

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

21, 30, 34, 16, 14

Megamember: 10

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

22, 5, 19, 12, 20

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 7, 8

Evening picks: 4, 7, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Shot

Race Time: 1:46:75



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Anthony Scott Ward, 40, and Melissa Coleman, 27, were arrested in Prestonsburg, Ky., following a Memorial Day incident at a playground (with kids nearby), in which Coleman was bound face down on a picnic table, being paddled by Ward with a boat oar, in what authorities described as consensual "foreplay." Police recovered a cache of bondage items from the couple, including ceremonial hoods, handcuffs, prosthetic sexual tools, ropes, chains, collars, clamps, vibrating devices, lubricants and a cattle prod.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are 350 varieties of shark, not counting loan and pool."

— L.M. Boyd



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Jason Auslander/Daily Press

The clock atop this art-deco office building in downtown Santa Monica has remained frozen for nearly 10 years.

Downtown clocktower to begin ticking again

Art-deco clock has been broken since Northridge quake

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Frozen since the minute the last major earthquake hit the L.A. area nearly 10 years ago, the clock atop the art deco office building in downtown Santa Monica will soon begin ticking once again.

The 12-story building, built in 1929, is nearing the end of a two-year, \$8 million renovation, which owners are describing in glowing terms.

"It's going to be a beautiful, beautiful top-class building," said Kevin Green, owner of Elkins Property Management and one of the investors in the building, which was bought for \$7.5 million in 2000.

"It's really difficult to explain — or for anyone to comprehend — how cool it's

See CLOCKTOWER, page 5

City's drunks may soon have new destination

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Public drunks in Santa Monica may soon be taken to a sobering safe house instead of a hospital or the city jail.

The proposed center, which would be located at 911 Pico Blvd., would keep intoxicated people in custody until they become sober, thereby freeing hospital beds and time for police and fire personnel, as well as saving the city millions of dollars, supporters say.

"It will be like fast-tracking the jails," said Santa Monica Fire Department Capt. Bruce Davis. "It would be a very quick booking process. They're brought in and our officers are back out on the streets again."

The Clare Foundation, a 32-year-old local social service agency, would manage the proposed center. Two supervisors would work at the center 24 hours a day, taking in between six and 10 drunks each day.

Besides giving the drunks a place to sober up and offering them counseling, the center would provide blankets, sofas, water, juice and granola bars. Its simple three-room operation would consist of an office area and male and female dormitories.

However, not everyone is thrilled with the proposal.

Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center, said before the project is approved, supporters ought to hold a meeting and take input from neighbors and businesses in the area.

"It's a little scary for young people to be around that

See DRUNKS, page 5

Noise issue debated, tabled by commission

By Daily Press staff

The debate over an ordinance to control noise levels in Santa Monica has grown louder.

Planning commissioners debated the subject and continued it for the second time last week, deciding to give it further consideration at their next meeting July 16.

They are working on a recommendation that will go to the City Council this summer. Council members were expected to vote on the matter July 22, but that date may be delayed while the Planning Commission works out the details.

Santa Monica's noise laws have not been updated since 1992.

A groups of residents have asked the commission to make the proposed ordinance more restrictive.

Some of those residents met Monday night to discuss the suggestions of Dan Stuart, a local resident and attorney, who has recommended that the 300-foot "transition" zones between businesses and residences — where noise laws are relaxed — be dropped, among other things.

But businesses disagree. Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce president Mike Gruning vowed at his installation dinner last month to fight any further restrictions on noise, which he characterized as anti-business.



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HOROSCOPE

Stay at home tonight, Cancer



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, July 7, 2003:

You, a true Cancer, will emphasize your home life as you haven't done in the past. You might be unusually interested in an investment that could involve real estate or your domestic well-being. Many will be looking at second homes or adding on to their present domicile. Some will purchase their first home. Security stars as a priority. You demonstrate the ability to make an unusual amount of money early on in your birthday year. Flex with new work opportunities. Don't get stuck in old patterns, but greet the new with grace. If you are single, you yearn to meet that special someone. Your odds will increase later in the year. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom. You both need and want special downtime together. LIBRA anchors you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Don't make anything bigger than it needs to be. In fact, sit back in your chair and watch others reveal their true colors. Actually, you are in the driver's seat because you will have the final say or yea. Tonight: Go along with a pal's plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Plunge into work this morning, whether you're up for it or not. Think in terms of the more done, the better, which will free up some extra time for a favorite summer pastime. You act like the workhorse of the zodiac. Remember to eat lunch, please! Tonight: You push the line.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Be the playful Twin. You cannot help yourself anyway, so why not let the real Twin out? Your ability to communicate allows you to cruise through any problem. Take a hard stand on finances. Risking should be minimal. Tonight: Playtime (yes, we know it's Monday).

