cancer survivors — representing all forms — walking the opening lap on Saturday morning. From there, the weekend is all about fun, community and raising money. To participate, recruit friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors to form a relay team. People camp out and create a community party atmosphere together.

The team event begins Saturday at 9 a.m. and runs continuously until 9 a.m. on Sunday. Leading up to the event, the Daily Press will highlight volunteers' stories:

Andrea Balch

Age: 25

Residence: Los Angeles

Title: Relay for Life Committee Secretary

Profession and workplace: Supervisor, Hospital-Based Family Resource Center

How did you get involved in Relay for Life?

In the summer of 2002, I was coordinating psychosocial care at the John Wayne Cancer Institute at Saint John's Health Center. I was approached one day by visiting members of a local Relay For Life Committee, and they asked if I would consider attending the event and speaking at the "Survivor's Ceremony." I agreed and was so inspired by the warm welcome and great community spirit I found there that the following year I contacted ACS to inquire about volunteer opportunities. When the Santa Monica committee heard that I was interested in giving my time to Relay For Life again, they recruited me to hold a committee chair position in team coordination. Following our tremendously successful event in 2003, it was announced that the esteemed Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega would be the next year's event chair. When he asked me to serve as his committee secretary in 2004, I was thrilled to accept.

What has been your experience with cancer?

During my entire childhood, I was acutely aware of my aunt Kathy's fight with cancer. I watched our family struggle to take care of her and was inspired by her incredible strength and faith. When I was in college, I took a position supervising a support center for female cancer patients at a local hospital. In an effort to improve that facility's ability to serve this particular demographic, I collaborated with their oncology department on a thesis exploring psychosocial and sexual variables among those patients.

The summer after my graduation, Kathy finally lost her 20-year battle with the disease that had disabled her but had never broken her fierce spirit. Inspired by her, and the many other loved ones I had lost, I decided to dedicate my career to aiding chronically ill patients and their families. In an unexpected twist, my ability to relate to my clients was heightened in 2001 when my companion at the time was diagnosed with cancer, and I became a caregiver.

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

I would ask anyone who is interested to take a few hours out of their life to visit their local Relay For Life. If they are anything like me, they will be amazed by the commitment of the organizers, the boundless energy of the participants, and the miracles that can take place whenever people gather to celebrate life. This is a unique opportunity to share the joy, the grief, and the hope we all hold in this fight against cancer. Most importantly, in the midst of the food and the friends and the music, critical funds are raised to aid programs. There is no better way I know to spend a weekend.

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

As a health care professional, I know that the American Cancer Society's commitment to support, research and education is exceptional. I have worked with patients whose direct needs were met by this organization and the amount of funding ACS provides to research is frankly astounding. Moreover, the statistics illustrate that ACS makes a concerted effort to minimize overhead and apply fundraising money directly to its programs and partners.

What does your committee need?

We need volunteers to serve on the day of the event. We also are particularly interested in bringing in young people who are motivated to learn about serving their community.

Anyone who would like to offer his or her time may contact Lisa Purkhiser, volunteer coordinator, at lapurkhiser@Raytheon.com.



SURF REPORT

On Saturday, we'll see SW swell mix with NW wind swell. For average areas, that means waist-high and below surf — mainly below. The good SW/combo breaks of Northern LA see knee- to waist-high SW swell.

On Sunday, we'll see the SW swell fade as a new SW swell starts to slowly fill in through the afternoon. Overall, we can expect to see fairly similar surf to the previous two days — knee- to waist-high at the better SW/combo breaks. Look for the new SW'er to fill in more on Monday and into Tuesday with knee- to chest-high surf at the well exposed breaks of Northern LA County.

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

Today the water is:

69°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:07	-1.6	4:16	2.2	11:47	4.1	10:32	7.0
SUNDAY	5:54	-1.6	5:13	2.3	12:36	4.2	11:22	6.5
MONDAY	6:41	-1.1	6:16	2.3	N/A	N/A	1:26	4.3
TUESDAY	7:28	-0.6	7:28	2.4	12:15	5.9	2:16	4.4
WEDNESDAY	8:14	0.0	8:51	2.3	1:13	5.1	3:08	4.6
THURSDAY	9:00	0.7	10:22	2.0	2:20	4.3	3:59	4.8
FRIDAY	9:48	1.3	11:47	1.5	3:44	3.6	4:48	5.0

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 5.**



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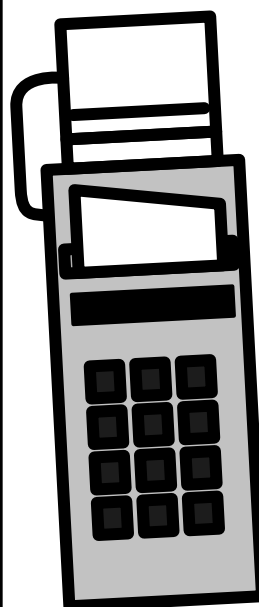
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shame on the Daily Press

Editor:

In the front page article “Man found dead In YMCA garage,” (SMDP, July 1, page 1) the editor chose to desecrate the already horrible news of the death of a human being. Carolyn Sackariason used one-third of the article to describe a personal problem as being important and relevant to an already tragic story. She was cited for not following the instructions of a police officer who was investigating this tragic situation. How many times was she asked to move along or not stand in any position that would interfere with the investigation? How many?

The deceased has a family and friends who may read this article and, like the rest of your readers, not understand how this information is relevant.

The SMDP has dropped the ball by allowing Sackariason to abuse her position and in doing so has lost credibility as an objective, unbiased news platform. Sackariason’s personal problems and obvious attacks do not belong on the front page. Furthermore, as a Santa Monica publication I would think that the editor and staff would have the utmost respect for the Santa Monica Police Department. It seems that they do not. My index finger waves back and forth, “Shame, shame, shame on you.”

Devon Clark
Santa Monica

Musicians louder than planes?

Editor:

I note with interest your article concerning noise levels on the Promenade (SMDP, June 28, page 1). So it’s OK for “musical” groups to blast away at the public at 97 decibels, with 107 decibels after dark!?

But any aircraft departing Santa Monica Airport is subject to a severe fine for exceeding 95 decibels.

I find this highly incongruous.

Walter Davie
Mar Vista

Homeless population taking a toll on community

Editor:

As was published in your newspaper (SMDP, June 28, page 1), a homeless person was found deceased in the parking garage of the Santa Monica YMCA.

When a veritably qualified organization like the Young Men’s Christian Association has to deal with finding a deceased homeless person on their property, maybe then we can see the value in controlling the situation. That is the homeless situation.

When we pay good membership fees to make our families feel a part of Santa Monica and we have to expose our families to this, then we should question not only public but private qualifications of controlling the situation.

Maybe that might stir the City Council to take notice of what is happening to control these transients and they should — before something really bad happens.

Can we be proactive on the homeless issue?

Can City Hall really enforce the 150-person outdoor feeding threshold?

Do the property owners on Ocean Avenue along Palisades Park really care to clean up their high-priced view of the ocean without homeless people?

We see it blatantly in the public sector and are now witnessing it in the private sector, and it may get even more pervasive. We see it on the Promenade and on Palisades Park in front of our homes, but we have to tolerate this. What next?

Families support this city and the support services should, in turn, show support of those who also want to share in community services.

I park there with my children. I am a YMCA member and have been for almost 10 years.

Does supporting the homeless really create a support system for our families? I’m asking a lot of questions but would still appreciate some answers.

With the way things are, we are not helping the homeless or our children and that has to change.

