FREE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2005

Volume 4, Issue 208

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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21 23 26 27 35
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $24 Million

FANTASY 5
11 14 16 20 21

DAILY 3
Daytime: 6 9 5
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DAILY DERBY
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2nd: 02 Lucky Star
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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.

■ Urban Legend Come to Life: A San Diego Union Tribune report of a March 28 attempted robbery seems accurate, though reminiscent of reports that have been hoaxes (including one, from The Dallas Morning News, that News of the Weird fell for in 2002). A 32-year-old woman reported that a robber accosted her and her dog in an upscale San Diego neighborhood that night, demanded her money, grabbed a bag she was holding but quickly threw it down, and in frustration, tried to shoot the dog (but the gun failed to fire). He finally fled. His frustration was because she was carrying no money, and the bag contained nothing but the results of cleaning up after the dog.

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Greener on the other side



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

Pick-up basketball games are still on despite the lawn at Reed Park being fenced off since April for re-seeding. The park's grass area is scheduled to open after Labor Day. City Hall is currently reaching out to neighborhood schools and other groups for programming at the park in order to make the space more active, officials said. Vagrants are known to congregate on the lawn, resulting in their domination of the park.

Confessions of a burglar: Lock your doors, watch your back

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Even the most innocent-looking teenager can and will rob you blind.

Dozens of Santa Monica residents learned that lesson last year after a 16-year-old boy burglarized at least 32 different homes between the spring and fall.

The young criminal recently confessed to Santa Monica Police detectives that he was the burglar responsible for a slew of break-ins that occurred over six months, from April to October, and

See **BURGLAR**, page 5

OBITUARY



Local business owner, activist dies at 57

BY WINTER JOHNSON
Special to the Daily Press

Conrad Melilli, owner of Santa Monica's Custom Window Decor and a local political activist, died on July 5 at age 57 after a more than two-year battle with lymphoma.

Known for his friendly, outgoing nature and quick wit, Melilli's neighborhood activism included membership

See **MELILLI**, page 7

Double homicide case 'active' but not solved

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

Police are still looking for the suspects who gunned down two Santa Monica men in March, as family members of the victims continue to have a difficult time recovering from the loss.

Hector Bonilla, 25, and Jonathan Hernandez, 19, were shot multiple times on March 5 at a birthday party held at the Moose Lodge at 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. The killings took place in front of between 50 and 70 witnesses, according to police. The investigation is still ongoing, but family members said solving the case can't come soon enough.

Those in attendance at the party were questioned by police shortly after the 11 p.m. shooting. It's not known how much information they've provided to police. However, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. said he is optimistic the suspects will be found and brought to justice.

"I find it highly unlikely, out of that many witnesses, somebody wouldn't be aware of who the perpetrators were."

- JOHN MACDONALD
Rand Corp. behavioral scientist

"It is an active investigation with active leads," Butts said. "It is a case we expect to solve."

Lt. Frank Fabrega, a SMPD

See **ACTIVE CASE**, page 6

Moose Lodge sued over security issues

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — The families of the two Santa Monica men who were fatally shot in March are suing the Moose Lodge — where the murders took place — for negligence.

Natalie Preciado, the mother of Jonathan Hernandez, 19; and Krizna Bonilla, girlfriend of Hector Bonilla, 25, filed suit against the Moose Lodge No. 702 on May 26 in Santa Monica Superior Court. They claim that management at the lodge didn't provide adequate security.

Bonilla and Hernandez were shot multiple times on March 5 at a birthday party held at the Moose Lodge at 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard.

The allegations within the complaint include negligence; liability issues on the premises;

See **MOOSE LODGE**, page 5

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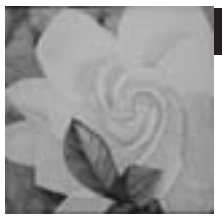
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HOROSCOPE



What makes you happy, Libra?

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others finally become responsive, as long as you let them think that they are originators. You will find that others are all too happy to work through issues and discuss ideas. Though passive isn't your style, play follow-the-leader. Tonight: An invitation might be too good to say no to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Emphasize your work or daily life. You have many ideas, but you might need help making them realities. A domestic matter is difficult to resolve, as someone is not being realistic. Your ability to accomplish a lot makes your day easier. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination mixed with your practicality helps you get past a problem. News you hear might not be solid. Could there be some gossip mixed in? You have solutions. A friendship might be developing into more. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ You might prefer to call in or work from home. You find that you are more productive in a comfortable environment. Let your imagination open up. Relax, and everything flows. Tonight: Nestle in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You and an associate might not see eye to eye, but you also might not care. You both view each other in an idolized perspective. Discussions are always animated with the two of you, but there is a sense of trust. Tonight: Dinner at a favorite spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You are lucky financially. Go for that lottery ticket or make a bet, as long as you don't break the bank. Recognize that you want a more idealized type of work where you feel as if you are giving more of yourself. Tonight: Check to see if you won.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Take advantage of the moment when others find you to be perfect. It seems as if you can do no wrong. Your lively side comes out with someone you feel is very special. Your dynamic imagination delights others and helps problem-solve. Tonight: What would make you happy?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Keep special news to yourself. Sometimes sharing a secret takes away from the positive feelings and uniqueness of the moment. Use your energy to help a boss figure out the next step. Tonight: Mysteriously vanish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ The moment is perfect to start or complete a project. The end results might be even better than you'd imagined. Your sixth sense comes into play with phone calls and other interactions. Tonight: Celebrate living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A boss or higher-up admires how you handle yourself. As a result, you find that kudos come your way. If you haven't received a pay raise or promotion yet, know that it's likely. Use care with your personal funds. Money seems to drip out of your wallet. Tonight: The planets beam on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your ability to see way beyond what is happening makes you very special and unique. Make calls to someone at a distance. Your caring comes out, even with a person who can be touchy. Tonight: Try a new type of amusement.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You have a strong sense with a personal or daily matter. You don't need to explain yourself. You need to follow through with precision. A partner has good news for you and will dote on you. Let it happen. Tonight: Be with this person.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL

Tooting their own horns



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Musicians from Santa Monica College's Emeritus Band play "Five Trumpets" at a recent Santa Monica Kiwanis luncheon held at the YMCA. Trumpeters from right to left are Bill Harrison, Steve Krieger, Craig Peterson, Dick Wagnon and Wallace Umber.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

Santa Monica Girl Scouts of Troop 214 each spent more than 50 hours on community service projects and earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. Shown left to right are Claire, Mackenzie, Natalie, Kimberly and Céline at last month's Gold Award ceremony.

Girl Scouts go for the gold

By Daily Press staff

Several local Girl Scouts are gold.

Five Scouts spent countless hours in their final year of Girl Scouting completing prerequisites, as well as more than 50 hours each serving the community, before earning the highest award in Girl Scouting — the Gold Award.

The award honors girls who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to their communities and an outstanding dedication to achievement. Each recipient is recognized for outstanding accomplishments in leadership, community service, career-planning and personal development. Between 3,000 and 3,500 Senior Girl Scouts earn the award each year nationally.

Each senior-level Girl Scout completes her own project, although troop leader Jackie Pal, many adult volunteers, project consultants and fellow Girl Scouts supported them through the process. The scouts' projects are detailed below. (Troop leaders didn't provide last names.)

■ Céline's project, entitled Puppet Pals, involved her making hand puppets and two puppet theaters. She gave them to young children at a Jewish home for orphans. The project consultant was Bryan Maxwell.

■ Mackenzie helped the Los Angeles Free Clinic through her Bag-O-Smiles project. She made small, drawstring bags and filled them with toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to help prevent dental problems in the future. She also included a booklet on dental care. The project consultant was Stephanie Sykes.

■ Through Kostumes for Kids, Claire created 20 costumes for underprivileged young children to give them the opportunity to play "dress up." They were donated to the recreational therapy unit of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services. Costumes included princesses, ballerinas, kings and more. She spent more that 45 hours designing, cutting and sewing. The project consultant was Bryan Maxwell.

■ Circle of Children benefited from Natalie's project, Bookcauses. She built two bookcases and decorated them with felt and chalkboards on the back and held a book drive to collect books. Natalie spent more that 35 hours making the bookcases, measuring, cutting, painting, sanding and assembling. The project consultant was Noelle Mugush.