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Anchor in on your priorities right away, or else you could find yourself wandering from one item to the next. You might want to rethink a home office or structure your life slightly different to increase its efficiency and quality. Give yourself the play you need here. Tonight: At home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your propensity to say what is on your mind can make all the difference in what goes down. Use the extra charisma that your sign bestows, and nearly everyone will give you a "yes." Still, be aware of a low-level depression. Tonight: Your turn to say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You can handle a budget, perhaps the best of all signs. Once more, you have an opportunity to demonstrate just those particular skills. Your intuition will lead you in a new direction if you listen. Right now, you are unusually anchored. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Certain times a month, your popularity is enhanced, and others work with you more easily. Don't take the present moment for granted. Quickly zero in on what you desire. Not everything is as you think or would like it to be. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to dance to a different tune right now. Follow through on what you deem mandatory; otherwise, vanish behind a closed door. Whether you put headphones on, do work or just daydream a little is your business. Tonight: Get ready for tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ A meeting, as well as a key associate, poses a question that might suggest some form of reorganization or self-discipline. Don't worry, you can weigh the pros and cons for a while. Brainstorm within groups. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Once more, you assume the reins of control. How you handle what heads your way could substantially change depending on news you receive. Listen to the individual rather than the group. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your insight and foresight could make a big difference in someone else's choices. Examine what needs to happen for a partner to succeed in the manner he or she wishes. Your advice will be appreciated. Tonight: Read between the lines.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others share insight and conviction that you appreciate. Understand more of what is needed to make a situation work within a partnership. Right now, you might not be the controlling factor you would like to be. Just you wait. Tonight: Listen to the other side.



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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

School board accepting applications for committee

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board is accepting applications to fill two vacancies on the district's Ad Hoc Financial Oversight Committee.

The Financial Oversight Committee was originally formed to answer the community's desire for increased communication and understanding of the district's financial operations, and to generate additional revenue for the district.

The following is the criteria for selection:

- Broad perspective;
- Financial and/or management and/or legal expertise/experience;
- Residing, employed or working within Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District boundaries;

District boundaries;

- Business process orientation;
- Able to clearly communicate information;
- Not currently serving as an elected official.

All attempts will be made to have the composition of the committee reflect the student population.

The Financial Oversight Committee meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the district's testing room, 1651 16th Street, second floor.

Parents and community members are invited to apply. The application deadline is Friday, August 8, while the board plans on filling the vacancies Aug. 21.

Applications may be obtained at the district administration offices, 1651 16th Street, from the second floor receptionist or on-line at www.smmusd.org.

Skatepark design meeting scheduled

By Daily Press staff

The City of Santa Monica will host a skatepark design workshop Monday, July 14 at 6 p.m.

The workshop is an opportunity to learn about the design-build project, meet the project design team and provide input on the design of the park. Wally Holliday, who has designed some of the country's best skateparks including those in Fontana and Lakewood, is scheduled to attend.

Results of a skatepark survey, distributed at numerous locations around Santa Monica and made available online at www.santa-monica.org, will also be presented.

The approximately 30,000 square foot "Skatepark Santa Monica" is planned for construction at Memorial Park in Spring 2004, with an opening in Fall 2004.

In July 2002, the City Council approved the current playground area at Memorial Park as the site for the skatepark. The playground will be relocated.

The meeting will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street in Santa Monica (across from Macy's and the Santa Monica Place Mall). The center is served by Big Blue Bus Lines 2, 3, and 9 and is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodation requests or to request this information in alternate format, please call 458-8310 or TTY: 458-8696 by July 9.



surf report

Look for a mixture of holding NW wind swell and very slowly fading SW swell. Many spots see 2'-3' surf (knee-to-chest high) off the mix of swells, with best SW breaks hitting shoulder high on the sets. Best NW breaks hit shoulder high-plus on bigger sets.

Today the water is:

69°

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

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

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

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The Q Line

California politics are on the nation's front burner again these days as the campaign to recall Gov. Gray Davis continues to gain momentum.

Recently supporters of the recall effort said they have gathered the one million signatures necessary to put the issue in front of state voters in a special election.

Supporters blame Davis — a Democrat — for the state's serious budget deficit, problems with the energy industry and a general lack of leadership, among other things.

Opponents of the recall say the state's

problems won't disappear over night no matter who occupies the governor's mansion and that the cash-strapped state can ill afford the \$25 million the special election is reported to cost.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support recalling Gov. Davis from office? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in Friday's paper. Please limit your call to one minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Smoke this, Mr. Ed

Editor:

After Mr. Ed Holmes' revolutionary answer for my question, "inhaling tons of smoke" (SMDP, July 2) and some effort for recalling Gov. Gray Davis, we arranged an interview with Mr. Ed about some problems that we have in California.

A: Mr. Ed, what can we do with traffic in L.A. Do you want to make new freeways?

E: No, if people don't like traffic they can walk or easy as this, leave California.

A: What about the homeless that we have some problems with in Santa Monica?

E: We will try to move them to Malibu and Beverly Hills but it takes time. If Santa Monica residents have a problem, they can leave.