Nicole Picard
Santa Monica

Ethnic accent has nothing to do with story

Editor:

In the article about landlord Isaac Gabriel (SMDP, June 30, page 1), reporter John Wood described Mr. Gabriel as speaking with an accent. Is there some sort of bias here, for I did not see where that was relevant to his story.

Would he describe Henry Kissinger or Kofi Annan as speaking with an accent? Why, even former Presidents Clinton, Carter and Bush have Southern accents. Have him mention that in the next story about them.

Kevin Skoglund
Santa Monica

Shame on them

Editor:

Santa Monica police are really hard up to write their quota of tickets, or is it that the city are so hard up for cash (SMDP, July 1, page 1)? To the officer who wrote the ticket for the working photographer, shame on you. What kind of goodwill is that? Get a life and write tickets for those people who deserve it, such as homeless who urinate in doorways, break beer bottles on the streets, bash in storefront windows, get drunk and sleep in alleys, steal grocery carts from supermarkets, go through alleys at 2 a.m. in the morning waking up hard working citizens who get up every morning and go to work. You should be ashamed of yourself.

Eileen Garrison
Santa Monica

What do accents have to do with anything?

Editor:

I read the article entitled “City Hall employs legal tactic in battle with landlord”

See LETTERS, page 5

September mourn: The college kids are back in the nest



MODERN
TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

Like many parents, my wife and I have our college-age kids back home for the summer. While they were away, we missed them and were proud of their accomplishments. We beamed when we saw evidence of a newfound independence. We were pleased as they bravely tried new things. When we visited them at school, we could actually have a conversation with them without getting any snide remarks or rolling of the eyes. We marveled at the responsibility and maturity they demonstrated away from home. I just have one question: What happens to all that independence and maturity the second they walk back into our houses?

Away, they can figure out how to get around new and even foreign cities immediately. At home, there are times when

they can’t navigate the route from the couch to the ringing telephone. At school, they can read “War and Peace” in the original Russian, but at home, they can’t seem to read “Help Wanted” in the window of the local Radio Shack. They can instantly see the solutions to difficult mathematical problems, but they can’t see those dirty clothes that they step over on their way out of the house. In the dorm, they’re able to share the tiniest living quarters, but they feel their space is constantly being invaded in a three-bedroom house.

For months, they’re able to feed themselves, do their laundry, make appointments, and pay their bills. By the third day they’re home, we’re doing these things for them. Why? Do colleges offer a secret course called, “How To Get Away with As Much As Possible During the Summer?” Or maybe they act this way because they feel sorry for us, and want us to still feel needed. Nah, that can’t be it.

I tried to look at this from college kids’ point of view. (Of course, I couldn’t use that point of view until after noon). First of all, parents also regress during the summer. Often they just automatically go back to doing things for their kids. And if we offer to make their breakfast, do their laundry, or make phone calls for them, they’re not going to say, “No, thank you. You just relax while I do everything for myself.”

And in the “Cutting Them Some Slack Department,” let’s remember that they’ve been completely on their own for months, and suddenly we’re asking them questions like, “How did you sleep?” “Is something wrong today?” “You call that a breakfast?” When they were away, somehow without our questioning, they managed to eat, sleep, and get through the day.

It’s also time to expose an ugly parental secret: Sometimes we’ll say anything in the hope of getting them to talk to us. Admit it. When they’re reading a book, we might say something brilliant like, “Good book?” There are times when I’ll walk into the room, see them watching TV, and ask, “What are you watching?” Couldn’t I wait a couple of seconds and try to figure out on my own what they’re watching? Besides, why should I care

what they’re watching and why should they have to tell me? So, are some of those snide remarks and rolling eyes really that big of a mystery?

I’m not blaming kids or parents. It’s one of those no-fault things like when a tornado picks up two parked cars from different parts of town and then smashes them into each other. The summer is just an adjustment for everybody, and parents and kids are going to get on each other’s nerves. Nobody should feel guilty if every once in a while they find themselves looking forward to when they’re going to miss their kids in the fall. You can bet they’re looking forward to missing us, too.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has 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).

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

(SMDP, June 30, page 1) in which Isaac Gabriel is being charged with various types of rental harassment. On the continuing page of the article, on page 6 of the SMDP, there is a statement by reporter John Wood which is "Gabriel, who speaks with an accent ..." My question is this: How does this statement pertaining to Mr. Gabriel's accent affect the story? It would appear to me that the reporter is either biased against persons who speak with accents, or, my hunch is, that the reporter is biased against property owners. I wonder how many of the tenants in question have accents?

Jeff Vittone
Seattle, Wash.

Flush the whining down the toilet

Editor:

This is in response to a printed letter from self-proclaimed community activist Jean McNeil Wyner, published in your June 30 edition (SMDP, page 7).

Ms. Wyner has her panties in a bunch because Barnes & Noble will not extend defecation and/or urination privileges to her via a public restroom on their Promenade store premises.

To this end, she has written you, Barnes & Noble, the Santa Monica City Council, the city manager, the Bayside District Corp. and the chamber of commerce.

And to underscore her rage, Ms. Wyner has vowed to the bookstore front desk personnel that she and her husband "would not be using your bookstore until the doors to their toilets are thrown open to her personal needs."

Some community activist. I'd say "pain in the ..." (well, you know what) would be more accurate. Perhaps her letter-writing time would be better spent by going before she leaves her house. That way, she'd have even more time to shop, since that's what you do in a bookstore.

At least Ms. Wyner has an appropriate last name, albeit misspelled.

Larry Miller
Brentwood

The Q Line

MUST THE SHOW GO ON?

This past week, Q-line asked:

Are the ordinances governing street performers on The Promenade sufficient?

Here are your responses:

☉ "What needs to be changed is to get the bum street performers out of the area altogether. Let peace and quiet reign once again after these horrible years of gross noise and grosser individuals. They are a public nuisance. Talk about noise pollution, it doesn't get much worse than this."

☉ "I think the rules governing the street performances on The Promenade are significant. I think, at this point, we might even have too many rules, as a person who works on The Promenade. I think that applying more rules is just going to be more restrictive and more confusing. I know things are not perfect, but they do work well here, at this point, and some of the ordinances are unconstitutional, so I think the city would put itself in a legal bind by applying more rules and risking lawsuits. I think it was a wonderful thing for them to keep things the way they are. Let's keep things the way they are. We're all compromising out here. No one is getting everything they'd like. The Promenade is a wonderful place — it's reality and we have to make the best of it."

☉ "The Promenade is a tragedy. Santa Monica Place doesn't have this problem. The entertainers should be

placed further apart and the decibel allowance lowered and enforced. Sitting in any of the outdoor places, you can't even talk to whomever you're with. It's ridiculous — the noise level needs to be reduced drastically."

☉ "The City of Santa Monica has taken the wrong approach in positioning the entertainers who perform on the Third Street Promenade. Each performer should be placed on each of the planets that are located in the earth galaxy. The young man who balances a broom on the end of his nose would be placed on Mars. The bongo playing musician would be placed on Venus. The psychic cat would be placed on the moon to tell the man in the moon's fortune. The city would then install a large telescope at the entrance of The Promenade at Wilshire Boulevard and charge tourists \$5 a minute to view the planets' entertainers."

☉ "I think it's wonderful because a lot of people come and, no, I don't think they need to increase the fine. This is fine city and I think the performers make people want to come shop and spend money in Santa Monica. I think it's absolutely wonderful."

GUEST COMMENTARY **MICHAEL BERLINER**

"Independence" is a concept still worth fighting for

America's cities and towns will soon fill with parades, fireworks and barbecues. They will be celebrating the Fourth of July, the 228th birthday of America. But one hopes that — on this third 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 his own happiness, e.g., his 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. (That 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 a human being to think for himself and guide his own life 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 freest and most prosperous country in history.