■ Kimberly made 10 layette sets, which included crib-sized blankets, booties and onesies for her Bundles for Babies project. They were given to a women and children's shelter in Hollywood. The blankets were made out of snuggles and quilting fabric, and the booties were crocheted. The project consultant was sister Joan Mary Moore.

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

SURF REPORT

Wednesday is an interesting day. The minor SW that's along the coast will increase a tad to waist to chest. But we have a significant SW swell due on Thursday into Friday. This particular swell is strong enough that we are expecting to see some forerunners creep in from time to time to produce some pluses to shoulder high, but rare, and really only at standout south-facing breaks with shoaling that can work the 18+ second periods that might filter in. Winds could be problematic on Wednesday afternoon, so AM sessions being the call have less chance of seeing the rare, but better, rogue waves from the SW. NW wind swell should peak with waist-high+ sets as well for west-facing breaks, but very peaky.

Today the water is:

64°

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and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	7:16	0.4	7:07	2.7	12:00	4.9	2:12	3.9
TUESDAY	7:45	0.8	8:22	2.6	N/A	N/A	2:48	4.1
WEDNESDAY	**8:16**	**1.2**	**9:54**	**2.3**	**1:33**	**3.8**	**3:27**	**4.4**
THURSDAY	8:51	1.6	11:24	1.8	2:50	3.2	4:08	4.7
FRIDAY	9:23	1.4	12:02	1.9	3:41	3.4	4:38	4.2

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The Q Line

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Last week the Santa Monica Police Department reported that overall crime in the city is down 9 percent from last year, and has dropped as much as 60 percent in some areas since 1993, when crime was at its highest.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"Do you feel safe here in Santa Monica? Where would you not go because you feel unsafe?"**

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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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Convenient leave of absence?

Editor:

Is it not passing strange that overseer of Santa Monica's homeless services, Julie Rusk, is taking a year sabbatical just as a new "Homeless Czar" is to appear ... just as her knowledge of the service community is most needed? In the Machiavellian world that is now City Hall, the social service industry and their supporters are just as keen on keeping their edge on the system as they are in helping their "clients." The new czar has the potential to radically rearrange the furniture and that will no doubt tweak a few noses. Best this new czar find their own compass.

Many might remember Ms. Rusk's sudden vacation two summers ago when it was exposed she was shepherding Ocean Park Community Center's quest to establish a new homeless facility at 1751 Cloverfield Blvd. There are no coincidences. Ms. Rusk's penchant for disappearing when the status quo is about to be questioned should make Santa Monicans question just what the hell is going on.

Nancy Cook Smith
Santa Monica

Send the homeless packin'

Editor:

This is in response to the letter entitled, "The homeless are people, too" published in the July 2-3 weekend edition of your paper (SMDP, July 2, page 4). In reference to Mr. Springer's question of "Where do you propose we go?" may I answer by saying: Get your life together and get off the streets and out of the parks, alleys, doorways and beaches of Santa Monica.

By the way, Mr. Springer and members of the City Council, the homeless are not a community. We, the citizens and taxpaying residents of Santa Monica, are the community. Let's face it, the majority of the homeless act like animals by urinating and defecating in public in our streets, alleys, doorways, parks and beaches. And I, for one, am sick of it. Just this morning I asked a homeless bum to stop urinating in my alley, next to my trash receptacle. As is usually the case, he became belligerent and tried to start a fight with me as if it was his right to urinate in the alley because there were no public restrooms in the vicinity when nature called. Needless to say, the Santa Monica Police Department phone number was busy when I tried to call them, and the perpetrator was long gone as I continued to try and get through.

Mr. Springer's letter was in response to a Ms. Brennan who wrote in to the paper stressing her concerns about the homeless moving into the proposed Euclid Park. Well, I live on that street, and I too am opposed to this park for the same reasons. I know that as soon as this park opens it will become a tent camp and open restroom for the homeless, like every other bit of public space in Santa Monica. Mr. Springer has even suggested so much in his letter with his question of: "Where are we supposed to go?" I recently attended the City Council meeting that discussed the erection of a fence for the park in order to keep it closed at night and which the City Council shot down. Why should the mayor and the City Council listen to the concerns of taxpaying citizens? They've obviously got the homeless vote and that must outnumber us. I can also only assume they keep the homeless out of their neighborhoods; otherwise they would be equally upset. Maybe if their kids had to splash around in puddles of urine and play amongst piles of human feces, they'd have a different view.

I mean, what is it with the city government of Santa Monica and their refusal to deal with the homeless problem? I sure remember a time, not too long ago, around Election Day. I was being bombarded with junk mail day after day, with the shameless pleas from all the candidates vying for my vote. Many promised that the homeless problem was on the top of their list of priorities. And to be honest, that issue was what determined how I voted — based on a candidate's views on the homeless problem. But, now that they've been elected (and Election Day is over) what have they done? Nothing. What about it, Mr. Katz? It seems things just get worse and worse. I remember hearing a story from a generous Santa Monica resident once that was trying to help a homeless person out. She asked him why he didn't take advantage of some of the social programs available to homeless offered downtown by the city of Los Angeles. The homeless man's reply, "What, and leave Santa Monica?" Who can blame him or any of the homeless? They've got it better than us working stiffs and in Santa Monica, it seems, more rights.

Doesn't the city government realize the economic effect the homeless problem has on tourism? And what's with Santa Monica business owners? Don't they get sick of paying sky-high retail rents, only to find their front door covered in urine in the morning, or worse, some smelly vagrant sleeping there? But I guess most business owners, especially on the Third Street Promenade, are just big faceless corporate franchises that just pay their minimum-wage employees to clean up the mess.

Now, no doubt, there probably are some homeless people that need some charity and help. For them, I have no problem in giving them a helping hand. But for the most part what happened to the notion of, "Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and feed his family for life"? The Santa Monica city government needs to take this approach if it wants to help the homeless and not just roll out the welcome mat to them by making it a haven for handouts of our tax dollars.

Mr. Springer, if you and your freeloading, filthy friends want to be treated like humans, then I suggest you pick yourselves up by your bootstraps, stop acting like a bunch of wild animals, and get your life together.

Doesn't Santa Monica have vagrancy laws? If so, why can't we get the police to enforce them? Let's not sit back and take it anymore. We pay dearly for living in Santa Monica. Let's not let the homeless urinate all over it.

Steven Jankowski
Santa Monica

Massive brain recall will run through '08



INCITES
BY ED SILVERSTEIN

There are a number of Republicans who have had their brains removed.

How do I know this? Because about a week ago a trainer at my gym, who would prefer to remain anonymous — but whose name I'd give up in a second if it meant jail time — pointed to a television airing the aftermath of the London terrorist attacks and loudly exclaimed: "Thank you, Bill!"

That's right. Five years into George Bush's presidency, nearly four years after 9/11, three years after Bush went to war with Iraq and unleashed a terrorist insurgency, this staunch Republican is blaming the terrorist bombings in London on … Bill Clinton.

Such statements leave only one interpretation. The trainer has had his brain removed. And he is not alone. A good number of Republicans, including the majority of top Bush Administration officials, suffer from the very same affliction.

Of course this begs the obvious question: Can someone actually live without a brain? According to leading Republicans, such as Tom DeLay, Bill Frist and George Bush, the answer is, you bet. How else would you explain their draconian efforts to keep Terri Schiavo alive, long after her brain had ceased to function?

So who would want to remove Republican brains?

I have a theory. It was the "intelligent" designers. Aliens actually, if you subscribe to Tom Cruise's beliefs.

Apparently there is a major defect in the design of certain American-made brains. Unfortunately, the "intelligent" designers, much like our own corporate executives, spent many years denying that any defect existed. When that position proved untenable, they revised their claim saying that, even if such a defect existed, it did not represent a danger to the user or others.

But thanks to a small interplanetary liberal advocacy group, Move Over.Com, these safety claims were quickly refuted. The group — citing the war in Iraq, deregulated corporate polluting and the nomination of John Bolton as envoy to the UN — proved that defective brains posed a serious threat to the entire population of Earth. With mid-eon elections just around the corner, the Intergalactic Council ordered a massive recall of all afflicted brains.