A: What's your decision for the budget problem that we have in California?

E: You know, we gotta kick some immigrants like you out of California. Really, if you are not happy with California why don't you go to Arizona or Nevada. And because you have to walk, hopefully you will die before you get there.

A: We just celebrated the Fourth of July, Mr. Ed. Our fathers made this country not to say "if you don't like this go to the other side." They told us to listen to people and change our ways if it's possible. Mr. Ed, this is the United States of America, not Iraq and we are proud because we can change and choose. We care about other people's rights and nobody can tell us what to do. Good luck with your smoking.

Ali Altar
Santa Monica

Don't forget about Teddy Roosevelt

Editor:

On page 7 of the July 3 edition, you ran an AP article regarding the July 7 trip to Africa by President Bush. The article stated, "Of the first 42 American presidents, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton are the only ones to make extended visits to Africa." While that may be true with respect to sitting presidents, the article makes no note of the extended visit of Teddy Roosevelt.

Immediately following the inauguration of William H. Taft, Teddy Roosevelt left in April, 1910 and traveled to Khartoum. He spent the following year traveling through what was then British East Africa and the Belgian Congo. He collected 1,000 specimens, including 500 big game, for the Smithsonian Institute. His safari returned to the Nile and then back to Khartoum. From there, he went to England to attend the

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Living wage politics are corruption-packed thrill ride

In February, a blue ribbon commission of inquiry was convened to investigate questionable tactics used by opponents of Santa Monica's living wage ordinance.

Particularly under the microscope were a series of detestable tactics used in the "No on JJ" campaign, the 2002 effort against the living wage.

Among the distinguished commission members are a former California State Supreme Court justice, a former board president of California Common Cause, a national board member of the League of Women Voters, a professor of legal ethics, an assistant secretary of state and three of our region's most revered religious leaders.

Based on evidence gathered from live testimony and documentation, and months of study and deliberation, the commission recently released a devastating report that clearly establishes two things.

First, last year's campaign against the city's living wage ordinance was tainted with the most scurrilous and legally questionable campaign tactics. Second, Santa Monica's big, wealthy hotels were largely responsible for three years of lies and deceit that prevented more than 2,000 low-wage tourism workers from earning a livable wage.

The following are specifics about group that campaigned against the living wage:

■ It spent nearly \$2.3 million over three years — an obscene sum for a city Santa Monica's size;

■ Of the \$2.3 million, 83 percent was donated by the hotel industry. The ownership group managing Casa del Mar and Shutters by the Beach contributed 38 percent alone.

Using this largess of funds — which could just have easily gone to comply with the living wage ordinance benefiting housekeepers, valets, and dishwashers — the hotels hired several illusory figures to conduct what they confessed to city leaders would be a "scorched earth" campaign against the living wage movement.

This colorful cabal of mysterious figures plays out like bad dinner theater. The primary consultants hired by those opposed to the living wage were the Dolphin Group, a firm with a reputation for deceptive tactics and close ties to the tobacco industry.

Also included in this scheme was William "Lord" Butcher, a right-wing political consultant who drafted the language for three controversial campaign mailings used in the last week of the Proposition JJ campaign.

One mailer, sponsored by an illegitimate "Pro-Choice Voters Committee," asked pro-choice voters to oppose the living wage. A second was sent by an equally mysterious "Quality Schools Coalition," which threw in a plea to vote "No on JJ" with calls to support state and local school measures.

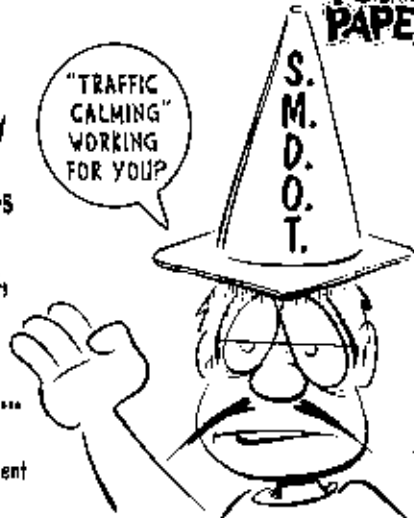
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funeral of King Edward VII and then on to Norway to accept a Nobel Peace Prize for his part in ending the Russo-Japanese War. He returned to the U.S. in June, 1910.

Presidents Carter, Clinton and now Bush spent only days in Africa and traveled in planes, helicopters and limousines. Old Teddy spent a year and did it as a ground-pounder. Too bad none of the stories generated by current events even mention these related facts.

Jim Shumar
Winchester, VA

Guest
Commentary

By Todd Flora

Third, opponents sent a "Democratic Voters Ballot Guide for Santa Monica," which directed voters to support all of the state's Democratic Party nominees, but to oppose the living wage ordinance. Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante was so bothered by his name and image being associated with opposition to the living wage, he personally testified before the commission of inquiry, calling for electoral reform.