(Michael Berliner is the former executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute (www.aynrand.org) promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead.)



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People & Places



Photos courtesy of The Santa Monica Star.
 (Rotary, from top left) Harry and Michelle Maslin, left, celebrate with Elza and Lionel Ruhman, incoming Rotary president. Coordinators of the event, left, Marilyn and Paul Leoni, chat with Larry and Brenda Maher. Outgoing President Dee Menzies with Karen Baker. Attending the dethroning party were Tom Loo, Nancy and Marv Freidman.

‘Dethroned’ club president leaves a positive spin

By Daily Press staff

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica last week honored their first woman president — Dee Menzies — at a "dethroning" party held at Casa del Mar. The event was coordinated by Paul and Marilyn Leoni. Master of Ceremonies was past president Bill Fritzsche. Menzies gave out awards to Rotarians who had put in extra efforts during her year. Incoming president Lionel Ruhman and his board were also installed.



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LOCAL

Coach ordered to stay away from alleged victims

SEX CHARGES, from page 1

tained the 17-year-old girl wasn't a Samohi student, but said, to the best of their knowledge, the other two alleged victims were. The girls' identities were not released because they are alleged victims of sex crimes, and two are still minors.

"We've been really working around supporting those families, and been in touch with those families — extensively," said John Deasy, superintendent of schools.

Deputy District Attorney Robin Katzenstein, who is prosecuting the case, declined to comment, saying she couldn't publicly discuss sex cases. Prosecutors waited close to a month before pressing charges, evaluating the evidence and meeting with the three girls.

"They're crimes, they're felonies," said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. "He's been charged with misconduct. We believe there's sufficient evidence, and we'll prove it in court."

Married, with children in local schools, Hearn was accompanied to court Friday

by his wife and his sister, along with a handful of other family members and friends. He was dressed in a dark blue suit, and wore a white shirt and blue tie. Hearn didn't speak during the courtroom proceedings, except to twice say, "Yes, your honor," after being asked by a judge if he understood his right to a speedy trial and was willing to waive it.

Daniel Davis, Hearn's private attorney, said he needed to investigate the allegations further before he could make any substantive comment.

"I reviewed the initial police reports, and they genuinely give me cause and concern," Davis said after the court hearing. "Initially, we're exploring legal procedures to either avoid further prosecution or to minimize further legal proceedings."

After taking Hearn's not guilty plea, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Paula Adele Mabrey put the case over for a status conference at the end of August. Hearn was ordered not to harass or assault the three alleged victims, and must stay at least 100 yards away from the three girls and the Samohi campus.

The alleged victims have been treated at the Stuart House in Santa Monica, which often deals with sexual abuse cases. The Stuart House is overseen by officials from the Rape Treatment Center, based in the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

The athletic director and other coaches at Samohi have not returned repeated calls seeking comment since Hearn's June 2 arrest. In an interview last month, Jose

Corral, founder of the local chapter of the Pop Warner youth football league, described Hearn as energetic and outgoing.

Hearn coached in the league for four years, as recently as last year. His son played in the program, and his daughter was a cheerleader, Corral added.

"He was very nice, outgoing," Corral said. "Great guy with the kids, great guy with the parents."

Keep your eyes in skies

BLAST, from page 1

Way, and Fisherman's Village, at 13755 Fiji Way, are recommended viewing locations. The fireworks will be shot from a barge across the Marina's main channel.

Parking is available throughout the Marina in 14 publicly managed lots. Parking fees range from \$5 to \$8. Most lots are expected to be full by 6 p.m.

Pacific Palisades will host its annual Independence Day Parade and Fireworks Show. The parade will begin at 2 p.m. at Sunset and Swarthmore, with the entrance of five skydivers. It will include costumed dogs and a procession of the first babies of the year.

The parade will feature celebrities, politicians and honorees, as well as marching bands and drum and bugle corps.

A 20-minute fireworks show at the Palisades High School football stadium will start just before 9 p.m. Entertainment will begin at about 8 p.m.

Admission is free. Spectators are encouraged to park well away from the stadium in order to avoid a potential traffic jam following the show.

Redondo Beach will host musical festivities, starting at 4 p.m., to be followed

by a fireworks show at 9 p.m. The event will be held on the Redondo Beach pier.

The day will also include a special tribute to the honored guards from Redondo Beach's local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Association.

Music will follow the fireworks show from 9:30 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. Admission is free.

San Pedro will host its annual community Independence Day celebration, starting at 10 a.m. at Angels Gate Park. The park is located at 3601 S. Gaffey St. in San Pedro. Admission is free.

Manhattan Beach will host a pool barbecue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Begg Pool. Admission is \$5 per person.

The city will also host a concert in Polliwog Park from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

West Hollywood will host festivities that will feature live entertainment, games and food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Plummer Park. The park is located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Admission is free.

Woodland Hills will host its "Valley of the Stars July 4th Extravaganza" from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Warner Park. The festivities will include a fireworks show. The park is located at 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Admission is free.

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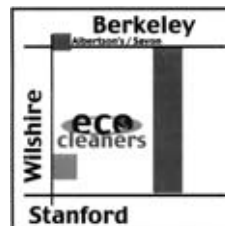
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Soldier spending Fourth long way from SM home

IRAQ, from page 1

"It definitely seems like they've been dumped out there, in the boondocks," said Ramsey. "To me, the military means preparedness, then when you get over there, there are holes."

It was only until recently that Camp Kalsu has been regularly provided with water and much-needed hygienic supplies. The soldiers refer to their bathrooms as "Kalsu Crappers," which are to be cleaned by contracted Iraqis.

"But you never know when they're going to turn on you," Ramsey said, adding many Iraqis and American contractors have stopped coming to the camp for fear of being killed.

The psychology student said she is lucky if she can speak to her husband once a week, "and he never complains," she added. With many soldiers returning to the United States because of injuries, Ramsey believes the need for military support is only increasing, despite the fact that sovereignty returned to Iraq last week.

Wilson, also 37, attended Pilgrim Lutheran School, Grant Elementary School, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica High School and Santa Monica College, where he played football. Before going to Iraq, Wilson worked for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Wilson comes from a family with a long military history. His father, Ralph Wilson, served in Vietnam; his great grandfather was a member of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War and his great, great grandfather was a prisoner of war in Andersonville Prison during the Civil War.

He and his brother were both Airborne Rangers during the invasion of Panama. Wilson was wounded and subsequently awarded the Purple Heart, according to Ramsey.

Due to operational security, the coalition press information center in Baghdad was unable to provide any information regarding the number of soldiers at Camp Kalsu. Since the war began, the California National Guard has sent 1,000 soldiers to Iraq, where seven of its personnel have lost their lives, said Lt. Colonel Douglas Hart, director of public affairs.

Because of his exposure, experience and good sense of humor, Ramsey believes her husband has become a counselor to younger soldiers on the base.

In an effort to keep him grounded, Ramsey and his family send Wilson care packages on a regular basis, including copies of the Daily Press, or oftentimes, just cutouts of the page 3 surf report, as well as surfing books from Rip Curl. Both avid surfers, the couple already is making plans for surfing trips in remote locations.

"This place (Santa Monica) means a lot more when you're removed from it ... This is where we want to live, this is home," Ramsey said.

Ramsey, who lives at Wilshire Boulevard and Third Street, admits her priorities have changed. For years, she fought City Hall to have a preferential parking zone created on her street.

"I don't even care about that anymore and I fought for it for seven years," Ramsey said. "He (Wilson) is my future, he's my everything."

