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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

One News of the Weird "No Longer Weird" category was apparently retired prematurely, in that there has rarely been a sighting of it for years now. However, on April 7, a 48-year-old man drove to the Department of Motor Vehicles in Anchorage, Alaska, failed to come to a complete stop, bumped into a wall of the building, backed up, parked, walked inside nonchalantly, and got his driver's license renewed. Although workers in the accounting offices of the building were shaken up (one thought an earthquake had hit), no one inside knew exactly what had happened until police arrived. The driver failed a coordination test and was charged with DUI based on a prescription medication he was taking.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 188th day of 2005.
There are 177 days left in the year.

On July 7, 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C., for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Only a mediocre person is always at his best."

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM
ENGLISH AUTHOR AND DRAMATIST (1874-1965)

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Seas the day



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Youngsters have a ball at SPF Beach Camp, a family owned and operated getaway taking place daily at the Santa Monica beach through Sept. 2.

Part-time dweller's rent out of control

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — The vacation is over for one area real estate mogul.

Robert Bisno, a millionaire with holdings throughout Los Angeles and California, will have

to pay nearly quadruple rent for his beachside penthouse apartment after an appeals court ruled in favor of a rent control board decision which deemed his Neilson Way unit was not his primary residence, and therefore qualified for a rental cost increase. As a result, Bisno's rent is

expected to swell from \$1,100 to \$4,045 per month. If he chooses to keep the unit, Bisno may continue to appeal, a move his legal counsel said they are contemplating.

Appeals court Judge P.J. Spencer said in his June 28 ruling

See **RENT RAISED**, page 8

Pinch of Latin flavor adds spice to Twilight show

BY WINTER JOHNSON

Special to the Daily Press

Continuing its summer-long live music, the Twilight Dance Series presents a concert with some Latin flavor tonight.

Coming to the Santa Monica Pier this week is Cannibal and the Headhunters, a Chicano rock band who has been playing since the 1960s. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, a far

See **TWILIGHT**, page 9



Photo courtesy

Little Joe of Little Joe Y La Familia take the stage tonight for the second installment of the Twilight Dance Series on the Santa Monica Pier. Shows begin each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on the pier's west parking deck. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org, or www.santamonicapier.org.

Civic Center plans tweaked

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials last week made last-minute changes to the proposed Civic Center plan, a downtown complex of parks and buildings some say will serve as the hub of Santa Monica for hundreds of years when complete.

The Santa Monica City Council hashed out key issues related to proposed updates to the Civic Center specific plan, a \$120 million project, which in coming years will reshape the future of Santa Monica's government complex. The plans call for the creation of parks, fountains, pathways, housing, and city service and cultural buildings to serve as the focal point of the city's public space.

The City Council approved updates to the Civic Center plan recommended by an ad hoc committee and some members of the planning commission. The council also came to consensus on four key issues about the project presented, in part, by 15 speakers concerned about one of City Hall's biggest public undertakings in recent history.

Key issues about the plan that came up during the June 28 council meeting had to do with its environmental impact report as it related to Santa Monica Place; Olympic Drive accessibility concerns; the height of housing buildings and the number of units to be offered; and the status of the old RAND Corp. building.

Following hours of discussion, the council approved the environmental impact report, which includes Santa Monica Place and any future re-development associated with it. In addition, the City

See **CIVIC CENTER**, page 8

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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)

★★★★ An inspiration will work out if you follow your creative and innovative sense. By the afternoon, you might feel that you've pushed past previous restrictions. You are physically relentless. Tonight: Start thinking about the weekend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your intuition with a boss or higher-up pays off, fortunately. You might be thinking a bit negatively right now — let go of this type of thinking. This might not be the right time for a heavy talk. Add your natural trusting manner into the mix. Tonight: Entertain at home.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Deal with your finances with an eye to the future. Though you might feel tight today, that will change in the near future. Learn to put away extra money for a rainy day. Use the late afternoon for meetings, clearing your desk and making calls. Tonight: Favorite haunt.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You'll clear out a lot if you work with an assertive individual in your life. You find that an associate also feels inspired by this mutual association. Relax and stop being uptight. What does it really get you but a jittery case of the nerves? Consider making plans for a late meeting. Tonight: Let the meeting flow into dinner.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Know when to sit back. Others come up with dynamic ideas that impress even you. Help key people carry out their thoughts. You might be more in the mood to express your feelings this afternoon. Tonight: Everyone loves a Leo.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Use the daylight hours to accomplish what you want. You might need to enlist an associate and/or co-worker to make a concept evolve into the reality you would like. A friend might be very serious. Relax. Tonight: Take some time off.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others depend on you, perhaps more than you would like. But you adore all the attention. You might be flattered by all the caring and respect. You also might want to loosen up later this afternoon. Enjoy the people around you. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others expand on what you are thinking. However, you might need to take action immediately and might not be able to wait. Kick back and take an overview first. You have the energy, imagination and foresight to take the lead. Tonight: Others follow your lead.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Though you are inclined to go along with others, you also have much to add. Use your innovative, dynamic style of communication to integrate an important idea. Maintain perspective. You might want to do your own research. Tonight: Listen to good music.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others suggest many ideas, but you see the ramifications both financially and emotionally. It will take talent to slowly infuse your point of view into others' thinking. You can do it. Schedule a talk for the p.m. Tonight: Dinner for two.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Focus on establishing more of your ideas in a project, which in some way might be all-consuming. Add your imagination, but use your forceful communication style. Later on, others seek you out en masse. Tonight: Where your friends are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You see what others don't. Your intuition plays into your decisions. You have what might appear to be a very wild idea, but it transforms into a workable brainstorm. You will need to lead others. Tonight: Push to the wee hours.

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LOCAL



Relay planner psyched for the cure

By Daily Press staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jean McNeil Wyner

Residence: Marina del Rey

Profession: Community and physician liaison, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center

What is your role in the Relay for Life?

"For the first three years I planned and coordinated the opening and closing ceremonies for Relay for Life. I am very excited about now being the chair of the survivor's activities."

How did you get involved in Relay for Life?

"I have been involved in all of the four Santa Monica Relay For Life events. Debbie Wright, immediate past president, Los Angeles coastal cities unit of the American Cancer Society and recent 'Volunteer of the Year' called me in 2001 and asked me to work on the planning committee for the event. I've been active ever since."

What has been your experience so far?

"This is a wonderful event. Cancer survivors are our inspiration to work hard organizing teams and raising money for this event. After the opening ceremony we invite all cancer survivor's to walk the first lap of the relay. We try to register as many survivors as we can, as we have a T-shirt for them, as well as a medal when they cross the finish line. We also have a nice breakfast for the survivors in the survivor's tent. We provide speakers with topics of interest for the survivors and wrap up the activities with a lunch. My goal is to have 100 cancer survivors at the Relay for Life this year. Just imagine 100 cancer survivors walking that victory lap. It will be a wonderful way to start the Relay For Life. So, attention all cancer survivors: Call Jean McNeil Wyner at (310) 319-4471 to register and attend this great event. We will have your T-shirt and medal waiting for you if you will just let us know you will be attending."