How can this practice possibly be allowed to take place under the law in this state, especially given that the

Democratic Party supported the living wage ordinance and legitimate pro-choice and education groups had no position one way or another?

It's no surprise that the "treasurer" named for the "organizations" supporting the three campaign mailers — James Lacy — is a recognized advocate against tighter restrictions on slate mailer requirements. Lacy has even sued the state to prevent implementation of reform measures pertaining to political slate mailings.

But Lacy and his friends are hardly practicing freedom of speech. Their methods are a distortion of truth hiding behind loopholes in the law.

Rounding out the cast is Colleen McAndrews, the treasurer for the overall "No on JJ" campaign. By amazing coincidence, McAndrews works for the polit-

ical consulting firm managed by William Lord Butcher.

But this didn't stop the official No on JJ campaign from — with a straight face no less — claiming no knowledge of Butcher's campaign mailers. I mean, who ARE these people?

With this damage done, we as a community need to keep our eyes on the ball. More than 2,000 low-wage tourism workers still need wages that will help free many of them from (your) taxpayer-funded public assistance.

And at the end of the day, all of the sleazy work by all the dirty consultants in the world would not have been possible without Santa Monica's biggest, wealthiest hotels bankrolling the effort.

The commission of inquiry included several recommendations for reform in their report, which can be found at <http://www.democracydistorted.com/articles.html>.

Whatever our respective views on the living wage, historic landmarks, parcel tax measures, or City Council candidates, we must unite against this kind of "democracy abuse." Without a vibrant ethical code at the helm, which local proposition that you care about might be next?

(Todd Flora is a contributing columnist to the Daily Press. A former state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, he is a communications and issues manager and six-year resident of Santa Monica.)

LOCAL



Clocktower building set for September unveiling

CLOCKTOWER, from page 1

going to be."

Owners expect to tear down temporary construction walls and unveil a granite-clad masterpiece Sept. 15.

The first phase of the remodel was bringing the building, located at 225 Santa Monica Blvd., up to code, Green said. A complete seismic retrofit was done, sprinkler and air conditioning systems were installed and the elevators were upgraded.

Next up is repairing the clock, which has been stuck at 4:17 since Jan. 17, 1994, when the Northridge earthquake shook southern California early in the morning. Green said the clock will be completely refurbished in the building's art deco style.

The exterior of the two-story lobby will be wrapped in granite, as will the interior, which is marked by 20-foot ceilings.

No detail is being overlooked, said Green, who traveled to South Beach Miami over the holiday weekend to take pictures of other classic art deco buildings. He plans to replace every window and windowsill in the building, while keeping them operable.

Many modern office buildings are climate-controlled and the windows do not open to let in outside air.

Neighbors and residents said they're pleased the old clocktower — once called the Crocker Bank Building after the bank that occupied its lobby for decades — will once again be open.

"It's a great building," said Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz. "It's a classic job and it's really quite well done."

Carl Schober, owner of the Mayfair Theater across the street, said he's watched the clocktower go through a succession of owners since it was built in the depression era.

He said the building's bathrooms were originally built between the floors, so that office workers would have to travel either down or up half a flight. Because of current zoning requirements, each floor had to have bathrooms accessible to the handicapped.

But that's not the only reason the old building couldn't be built again today, said Tony Kim, an associate planner for the city. There is also no parking allocated for workers in the building.

Of the current owners, the most prominent investor is a pension fund for a group of Delta Airlines pilots.

Green said the group is still looking to fill the one retail spot in the building's 4,600-square-foot lobby. He said he hopes for a unique retailer, either a restaurant or merchant, to lend even more character to the old building.

In the meantime, none of the open space in the building is being advertised, though Green said the group will eventually charge between \$2.50 and \$5 per square foot, depending on floor level.

"We don't want to lease it until you can tell how great the building is going to be," he said.

Center could save city \$2.9M

DRUNKS, from page 1

type of environment," said de la Torre, adding that the proposed site is directly across the street from the Pico center and just two blocks from Santa Monica High School. "God forbid a tragedy happen in that neighborhood. Under the influence, people don't think right."

Though drunks won't be forced to stay in the sobering center, police will be notified and the violators will be immediately arrested and booked into the city's jail if they leave, under an agreement with the Santa Monica Police Department.

De la Torre said if the project does move forward it should be instituted as a pilot program, then tweaked and amended after it is implemented.

Davis said the effect on the neighborhood will be minimal while the overall gain to the community will be significant. He said the center's proposed site, located next to Clare and managed by Clare, already is used by Culver City and the LAPD to drop off between four and six drunks every day.

At least one community agreed the center was a good idea.

"You can't hide people from reality," said Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz. "It's not like people are coming in with a bottle of booze to drink it there. They're coming in to sober up."

The bottom line, Davis said, is the sobering center will free up valuable city resources while offering a support network for return counseling. More than 25 percent of clients at a similar facility in Santa Barbara return for voluntary treatment.