"If I have to wait in line, if someone gives me coffee and it's not hot enough or if my waiter takes forever, I don't care," she added. "I am so patient and tolerant of everything because I realized what my husband has to go through."

As Ramsey, her family and friends enjoy their barbecue during their holiday weekend, the safety of Wilson and his comrades will be at the forefront of their minds.

"They're just going to try to stay alive for the Fourth of July," she said.

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— Martin Hughes, Yogitimes, June 2004



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STATE

Exhibit featuring dead human bodies makes American debut in LA

BY KRISTIE A. MARTINEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A pregnant woman lies on her side with a hand behind her head as if posing for a nude photograph. But her dead body isn't the only thing exposed. Her heart, intestines and 8-month-old fetus are visible as well.

The woman was one of more than 200 people who donated their cadavers for use in "Body Worlds: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies," which made its U.S. debut Friday at the California Science Center.

Intended to teach people about the human skeletal, cardiovascular and other systems, the final exhibit includes 25 bodies that have undergone a process called "plastination" in which body fluids are replaced with clear, pliable plastic.

Most have been skinned or dissected to reveal muscles, bones, nerves and organs. Some show damage done by cancer, lung disease and other illnesses.

A female body has been posed like a swimmer and hung from the ceiling with its arm muscles dangling from wrist bones. Two bodies — an adult and child — have been stripped down to blood vessels and positioned with the youth riding atop the shoulders of the grown-up.

Since debuting in Tokyo in 1996, the show has aroused controversy as well as curiosity. Its shocking display of flesh and bones has offended many observers who claim it violates the sanctity of the human body.

However, German scientist Gunther von Hagens, who created the exhibit and the preservation technique, defends his work as educational and enlightening.

"It's more than time that we show how the body really looks," he said.

In the past eight years, "Body Worlds" has toured Asia and Europe, attracting nearly 15 million visitors and a number of critics who have dubbed von Hagens "Dr. Death" and "Frankenstein" because of his work.

In Frankfurt, Germany, the Lutheran church said the display was amoral and insulting to the dead. At a London show, one visitor covered the body of the pregnant woman with a blanket because he couldn't stand seeing the fetus.

Recent visitors to the California Science Center said they had mixed feelings about the coming exhibit.

Eva Edwards was fascinated until she discovered the exhibit featured real human bodies. She quickly saw a conflict between her religious and scientific beliefs.

"Religiously, we feel the body should be respected and buried," she said. "I don't really feel that scientifically."

The impact on her 9-year-old daughter was even more profound. The girl started crying when she realized the bodies in the preview pictures were real.

The body parts didn't bother 16-year-old

Information on first appearance of 'Body Worlds' exhibit in U.S.

By The Associated Press

Information on "Body Worlds: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies":

- Runs from July 2 to Jan. 23, 2005.
- Features 25 human bodies and 200 body parts intended to teach visitors about the skeletal, cardiovascular and other systems.
- Location: California Science Center, Exposition Park, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles.
- Admission: \$12 for adults, with discounts available for members, seniors, students and children. Children under 13 must be accompanied by parent or guardian.
- Parking: \$6 per car.
- Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, with last admission at 8 p.m.
- Information: (323) 724-3623

Zahra Nankani, who was visiting the center as part of a youth conference on medicine.

"I think it's amazing to see real live body parts, and the vulnerability and intricacy of a human body," Nankani said. "Most people don't get to see this."

Visitors younger than 13 won't be permitted to see "Body Worlds" without a parent or guardian. Von Hagens, however, thinks adults might have more problems with the exhibit than children.

Adults' "view of anatomy is very fixed and preoccupied by the portrayal in Hollywood films that anatomy is connected with crime, horror and decay," he said. "As long as kids are not brought here against their will, they really love it."

During exhibit stops in Asia and Europe, about 6,000 people have signed papers donating their bodies to von Hagens' institute for possible plastination. Most hope to further medical science, he said.

"The limited possibilities — to be either burned or to rot in earth — always seemed degrading to me and were problematic," wrote one female donor whose identity was withheld. "It is a good thing that Professor von Hagens went beyond these limited possibilities."

Jeffrey N. Rudolph, president of the California Science Center, said the exhibit underwent a rigorous review by religious leaders, medical professionals and bioethicists before it was brought to Los Angeles.

He said the panel knew it would make people uncomfortable but decided the educational value outweighed any possible controversy.

"It's not an ethical issue," Rudolph said. "It's more of a visceral reaction."

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NATIONAL



Boy Scouts attempting to put squeeze on debt

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A Boy Scout troop tried to put a dent in a potential \$14 million judgment Friday by selling lemonade — at \$250 a glass.

The federal and state governments earlier this week sued the Boy Scouts of America to recover costs of the 2002 East Fork fire, allegedly started by Utah Scouts.

"C'mon, we need your help!" shouted one Scout to cars whizzing past during morning rush hour.

Troop 347 of Fruit Heights, a suburb north of Salt Lake City, was not involved in the campout two years ago that officials say precipitated the fire — a fact that the boys pointed out to potential donors — but they still wanted to help out their fellow Scouts.

The 12- and 13-year-olds spent two hours hawking lemonade to build up a fund in case the Boys Scouts lose the lawsuit.

But \$14 million is a lot of lemonade, so prices were inflated a bit. A sip cost \$1, a small glass \$3 and for \$250, folks could get a large — about 16 ounces.

"If only one person in 40 in the entire state of Utah buys a large, it's over," said Scott Fisher, a morning radio disc jockey that helped organize the fund-raising event.

Salt Lake City attorney Paul Gotay handed the Scouts a \$10 bill for "just a little bit" of lemonade.

Gotay, a criminal defense attorney, said he heard about the stunt on the radio and wanted to come by to reinforce the positive.

"What's more important? Teaching them what they did was wrong by showing them that there's no forgiveness for something they did unintentionally?" he asked. "That's not how the system should work. I had to come show my support."

They needed more donors like Gotay. After two hours, they had netted only \$66.43.

"It's just the beginning," Fisher said, calculating that with 210,000 similarly lucrative lemonade sales, the \$14 million would be raised.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that about 20 Boy Scouts ages 11 to 14 were left without adult supervision for a night outside an approved campground. Some of the boys built fires that were left to smolder and spread across more than 14,000 acres, the lawsuit says.

U.S. Attorney Paul Warner said the complaint seeks \$13.3 million for the federal costs of fighting the fire and reclaiming charred land in the Uinta Mountains. The state is asking more than \$600,000 for its firefighting expenses.

The Great Salt Lake Council has told state officials it has more than enough insurance to cover the costs, said Assistant Attorney General Mike Johnson.

The fire started June 28, 2002, inside or near the East Fork of the Bear River Boy Scout Camp, about 35 miles south of Evanston, Wyo. It blackened 14,200 acres of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and caused an estimated \$150,000 in damage within the Scout camp to 12 camping sites, a rifle range, climbing towers, some latrines and several thousand feet of water lines.

Flames forced evacuation of the Scout camp, nearby campgrounds and summer homes, and prompted officials to close most of the north slope of the Uinta Mountains to the public.

The Boy Scouts have not admitted responsibility for the fire. Rob Wallace, a BSA attorney, said Tuesday questions remain about how the fire started, and that it's possible people using all-terrain vehicles were to blame. The U.S. attorney's office said the Forest Service reported no ATVs were in the area at the time.

Shipping company fined \$3.5M in dumping case

By The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — A Norwegian cargo fleet operator has been fined \$3.5 million for obstructing an investigation into illegal dumping of oil into the ocean, the U.S. attorney's office says.