What has been your experience with cancer?

"I have known so many people in business and through networking groups who have struggled with cancer. It is a heart-wrenching experience. Currently, two of my close women friends are cancer survivors and I pray for them everyday. My husband is a cancer survivor of 30 years. My father had prostate cancer and my mother and grandmother had colon cancer. Participating in Relay for Life is a way for me to show my cancer survivor friends just how much I care. Participation makes me feel I am helping to be a part of finding a solution for this disease."

See RELAY FOR LIFE, page 5



SURF REPORT

This SW'er is expected to back down to knee-high or so, and the wind swell should be light as well — knee-to-waist-high.

In the morning expect clouds and fog, clearing near the beaches in the afternoon, with highs in the lower to mid 60s. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

At night it will be cloudy with areas of fog through morning, otherwise clear, with lows in the mid 50s to mid 60s.

Today the water is:

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	3:33	-0.6	2:15	2.7	10:19	3.5	8:34	6.1
TUESDAY	4:08	-0.7	2:53	2.7	10:55	3.6	9:09	6.1
WEDNESDAY	4:41	-0.7	3:28	2.6	11:27	3.6	9:43	6.0
THURSDAY	5:13	-0.6	4:04	2.6	11:58	3.6	10:17	5.9
FRIDAY	6:02	-0.5	4:57	2.2	12:48	3.2	11:09	5.4

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The Q Line

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This past weekend, hundreds of cyclists took to the road as part of an awareness effort. The group that organizes the monthly rides, "Critical Mass," aims to get more people out of their cars and onto other forms of transportation. They also want better planning for alternative transportation.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Does Santa Monica have adequate streets and routes for bicyclists? Do you feel safe riding your bike here?"

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

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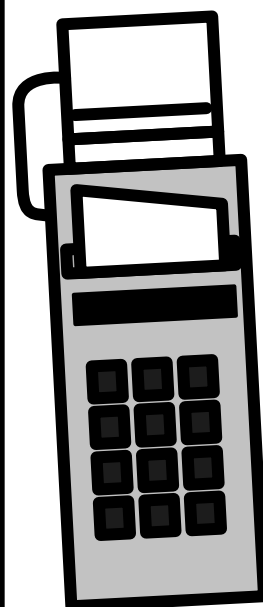
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America should aid in effort to combat AIDS

Editor:

On July 6-8, the “Group of 8” or G8 will be meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. There, the leaders of the eight richest countries will have an unprecedented opportunity to make poverty history for the more than 1 billion people around the world living on less than \$1 a day.

As an American, I am wearing a white band to show my commitment to more and better international assistance, 100 percent debt cancellation and trade reform.

I wear a white band, along with more than 1 million other Americans, to ask President Bush to take a bold stand and end global poverty and AIDS.

This year, with the G8 summit in July, the World Summit in September and the World Trade Organization meeting in December, our nation has an unprecedented opportunity to make poverty history. I hope that America will lead the world in an historic compact of compassion and justice — and transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the world’s poorest countries.

Kelly Charpenet
Santa Monica

Where have you gone, Ward Cleaver?

Editor:

Imagine if Ozzie and Harriet Nelson or Ward and June Cleaver could see the American family today. Instead of the “Leave it to Beaver” and “Ozzie and Harriet,” work-a-day dad and stay-at-home-mom model, today’s sitcom resembles the latch-key kid and the television set, and the vast majority of working families have no parent at home when kids get out of school. In fact, less than a quarter of America’s families fit that one-parent-works, one stays-home model.

In truth, the Nelsons and the Cleavers of the 1950s and early 1960s were never entirely representative of America’s families. However, there’s no question that the 21st century’s average kid’s post-school day is very different than it was when Ike was in the White House, Sputnik was circling the earth, and Marilyn Monroe was the biggest star in movie theaters.

Today’s working families — those in which either the sole parent or both parents work outside the home — face very real challenges between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. during the school year, and in the summertime. Ask a group of moms and dads how their kids spend their time out of school, and you’ll hear a great variety of answers. Lots of kids have patchwork schedules — one afternoon or day with a relative, the next with a neighbor, the next at soccer practice, the next on their own or with a younger sibling. The parents, consumed with working in our factories, shops and offices to put dinner on the table and pay for school supplies find themselves consumed with incessant worry as well: Are they adequately supervised? Are they getting safely from one place to another? Are they really home doing homework, or have they slipped out to hang with friends, and what kind of friends?

Things would be easier if all working families had access to afterschool and summer programs for their kids. Unfortunately, few do. According to the most comprehensive survey research done to date on afterschool issues, “America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America,” conducted for the Afterschool Alliance with support from the J.C. Penney Co., Inc., only 11 percent of the nation’s youth are in afterschool programs, while 25 percent are left to fend for themselves in the afternoons. The numbers of unsupervised children during summer may be even higher.

For working families, the percentage of latch-key children is even more striking. In these households, a full 31 percent of K-12 children (11.5 million) take care of themselves in the afternoons, while just 14 percent are in afterschool programs.

Not every child needs to be in an afterschool or summer program. But every parent ought to have that option available. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case. According to the survey, the parents of 15.3 million children would enroll their children in an afterschool program if one were available. The unavailability of afterschool care hits close to home, too: Across California, according to America After 3 PM, the parents of 37 percent of children not already in afterschool care say they’d enroll their children if a program were available.

Closing this afterschool gap is critical to our families and communities. In May, I was proud to join more than 500 afterschool advocates from around the country in carrying that message to our lawmakers in Washington. In meetings with members of Congress and their staff members, we discussed the profound and positive difference afterschool and summer programs make in the lives of our children — inspiring them to learn, keeping them safe, and helping their working parents. In addition, we presented hard data about the critical shortage of afterschool care.

Later this summer, Congress will decide whether to increase funding for afterschool programs, or to extend a four-year long budget freeze. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 called for slow but steady annual funding increases for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, which is the principle federal funding stream for afterschool. If that roadmap had been followed, the coming year’s appropriation for afterschool would be \$2.25 billion. Instead, the president has proposed just under \$1 billion — less than half of the No Child Left Behind commitment. As a result, some 1.75 million children will be without the afterschool care so critical to their safety and development.

If Ozzie, Harriet, Ward, and June were raising their kids today, chances are that some of them would need an afterschool or summer program. That’s the reality for America’s working families in 2005. When it comes to afterschool, living in the past is hurting our kids.

Cathie Mostovoy
CEO, Woodcraft Rangers

Ashcroft isn’t always abreast of sensibilities

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Seriously folks, this first sentence is the kind of dreary op-ed types lay awake at night fearing we may never get the chance to write:

With tattered blue dress fallen beguilingly around smooth, shimmering ankles, the “Spirit of Justice” statue in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice demurely revealed one lovely bare breast — again — after three years of proper, red-state modesty.