In 2002, the SMPD received 3,106 calls related to intoxication and booked an average of 4.5 people per day on public drunkenness charges. The SMFD responded to

another 963 alcohol-related calls and Santa Monica and St. John's hospitals lost a combined total of \$250,000 by devoting medical resources to intoxicated people who were sobering up.

Six groups — the Clare Foundation, a local social service agency, the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica fire and police departments and the two local hospitals — are behind the proposed center, which must secure funding before it can open.

The center needs \$180,000 to start up and cover expenses for one year. After that, it hopes to gain funding from the City of Santa Monica, according to a "Sobering Center Fact Sheet" prepared by Davis.

Clare officials, who ran a similar sobering center program in the late 1980s, estimate that it will cost about \$189,000 annually to run the center. Many of the public drunks will be transition into Clare's 30-day residential recovery program, which is operated next door.

On the sixth return to the sobering center, public drunks will be turned in to local law officials, where they will be prosecuted for being chronic offenders. The end result, Davis said, saves the court system five interactions with the persistent drinkers.

By giving public drunks a place to go other than jail or the hospital, the city expects to save more than \$2.9 million, according to the fact sheet.

"Anytime someone gets in that situation, first of all, let's sober them up so they don't kill themselves or anyone else anyone," Katz said. "Second of all let's find out the cause and try to treat it."

"Everyone that has touched alcohol at one time or another has been inebriated to some degree. And if you're smart, you don't want to do it again."

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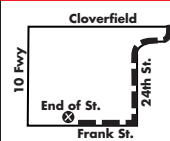
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**NATIONAL****Big-city problem arises
in a rural Oregon county**

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

PENDLETON, Ore. — A convoy of patrol cars and a black, armored police van creep through this cowboy town, stopping in front of a single-wide trailer off a dusty gravel road. Officers with guns and bulletproof vests pour from the van doors and barrel into the house, shouting "Police! police! Get down!"

Drug raids have become a way of life in Oregon's rural Umatilla County, known more for its ranches and farms than as a playground for drug traffickers. A convergence of economic and geographical factors have turned the county into a haven for drug criminals.

Umatilla County is uniquely positioned for its size — three major highways intersect within its rural boundaries, giving traffickers easy access to Canada and Mexico. At the same time, severe budget cuts have left only a handful of state troopers to patrol hundreds of miles of back roads.

What's more, the county's agricultural base provides an ample supply of fertilizer, a key ingredient for methamphetamine, and a growing migrant population is used by Mexican drug traffickers as cover for their activities.

"If we don't get a better handle on the drug problem, it's going to be the absolute ruin of our society," said Sheriff John Trumbo. "It really bothers me that the quality of life out here is being jeopardized by drugs."

Umatilla County, population 77,000, is barely bigger than some of Portland's bedroom communities. Yet in 2002, it ranked No. 1 in the state for marijuana seizures — 65 percent of marijuana seized statewide was from Umatilla — and in the first five months of 2003 ranked No. 2 in meth labs seized.

More than 50 percent of drugs seized in the county in 2002 were meth, but agents also saw ephedrine, marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

About 85 percent of criminal cases in Umatilla County have a connection to drugs and the same percentage of foster children are in the system because of drug-related problems, officials say.

And officials worry that more police cuts due to lack of money will further encourage traffickers and at the same time fuel an increase in drug-related crimes, such as murder and robbery.

"It's bad in this county, it's so rampant here," said Cherril Beecroft, a 33-year-old former meth addict who said two friends were murdered over drugs. "You walk into a grocery store and see people who look like they've been up for days. You can just see it in people, in their eyes."

U.S. 395, the original highway connecting Mexico and Canada, has become a pipeline for narcotics. A rural, two-lane road, it winds from Los Angeles north to Umatilla County, crossing through some of the most isolated areas of Oregon, Nevada and California.

Once in Umatilla County, it intersects Interstates 84 and 82. Narcotics agents say 98 percent of the drugs in Umatilla County come from superlabs in Mexico and southern California, and most of them arrive on U.S. 395.

Once in the county, the drugs are distributed to local dealers or to traffickers who move them north to Washington's Yakama Valley and British Columbia, or east on the interstates. Detectives routinely field calls about local traffickers arrest-

ed as far away as Florida, said Sgt. Greg Sherman, with the Oregon State Police.

Umatilla County's rural nature fuels its drug problem.

Fertilizer, a staple for farmers, also contains anhydrous ammonia, one of the key ingredients for so-called "Nazi meth," a potent type of meth developed by Germany during World War II to keep soldiers awake.

Meth lab operators siphon hundreds of gallons of the liquid fertilizer from pressurized tanks kept here for and by farmers. Farmers buy the fertilizer for about 70 cents a gallon from Pendleton Grain Growers, but stolen fertilizer sells for \$100 a gallon on the black market, Sherman said.