The company, Hoegh Fleet Services, admitted in March in U.S. District Court that an engineering officer on its 39,000-ton ship Minerva instructed his workers to build a pipe — the "magic pipe," they called it — to bypass the ship's oil-content sensor, which is a system for preventing waste oil from being discharged into the ocean.

The company pleaded guilty to seven felony counts related to the misconduct, including obstruction of justice and making false statements to federal inspectors.

U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton imposed the sentence Tuesday.

The engineer, Vincent Genovana, pleaded guilty last September to falsifying documents and agreed to cooperate with investigators. He was sentenced to 30 days in custody and deported to his

native Philippines following his release.

Prosecutors said crew members repeatedly tried to conceal the activity by removing the pipe before arriving in port and by doctoring discharge records.

The case came to light after a whistleblower on the ship slipped a note to Coast Guard inspectors when the ship arrived in Vancouver, Wash.

Leighton granted prosecutors' request that the unidentified whistleblower receive a \$300,000 award.

In addition to the fine, Leighton ordered Hoegh to implement a compliance plan for the 38 vessels that call on U.S. ports. A portion of the fine, \$1.6 million, will be used to fund environmental projects that preserve and restore ecosystems along the coast lines of Washington and California.

"The conduct occurs on the high seas, usually at night. The ship is long gone when the spill is discovered, if it's discovered at all," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Oesterle, criminal enforcement counsel for the Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle.

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NATIONAL

Hiring slows in June, raising misgivings over rebounding job market

BY LEIGH STROPE

AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON — The economy created just 112,000 jobs in June, slowing from the torrid pace of the previous three months and raising new misgivings about the strength and endurance of the rebounding jobs market.

The unemployment rate remained at 5.6 percent for a third consecutive month, the Labor Department reported Friday.

President Bush, defending his economic policies as he seeks a second term, told a White House audience that steady growth is the key: "We don't need a boom-or-bust type growth."

June was the 10th straight month of payroll gains, a string that has restored about 1.5 million jobs to U.S. payrolls and shrinking overall losses on Bush's watch to nearly 1.1 million.

But Friday's report provided a mixed picture of the labor market as the presidential nominating conventions near and debate intensifies between Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry.

The weaker-than-expected jobs report cast a gloom over Wall Street as investors pondered new questions about the strength of the recovery. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 51.33 points to close at 10,282.83, finishing a second straight losing week.

Job growth was far less than the 250,000 that economists had expected. Big gains in April and May also were revised downward by 35,000.

"I'm not ready to panic," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa. "But clearly the job market is not as strong as we initially thought."

More than 900,000 jobs were added in the previous three months, buoying expectations for sizable growth in June. Instead, "the labor market stumbled," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at MFC Global Investment Management.

"This report paints a distinctly weaker picture than we've seen over the past few months and was decidedly weaker than we expected," he said.

An invigorated labor market is what prompted the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates Wednesday for the first time in four years. The quarter-point increase was the first change since the funds rate was cut to a 46-year low of 1 percent in June 2003.

Economists said the weak jobs report should keep the central bank on its measured pace of rate increases, with expectations for a quarter-point hike in August instead of a half point.

A four-month hiring spree in manufacturing ended last month. Factories cut 11,000 jobs in June after expanding payrolls by 75,000 this year, coming off three years of layoffs.

In a separate report Friday, the

Commerce Department said factories experienced decreases in orders in May for the second month in a row as demand for cars and other big-ticket goods declined.

The 0.3 percent drop in orders placed with U.S. factories came after a larger 1.1 percent decline in April, the department said.

"We're witnessing steady growth, and that's important," Bush told business executives at the White House. "We want just steady consistent growth so that our fellow citizens will be able to find a job and so that the small-business sector will feel confident about expanding."

But Democrats and their allies had a different take. "Today's employment report confirms what many Americans feel: The jobs market simply isn't as good as the Bush administration would like us to believe," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

Analysts say June's pace of job creation probably will accelerate, but it isn't likely to match the strength of the previous three months. More realistic is job creation of about 200,000 per month.

"The economy this summer may be a little cooler than we thought it was going to be," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

The unemployment rate, holding at 5.6 percent this year except for March, when it ticked up to 5.7 percent, should start falling gradually in coming months. For black workers, the jobless rate climbed to 10.1 percent in June, up from 9.9 percent in May. The rate for Hispanics fell to 6.7 percent last month from 7 percent in May.

One month of weak jobs data doesn't specifically signal trouble, economists said. June can be a difficult month to measure jobs because school ends for the summer and seasonal positions start.

"It's too early to say there's reason for concern," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis. "The important thing is we are creating jobs."

Jobs were added last month in health care, social services, education, retail, hospitality and transportation. Employment in business services also grew, fueled by temporary employment firms. That category has added 306,000 new jobs since April 2003, providing some ammunition to Democrats and others that claim the recent surge in hiring occurred in lower-wage industries that provide no health care and few other benefits.

Some economists agree. The economy is producing a higher share of jobs that pay less than the national average — 60 percent, compared to the jobs recovery in 1993, when about 54 percent could be considered lower-wage, said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo & Co. in Minneapolis.

Also last month, hiring was flat at construction companies and fell in government.

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NATIONAL



U.S.-Mexico agree on how to rebuff immigrants

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Mexico has agreed to take part in a program beginning July 12 that will provide free flights home for illegal Mexican immigrants arrested in the Arizona desert, U.S. officials said this week.

Officials hope the program will both reduce deaths in the Southwestern desert and the attempts by illegal immigrants to enter the United States.

Mexico agreed in mid-June to the program announced this month by the Homeland Security Department.

Under the agreement, the voluntary "repatriation" plan would end no later than Sept. 30, the agency said Tuesday.

Asa Hutchinson, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for border and transportation security, said the program would save lives "by safely returning Mexican nationals to their homes, away from the dangers of the Arizona-Sonora desert where smugglers and the harsh summer climate contribute to the deaths and injuries of illegal border crossers."

In the fiscal year that ended last Sept. 30, 154 immigrants died in the Arizona desert.

Increased enforcement on other parts of the border have shifted illegal immigrant smuggling operations to Arizona. Some immigrants who are apprehended and deported at the border reconnect with smugglers there

and make multiple attempts until they are successful.

The agreement allows illegal immigrants arrested in Arizona's Sonora desert region to volunteer to be returned home via charter airplane from Tucson, Ariz., to Mexico City or Guadalajara. The immigrants then will be returned by bus to their hometowns. Immigrants who live in northern Mexico will be given other options.

William Strassberger, Homeland Security Department spokesman, said the program's estimated cost is \$12 million to \$13 million, which will be paid by the United States. He said many immigrants will want to return home because of the harshness of their journey and exposure to the desert.

"Many of them have spent several days crossing a desert with blast furnace temperatures, struggling to get through," Strassberger said.

Mexico's Interior Ministry called the program "part of the humanitarian efforts by Mexico and the United States to aid and protect migrants who traverse high-risk zones, to prevent deaths and avoid abuses by migrant traffickers."

The program includes "full respect for the human rights" of migrants, the ministry said in a press release Tuesday.

Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo, a supporter of tougher border enforcement, said he supports the effort, but he expects few people to volunteer for the program because they won't want to be so far from the border.

"You have to ask yourself how many of these folks

will be willing to start the (journey) over again. ... If they go into the interior, they're going to have to pay another coyote," said Tancredo, a Republican. People who smuggle humans across the border are known as "coyotes."

The lateral repatriation program last year moved 6,000 Mexicans from Arizona to the Texas border cities. Mayors of those cities balked, saying the government was shifting Arizona's problem their way. Mayors of the cities on the Mexican side complained that the migrants were dumped, often without money for food or a bus ticket home.