Janet Jackson, she of her own half-naked indecency one infamous Super Bowl Sunday not so long ago, was reportedly seen at the unveiling ceremony with fist held high in the air, proclaiming “I feel you, sister, let it all hang out.”

Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered the 12-foot tall aluminum lady — who has stood brazenly in the hall seducing otherwise God-fearing men since the 1930s — to behave herself by wrapping her in a taxpayer-funded \$8,000 blue drapery during his recent stewardship of America’s Justice Department. Then he retired. And the new chief of the department, Alberto Gonzalez — closer to Generation X than to Ashcroft’s Generation Blush — fearlessly dropped drapes on the hottie before the door through which he was leaving hit the retiree in the ass.

And now, to Gonzalez’ dismay, unseemly hordes of middle-aged men in long overcoats have been spotted in the Great Hall spending inordinate amounts of time.

Perhaps in an effort to make peace with his angry conservative base, Gonzalez quickly showed off his fiscal-responsibility side by refusing to allow the \$8,000 drapes to be thrown off into the thrift stores of history. So they now hang in front of what some might call an even greater obscenity, the Downing Street Memo that, when viewed, reveals the Bush administration’s public assurances of “war with Iraq as a last resort” to be a blatant lie.

Unfortunately for him, the skillful recycling of the pricey curtain wasn’t enough to keep the right-wing fangs off Alberto Gonzalez’ neck. He suddenly finds himself atop a hit list of conservative special-interest groups who — with good reason — happen to think they run the show around America these days. They have one of their storied slash-and-burn campaigns raging against him in order to block the notion running through the Bush Administration that he may be the one to take over the seat on the Supreme Court recently vacated by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

As the debate revs up this week with the president’s choice coming forth for all to see, Gonzalez, even though holding the sterling credential of being the man who constructed the argument in a memo to Bush that gave legal clearance for torture of enemy detainees, is now in the crosshairs of his very own army because they’re at odds with his troubling inclina-

tion to let a woman have the final say over her own body that carries her own pregnancy. And his perverse preoccupation with the revealed female breast doesn’t help him any, you can be sure.

They figure if they can get Alberto out of the way, the path will be cleared for someone far more suitable to fill the O’Connor seat — someone like Rush Limbaugh, for instance.



But then, any Rush to the Supreme Court movement would likely run into stiff opposition from America’s even righter wing — the wing that would prefer O’Connor’s black gown to be donned by none other than the retired Attorney General himself, Mr. Ashcroft.

So what if he was beaten by a dead guy in his race for the Missouri Senate seat in November of 2000? Big deal. That didn’t stop George W. Bush from appointing him to head up the Justice Department a couple months later, and what’s to stop the president, a man of conviction, from appointing him again, this time to the highest court in the land? Certainly, John Ashcroft carries all the credentials held dear by America’s new ruling class.

Ironically, the only thing that might keep Ashcroft from gaining lifetime membership in the Supreme Court is the current project he’s been championing. Though it may keep him from donning the robe, it will endear him forevermore to his compatriots.

You see, he’s reported to have his entire attention and wherewithal focused on commissioning the environmental artist, Christo, to sew together all of those stately orange banners that line the pathways of New York’s Central Park in his current exposition known as “The Gate,” into one super-sized drapery that would then be trucked out to somewhere around Trinidad, Colo., where it would be painstakingly wrapped around a shameless outgrowth of Mother Earth herself — what the locals fondly refer to as the Twin Peaks.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)



Residents run for cure

RELAY FOR LIFE, from page 3

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

"Relay for Life is a wonderful uplifting event. You can spend an hour celebrating that you can survive cancer, or you can spend 24 hours in various activities planned for the day and evening. This is a community event, and I enjoy seeing my friends and business acquaintances. It is a great way to catch up on news while walking around the track. Kiwanis and Rotary are participants, have teams and raise money for cancer research. If you attend, I can promise you will see someone you know from the community."

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

"Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center has always supported the local American Cancer Society events. Relay for Life is fabulous because it is made up of local businesses raising money for their local chapter of the American Cancer Society. It is such a worthy cause and we don't have to travel a long distance to participate. I would encourage all businesses to become involved in whatever way they can, whether it is organizing teams, being a sponsor, providing food or entertainment or donating an item for the silent auction."

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE BRIEFS

Money prize more of a money pit

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Nial Stimson won a \$1.5 million dream house, grand prize in a charity raffle, but he’s learned that living and winning in 90210 isn’t cheap.

The marketing director at Mission Community Hospital bought the \$180 raffle ticket and won the four-bedroom hillside home. But a huge tax liability and hefty maintenance costs now have Stimson considering forgoing the home and taking a \$1 million consolation prize.

He has until August to make a decision.

“It’s just crazy, it’s so much to think about,” Stimson, 45, said.

Internal Revenue Service income taxes could run as high as 40 percent of the value of the home and experts estimate Stimson would have to pay \$3,000 to \$5,000 a month for utilities, gardeners and property taxes.

“I don’t want to throw cold water on a hot prize, but you do have to consider the federal tax implications of winning large,” IRS spokesman Victor Omelczenko said.

The raffle was run by Century Housing, a nonprofit group that helps finance affordable housing for low- to middle-income families. It bought the house last year in hopes of raising money for social programs.

After selling 22,000 tickets, the organization grossed \$2 million, 90 percent which will go toward after-school programs, job training and child development centers.

Thief befuddles lawyer, confesses to killing

By The Associated Press

INDIO — A convicted thief charged with leading police on a high-speed chase that closed Interstate 10 for a dozen hours last month stunned his lawyer when he told a judge he had already confessed to murder.

Justin Daniel Kirk, 23, of San Bernardino was in court Tuesday for a preliminary hearing on charges of attempted murder of a peace officer, evading arrest and possession of a firearm in connection with the June 16 chase when he made the statement.

Superior Court Judge Charles Stafford Jr. had rescheduled the preliminary hearing for Aug. 22 and he asked Kirk if he agreed to the delay. The defendant said he agreed and added, “I already confessed to murder, though.”

Defense attorney Beverly Barrett was clearly stunned. She lunged toward Kirk as if to cover his mouth with her hand but stopped herself at the last moment. Kirk, who is being held with bail set at \$1 million, abruptly stopped speaking.

The Riverside County Sheriff’s Department and district attorney’s office wouldn’t confirm whether Kirk confessed to a homicide.

"He is a ‘person of interest’ in a homicide in the Coachella Valley, but he has not been charged with homicide,” district attorney’s office spokeswoman Ingrid Wyatt said. She wouldn’t elaborate.

On June 16, Coachella Valley Gang Task Force members went to a Palm Springs house in search of Kirk, who fled in a white Mitsubishi. During a chase through Palm Springs and westbound on I-10, Kirk allegedly fired at pursuing officers.

When he got out of the car, Kirk allegedly pointed his gun toward police and 12 officers fired. Kirk, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, was not injured.