The county's growing reputation as a destination for Mexican migrant workers is also a factor, because illegal traffickers pose as legitimate agricultural workers, said Chuck Karl, director of the Oregon branch of the federally funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

The situation, already overwhelming, has recently gotten worse. Severe budget cuts have crippled state patrols. And a recently approved ballot measure that banned using drug property to pay for narcotics investigations slashed funding for the region's innovative drug task force.

State police this year laid off 84 troopers due to budget cuts, leaving only 10 troopers to patrol a 170-mile swath of eastern Oregon. State police once helped Umatilla County deputies patrol remote back roads — including 395 — but now troopers can barely manage to monitor I-84.

"There's periods where there's no law enforcement even out there," said Detective Sgt. Mark Miller, a member of the task force. "There's towns that don't even maintain a constant police force. If you're a drug trafficker, do a little research and you can get pretty far."

Pendleton, the county seat, lost three-quarters of its troopers, while Hermiston lost two-thirds. Milton-Freewater, known nationally for its premium marijuana, went from six troopers to one.

At the same time, funds for a 20-year-old narcotics task force made up of city, county and state agencies, have dropped significantly and could dry up completely without federal assistance or outside funding.

Miller would not disclose the budget for the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team. But in a business where an ounce of meth costs up to \$600 and a pound \$6,000, undercover narcotics agents could soon run out of the money they need to go after big cases, he said.

"It's frustrating. Drug forfeiture used to be our main source of funding," Miller said. "We have all these cases to pick from and we can't get to them all."

The six-person task force has lost two members due to cuts and the remaining staff work 60-hour weeks, Miller said.

At the same time, money shortages have caused some dissension within the group, as smaller jurisdictions struggle to commit one full-time officer to narcotics on tight budgets. Assigning one of his seven uniformed deputies to the task force costs Trumbo, the county sheriff, \$100,000 a year, he said.

Hermiston, the county's second-largest city, recently pulled its officer from the task force, saying it could fight drugs more effectively on its own. Drug-related arrest rates increased 140 percent in the first five months of 2003 as a result of a three-day training for all the city's officers, said city Police Chief Dan Coulombe.

NATIONAL

New book examines homegrown religious zealots

BY C.G. WALLACE

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Best-selling author John Krakauer has built a reputation on gripping portrayals of those who push their physical limits. But now the writer has set his sights on spiritual extremes, and his upcoming book is already creating headaches for the image-conscious Mormon church.

"Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith," which reaches bookstores July 15, examines the dangers of religious extremism through those who claim to follow the original teachings of the Mormon church, a chief tenet of which was the taking of multiple wives.

These "fundamentalists" still practice polygamy, even though The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints officially abandoned the practice in 1890 and continues to distance itself from the subject.

Krakauer is best known for "Into Thin Air," his firsthand account of a doomed expedition on Mount Everest. That book, along with his earlier "Into the Wild," were national best sellers.

In "Under the Banner of Heaven," Krakauer turns his attention to the 1984 murders of Brenda Lafferty and her 15-month-old daughter, Erica.

Dan and Ron Lafferty, Brenda's brothers-in-law, slit their victims' throats with a 10-inch boning knife and later claimed God had ordered the slayings. The men

were tried separately; Dan Lafferty is serving a life sentence, and Ron Lafferty — who claimed to have the revelation to kill — is on death row.

With Dan Lafferty as a main source, Krakauer writes that the brothers decided to practice polygamy, and killed Brenda and her child because the mother had opposed them.

Weaving details of the deaths throughout the book, "Under the Banner of Heaven" tries to add a larger context to the killings and their alleged connection to Mormon fundamentalism. It examines the secretive communities of polygamists, those who have left the practice, and the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping case. The girl's alleged abductor, Brian David Mitchell, claims God told him to take Elizabeth as a "sister wife."

The book spends many pages on church founder Joseph Smith and his revelation to practice polygamy, and portrays Smith — who wrote the Book of Mormon — as a grifter and philanderer. Krakauer also explores the darker chapters of faith's brief, and sometimes violent, history, including the religion's role in the massacre of California-bound pioneers in 1857.

More recently, Mitchell's alleged role in the Smart abduction and polygamy claims have put the church on the defensive, and religious experts have questioned whether the church hierarchy can ever shake the faith's past embarrassments.

The Mormon church has nothing to do with the "fun-

damentalists" and excommunicates those who advocate plural marriage. And it has been forceful in rebuking Krakauer's book. Church spokesman Michael Otterson called the writer's attempt to link religious zealots with Mormon history and doctrine "a full-frontal assault on the veracity of the modern church."

"His basic thesis appears to be that people who are religious are irrational, and that irrational people do strange things," Otterson said. "He does a huge disservice to his readers by promulgating old stereotypes. ... One could be forgiven for concluding that every Latter-day Saint, including your friendly Mormon neighbor, has a tendency to violence."

Still, zealots such as Lafferty and Mitchell needle the church's image, and polygamy remains inextricably linked to the church's founding.