The countries agreed to the following:

■ Mexicans will be returned home in a safe, humane and dignified manner. Homeland Security officers will not handcuff or restrain Mexicans unless warranted in individual cases. Those charged with a crime, excluding illegal entry, are ineligible.

■ The program is only available to Mexicans.

■ Migrants who tell immigration officials they want to be returned to Mexico will be referred to the Mexican consul. Mexico plans to increase its consul staff in Arizona.

■ The Mexican consul will interview the migrants and confirm they have asked to be returned to Mexico's interior.

■ Those who decline will be deported by way of a port of entry on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Decline in captured immigrants along Arizona-Mexico border

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — There's been a sharp decline in the number of illegal immigrants caught in the Tucson sector since March, and federal authorities are crediting more manpower along the U.S. border.

After 71,000 apprehensions of illegal immigrants in March, the numbers have been declining by about 10,000 each month, said Andy Adame, spokesman for the U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson sector.

"The numbers usually go up until July. It's very unusual to start seeing a decline this early," Adame said.

Agents caught 64,000 illegal immigrants in April and

53,000 in May with 39,000 through the first 28 days of June.

Adame credits the recent decline to more manpower along the border and an increase in the number of experienced agents.

"We have about 200 more agents than we had last year," he said. "And the experience level is an average of three to four years, which means they know the area better."

Remote areas, such as the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains, are manned by up to 10 agents where previously only one or two were assigned.

The sector, which covers all the Arizona-Mexico border except for an area around Yuma, is the nation's busiest region for immigrant smuggling.

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NATIONAL

New deal still seen as good deal for Americans looking to borrow

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve policy-makers took the first step in what they signaled should be a slow rise in interest rates. Even with the Fed's first rate increase in four years, costs to borrow money still remain a pretty good deal for Americans.

The modest one-quarter percentage point increase ordered Wednesday nudged up a key short-term interest rate controlled by the Fed to 1.25 percent, from a 46-year low of 1 percent.

In response, commercial banks, including Wells Fargo and Wachovia, announced that they were boosting their prime lending rate by a corresponding amount — to 4.25 percent, from 4 percent. The prime rate, a benchmark for many short-term consumer and business loans, also hasn't gone up in four years.

"A prime interest rate of 4.25 percent to 4.50 percent is still pretty cheap by historical standards," said Chris Weber, an economics professor at Seattle University. People taking out loans for cars, homes and other big-ticket goods will pay more in interest, but rates should still continue to be attractive, analysts said.

For savers, who have been stuck with measly returns over the past several years, the Fed's decision means they will earn a bit more interest on bank accounts, certificates of deposit and other savings products.

"The first interest rate hike in four years is long overdue in the eyes of depositors," said Greg McBride, a financial analyst with Bankrate.com, an online financial service. "However, it will take considerable action by the Fed before yields return to historical norms."

The nationwide average for a one-year CD is currently 1.50 percent, while the historical norm would be in the 3.5 percent to 4 percent range, he said.

Last June, the Fed pushed down its key short-term rate to 1 percent, marking the 13th rate cut in a series that began in January 2001. During that time, the Fed battled to help an economy staggered by a series of blows from a plunging stock market and the 2001 recession to terrorist attacks and two wars.

With the economic recovery now firmly rooted and the jobs climate improving, the Fed felt it was safe to start raising rates to head off inflation, which has been moving higher, analysts said.

Administration proposal would open more forest land to logging

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Governors would have to petition the federal government to block road-building in remote areas of national forests under a Bush administration proposal to boost logging.

Environmentalists say the proposed rule change, outlined this week in the Federal Register, would signal the end of the so-called roadless rule, which blocks road construction in nearly one-third of national forests as a way to prevent logging and other commercial activity in backcountry woods.

Without a national policy against road construction, forest management would revert back to individual forest plans that in many cases allow roads and other development on most of the 58 million acres now protected by the roadless rule, environmentalists say.

"Basically I think this proposal takes away protections on a national level" against road-building and logging, Robert Vandermark, co-director of the Heritage Forest Campaign, said Thursday. He and other environmentalists said it is unlikely that governors in pro-logging states would seek to keep the roadless rule in effect.

"I can't imagine the governors of Montana or Wyoming or Colorado moving ahead with this thing and saying we want to petition to get in" to protect roadless areas, said Michael Francis, national forest director for

The Fed suggested that for now it wasn't overly worried about inflation. "Although incoming inflation data are somewhat elevated, a portion of the increase in recent months appears to have been due to transitory factors," the Fed said.

Against that backdrop, Fed policy-makers were still of the view that they could raise rates gradually. But they also said they stood ready to act more aggressively should inflation prospects worsen, a point that has previously been made by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan on several occasions.

Economists interpreted the Fed's remarks, taken all together, as boding for further, modest one-quarter point rate increases in the future, including one at the next meeting on Aug. 10.

"The Fed will proceed at an extremely cautious pace in this tightening cycle," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns.

Some economists predict the funds rate could rise to 2 percent by the end of this year, which would mean the prime rate would move up by a corresponding amount to 5 percent.

Rates on 30-year mortgages, which last week stood at 6.25 percent, are expected to rise to around 6.9 percent by year's end, which still would be low by historical standards.

The Fed's quarter-point increase also means higher rates on credit cards tied to the prime rate, home equity loans and home equity lines of credit, economists said. McBride said the average nationwide rate on a home equity loan is currently 7.22 percent, on a home equity line of credit is 4.77 percent, and on a variable-rate credit card is 13.53 percent.

The economy has been a hot topic in the presidential campaign, with President Bush insisting things are rebounding and Sen. John Kerry talking about a squeeze on the middle class. Analysts said voters likely would see little impact on the economy between now and November from the Fed's action.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "It's not unexpected that as the economy continues growing stronger that interest rates may rise some. That's not something at this point that is a concern."

Gene Sperling, an economic adviser to Kerry, D-Mass., said the real threat to interest rates was not Fed action but Bush's tax cuts, which have caused the federal budget deficit to balloon.

The Wilderness Society.

Forest Service spokeswoman Heidi Valetkevitch stressed that the proposal was preliminary, but called it an accurate statement of the administration's intentions.

Officials had said last year they would develop a plan to allow governors to seek exemptions from the roadless rule. The latest plan turns that on its head by making governors petition the Agriculture Department if they want to maintain restrictions on timbering in their state.

Mark Rey, the Agriculture undersecretary who directs U.S. forest policy, said the Federal Register notice was just one of many options the administration is considering.

"What you have here is a summation of one option that has not been decided on. There's no reason for anybody to get agitated about it," Rey said. Asked why other options were not published, he said they were "fairly complicated."

Rey said the previous plan to maintain the existing rule while allowing governors to opt out "is not something we can do," because of the Wyoming ruling.

The Clinton administration adopted the roadless rule during its final days in office in January 2001, calling it an important protection for backcountry forests. Environmentalists hailed that action, but the timber industry criticized it as overly intrusive.

The 3-year-old rule has twice been struck down by federal judges, most recently in a Wyoming case decided in July 2003.

NATIONAL



Bush seeking to weaken Castro

BY GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For more than 40 years, the debate has persisted: Do tough sanctions against Cuba weaken Fidel Castro's government or entrench it?

President Bush's actions make clear where he stands. He believes loopholes in the embargo are serving as a lifeline for Castro.

At midnight Wednesday, new regulations took effect to sharply reduce Cuba-bound dollar flows from the United States, mostly by way of Cuban-Americans. Properly enforced, the measures could deprive the island of up to \$150 million a year, according to administration estimates.

The measures are being imposed despite growing congressional disenchantment with the embargo. Lawmakers voted by comfortable margins last year to end restrictions on travel to Cuba. A threatened presidential veto killed it.