Beefcake bonuses for county lifeguards

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — County lifeguards are getting a 5 percent hike in pay, a \$2,500 bonus and a yearly \$600 uniform allowance under a two-year contract approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Lifeguards, who have worked since 2002 without pay raises, will also get an annual \$400 swim proficiency bonus as well as enhanced holiday and vacation benefits as part of Tuesday’s deal struck with the Los Angeles County Lifeguards Association.

About 140 full-time lifeguards will get raises; some 400 part-timers won’t.

A 2.5 percent raise is retroactive to May 1 and a second 2.5 percent hike goes into effect Dec. 1.

Lifeguards are organized under the county Fire Department, where firefighters get \$1,000 yearly for uniforms. Critics of the lifeguard deal said lifeguards shouldn’t need \$600 a year for uniforms and should be excellent swimmers as a job requirement, not as a bonus.

Mayor raises the bar in efforts to gain trust

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed an ethics czar and mandated an “ethics pledge” for department heads and mayoral staffers, fulfilling a campaign pledge to work at restoring public trust in City Hall.

“Let’s be clear: Honesty and ethics in City Hall must start at the top. We must set a higher benchmark by our actions to restore the public’s faith and trust in local government,” Villaraigosa said Tuesday.

The mayor named Thomas Saenz, a former attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, as his general counsel and in-office ethics czar.

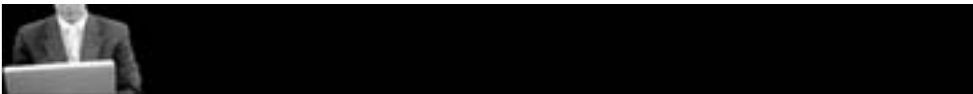
Saenz, who will earn \$110,000 to \$140,000 a year, will also work with the city Ethics Commission to ensure enforcement of the pledge.

The ethics pledge requires disclosure of any conflicts of interest and compliance with city law regarding limitations on activities. Penalties could include termination.

Shortly after he was sworn in on July 1, Villaraigosa sent a letter to five city commissioners who are also lobbyists removing them from their posts.

“This is just the start,” Villaraigosa said. “We will seek other changes as they are necessary.”

Business



Hamburger joints seem stylish to GQ

By Daily Press staff

When it comes to dining, almost nothing is more American than the hamburger. As part of its July America issue, GQ sent National Magazine Award-winning correspondent Alan Richman on a quest to find the best of the best, which he found two of in Santa Monica.

■ The "California Burger" at Houston's in Santa Monica.

"When you figure how many millions of burgers emerge from chain-restaurant kitchens, it's not surprising that one of them gets it right. Houston's burger has zero flaws," Richman wrote.

■ The "Build your own burger" at the Counter in Santa Monica.

"By the owner's calculation, this spot offers more than 300,000 burger possibilities," Richman wrote.

A new jewel found on Wilshire

By Daily Press staff

A local boutique owner is ready to show off her new jewel of a remodel.

Deborah Lotz, owner of her 10-year-old Santa Monica boutique, Jewel Box Frames, last month completely remodeled her store. The "new" Jewel Box has more room and is bedecked with sea grass carpet, yellow walls, antique ceiling fans and 100-year-old Egyptian doors turned-tables.

Jewel Box Frames has long been a hot spot for celebrities, top interior designers and galleries with its mix of frames, exotic skincare lines, handcrafted jewelry from designers, chandeliers, custom mirrors and decor accessories from local and European designers.

"We've been welcoming Hollywood's elite for many years now," Lotz said. "I love how our new look is drawing people to the neighborhood as I don't think most Angelenos realize what a great community, and little shopping corner, this is."

Jewel Box Frames is a sister company to Jewel Box Platinum Inc., a company that provides residential and corporate framing for the entertainment industry, various restaurants, hotels, galleries, artists, interior designers and celebrities. They also are the music industry's leading designers of the most original Gold and Platinum record plaques for musicians and record labels. Jewel Box Frames is located at 3100 Wilshire Blvd.



Promotions? Record sales? New hires? If your business has news to share, send press releases to
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Rolling over IRAs worth mulling over



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

If you're changing jobs, it's important to understand the options you have for managing your IRAs.

With employees changing jobs more frequently than ever before, it's rare to find someone who has worked his or her entire life for the same company. Whether or not you have recently changed jobs or you have retired from your long-time employer, you should know that you may be facing some complicated tax rules and potentially significant tax consequences if you decide to take your retirement assets out of your current retirement plan.

Funds received from an employer plan distribution will likely represent a significant portion of your liquid financial assets. As a result, they deserve all the time and attention you can afford to give them. I've outlined below some of the key issues you should keep in mind when thinking about rolling over your IRA. If you'd like more information on how to make the best financial use of your distribution, contact your financial advisor.

MANAGING YOUR LUMP-SUM DISTRIBUTION

Many employees, upon changing jobs or retiring, find themselves eligible for a distribution from their employer-sponsored retirement plan, which can include, among other types, an Internal Revenue Code section 401(k), defined benefit pension, or Code section 457 plans. Deciding on how to make the best use of the money is not an easy task. Just one or two hasty decisions may leave you with a tax bill that could wind up costing you up to 30 percent of the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate.

MANDATORY WITHHOLDING TAX

The IRS requires that a 20 percent withholding tax be automatically applied to all lump-sum distributions. If you'd like to avoid this withholding, you can arrange in advance to either do a "direct rollover" to another eligible retirement plan — such as an IRA — or do a trustee-to-trustee transfer to another qualified defined contribution plan — such as a Code section 401(k) plan — with a new employer. You also may take possession of your distribution, and roll over only part of your distribution

into an IRA Rollover Account, using the balance for whatever purpose you wish. Of course, you'll still be liable for both the 20 percent mandatory withholding, plus any additional taxes due on the amount actually distributed directly to you outside of these accounts. If you choose to rollover into a Traditional IRA, the IRS requires that you begin taking distributions by April 1 of the year after you reach 70 years old.

ROLLOVERS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 60 DAYS

If you take a distribution from your qualified plan or IRA and do not directly roll over your distribution, you'll still have 60 days to weigh your rollover options. After that time, the distribution amount will be considered "earned income" to you and taxes may be owed on the amount when you file your annual tax return. In addition, if you are under 59 years old, you may also be required to pay a federal 10 percent early withdrawal penalty tax. If you take a roll over from your employer's plan and directly receive the amounts, your employer is legally required to withhold 20 percent, leaving you with 80 percent of the distribution. You may still roll over the full value of the distribution but must replace the 20 percent withheld from another source. And you can't wait until you get a tax refund to roll over the amount withheld.

ROLLOVERS CONTINUE TAX DEFERRAL

If you decide to roll over your retirement assets into an IRA Rollover Account — either directly or within the 60-day period — taxes on your distribution will be deferred until you begin making withdrawals. In addition, any account earnings or gains have the opportunity to grow on a tax-deferred basis. What's more, a rollover account may offer a variety of investment options — from mutual funds to professionally managed portfolios — which may be suitable for a wide range of investors.

(Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC. Kirk Aguer can be reached at the Santa Monica Morgan Stanley branch at (310) 319-5220.)

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Macerich won't get a 'freebie' with traffic study

CIVIC CENTER, from page 1

Council indicated the mall's owners would have to agree to a separate traffic study before City Hall signs any agreement once a new project is presented.

The City Council also decided to go ahead with allowing vehicular access on the extension of Olympic Drive from Fourth Street to Ocean Avenue.

The number of housing units architects will be asked to create, which at one time was to exceed 500, will be set at approximately 325, a number the council agreed may minimize building heights while maximizing the kinds of housing options available for residents.

The old RAND Corp. building, which sits across the street from City Hall, is still scheduled to be razed. It will then be turned into a park providing excellent ocean views, officials say.

SM PLACE CONCERNS COME OUT

Debate stirred between two camps about how the Civic Center plan's environmental impact report ought to be managed.

One group, led by Councilman Herb Katz, who has a planning and architecture background, argued it was important to consider the entire traffic flow of the

downtown area. Supporters said using the same EIR for both the Civic Center and Santa Monica Place would allow planners to take all of downtown Santa Monica into consideration.

"Let me ask you this, from a planning perspective, isn't it better to look at the whole (than just the parts)?" Katz asked interim city planner Andy Agle, who concurred.

The other camp, led by Councilmen Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser, focused on separating the EIR so it did not give a "freebie" to Macerich, Inc., the owner of Santa Monica Place. Some people were concerned that approval of the EIR, which included Santa Monica Place, may prevent Macerich from addressing traffic and parking issues associated with re-development. A plan to overhaul the mall is scheduled to come before the council this fall.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie advised the council it could accept the whole EIR, while requiring Macerich to conduct a separate traffic study as a condition for any new project's approval.

OLYMPIC DRIVE ACCESS DISCUSSED

Part of the controversy regarding the Civic Center plan update revolved around

extending Olympic Drive. The plan calls for connecting Olympic Drive from Fourth Street to Ocean Avenue and opening it up to vehicular traffic.

Some councilmembers and speakers at the meeting said the extension would relieve downtown congestion, while others, such as Katz, said it would only make the problem worse.

"Ocean Avenue will be overloaded," Katz said. "We don't need Olympic to go through."

"We need to have pedestrians, buses and bikes take over."

Those who favored using the extension for vehicles included Genser, who said it would reduce traffic.

"This will be a traffic 'pressure-reliever,'" Genser said. "Right now, people have to drive around a monolithic block (to navigate around City Hall). This gives them another option."

Genser also noted that residents and visitors within the area's housing units also should have vehicular access.

The extension, with vehicle traffic allowed, was approved.

HOUSING, OLD BUILDING ADDRESSED

Some of the council and members of the public want to make sure there will be

a good mix of affordable housing units made available from the Civic Center project, while maintaining building heights close to 56 feet high.

The number of affordable housing units in Santa Monica is subsidized by the number of market-value residences in a development.

The council agreed to shoot for 325 total units to be created at three building sites near the future intersection of Ocean Avenue and Olympic Drive. Of those, 30 percent, or approximately 110 units, would most likely be affordable.

Some speakers asked that the old RAND Corp. building on Main Street be evaluated as a historical landmark, and made available for housing or offices.

It was a point shot down by Mayor Pam O'Connor, who has a background in architectural refurbishing of historical landmarks. O'Connor said prior city councils, along with RAND leadership, had decided the building best be torn down and replaced.

"A decision has been made, and I think it would set a poor precedent if it were rethought," O'Connor said.

RAND's new headquarters are just south of the old facility at 1776 Main Street.

Part-time renter contends rent control plays favorites

RENT RAISED, from page 1

that current rent control law has a "clear emphasis" on ensuring that its "beneficiaries are those who reside principally in their rent-controlled units." Bisno, who has a home in an exclusive enclave in Beverly Hills, used his Shores' apartment at 2700 Neilson Way primarily as a getaway spot.

Spencer's affirmation of an original Superior Court ruling from last year supported how the rent control law was intended, according to David Daniels, the RCB's general counsel.

"The court did the right thing in recognizing the board's authority to adopt regulations designed to alleviate the hardships associated with the serious housing shortage we continue to face," Daniels said. "The obvious connection between having rules that ensure that the beneficiaries of the rent control law are those who reside principally in their rent-controlled units is clearly something the court understood."

Bisno rented his 16th-floor, 1,088-square-foot apartment at the Shores in 1996 for a little more than \$900 a month, according to city documents. Adjustments for inflation have left his rent at about \$1,100. That's just a quarter of what Bisno's luxury unit would command on the open market, a hearing officer at City Hall decided in 2004.

A Santa Monica law, called Regulation 3304, allows landlords to charge part-time tenants market rates. Bisno led his court fight against City Hall over the legality of Regulation 3304, which was passed by the Rent Control Board in March of 2003.

Allan Abshez, Bisno's attorney, said the lawsuit was pushed because his client felt it was up to voters to decide who qualified for rent control. Abshez filed written arguments against the law in the state court of appeals in December of 2004,

"What we have been arguing is that Santa Monica voters instituted rent control, and the law was intended to protect all Santa Monica tenants."

ALLAN ABSHEZ
Robert Bisno's attorney

after Santa Monica Superior Court Judge James Bascue threw the case out earlier that year.

In his court filing, Abshez maintained the RCB was acting beyond its powers by enacting Reg. 3304, which he added does nothing to alleviate the housing shortage or promote affordable housing.

"What we have been arguing is that Santa Monica voters instituted rent control, and the law was intended to protect all Santa Monica tenants," Abshez said. "The rent control board was not authorized to determine who would get rent control, or not."

Abshez said the RCB allows students and teachers living in Santa Monica to enjoy rent control privileges, while business people cannot, according to the parameters of last week's ruling. Abshez argued in his appeal it should not be the right of the RCB to adjust possible rental rates based on its own preferences, which is what he said 3304 allows.

"The scary implication of regulation is that not a single tenant in Santa Monica is safe," Abshez said. "The rent control board could decide any resident who

Barking up another tree



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Crew members from Valley Crest Tree Co. transplant a *Leptospermum Laevigatum* at Bay Street and Ocean Front Walk, into a spot that once housed a *Ficus Floreda*.

makes more than \$50,000, say, does not qualify for rent control.

"There is no stability in the structure because it all depends on the board."

Michaelyn Jones, an RCB attorney who worked on the Bisno case, said the Bisno suit was unique in that it set to throw out Reg. 3304.

The law was passed under pressure from landlord groups in Sacramento, who were pushing for a statewide law. Reg. 3304 was designed to weed out renters who use their units as second homes, or for office or storage space.

Tenants initially feared the law would be troublesome because it could encourage landlords to keep tabs on their comings and goings, even rifle through their refrigerators and mail boxes looking for evidence that tenants weren't using their units full time. Those fears dissipated when complaints under Reg. 3304 dropped off after the first few months.