In 1843, Smith disclosed his revelation that polygamy, restored by prophecy from the patriarchal Old Testament, was an essential ingredient of eternal exaltation.

Smith's teachings on polygamy remain in the church's four volumes of scripture, which has been used as a justification for Mitchell and thousands of so-called fundamentalist Mormons to defy mainstream Mormonism and establish sects where men take multiple wives, some as young as 12.

Krakauer argues that the faith's inconsistencies and silences about its relatively short past — the church was organized in 1830 — is causing recurring embarrassment for the church over polygamy. He notes that even after the church banned the practice as a condition of Utah's statehood, some Mormon leaders continued to take multiple wives after 1890.

A planned cross-country tour by Krakauer promises fresh attention to the church's past. Dan Wotherspoon, editor of the Mormon magazine Sunstone, said the book will spotlight the faith much like the lead-up to the 2002 Winter Olympics, when national profiles of Salt Lake City put the church under a microscope.

"This could very well be the next Olympics in the sense of them raising awareness of Mormonism's past and some of its difficulties. It could make for a long and difficult summer," Wotherspoon said.

Publishing house Doubleday has printed 350,000 copies so far, and early buzz has been favorable to the book. The Wall Street Journal and USA Today have recommended it in summer reading lists, and GQ magazine's current issue features excerpts.

Two weeks before the book goes on sale, "Under the Banner of Heaven" ranked 164th among Amazon.com's 1.5 million books, a "pretty hefty rank" for a book not yet available, said Amazon spokesman Bill Curry.

The church-owned Deseret Book chain has already said it won't stock the book.

Mount Rainier struggles with maintenance

BY LINDA ASHTON

Associated Press Writer

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, Wash. — Superintendent Dave Ueberuaga compares the upkeep of Mount Rainier National Park to that of maintaining a beautiful old home — with 2 million visitors a year.

As he walks along the lush green trail to the Ohanapeocosh campground from Silver Falls, Ueberuaga's lament is familiar to anyone who's ever owned a house, especially an old one, loaded with character and an endless supply of things that break, wear out or need updating.

"Everything seems to cost more than it should," he said. "The materials cost more. The craftspeople cost more."

Established in 1899, Mount Rainier in the Washington Cascades is the fifth-oldest national park. It still looks much as it did in the 1930s and has been designated a National Historic Landmark District.

But it has a documented backlog of about \$101 million in work that needs to be done, about half of which is road repair and upgrades — part of a \$4.9 billion backlog of maintenance projects identified at National Park Service sites across the country.

The Bush administration and Congress have been criticized by groups such as the National Parks Conservation Association in recent months for failing to budget sufficient money to properly staff, run and care for some of the country's treasured national parks, monuments and historic sites.

"The national park system is an amazing thing the American people gave to themselves," said John Titland of Bellevue, a past president of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates, a friends of the park group.

"Now we're at a point where the political administrations don't see it as a benefit. They see it as a liability that they just have to pay for."

The Bush administration has made significant strides in bringing computer efficiency to inventorying National Park Service assets and identifying and prioritizing the work that needs to be done to keep them in good shape, said Donald Murphy, deputy director of national parks.

The improvements being made are not particularly glamorous or even always noticeable, but they're important, he said.

At Yellowstone National Park, for example, there was a wastewater treatment plant and sewer line that had to be redone because they posed an environmental threat to the Old Faithful geyser, he said.

At the Federal Hall National Memorial in Manhattan, cracked walls and the foundation needed work. Cedar Hill, the home at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., needed a new climate control system to protect books in its library.

At Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, visitors complained about stinking toilets.

"We replaced all the bathrooms, and they don't smell any

more. Those kind of things impacted visitor enjoyment," Murphy said. "All of these are unglamorous things."

In the last two years, the federal government has made \$2.9 billion available to address a \$4.9 billion maintenance backlog, which is targeted for elimination over five years, he said.

"I really think we're doing the right thing in parks right now with the goals and priorities that we have," Murphy said.

"Our No. 1 goal is making sure the resources we have are very well taken care of."

Mount Rainier National Park, home to the 14,410-foot volcano of the same name, has some special maintenance challenges in addition to the historic preservation of its rustic infrastructure.

"The climate is very severe," said Dan Blackwell, chief of maintenance for the park. "I don't think a lot of people know what 40 feet of snow on the ground looks like. In the winter, that's what I've got up at Paradise. Our construction season is very short."

Rehabilitating the 85-year-old Paradise Inn is one of the projects getting funded, with more than \$13 million for foundation work.

Mount Rainier National Park has an annual budget of \$3.1 million for operations and preventive maintenance, about 75 percent of which goes to activities such as cleaning restrooms, plowing snow and operating water and wastewater systems.

"Where we have a problem are the operational dollars. They are what's eroding and eroding fast," Blackwell said.