Proponents argued that U.S. tourism would plant democratic seeds in Cuba; the administration contends the chief effect would be an economic windfall for Castro.

The measures taking effect on Thursday appear aimed partly at the November elections. In 2000, Bush's 4-to-1 advantage over Al Gore among Cuban-Americans in Florida helped to carry the state in 2000, by a mere 537 votes, and to win the White House.

It is unclear whether Bush will retain that margin this year. To do so, he believes that a pugnacious policy toward Castro is his best bet. Like Bush, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., supports the embargo but, thus far, the president has shown more zeal for confronting Castro.

After Wednesday, U.S.-based pleasure boaters will no longer be granted Coast Guard licenses to enter Cuban waters. Since 1996, about 1,200 licenses have been issued, giving boaters unfettered access to Cuban ports.

To avoid problems with immigration authorities on their return, Cuban authorities routinely have provided a letter certifying that the Cuban government had covered all on-island costs. State Department officials see the certification as a sham, claiming that the visits have been a dollar-generating bonanza for the island.

Technically, U.S. travel to Cuba, even recreational visits, is legal. But the spending of dollars there is forbidden, family or professional visits excepted. Under the policy shift, the Treasury Department will approve no visit based on the assumption that the Cuban government will assume all costs.

Rules for family visits by Cuban-Americans also are changing. In theory, such visits have been limited to one a year but additional visits were routinely approved if a humanitarian need was cited.

Now family visits are restricted to one per three years, with no humanitarian exceptions. The authorized per diem for a family visit is being slashed to \$50, compared with \$164 now. A \$1,200 annual ceiling on dollar transfers to family members in Cuba remains unchanged.

Shipments of humanitarian goods will still be permitted but officials say strict standards will be enforced. A Piper Cub filled with antibiotics will get a license with no hassle. There will be no license for a 24-seat Gulfstream jet for a purported "humanitarian mission" if its only declared cargo is three cases of aspirin.

No licenses will be approved for shipments of clothing or soaps and other hygienic items. Let Castro himself supply these goods, officials say.

Fewer visits to Cuba mean fewer dollars spent on visa and airport fees and plane fuel — and more economic pain for Castro. Or so officials think.

John Kavulich, who keeps American businesses informed on Cuba through his U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, says the new regulations could give Castro added rationales for the island's lagging economy. He also says Castro could respond by cutting back on U.S. food imports, legal since 2000, thus alienating U.S. farm state legislators.

Castro is worried that Bush, given his revulsion for Cuba's system, won't be content with mere tweaking of the embargo.

"Do not try crazy adventures such as surgical strikes," the Cuban leader warned Bush last week. "You would never be able to win that war." American officials say no such plan is contemplated.

Bush viewed as heir apparent ... not

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — So much for a Reagan bounce. If President Bush, who often casts himself as the political heir to conservative icon Ronald Reagan, expected the nation to see him through the same political prism, it's not happening.

A number of conservative Republicans say Bush lacks Reagan's ability to inspire and think big. Many Americans say history will remember the actor-turned-politician, who died earlier this month at the age of 93, as the better president than Bush.

Even the real Reagan progeny — Ronald Prescott Reagan — pointedly criticized the current Republican president and promised to vote "for whoever the viable candidate is who can defeat George W. Bush."

Conservatives praise the current Republican president for his tax cuts and backing for the military, and they say the two share many of the same credentials — pro-business, anti-abortion, little patience for unions, tough in the foreign policy arena. But they grumble that the federal government is growing under Bush's watch — something they argue Reagan wouldn't have allowed.

President No. 40 had a vision, conservatives say. President No. 43 doesn't.

"Reagan was a man primarily of ideas," said Don Devine, a former Reagan administration official and a conservative activist. "Bush is a man primarily of politics."

The anti-tax group Club for Growth is financing ads that compares Bush's handling of the war on terror to Reagan's Cold War-era crusade against communism, but it's president, Steve Moore, doesn't see Bush the way he sees Reagan.

"Bush is not a big anti-government conservative," Moore said.

To his credit, says David Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union, Bush did show some of Reagan's traits after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, bond-

ing with the American people as Reagan did.

"To some degree that has dissipated," said Keene, who argued that Bush "has become isolated and separated from the people, something Reagan did not allow."

The gulf between public perceptions of Bush and Reagan is substantial. By a margin of 6-to-1 in a recent Associated Press poll, those surveyed said they thought Reagan would be remembered as a better president than Bush.

The poll was conducted in mid-June, a week after Reagan's state funeral and a flurry of tributes to the former president. It also came shortly after Bush attended D-Day ceremonies in France with allied leaders and the Group of Eight summit in Georgia with various heads of state.

"Reagan was the more effective leader by far," said Republican Bob Crider, a 46-year-old businessman from Camarillo, Calif. "I don't think Bush is inspiring. When half the country turns against you, it's hard to get anything done."

About half of the public said they view Bush in a favorable light and approve of the job he's doing. More than eight in 10 viewed Reagan favorably, according to the AP poll conducted last week by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

"Reagan was a lot better at making the hard decisions," said John Barnes, a Republican from Booneville, Ark., who is retired from the military. "Bush is still young, in a few more years he might be just as good. You've got to give him some time."

The gap between perceptions of the two could make it hard for the Bush re-election campaign to tie itself closely to the public's nostalgia for the Reagan era. The campaign turned its Web page into a tribute to Reagan for several days, and Bush got a boost in polling immediately after the Reagan funeral.

Some polling analysts attributed those changes to Americans getting a break from steady media coverage of bad news from Iraq.

Veteran Republican strategist Charlie Black said he doubts that the Bush campaign will tie itself closely to Reagan.

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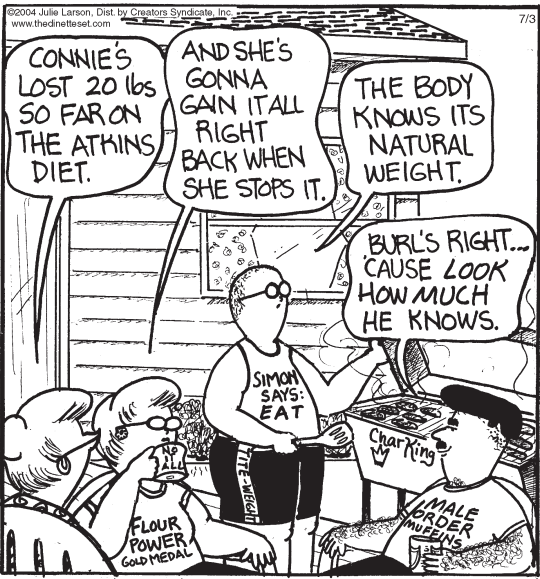
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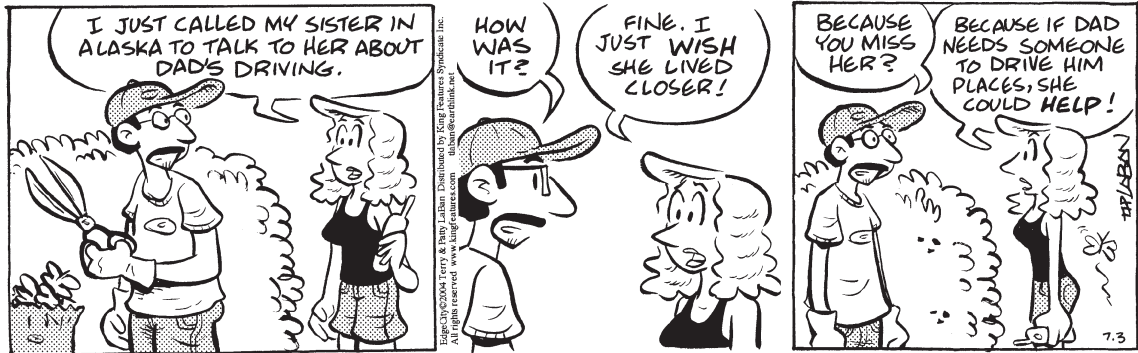