How can you tell if your own brain needs to be recalled? "Intelligent" designers have devised a simple test. Fox News. If you watch it, your brain is defective and should to be repaired.

The good news is that many of the repairs, such as those required by moderate Republicans, are minor and can be made without removing the brain. Often a six-month subscription to the New York Times is the only treatment required.

However, in particularly severe cases in which the sufferer exhibits disturbing symptoms, such as quoting Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly or Sean Hannity, the brain is beyond repair and it is necessary to contact your creator immediately to have a new brain installed.

Caution — do not try to remove your brain by yourself.

Officials reassure us that there is no reason to panic. "Intelligent" designers are working diligently. Repairs on President Bush's brain are already underway, as evidenced by his recent recognition that global warming does indeed exist. Future repairs, if successful, will enable the president to grasp more complex concepts, such as the correlation between the burning of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gasses, and the ability to comprehend the connection between using faked intelligence to wage war in Iraq and an increase in terrorism.

Officials, nevertheless, caution patience. Due to the massive size of the recall, repairs will take time. Experts don't expect all brains to be refurbished until November of 2008.

And while there is no way to determine if your brain has been removed (Republicans with and without brains are virtually indistinguishable) there is a way to tell if repairs have been completed.

Simply turn on the television and select a station. (PBS should be avoided, as your system may not be ready to handle unbiased news reporting.) Now using the remote, find the video controls and select the color adjustment. Remove all color from the picture. What do you see?

If you answered a black and white image, then your brain is still defective. If, on the other hand, you are able to distinguish multiple shades of grays, then your brain is working perfectly. Warning — temporary symptoms, such as discomfort while watching President Bush speak, are normal and should pass within a short time.

In the mean time, if you, like the trainer in my gym, are unable to think before you speak due to the lack of a brain, the best course of action is to say nothing at all.

(Ed Silverstein can be reached at incites@incites.net.)

Tell Santa Monica what you think!



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Email to: editor@smdp.com
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Santa Monica Daily Press

Burglar reports he rarely had to force entry

BURGLAR, from page 1

stretched from San Vicente Boulevard to the southern city limits.

The teenager's crime spree ended, however, when he was arrested by El Segundo police in October for possessing stolen property — a cell phone taken in a Santa Monica burglary earlier that year.

When SMPD detectives interviewed the suspect, they were able to glean valuable insight from the burglar because not only did he confess, he was willing to talk about his criminal methods and how he chose particular homes to burglarize.

"There's not a lot of guys who will tell us their methodology in doing these crimes," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "The information that this person gave us is valuable and can be used as a learning tool. Here's actual information from a burglar, who is a kid. "

SMPD officers, after gaining this look into a burglar's mindset and methodology, intend to educate the public on how to protect themselves from future crimes.

"Here is a clear example of a young man walking through a neighborhood that didn't look suspicious," Fabrega. "If you see something out of the ordinary, or see a subject wandering through your neighborhood, call the police."

The suspect, whose identity isn't being released because he's a juvenile, led detectives to various residential locations throughout Santa Monica where the burglaries were confirmed. The burglar disclosed that he generally entered through open windows or doors and almost never needed to force entry, police said.

He preferred Santa Monica homes because of the abundance of unsecured residences that he found, which were more prevalent west of Lincoln Boulevard as he neared the beach. The items he was most interested in taking were wallets, cell phones, purses or laptop computers, police said.

He would first knock at the front door or ring the doorbell to ensure no one was home. He would dress casually, and sometimes carried a basketball to be less conspicuous. To be extra careful, he would remove his shoes prior to entering the victim's residence so as not to leave footprints and to reduce the amount of noise he would make. If confronted by an occupant, he would apologize and claim to be looking for the residence of a "friend."

If detained by a curious police officer questioning his truancy, he would inform the officer that he attended school outside of Santa Monica and "was on a different schedule track."

Many times the burglar knew neighbors had seen him in the area, but they apparently didn't report his suspicious presence to police.

The juvenile would fill his empty backpack with small items, hop on a bus back to Los Angeles and give the stolen property to gang members who would sell the merchandise on the street, and then give him a cut.

It's unknown how much he made on the street or the total value of the property stolen, Fabrega said. Currently being held in a juvenile detention facility after pleading guilty to possessing stolen property, the juvenile has four months left on his sentence. But he will likely be in custody for years to come.

"Detectives are working with the DA's office, and charges will be filed against him," said Fabrega, adding the investigation is ongoing.

This isn't his first run-in with the law. He's been arrested 11 times since he was 12 years old, most of the crimes being theft-related, Fabrega said.

Since he was 11 years old, the boy has been in and out of foster care homes, from which he typically would run away. His last placement home was in Los Angeles.

Anyone with information about the investigation can call SMPD detective Michael Bambrick at (310) 458-8932. Callers who wish to remain anonymous also can also call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

The burglar is not believed to have been responsible for a rash of home break-ins in the Sunset Park neighborhood. From December through March, there were 28 burglaries or attempted break-ins in the Sunset Park neighborhood — which stretches from Lincoln Boulevard to Centinela, and Pico Boulevard to the southern city limits.

The SMPD and other westside law enforcement agencies have made arrests related to the Sunset Park burglaries, and the investigation is ongoing.

"The spike in burglaries of two or three occurring on the same day in the same area have decreased," Fabrega said.

He stressed that if residents see unusual behavior or people in their neighborhoods, they should call police. He cited an incident on July 10 when a resident noticed a suspicious person in the 2200 block of 23rd street and confronted him instead of calling police. As a result, the subject ran away.

"We ask that people keep a visual on the subject and contact the police immediately and not take matters into their own hands," Fabrega said. "They can provide more assistance to the police by providing immediate information so officers have real-time information."

In light of a burglar's tale on how easy it was for him to steal from unsuspecting citizens, the SMPD offers these tips:

■ Remember to always lock your windows and doors when you leave your home. If you see someone acting suspiciously, take note of their description and call police with the reasons you feel the person is acting suspiciously. Let officers determine the legitimacy of the person's activity.

■ If you don't feel your existing home or business' security is sufficient, the SMPD offers a free security survey and evaluation.

■ If you are interested in starting or finding an active neighborhood watch on your street, the SMPD will help you get organized. Call the SMPD community relations/crime prevention unit for further information at (310) 458-8474. SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said it's important to know your neighbors and if you don't, organizing a crime watch will allow people to get to know each other.

"That is a perfect way to meet your neighbors," he said.

Negligence lawsuit filed in Lodge double homicide

MOOSE LODGE, from page 1

negligent supervision, hiring and training practices; assault and battery; breach of oral and written contract for a third party beneficiary; negligence per se; and wrongful death.

Attorney Brian Nelson is representing Preciado, Krizna Bonilla and the three children she had with Hector Bonilla.

The complaint claims that Hernandez and Bonilla were guests at a party at which Moose Lodge management "knew that uninvited gang members and violent persons were attending the event." The complaint also claims that several hours before the attack, the assailants were "loud, confrontational and argumentative with guests at the party." They also were smoking cigarettes inside the lodge contrary to state law and were "being sold alcoholic beverages even though they were underage," according to the complaint.

Nelson said he believes Hernandez may have been trying to urge the assailants to leave the party when the altercation escalated into the shooting.

Security personnel were working during the party, but it's unclear if they were contracted by the lodge or were employees.

"From my stand point, it was an awful thing that someone would throw a party and expect security to do a job they didn't," Nelson said. "This could have been prevented easily. All (the Moose Lodge) had to do was report what they were seeing.

"It's called 9-1-1."

Moose Lodge attorney William D. Schuster didn't return calls seeking comment.

Judge Joe W. Hilberman is scheduled to have an initial status conference with attorneys on the case Sept. 6.

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LOCAL

Police estimate 50 to 70 witnessed murders

ACTIVE CASE, from page 1

spokesperson, didn't comment on where leads in the investigation have led detectives.

"Because the investigation is ongoing, we are not releasing information that would jeopardize the investigation at this point," Fabrega said. "Our detectives are still following up on some leads."

A reward hasn't been offered for information leading to an arrest.