Most of the park's regular maintenance money is spent on operations, so preventive maintenance gets the short end of the stick. There's not been a tangible increase in six years, he said.

"We are not spending enough money on preventive maintenance — period," he said. "That's why the backlog curve seems to be static."

How much is apparent to the visiting public is unclear. If the roads are drivable, the trails negotiable and the restrooms clean, most people probably don't notice the deterioration.

"I think if you went to the park and looked at some of the older buildings, you would be surprised how many of them are rotting and falling apart," said Titland, who has been a volunteer at the park for the last decade.

"They just don't have the maintenance budget to keep them going."

In the backcountry — 97 percent of the park is wilderness — there are at least a couple of cabins in such bad condition no one wants to use them, he said.

Under the priority system, parks compete for some maintenance dollars, based on consideration such as the importance of the asset and health and safety considerations.

"The need out there is significant, and even the lowest priority is compelling," Ueberuaga said.

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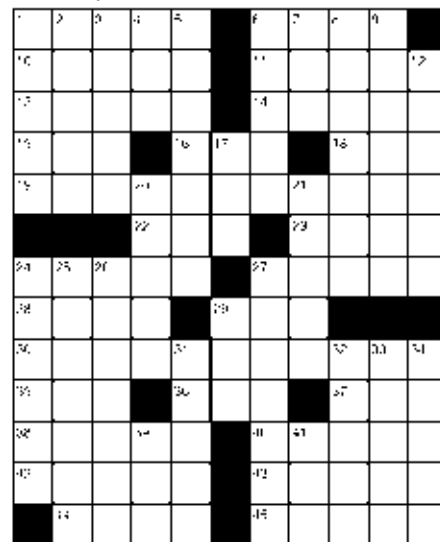
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cassavetes writing script about Jesse James Hollywood

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Beyonce Knowles, Shania Twain, Craig David and David Gray were among a host of singers who took to the stage in London's Hyde Park for an open-air concert to raise money for disadvantaged children.

More than 100,000 tickets were sold for Sunday's "Party in the Park," which is expected to raise more than 1 million pounds (US\$1.6 million) for the Prince's Trust, the charity headed by Prince Charles.

Charles was guest of honor at the concert attended largely by teenagers.

"Last year I gave him an option of not coming but he was absolutely insistent. He wants to come and people want him to come," said Tom Shebbeare, chief executive of the Prince's Trust. "He's the rocking prince."

CHICAGO — The producers of the reality television show "Starting Over" are doing just that.

They've moved the show's production to a different neighborhood in Chicago,

after angry residents of the original upscale neighborhood sued to keep the show from filming there.

"There's more than one great house in Chicago," said Jim Johnston, one of the show's producers.

The show that features six women looking to "reinvent their lives" moved to a mansion on the city's North Side.

Producers sent a letter to residents of the newly selected neighborhood, outlining a code of conduct for the program, and neighbor Angela Turley said she's satisfied.

"They seem to be nice people and they've enhanced the garden quite a bit," she said. "We just want to be told what's happening in advance."

The reception is a far cry from the one producers received when they started to set up shop in a Gold Coast neighborhood.

Residents there complained to city officials that the show might attract unsavory characters.

Their lawsuit alleged that Bunim/Murray Productions, which also has produced MTV's "The Real World," violated zoning law because it is a commercial enterprise.

The program is scheduled to debut this fall on NBC.

SANTA BARBARA — Screenwriter and director Nick Cassavetes is writing a movie about a fugitive drug dealer, saying details of the case hit close to home.

Jesse James Hollywood, 23, is wanted for allegedly ordering the 2000 execution of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz in the San Fernando Valley in retaliation for an unpaid drug debt.

Cassavetes said his teenage daughter briefly went to the high school that Hollywood and Markowitz attended.

"I guess this story just hits close to home because it could have been my own daughter," he said. "It was in my back yard."

He sees the story as depicting the intersection of the drug underworld and middle-class suburbia.

"I think it bears true to how things can go wrong so fast and then there's no turning back, only the wreckage of people's lives," Cassavetes said.

Kevin Connolly is set to direct the film. Actors Tobey Maguire and

Leonardo DiCaprio will produce it and help arrange financing, but won't appear in the as-yet untitled film, Cassavetes told the Santa Barbara News-Press for a story published Saturday.

Production should begin by year's end, he said.

NEW DELHI, India — An Indian court halted the broadcast of a television series, allowing an appeal by U.S.-based author Barbara Taylor Bradford, who says it violates the copyright of her work.

Judges Ajoy Nath Roy and Jasyatosh Banerjee ruled Thursday that an injunction granted against the broadcast by a lower court would continue. They also said they wanted to read Taylor's book "A Woman of Substance" and watch the series "Karishma — The Miracle of Destiny," which the author says is lifted from her book.

The series is produced by Sahara Media Entertainment, one of India's largest producers of entertainment programs.

Bradford came to India in May to get the 260-episode series banned from the air a few days before it was to be broadcast.

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