According to the Santa Monica RCB

office, there have been 161 petitions for landlords to raise rents in light of the regulation; of those, 68 have been granted; 39 have been dismissed; 22 denied; 21 have been withdrawn; and 11 are pending.

If the landlord is suspicious a resident may be part-time and not qualify for rent control, a petition can be made that is heard before an RCB hearing officer. If either the landlord or resident do not agree with the hearing officer's decision regarding the case, then the case goes before the RCB.

Jones said each case is a "fact intensive process" in which the "totality of circumstances" are looked at. Regulation 3304 is intended to help keep rents low, Jones said, because if rent is raised for a tenant, it is subject to rent control thereafter.

"It's slowly working," Jones said. "It's kind of nice if you have a cheap vacation place in Santa Monica, but that's not the purpose of the rent control law."

LOCAL



Hummer time



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Officer Steve Pollnow stocks his Hummer vehicle with Police Activities League kids during PALpalooza last week at the Santa Monica Pier.

Cannibal aims to take a bite out of Santa Monica

TWILIGHT, from page 1

cry from their initial venue of the chicken coup at one of the bandmember's homes, where they initially practiced as teenagers. Best known for their song, "Land of a Thousand Dances," East Los Angeles-based Cannibal and the Headhunters has played with groups such as the Rolling Stones, The Beatles and Hermin's Hermits.

Following them will be Little Joe Y La Familia, a Tex-Mex band in the music industry for decades. Little Joe, AKA Jose Maria DeLeon Hernandez, helped spread "Tejano" music, a mix of "norteno" music and country, blues, and rock styles, band members say.

Beginning his musical career in a family band called "David Coronado & the Latinaires," Hernandez's musical inspiration came from a variety of different sources. After some time in San Francisco in 1970, Hernandez decided to learn more about his culture and heritage, changing the name of the band from "The Latinaires" to "La Familia." A family tragedy was the catalyst behind Hernandez's drive to take his music to the top, band members say. Since then, he has put out more than 50 albums, and is



focused on touring the world, believing that people can be brought together through music.

Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday on the Santa Monica Pier's west parking deck. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org, or www.santa-monicapier.org. You also can call the pier information line at (310) 458-8900. For bus information, visit bigbluebus.com or call (310) 451-5444, or visit www.mta.net.

Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking and using mass transit to get to the concerts, as parking is limited. Parking is available in beach parking lots located at 2330 Barnard Way, located south of the pier and 1550 PCH, just north of the pier.

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Two Buck Chuck vintner brings out a \$4 Napa version

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

NAPA — First came Two Buck Chuck. Now, there's Four Buck Fred.

Fred Franzia, the maker of the famously cheap wine sold at Trader Joe's supermarkets nationwide, is releasing two new wines under his Napa Creek label, both going for \$3.99 a bottle.

The twist: This time the wines are actually made with grapes from California's Napa Valley.

"This shows that you can put Napa Valley wine in there for the price that we're doing," says Franzia. "People want to buy things at a reasonable price that are good value. It's not new. It's America."

In Napa, where wine is more likely to cost \$40 than \$4 a bottle, the release was a shocker.

An enormously successful California vintner, Franzia has been fighting with Napa winemakers — so far unsuccessfully — over a state law requiring that wines with "Napa" on the label be made from grapes grown in that

region.

The Napa Valley, about 65 miles northeast of San Francisco, is relatively small, producing only about 4 percent of California's wine by volume, according to the Napa Valley Vintners association. But the region packs a big financial punch, accounting for 21 percent of the wine industry's \$45 billion economic impact on the state's economy — including revenues from winemaking, tourism and other allied businesses — according to the association's numbers.

Along with prestige comes high prices. Napa Valley vineyard land can easily reach six figures an acre and the average price for cabernet sauvignon grapes here is \$4,000 a ton, compared to a statewide red grape average of about \$600.

Napa vintners argue that putting the "Napa" name on a bottle of wine made with cheaper grapes grown elsewhere in the state undermines their image and undercuts their hard work in building up the valley's reputation.

Franzia's Bronco Wine Co. has argued that state law doesn't trump similar federal regulations, which exempt brands established before 1986. Over the years, Bronco has purchased three such brands — Napa Ridge, Napa Creek Winery and Rutherford Vintners.

The California Supreme Court has upheld the labeling law and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal. Meanwhile, a state appellate court in May ruled against arguments that the law impinges on Bronco's free speech rights, hampers interstate commerce and unconstitutionally deprives Bronco of income without compensation. Bronco may ask a higher court to review that ruling.

Napa Creek was announced days after the appellate court ruling, but Franzia says that was a coincidence and Bronco spokesman Harvey Posert notes it takes months to get a new wine in stores.

The new Napa Creek wines — a chardonnay and a merlot — stem from Bronco's practice of buying some Napa Valley wine to blend into various brands. This year, Franzia found himself with enough for a separate release.

The wines carry the Napa Valley appellation, which means they must be made 85 percent from grapes grown in that region. They sell only at Trader Joe's, as does Two Buck Chuck, officially called Charles Shaw, which sells for \$1.99 in California and up to \$3.39 elsewhere in the country.

Some vintners wondered how Franzia could possibly be making a profit on the new wines.

He'll say only, "I don't do anything unless I make money."

Others couldn't help but smile.

"I'm glad to see Freddy using Napa Valley grapes in Napa Valley wine," chuckled Mike Moone, founder of the boutique winery Luna Vineyards.

Moone thinks Franzia is doing Napa Valley a service by buying up surplus inventory. He notes that Bronco — which controls everything from vineyards to delivery trucks — is in a unique position to cut costs.

Franzia owns Bronco along with his brother and cousin and divulges few details about the privately held company. The Ceres, Calif.-based company owns more than 35,000 acres of vineyards and is estimated to have more than \$300 million in annual revenues. Bronco's bottling plant on the outskirts of Napa can produce more than 200 million bottles a year.

Most wineries aren't capable of realizing Bronco's economies of scale, says Karen MacNeil, author of "The Wine Bible" and chairwoman of the wine department of the Culinary Institute of America's California branch.

"When people buy wine they have this romantic picture of a husband and wife and he's out on the tractor and then later that day they come in and make the wine and hand-label the bottle," she says. "You think to yourself, 'It really ought to cost \$4.' But in point of fact, it's like the restaurant business in that it's enormously costly."

With land and grape prices higher in Napa than elsewhere in California — along with the capital-intensive nature of the business — "There's a good reason why there's that popular quote: 'The way to make a small fortune in the wine business is to lose a big one,'" says MacNeil.

So far, Napa vintners aren't rushing to beat Franzia's prices.

At Luna, Moone wants wine to stay the way it is, more about mystique than markdowns. The winery's highest priced wine, a widely praised red blend called Canto, is \$50, but other wines, including a pinot grigio and sangiovese, go for \$18.