City Hall offered a $25,000 reward for the murder of Jalonnie Carter, who was shot in the back in 2003, nine months after his murder remained unsolved. A suspect is in custody, although it's unknown whether a tip related to the reward led to an arrest.

SMPD officials didn't say if they planned to offer a reward to solve the Hernandez-Bonilla case. However, anyone who has information about the crime is encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491. Callers who wish to remain anonymous also can call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), which may lead to a reward.

Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom said he has supported offering rewards to solve crimes in the past. He believes rewards can be helpful, especially when police run out of leads.

"Frankly, I don't know that's the case with this investigation," Bloom said. "The work is time consuming. "Sometimes it's long and frustrating for loved ones and the community."

FAMILY STRUGGLES

Krizna Ayala, Bonilla's girlfriend and mother to their three children, said she called the SMPD regularly after the shooting, but stopped two months ago.

"Now I'm waiting for the police to call me," she said, adding that she hopes detectives will call her soon with more information about her boyfriend's murder.

Ayala said community donations helped pay for Hernandez and Bonilla's funeral services. However, Ayala, a full-time business student at Santa Monica College, hasn't been able to afford her home in the wake of the murder because Bonilla was the primary provider for the family. She and the children have moved into her mother's house, located in Santa Monica, which they share with Ayala's mother, three of Ayala's siblings and a dog.

"I sleep in my mother's living room with my three kids," Ayala said.

Ayala said she is living off of Social Security. Neither she nor her children — Hector, 8, Benjamin, 3, and Eliaz, 1 — have received counseling since the shootings.

"They tell me I ought to go to counseling, but I haven't," she said. "I have a lot on my mind, like trying to find a place to live."

Ayala said her children miss their father and talk about him everyday. They are beginning to understand he is not coming back.

"My youngest is doing better," she said. "He is having a hard time because he was really used to his father being around.

"Mentally, I keep them OK. They don't see the pain I'm going through."

Natalie Preciado, mother of Hernandez, said she has been a "mess" since the shootings and fears for her safety.

"I don't feel comfortable in Santa Monica, I can't sleep, and I'm afraid," Preciado said. "I have received harassing phone calls with people saying, 'Ha ha, Jon is dead.'"

Preciado said she wants to move, largely due to the frustration she has felt in waiting for the murder to be solved.

"I find it hard to believe with 50 to 70 witnesses at the murder scene, there have been no convictions," Preciado said. "It makes me wonder if the police are doing their job, or just eating donuts."

EXPERTS WEIGH IN ON CASE

It's unlcear whether or not the homicides were gang related; however, witnesses aren't providing much information in the investigation.

Witnesses said Hernandez got into a physical altercation with two or three men near the front entrance to the Moose Lodge, a Sunset Park venue often used for weddings, birthdays and other events.

Guests at the party said as many as 14 shots were fired by two or three suspects, who opened fire on Hernandez and later turned their barrels on Bonilla, a longtime friend of Hernandez who attempted to intervene.

The suspects, who fled the scene, are described as two Hispanic men, between 18 and 20 years old, who were wearing dark, hooded sweatshirts.

Gil P. Quinonez, a retired officer with the Long Beach Police Department, said gang-related homicides can be extremely difficult to solve, largely because witnesses often fear retribution from gang members, so they don't talk.

"The hardest thing for police to do is get a witness who will stand in court, because witnesses lose all around," Quinonez said.

Quinonez said the system doesn't make it easy for witnesses to participate in the process, since they often have to make multiple court appearances before a case actually goes to trial. Meanwhile the witness, appearing in court, is being seen by the suspect's family and friends, which may set him or her up later to be a victim.

In addition, witnesses often have families of their own and must take time off work or find babysitters when they make court appearances. They lose money trying to support the efforts of justice.

Quinonez said the picture is bleak when solving gang-related crimes and that detectives often have no choice but to hope a good citizen will come forward who witnessed the crime, and does not live near the crime scene.

Still, he said, timing is crucial in solving most homicide cases.

"Every day that goes by means the case will less likely be solved," Quinonez said.

Some homicide experts noted the Hernandez-Bonilla case has a lot going for it.

John MacDonald, a Rand Corp. behavioral scientist, noted the SMPD did a good job securing the crime scene and interviewing witnesses immediately after the shooting, which he said is the foundation of a successful investigation.

"The police rounded up the witnesses at the scene, and they know the dynamics of the altercation," MacDonald said. "They have the forensic evidence.

"I find it highly unlikely, out of that many witnesses, somebody wouldn't be aware of who the perpetrators were."

Memorial to be held on Thursday for community activist Melilli

MELILLI, from page 1

in Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) and the Santa Monica Democratic Club, according to longtime friend Janet Gilbert.

He also spearheaded the creation of community organizations in Sunset Park and advocated for changes along Lincoln Boulevard, including cracking down on prostitution within motels on the street in the mid 1990s. Melilli also was interested in making Lincoln Boulevard a more neighborhood-friendly street, an initiative he was known for emphasizing in front of the Santa Monica City Council.

"Conrad epitomized a special Santa Monica breed — the committed and tenacious neighborhood activist," said City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who has known Melilli for more than 10 years and worked with him as a member of SMRR. "I think all of us on the council knew Conrad personally and will feel the loss."

Tuesday's City Council was adjourned in honor of Melilli.

"He was very passionate about his work," said Greg Amato, a friend of Melilli since their days at Santa Monica College in the early 1970s.

Melilli operated Custom Window Decor for the last 26 years and distinguished himself in the International Window Film Association, where he earned the status of a Hall of Fame member for solar control specialization.

Despite his cancer diagnosis and treatment, Melilli was still dedicated to his customers and changed the faces of many Santa Monica windows, according to friend and customer Jay Johnson.

And his community involvement stayed the same, as did his demeanor, according those who knew him.

"When he became ill, he unleashed the same passion that he had for community issues on his illness," said City Councilman Richard Bloom, who knew Melilli for 15 years. "He left no stone unturned in search for a cure. He even did his own research on medications because he felt that his doctors were wrong. Every time I talked to him, he was universally upbeat."

Bloom recalled a conversation that he and Melilli had a few weeks ago, when Melilli complimented the Santa Monica Police Department for its dealings with a store on Lincoln Boulevard that sells adult products.

"For Conrad, everything revolved around business and political activism," said Johnson, laughing. "Those two things were the essence of Conrad — in addition to the dogs."

Melilli's beloved Doberman pinschers, named Joey and Takoma, were his two hobbies, and he played with them frequently. Melilli, who was not married and has no children, left his two dogs to his neighbors, complete with a monetary trust to ensure their future care. In addition, he allocated money from his estate for donations to various charities he deemed important.

Born and raised in San Fernando Valley, Melilli's business had moved with him to three different locations in Santa Monica, two of them home-run. He lived on Centinela Avenue in the 1960s, where his business began in 1974. His store then moved to Main Street, and finally to its locale today on Ozone Street, which has been Melilli's home and business headquarters for the past 12 years.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, July 14, at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park, where he also will be interred.

Dogs, people still best security devices for mass transit

BY PAUL ELIAS AND BRIAN BERGSTEIN
AP Technology Writers

IRVINE — Within hours of the London bombings, a renewed call went up for the United States to use its considerable technology heft to prevent similar attacks on the nation's transit system.

Public transit's chief lobbyist said its members need $6 billion to upgrade security, and Congress is expected to increase funding in the coming weeks. Sensing opportunity, some technology companies aggressively advertised their potential to create gadgets to detect bombs and chemical and biological weapons.

But ideas such as smoke-detector-like devices sounding an alarm when a bomb-porting terrorist enters a train station are years and billions of dollars from fruition — if ever. The best current defenses for the country's subways, buses and trains, security experts say, remain decidedly low tech: human vigilance and bomb-sniffing dogs.

The very nature of mass transportation makes it impossible to install metal detectors and take the other security measures that aim to protect the flying public.

"You can not just take the applications that are used in airport and plunk them into the transit system," said Gregory Hull, director of safety and security programs for the American Public Transportation Association. "But some could be modified."

The industry has spent $2 billion since Sept. 11, 2001, training its security personnel to be on the lookout for abandoned packages and suspicious passengers, Hull said.

Nonetheless, the system needs about $5 billion in radio communications improvements, and the industry is also keen to deploy more cameras to surveil tunnels and stations, he said.