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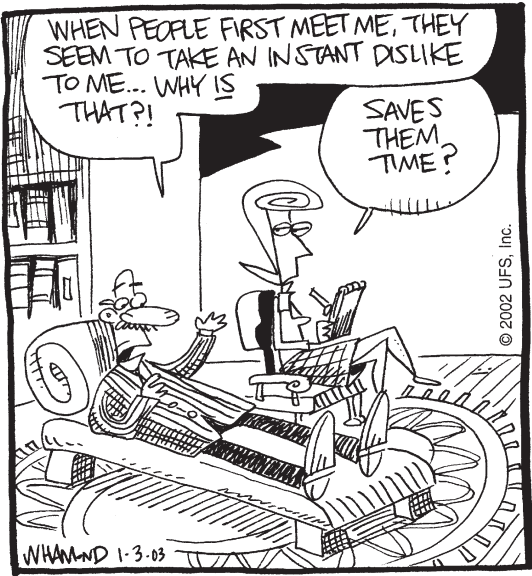
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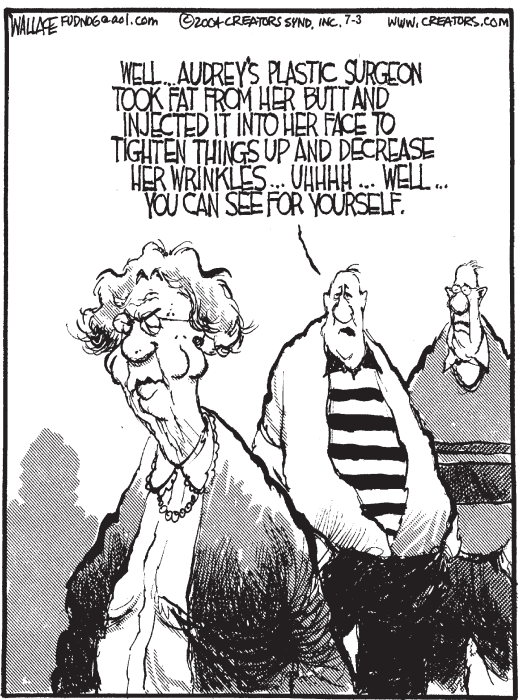
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- ACROSS
- 1 Pain at a party
 - 5 Impresses
 - 9 Easy gaits
 - 10 Medicinal shrub
 - 12 Rep
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 - 36 Lift
 - 38 Majorca's capital
 - 40 Bengal beast
 - 41 Take the wrong way?
 - 42 At — (with consequences)
 - 43 Snakes of Egypt
- DOWN
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 - 2 First game
 - 3 Tony-winning musical
 - 4 Fancy homes
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 - 6 Tiny
 - 7 Tick off
 - 8 "Blade" star
 - 9 Tibetan brothers
 - 11 Not dozing
 - 15 Alternative fuel
 - 19 Help
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 - 26 Target of some batters
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 - 30 Make-up exam
 - 31 Lethargic
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7-3

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Crosby a broken Byrd, pleads guilty to gun charges

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rock musician David Crosby, founding member of the Byrds and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, pleaded guilty Friday to a gun charge, was fined \$5,000 and sentenced to a conditional discharge.

Crosby, 62, pleaded guilty in Manhattan's state Supreme Court to attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree as part of a plea deal. The charge carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison upon conviction.

Justice Michael R. Ambrecht said the case was discharged on the conditions that Crosby pay the fine and the court surcharges and avoid getting arrested again. Crosby's lawyer, Scott Herschman, said his client planned to pay the fine immediately.

The singer was arrested March 6 at the DoubleTree Suites Hotel in midtown Manhattan. Police said they found a Colt .45-caliber handgun, three clips of .45-caliber ammunition and two knives in his luggage.

Police also said the musician had a plastic bag containing an ounce of marijuana, a wooden container with a marijuana cigarette in it, a package of cigarette rolling papers and two other plastic containers with marijuana residue.

Crosby was arrested just hours after performing with his band, CPR, at a Wayne, N.J., college. He had checked out of the hotel but left behind a piece of luggage, police said. A hotel worker went through the luggage looking for identification, found the marijuana, gun and knives, and called police.

Crosby later called the hotel to say he'd be returning to pick up the luggage. Police greeted him when he showed up.

LOS ANGELES — Tom Cruise will introduce a tribute to late football star Pat Tillman during the 12th annual ESPY Awards, which recognize achievement in sports.

Tillman left a \$3.6 million contract as an Arizona Cardinals safety to join the Army and was killed in

Afghanistan on April 22. He was 27.

"I am honored to take part in remembering and celebrating the life of Pat Tillman, someone whose courage and integrity I respect and admire," Cruise said in a statement Thursday.

The tribute will be part of the awards ceremony to be taped July 14 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. The show, hosted by actor-comedian Jamie Foxx, will air July 18 on ESPN.

During last year's ceremonies, Tillman and his brother, Kevin, were recipients of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. This year's recipient will be soccer star George Weah, who has worked in his war-torn homeland of Liberia to reintegrate former child soldiers into their communities.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The box office success of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy has made him very rich. Sales of merchandise linked to movies of the J.R.R. Tolkien books are set to make him even richer.

The Wellington-based director saw his wealth balloon from \$45 million last year to \$118 million this year, according to a list of rich New Zealanders published Friday in a National Business Review magazine survey.

"This could double once the sales of other merchandise, including toys and DVDs, are taken into account," said the magazine's editor in chief, Nevil Gibson. "Because of this, his wealth will continue to increase steadily in the years to come, regardless of the success of his new ventures, such as 'King Kong.'"

Jackson made Oscar history earlier this year when the last installment of the trilogy, "The Return of the King," won all 11 Oscars for which it was nominated, including best picture and best director. He's now working on a remake of "King Kong."

But Jackson will have to make even more hugely successful movies before he can topple businessman Graeme Hart from the position of richest New

Zealander.

Hart's wealth was estimated at \$895 million in the fiscal year ending in June.

DUBLIN, Ireland — Miss World, Rosanna Davison of Ireland, has finally signed her contract with pageant organizers halfway through her reign — and denied that she's been playing hardball.

The 19-year-old issued a statement through her lawyer's office that blamed any delays on the Miss World organizers. She also rejected Irish press reports that she was refusing to do engagements as the pageant wanted.

The legal statement said Davison — the daughter of 1980s pop crooner Chris de Burgh — signed a contract in mid-June, three months after Miss World organizers presented it. It offered no detail on the contract terms or issues in dispute.

"Prior to this, Miss Davison had already carried out numerous engagements as Miss World in the United States, Canada, China, Sri Lanka, continental Europe, England and Ireland, helping to raise millions of dollars for children's charities, promoting the aims of the Miss World organization and bringing much positive global attention to her native land," the statement said.

Davison's main appearance in Ireland was as grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. She is due to hand back her crown at the next contest on Dec. 4 in Sanya, China.

BANGKOK, Thailand — Brazilian dresses made of condoms, a drag show from Indonesia and a special appearance by actor Richard Gere.

These and dozens of other cultural performances, art shows, fashion parades and films from around the world will be featured at the international AIDS conference this month in Bangkok to break the monotony of scientific sessions, organizers said Friday.

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