Wine, he says, "will never be beer. People don't like to drink it out of the container. They like to pour it. They like corks. If you do it right, it's not a cheap product to produce."

MacNeil sees the question in terms of buying a cheap coat versus a designer version: "Both of them are going to keep you dry. In the same sense the \$10 wine is serviceable. You can drink it. Is the \$100 wine 10 times better? If you're discriminating, it absolutely is."

Franzia disagrees.

"We challenge anyone to have a blind tasting and see where our wines come out," he says. "We think we can run with the top dogs at \$100-plus. There's no wine worth more than 10 bucks a bottle."

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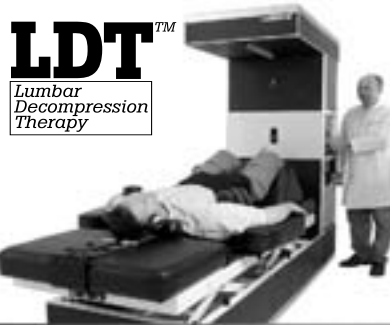
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Company mulls importing Chinese crews to dig gas wells

By The Associated Press

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — A Denver-based company is trying to bring Chinese gas-drilling crews and equipment to Western Colorado, citing a lack of skilled labor to meet growing demand.

Western Energy Advisors, the North American agent for China National Petroleum and its subsidiaries, is talking to U.S. and Canadian companies about contracting for Chinese crews and equipment, said Bob Woodworth, a partner in Western Energy.

Woodworth said EnCana Corp., a major gas producer in Colorado, has expressed interest.

"It's an option we're aware of," said Almas Kassam of Calgary, Alberta-based Encana. "We're not formally pursuing anything."

The prospect of Chinese crews taking jobs in western Colorado's Piceance Basin raised the ire of Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., whose district includes some of the state's largest gas fields.

"I am totally against the Chinese government running the jobs in our country," Salazar said. "With the Chinese

government getting involved, it's not even a competitive business model. Outsourcing has already claimed millions of jobs. We cannot allow that to happen within our own borders."

Howard Arnold, business representative of the United Association of Pipefitters Local Union No. 208, said bringing in Chinese crews could lead to some labor unrest, although most of the workers on drilling rigs don't belong to unions.

"China exports labor and equipment everywhere. It won't surprise me to see them in oil rigs," Arnold said. "However, everybody would be affected directly and indirectly if they import Chinese labor."

Woodworth said if Chinese crews and rigs come to Colorado, the impact will be slight because of the huge demand. He said EnCana and Tulsa, Okla.-based Williams Cos., another major player in Colorado, each have some 8,000 sites awaiting drilling.

Western Energy is owned by Golden Bear Drilling & Services Corp. of Denver, Jilin Petroleum USA of Denver and Jilin Petroleum (Group) Co. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of China National Petroleum.

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Bush defends policy in Iraq, talks about filling Court seat

BY DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press Writer

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — President Bush, shadowed in Europe by a pressing concern back in Washington, said Wednesday he will not select a Supreme Court nominee based on his or her views on abortion or other hot-button political issues.

He urged senators to act “in a dignified way” in what is expected to be a contentious battle over confirming his first nominee to the nation’s highest court.

Bush visited this Scandinavian nation to thank Danes for sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. He also strongly defended his decisions on Iraq, climate change, imprisoned terrorism suspects and aid to Africa — all of which have made him unpopular in Europe.

“I understand that people aren’t going to agree with decisions I make,” Bush said as he stood alongside Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen outside a white mansion that serves as his official summer residence. “I truly believe we’re laying the foundation for peace.”

Bush traveled to Gleneagles, Scotland, later Wednesday for a summit with leaders of other wealthy nations. But first he met with Bono, the rock star who has made aid to Africa his major cause, and planned a bike ride around the sprawling resort where other Group of Eight leaders were gathering.

Bush made his fourth trip to Europe this year just days after Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor announced her retirement. The president said that as he reviews candidates to replace her, “I’ll try to assess their character, their interests.”

Bush said he would have no “litmus test” that disqualifies candidates because of their opinions on abortion and gay marriage.

“I’ll pick people who, one, can do the job, and people who are honest, people who are bright and people who will strictly interpret the Constitution and not use the bench to legislate from,” Bush said.

Bush named former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson to help shepherd his nominee through the Senate.

Thompson, a Republican and actor on the NBC television series “Law & Order,” agreed to accept the post in a telephone conversation with the president on Monday, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said. Ed

Gillespie, former Republican National Committee chairman, also will help the administration push Bush’s nominee.

Bush spent a few hours reviewing material on more than a half dozen potential replacements for O’Connor on the flight to Denmark. He has said he will spend a few weeks narrowing a list of candidates and then interviewing some, and his goal is to see a new justice in place by the time the court begins its new term in October.

Bush bristled at criticism of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, a longtime friend who is often mentioned as a potential nominee for the high court. Conservatives said they aren’t convinced Gonzales’ beliefs on affirmative action and abortion are far enough to the right for their liking.

“I don’t like it when a friend gets criticized,” Bush said. “I’m loyal to my friends.”

“And all the sudden this fella, who is a good public servant and a really fine person, is under fire,” Bush said. “And so do I like it? No, I don’t like it. At all.”

Bush spent his 59th birthday here to thank Denmark for the several hundred troops the Scandinavian nation has contributed to the U.S.-led fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Outside Fredensborg Palace, where Bush had lunch with Queen Margrethe II and her husband, a group of people held small U.S. and Danish flags — and a large banner proclaiming, “Happy Birthday George.” A smaller group held several protest banners urging U.S. and Danish withdrawal from Iraq and “Peace.”

Fogh Rasmussen said the Danes were glad to help with both missions.

After lunch with Queen Margrethe and about 50 other guests, Bush headed for the summit in Scotland where discussion about the world’s changing climate and aid to Africa were at the top of the agenda.

Bush said he is proud of his administration’s tripling of U.S. aid to Africa, and his decision to double aid again by 2010. But his pledge still falls short of the commitment sought by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the summit host.

On climate change, Bush said warming temperatures are partly caused by manmade emissions. But he renewed his objection to the international Kyoto Protocol that mandates certain reductions.

Forget Paris: London gets Olympics

BY STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SINGAPORE — London was awarded the 2012 Olympics on Wednesday, narrowly defeating European rival Paris in the final round of voting to take the games back to the British capital for the first time since 1948.

After Moscow, New York and Madrid were eliminated in the first three rounds, London beat its cross-Channel opponent 54-50 on the fourth ballot of the International Olympic Committee vote — capping the most glamorous and hotly contested bid race in Olympic history.

“I’m looking forward to what I’m sure will be a fantastic Olympic Games,” said Prince William, speaking from New Zealand.

Paris had been the front-runner throughout the campaign, but London picked up momentum in the late stages with strong support from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Part of London’s pitch was that it stepped in to help the Olympic movement by staging the games as Europe was still recovering from World War II.