Another promising technology under development is software that would direct cameras to immediately flag suspicious scenes at stations such as abandoned packages or passengers dressed for winter during summer.

Sniffing the air for hints of bombs, though, remains an elusive holy grail.

"Detecting explosives is not an easy thing," said David Danley, a retired Army colonel and head of defense programs at Combimatrix Corp., a small biotechnology company near Seattle.

Combimatrix has $10 million worth of contracts to develop a handheld device that soldiers can use to detect pathogens on the battlefield. Danley said the device, which is fueled by so-called "gene chips," could be adapted to detect chemicals as well and shrunk to the size of smoke detector.

The detector would contain key genetic signatures of dozens of deadly bugs and chemicals on a chip. If an attack occured, DNA from the weapon would bind to the chip, which would trigger an alarm.

Danley conceded that in developing a detector, determining exactly which of the myriad deadly bomb making agents to sniff for is the "$64 million question."

"We won't come up with a 100 percent solution," he said.

Still, since last year's Madrid bombings, the Department of Homeland Security has increased the funds available for transit security, prompting wide industry interest.

"I can envision technologies in the future that will give us the ability to detect explosives without going through the kind of portals you do in the airport," Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff said Sunday on NBC's "Meet The Press."





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STATE

San Francisco to consider recruiters in schools

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Hoping to build on the American public's growing frustration with the war in Iraq, anti-war activists in San Francisco on Monday submitted a local ballot measure that would put the city on record as opposing the presence of military recruiters in public high schools and colleges.

If it qualifies for the November ballot and is approved by voters, the initiative would not ban the armed forces from seeking new recruits at San Francisco campuses, an action that puts schools at risk of losing federal funding.

Instead, the nonbinding "College Not Combat" resolution merely would encourage city officials and university administrators to exclude recruiters even if it means forsaking government dollars and to create scholarships and training programs that would reduce the military's appeal to young adults.

"We do not see George Bush's daughters signing up. It is poor and working class people who need a job and education at the same time billions are being spent on this war," said Ragina Johnson, a member of the International Socialist Organization.

Several teachers unions, student groups and anti-war organizations such as Iraq Veterans Against the War also are participating in the effort.

The San Francisco initiative is part of a larger "counter-recruitment" battle being fought over the Pentagon's recruitment efforts and exclusion of openly gay recruits being waged around the country. The U.S. Supreme Court last month agreed to hear the Bush Administration's appeal of a lower court ruling that said law schools could not be stripped of their federal funding for refusing to treat military employers the same as other employers.

Anti-war activists also have targeted a provision of the No Child Left Behind Act that requires school districts to provide military recruiters access both to student career centers and the same student contact information available to college or job recruiters.

For a decade, the San Francisco Unified School District banned military recruiters from its high schools, a stance it was forced to abandon after Congress approved the No Child Left Behind law in 2001. The district instead has focused on alerting parents that they can request in writing not to have their child's name or address released to any recruiters.

Three members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors who attended a rally kicking off the campaign said they would wait to see if it passes before sponsoring any legislation to enact its recommendations.

"It all depends on the political will of the electeds and the electorate. We would like it to have teeth, of course," Supervisor Tom Ammiano said.

Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a Pentagon spokeswoman, rejected the notion that poor and working class Americans are targeted by military recruiters and comprise a disproportionate share of the war's casualties.

Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a Pentagon spokeswoman, rejected the notion that poor and working class Americans are targeted by military recruiters and comprise a disproportionate share of the war's casualties.

"Like other large, major corporations we want the best and the brightest that our country's schools have to offer. That's who we are recruiting," Krenke said. "That's why we want equal access to student directory information and college and high school campuses, so we can let these students know what we have to offer in terms of benefits and education."

Organizers of the initiative, which must be certified by the Department of Elections within 30 days, said that while the measure's impact may end up being only symbolic, they expect their campaign will muster the dissent that has surfaced at scattered campuses around the country into an effective anti-war movement.

Among those standing outside San Francisco City Hall as campaign organizers prepared to submit 15,000 signatures they had gathered to put the measure before voters was Cindy Sheehan, a Berkeley resident whose 24-year-old son, Casey, died on April 4, 2004, five days after he arrived with his Army unit in Iraq.

Wiping away tears, Sheehan said that the recruiter who persuaded her son to join the Army four years earlier promised Casey he would never see combat and reneged on most of the signing bonus he was guaranteed.

"I believe if that recruiter had not taken advantage of my trusting and trustworthy son, he would be alive today," Sheehan said. "The kids need to know the truth."





STATE

Mayors showcase their cities as 'green'

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

PROVO, Utah — Mayors from Chicago to Seattle traded ideas for cutting pollution and making their cities more livable at the final day of a conference on global warming.

Richard M. Daley of Chicago gave other mayors a how-to session Tuesday on absorbing combustion emissions with extensive gardens throughout his city — from the ground to the rooftops.

"All of our major big boxes have to do green roofs," Daley said at actor Robert Redford's Sundance mountain resort just east of Provo. "When big boxes come to see us, we change their architecture. ... Everything's a planned development."

Daley boasted about having a locker- and shower-equipped bicycle station, 10,000 bike racks throughout his city, plans to install solar-thermal collectors atop city buildings and a large fleet of hybrid and natural gas-powered vehicles.

"When a city is designed for the environment, it looks better. It feels better," he said.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels underscored worries about climate change by saying his city's hydropower output has been steadily diminishing. He said the volume of the snowpack in the nearby Cascade mountains has declined by half since 1950, reducing runoff on the city's 90,000-acre watershed.

Nickels boasted that 60 percent of Seattle's residential waste gets recycled. And he said Seattle is trying to rehabilitate its 3,700 acres of forests by removing ivy and deciduous trees in favor of native fir.

The Utah conference, hosted by Redford, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and the U.N.-sponsored International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, drew about 45 mayors.

The conference, which opened Sunday, was busily signing up mayors pledging to meet or beat emissions standards set by the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty ratified earlier this year without the United States.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution last month supporting the 12-step program, which has drawn pledges from mayors of 170 cities across the country, Nickels said.

The cities' resolution urges federal and state governments to meet or beat the goal of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

The cities' efforts will include reducing dependence on fossil fuels by accelerating development of technologies such as wind and solar energy, efficient motor vehicles and biofuels.

Salt Lake's mayor helped organize the conference and has been promoting his city's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city buys some wind power, converts sewer plant methane into energy, uses low-energy LED lights in traffic signals and runs 79 vehicles on natural gas.

Court dismisses challenge to Bush administration on roadless rule

BY JON SARCHE
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A federal appeals court has dismissed an attempt by environmental groups to restore a Clinton-era ban on logging in roadless national forests, saying their appeal became irrelevant when the Bush administration adopted a replacement rule.

"Adoption of the new rule has rendered the appeal moot," a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday.

A federal judge in Wyoming struck down the Clinton administration's ban in 2003, ruling in a lawsuit filed by the state of Wyoming that the executive branch had overstepped its authority in effectively creating wilderness areas on U.S. Forest Service lands.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council and seven other environmental groups appealed. But on May 5, the day after the 10th Circuit heard oral arguments, the Forest Service issued a new roadless rule to replace the one that had been overturned.

The Clinton administration's rule put 58.5 million acres of roadless forest off-limits to logging and other development. Under the new rule, those lands, most of which are in the West, are open to possible logging, mining and other commercial uses.

Attorney Jim Angell of Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund said the appeals court decision does not end the fight but only "clears the decks" for battles over the new Bush administration rule.

"We'll be looking at that and no doubt there'll be litigation of that rule, to challenge it to try to reinstate the Clinton rule," he said.

"Failing that, I think we're going to be back in the bad old days of slugging it out roadless area by roadless area, so every time there's a proposed new project that would ruin a roadless area by logging it or by allowing a mine to be built or some other industrial development, there'll be battles over that," Angell said.

Forest Service spokesman Dan Jiron said the agency looks forward to working with governors on roadless areas.

States have until late 2006 to ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture — which oversees the Forest Service — to either stop or allow road building.

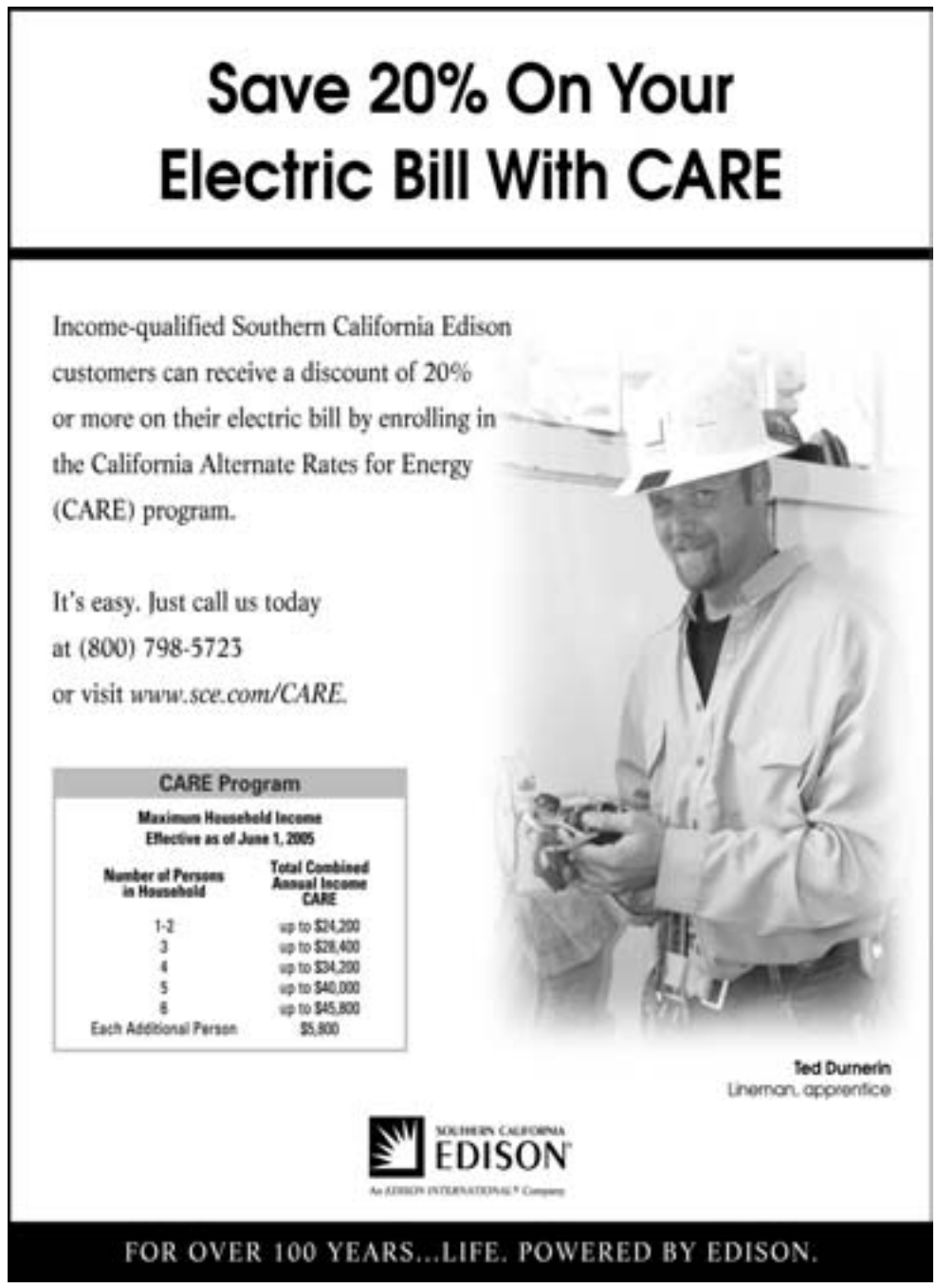
Colorado has created a task force to examine public land that had been covered by the Clinton ban. Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has said he would wait until next year to ask the Forest Service to open millions of acres of forest.

Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman has said he would let the Forest Service take the lead on roadless issues.

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, criticized the new rule, saying the Forest Service should provide staff to help states handle the huge amount of work required to examine federal lands.

Schweitzer has said Montana will probably make requests to the Forest Service about roadless areas but said the federal agency will have the final say.





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Buyer beware: Your real estate agent might not be a realtor



BUYING AND SELLING
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR & BRENT PARSONS

Not all real estate agents are created equal. Some brokers are realtors — and there is a difference.

As a prerequisite to selling real estate, a person must be licensed by the state in which they work, either as an agent/salesperson, or as a broker. Before a license is issued, minimum standards for education, examinations and experience, which are determined on a state-by-state basis, must be met. After receiving a real estate license, most agents go on to join their local board or association of realtors and the National Association of Realtors, the world's largest professional trade association.

The term "realtor" is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of Realtors and subscribes to its strict code of ethics, which in many cases goes beyond state law. In most areas, it is the realtor who shares information on the homes they are marketing, through a Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Working with a realtor who belongs to an MLS will give you access to the greatest number of homes.

An agent is bound by certain legal obligations. Traditionally, these common-law obligations are to: put the client's interests above anyone else's; keep the client's information confidential; obey the client's lawful instructions; report to the client anything that would be useful; and account to the client for any money involved.

Note: A realtor is held to an even higher standard of conduct under the National Association of Realtors' code of ethics. In recent years, state laws have been passed setting up various duties for different types of agents. As you start working with a realtor, ask for a clear explanation of your state's current regulations, so that you will know where you stand on these important matters.

Suppose you sign an offer to buy a home for $150,000. You really want the property, and there's a chance other offers are coming in, so you tell the broker that, "We'll go up to $160,000 if we have to. But of course don't tell that to the seller." If you're dealing with a seller's agent, he or she may be duty-bound to tell the seller that important fact. In most states, the seller's agent doesn't have any duty of confidentiality toward you. Honest treatment might require that the agent warn you that, "I must convey to the seller anything that would be useful so don't tell me anything you wouldn't tell the seller."

Make the most of your money. If you're dealing with seller's agents, it's a good idea to keep confidential information to yourself. These days, many home buyers prefer instead to hire a buyer's broker, one who owes the full range of duties, including confidentiality and obedience, to the buyer. A buyer's broker is often paid by the seller, regardless of the agency relationship.

In making your decision to work with an agent, there are certain questions you should ask when evaluating a potential agent. The first question you should ask is whether the agent is a realtor. You should then ask:

■ Does the agent have an active real estate license in good standing? Check with your state's governing agency.

■ Does the agent belong to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and/or a reliable online home buyer's search service? Multiple Listing Services are cooperative information networks of realtors that provide descriptions of most of the houses for sale in a particular region.

■ Is real estate their full-time career?

■ What real estate designations does the agent hold?

■ Which party is he or she representing — you or the seller? This discussion is supposed to occur early on, at the first serious contact with you. The agent should discuss your state's particular definitions of agency so you'll know where you stand.

■ In exchange for your commitment, how will the agent help you accomplish your goals?

• Do they show you homes that meet your requirements and provide you with a list of the properties he or she is showing you?

(Contact The PowerHouse Team for further questions at 310-482-2015 or brent@pwrhteam.com.)