The race had been considered too close to call as an unprecedented collection of world leaders and sports celebrities converged on Singapore to lobby for the bids.

London’s victory handed Paris its third stinging Olympic defeat in 20 years, following failed bids for the 1992 and 2008 Olympics. Paris hasn’t hosted the games since 1924.

IOC president Jacques Rogge opened a sealed envelope and declared the result in a live televised ceremony: “The International Olympic Committee has the honor of

announcing that the Games of the 30th Olympiad in 2012 are awarded to the city of London.”

The tan-suited London delegates in the convention hall leaped out of their seats, arms raised in jubilation and cheering wildly.

The voting figures weren’t immediately released.

In London, crowds cheered and waved flags as they watched the announcement from Singapore on a giant screen in Trafalgar Square, and in the east London area where the main Olympic complex will be based.

The results of the first three rounds came as no surprise. Moscow was always considered the longshot, with New York and Madrid outsiders. Moscow went out with 15 votes in the first round, New York dropped out next with 16, then Madrid with 31.

Paris had the perceived advantage of bidding for a third time, especially since the IOC tends to reward persistence. The French capital also had a ready-to-go Olympic stadium in the Stade de France and embraced the IOC’s blueprint for controlling the size and cost of the games.

But not even a personal appearance in Singapore by French President Jacques Chirac could secure victory.

“The heart of Paris and the heart of France are beating in unison in the hope of becoming Olympic host in 2012,” Chirac said during the city’s final presentation to the IOC. “You can put your trust and faith in France, you can trust the French, you can trust us.”

Blair, who spent two days of lobbying in Singapore before leaving to host the G8 summit in Scotland, spoke in a video message — half of which was delivered in French, one of the IOC’s two official languages.

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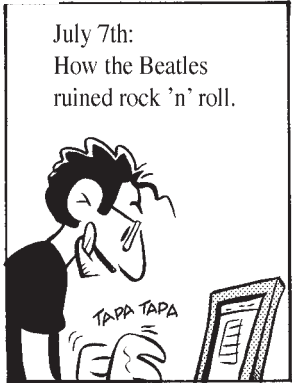


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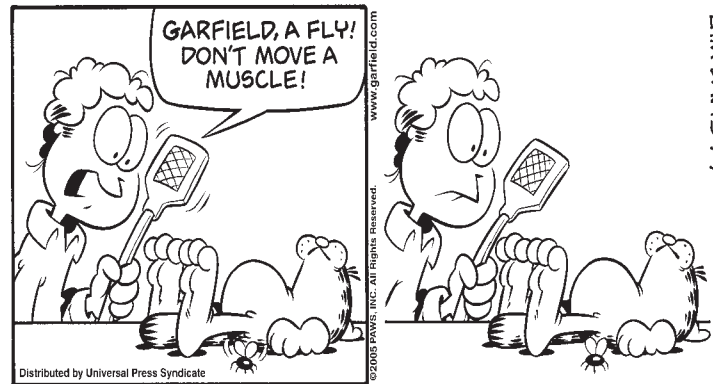
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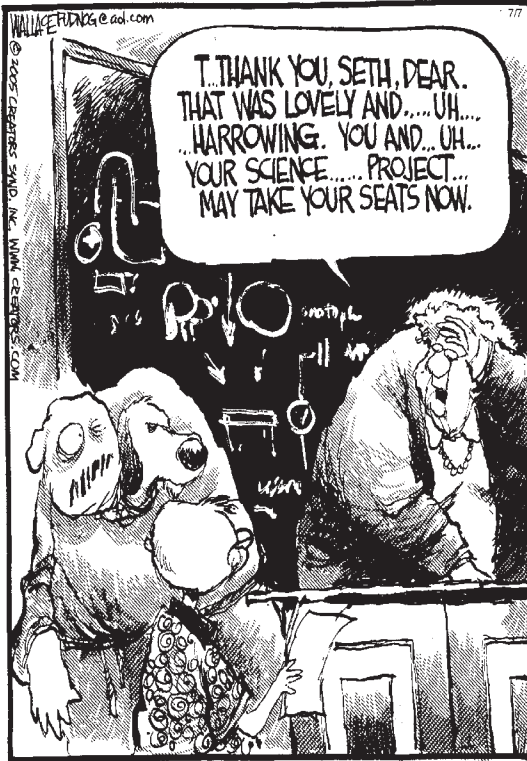


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ACROSS

- 1 Louver parts
- 6 Early Mexican
- 11 Singer McLachlan
- 12 Take care of
- 13 Added
- 14 Nasser's successor
- 15 Combine
- 17 Berlin lang.
- 19 Sulky state
- 20 Jackson 5 hit
- 23 Corporate shark
- 25 Woody's son
- 26 Magazine worker
- 28 "Would — to you?"
- 29 Nervous
- 30 MOMA setting
- 31 Tax org.
- 32 Slalom maneuver
- 33 Address of "Dr. No"
- 35 Cost
- 38 Parts
- 41 Clarifying words
- 42 Famed reviewer
- 43 Much lore
- 44 Penitent

DOWN

- 1 Compass dir.
- 2 Negligent
- 3 Gallery attendee
- 4 Literary plantation
- 5 Wrinkly dog
- 6 Useful skill
- 7 Fervor
- 8 Slugger Williams
- 9 Greek vowel
- 10 Rollaway bed
- 16 Intolerable kids
- 17 Board feature

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Yesterday's answer

- 18 Before dawn
- 20 Gallery owner
- 21 Online journals
- 22 Hearts
- 24 HST follower
- 25 Trick taker, often
- 27 Cinches
- 31 Presses
- 33 Nevada neighbor
- 34 Gray wolf
- 35 Edge
- 36 One of Jo's sisters
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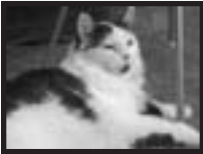
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30 HORIZON Ave., #3, Venice beach single, great location. 1/2 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets. \$795. (310) 396-4443x2002.

36 ROSE Ave., #3, Venice Beach Single, totally remodeled with hardwood floors and tile. New everything, must see to appreciate. 1/2 block to beach and close to Main Street. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. \$950. (310) 396-4443x2002.

39 SUNSET Ave., #403, Venice beach studio with ocean view in Tudor style building. Great location 1/2 block to the beach. All utilities paid. 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 401-0027.

50 BREEZE Ave., #9, Venice sunny 1+1 one block from beach. Westerly view. Hardwood floors, full kitchen. Very charming, security building. 1 year lease, no pets. \$1295. (310) 396-4443x2002

LA GROVE area. 6211 Orange St., Unit 1. 2bdm/1bath \$1625.00. Lower, stove, fridge, hardwood floors, intercom entry, parking, no pets. Close to Farmers' Market (310) 578-7512.

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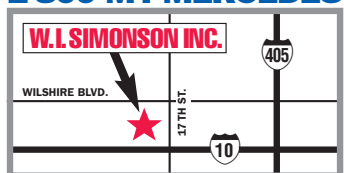
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