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

Sold	**435 PALISADES AVE SANTA MONICA 90402**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 3,489	List Price: $4,995,000	Bed: 3
07/08/2005	Lot Size: 17,500	Sold Price: $4,900,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	**1104 CALIFORNIA AVE SANTA MONICA 90403**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,839	List Price: $1,599,000	Gl: $0
07/07/2005	Lot Size: 4,996	Sold Price: $1,668,000	GRM: 0.00
Sold	**901 HARVARD ST SANTA MONICA 90403**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,718	List Price: $1,585,000	Bed: 3
07/11/2005	Lot Size: 7,900	Sold Price: $1,590,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	**1028 23RD ST SANTA MONICA 90403**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,126	List Price: $1,250,000	Bed: 2
07/06/2005	Lot Size: 6,118	Sold Price: $1,327,500	Bath: 1.50
Sold	**1222 CHELSEA AVE SANTA MONICA 90404**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,320	List Price: $1,200,000	Gl: $0
07/05/2005	Lot Size: 5,305	Sold Price: $1,150,000	GRM: 0.00
Sold	**2401 28TH ST SANTA MONICA 90405**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: $1,199,000	Gl: $43,656
07/01/2005	Lot Size: 8,999	Sold Price: $1,199,000	GRM: 0.00
Sold	**2430 PEARL ST SANTA MONICA 90405**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 955	List Price: $995,000	Bed: 3
07/05/2005	Lot Size: 7,100	Sold Price: $1,080,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	**1760 SUNSET AVE SANTA MONICA 90405**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: $975,000	Bed: 3
07/01/2005	Lot Size: 5,946	Sold Price: $962,650	Bath: 2.00
Sold	**1171 STANFORD ST #2 SANTA MONICA 90403**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,612	List Price: $789,000	Bed: 2
07/01/2005	HOD: $250	Sold Price: $800,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	**1813 ARIZONA AVE #2 SANTA MONICA 90404**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: $759,000	Bed: 2
07/07/2005	HOD: $298	Sold Price: $821,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	**1447 STANFORD ST #B SANTA MONICA 90404**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,300	List Price: $725,000	Bed: 3
07/01/2005	HOD: $281	Sold Price: $725,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	**937 12TH ST #206 SANTA MONICA 90403**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,042	List Price: $649,000	Bed: 2
07/01/2005	HOD: $325	Sold Price: $710,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	**425 IDAHO AVE #10 SANTA MONICA 90403**		**4292-016-061**
Santa Monica	SqFt: 904	List Price: $609,000	Bed: 2
07/01/2005	HOD: $193	Sold Price: $672,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	**1447 STANFORD ST #F SANTA MONICA 90404**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,050	List Price: $589,000	Bed: 2
07/01/2005	HOD: $248	Sold Price: $589,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	**720 PIER AVE #B SANTA MONICA 90405**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: $569,000	Bed: 2
07/05/2005	HOD: $200	Sold Price: $565,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	**1457 CENTINELA AVE #2 SANTA MONICA 90404**		
Santa Monica	SqFt: 810	List Price: $559,000	Bed: 2
07/05/2005	HOD: $227	Sold Price: $0	Bath: 2.50...

THOMAS AT THE POWHERHOUSE TEAM:
thomas@pwrhteam.com
Information received as per the MLS on 07/13/2005 . Not all transactions may have been represented by THE POWERHOUSE TEAM.
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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Very nice single family 2 bedroom plus den and 2 bath house.
Spacious backyard with private gate.
Great for first time home buyers or a small family.



CONTACT THOMAS OR BRENT **THOMAS@PWRHTEAM.COM** **BRENT@PWRHTEAM.COM**

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There are solar rays in real estate's future



DAYS ON THE MARKET
BY JODI SUMMERS

Passive solar heating is free and renewable, and we have plenty of sun on the West Coast. Given the amount of energy our state uses, and the availability of our natural resources, California may become the first state to establish a minimum solar standard for new home construction.

Our state senators have been pushing a solar energy bill encouraging new construction to use solar energy-generating materials. Among other things, it is anticipated that the development of California's solar energy industry will help address anticipated energy shortages while preventing air pollution.

"Solar power is most cost-effective when included in the construction of new homes," notes Sen. Kevin Murray from Culver City, who has been pushing solar energy bills in Sacramento in recent years. The objective of the solar bill is to have "builders phase in solar systems during construction, reducing energy costs and air pollution at the same time," he said.

The long-term aim of California solar advocates is to generate 3,000 megawatts of power from the sun within 13 years, the equivalent of a dozen medium-size power plants. That means by 2018, California could have 1 million buildings producing solar energy, with half of all new homes powered by the sun.

New solar tiles look like ordinary roofing and blend in with most popular styles, but solar roof tiles are also photovoltaic collectors that convert sunlight into electricity. A residential "energy roof" uses 300 square feet and covers approximately a 17 foot by 17 foot area. In SoCal, it can produce many thousands of kilowatts of clean energy per year, and get you a credit on your utility bill. This benefit is currently scheduled to go away in 2006.

"The goal is to create a self-sustaining solar industry, making the zero-pollution power source so commonplace and cheap that costly incentives are no longer necessary," said Joe Desmond, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's deputy secretary of energy.

Homeowners who use solar panels say they save an estimated $700 a year on electricity. Business savings are even higher. Farmer Pat Ricchiuti recently tiled the roof of his 150,000-square-foot shed with 7,730 solar panels. It is now producing 1 megawatt of energy — enough to cut his $1.5 million annual energy bill in half. Now, in addition to the sun growing his peaches, Ricchiuti is using solar energy to run his conveyor belts that fill his packing shed, sorting, sizing and packaging 1.5 million boxes of fruit a year.

"It's the right thing to do," Ricchiuti said. "This is agriculture doing its part to clean the environment. But it also makes economic sense."

Up in wine-producing regions of the state, wineries like Fetzer Vineyards, Rodney Strong Vineyards and Domain Carneros have turned to solar to power their energy consumption.

Throughout the state, growers have been turning toward solar, inspired by 2000-01 energy crisis that sent electricity bills soaring, brought rolling blackouts, and threatened crop and profit margins. Farmers decided they wanted to try a system that would give them control over their energy production and distribution. Not only have they gained control over how and when they disperse their energy, it also has turned into a good investment.

"We'd just spent too much money on power," notes cotton ranch foreman Gary Martin. "It was out of control."

His 1,250-acre Central Valley cotton ranch installed a 36-kilowatt system that went live in 2003. It cost $290,000 to build, but rebates and a one-time state and federal tax credit reimbursed half the cost. Martin expects the system to have paid for itself in seven years.

"After that, it's money in the pocket," he said.

The bill championed by Sen. Murray would provide a decade's worth of incentives to help Californians install 1 million rooftop solar energy systems by 2018. The bill already has passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly.

"It's cheap, it's clean, it'll significantly improve our air quality," Murray said about solar power. And best of all, he said "no trader in some trading room can set the price on the sun."

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

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1307 Ashland Ave. Santa Monica 90405
Listed at $1,349,000
Open Sun 2-5pm
Stunning Sunset Park Home has quality designer touches throughout. Situated on a large 6,996 sq ft (A), charming 3br/2ba home features, hardwood floors, family room, formal living and dining rooms, a cook's kitchen and updated baths. Trellised patio sits in large serene private yard with mature landscaping.



11963 Mayfield #102, Brentwood.....3BR,2.5BA, 1,961 sq.ft(A)..$1,189,000.....Open Sun 2-5pm
727 22nd Street, Santa Monica.....3BR, 2BA, 2,013 sq.ft(A).....$ 5,500 per month lease.
1228 14th Street, Santa Monica.....3BR, 2BA, 1,552 sq.ft.(A).....$769,000.....In Escrow
1330 Yale Street. Santa Monica.....2BR, 1.5BA, 1,552sq.ft.(A)....$499,800.....In Escrow
856 Iliff Street, Pacific Palisades.....1BR, 1BA, 6,500 sq.ft (A).....$1,295,000.....Sold and Saved $39,050
1736 Palisades Dr. Pacific Palisades....2BR, 2BA 1,776 sq.ft.(A).....$699,000.....Sold and Saved $34,990
7909 Winsford, Los Angeles.....2BR, 1BA, 792 sq.ft(A).....$558,600.....Sold and Saved $18,130

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Residents return to homes broken by Dennis

BY ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A day after Hurricane Dennis rumbled ashore, John Myrick stood under the exposed rafters of his roofless condominium, flipping through a photo album showing stunning sunrises snapped from his porch.

"It's like nature has personalities — which we just saw one of them," he said as he assessed the damage to his home, which he hasn't been able to live in since Hurricane Ivan struck last year.

Residents along the Gulf Coast, where Dennis made landfall Sunday packing winds up to 120 mph, returned to their homes Monday to discover missing roofs and walls and belongings strewn about. The heaviest damage was in the Florida communities of Gulf Breeze, Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, which were all slammed by Ivan.

Susan Brooks and Suzette Hester commiserated after they reached the remnants of their homes in Navarre Beach. Brooks lost most of the south wall and about half of the roof from her two-story home. Hester lost most of her roof and much of the wood she had loaded into the house to finish repairing from Ivan.

"It's laugh or cry or lose your mind and get institutionalized somewhere," said Hester, a psychiatric nurse. "And my ward is full."

Just down the road, Caryn and Mike Martino stood at the base of their 13-foot high deck — all that remains of their two story home. They had just finished replacing a roof damaged by Ivan, but had not yet moved in. The couple will wait a while before showing pictures of the wreckage to their two young children.

"We'll tell them daddy will make it bigger this round. Bigger and better and stronger," said Caryn Martino, who clutched a composition book with "Dennis" written on the cover. She has a similar book for Ivan filled with insurance claim numbers, government phone listings and other storm-related information.

"I've already got my FEMA number," she said, flipping to a page in the book. "I know the drill."

Meanwhile, attention was shifting to a new tropical storm that formed late Monday in the Atlantic Ocean. Tropical Storm Emily, the fifth named storm of the season, was 1,000 miles east-southeast of the Lesser Antilles and was expected to strengthen and speed up Tuesday while gradually turning toward the west-northwest.

As Dennis sloshed inland and became a tropical depression, it dumped anywhere from 3 to 10 inches of rain over Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Georgia, before stalling over the Ohio River valley, where up to 10 inches of rain was expected.

Some of the worst came as Dennis marched up through the heart of Georgia, dumping nearly 10 inches on Austell and West Atlanta, according to the National Weather Service. Hundreds were forced to evacuate in some areas.

"I never dreamed in my lifetime this would happen to me," said Mary Anne Lunsford, whose basement and two cars were totally submerged in Mableton. "I've seen it on TV a million times, but I never thought it would be me, never."

In Alabama, inland towns appeared to bear the brunt of the storm, which still had hurricane-strength winds when it moved north through the state.

Pat Crenshaw's glass business in Atmore was reduced to cinderblock rubble. He said Ivan ripped the roof off the building and "it looks like it exploded during Dennis. There's nothing left."

"No insurance. Couldn't afford it," he said. "It's hard, knowing you're down and out. Everything you fought for, everything you've built up, is all gone."

Dennis was a powerful but swift storm that weakened and turned just before making landfall, sparing the city of Pensacola and other heavily populated parts of the Florida Panhandle. Its relatively small size — with hurricane winds extending just 40 miles — also kept it from becoming another Ivan, which killed 29 people in the Panhandle and caused $7 billion in damage across the South.

By comparison, Dennis was responsible for only a handful of deaths in the United States, although it caused at least 26 deaths in the Caribbean. The storm also caused an estimated $1 billion to $2.5 billion in insured damage in the United States, according to a projection by AIR Worldwide Corp., an insurance risk modeling company.

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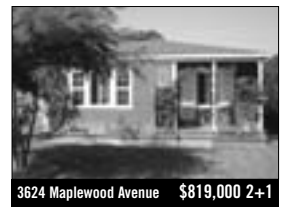
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1021 Michigan Avenue $2,149,000
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1 cup diced red onion
1 cup diced, peeled carrots
1 cup diced green bell pepper
1 cup diced peeled avocado
1 (15 oz) can black beans, rinsed & drained
1 (4 oz) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 cup coarsely crushed baked tortilla chips
Sprinkle w/Lime-Cilantro Vinaigrette
TO SERVE 4:
1. Steam corn, covered, 3 minutes (until crisp-tender) Rinse w/cold water; set aside to cool 2. Place 2 cups mixed salad greens on each of 4 plates. Arrange 1/4 cup of tomato, onion, carrots, bell pepper, corn, Avocado & 1/2 cup beans in rows over salad greens. Sprinkle 1/4 cup cheese and 1/4 cup crushed chips over each salad. Drizzle 1/4 cup of vinaigrette over each salad .

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NATIONAL

Judge frees volunteers who helped aliens

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A federal magistrate has freed two members of a border humanitarian group who were arrested after federal agents found three illegal immigrants in their vehicle. The volunteers said they were carrying the three men to emergency medical care.

U.S. Magistrate Hector Estrada on Monday went against a federal prosecutor's recommendations to hold No More Deaths Coalition volunteers Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss. They are to return to court Wednesday for another hearing.

"They showed human compassion to those our government degrades as less than human," said Margo Cowan, a lawyer and spokeswoman for No More Deaths.

Sellz and Strauss, both 23, were arrested by Border Patrol agents Saturday.

The volunteers, who are among group members offering emergency aid to illegal immigrants in the desert this summer, came across a group of nine lost migrants. Sellz and Strauss gave them food and water and cared for their blisters.

The volunteers also called a nurse and doctor affiliated with No More Deaths about the heat-related symptoms of three men in the group. The nurse who took the call from Strauss, Helen Lundgren, said the volunteers told her the men had been drinking water from cattle tanks to survive in the hot desert. They were vomiting and had diarrhea and needed medical attention, she said.

What the Border Patrol described as transporting illegal immigrants, Cowan and the aid group described as medical evacuation.

"We have an absolute right to provide assistance," Cowan said. "It is our moral obligation."

Volunteers with the No More Deaths Coalition are camping in the desert near the border for a second consecutive summer to offer help. Dozens of illegal immigrants die in Arizona's rugged border region each year, often because of the heat.

Andrea Zortman, Patrol spokeswoman, said agents determined the migrants needed only water and a cool place to sit.

"If you feel someone is in dire straits, you need to call 911," she said. "You don't take it into your own hands."

Aid groups had been informed that giving food and water is legal, but "once they cross the line and put them in their vehicle, they're going to get arrested," Zortman said.

Two of three migrants the volunteers had in their "Samaritan Patrol" car at the time of the arrests have been returned to Mexico. Another is being held in federal custody as a material witness in the case against the volunteers.

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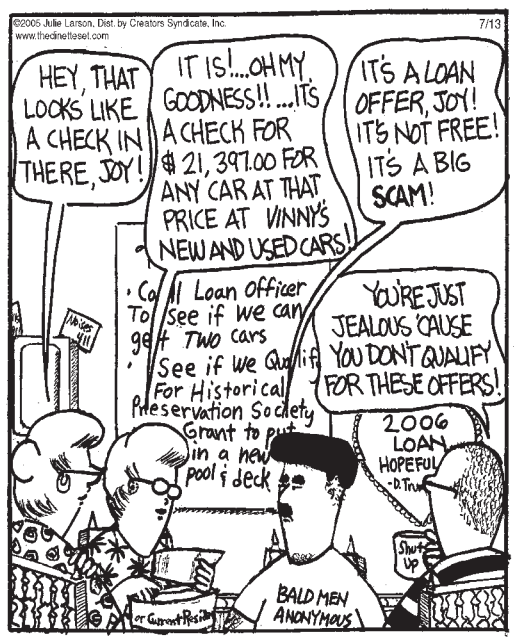
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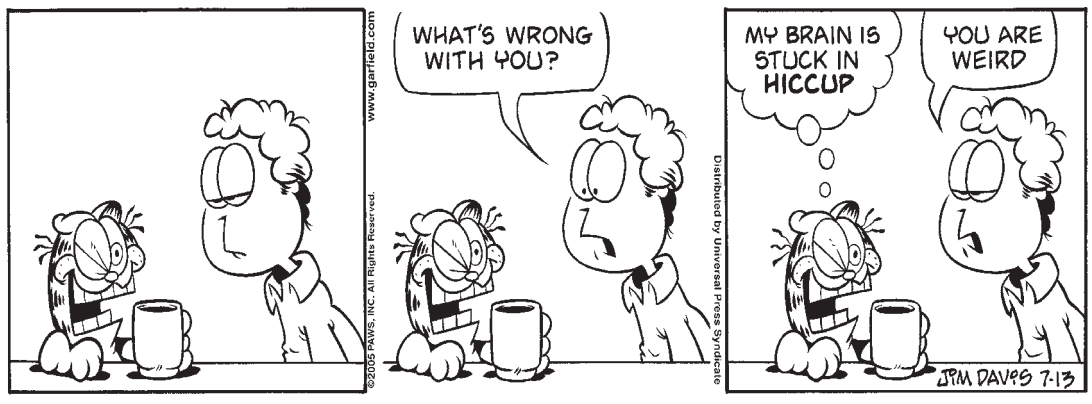


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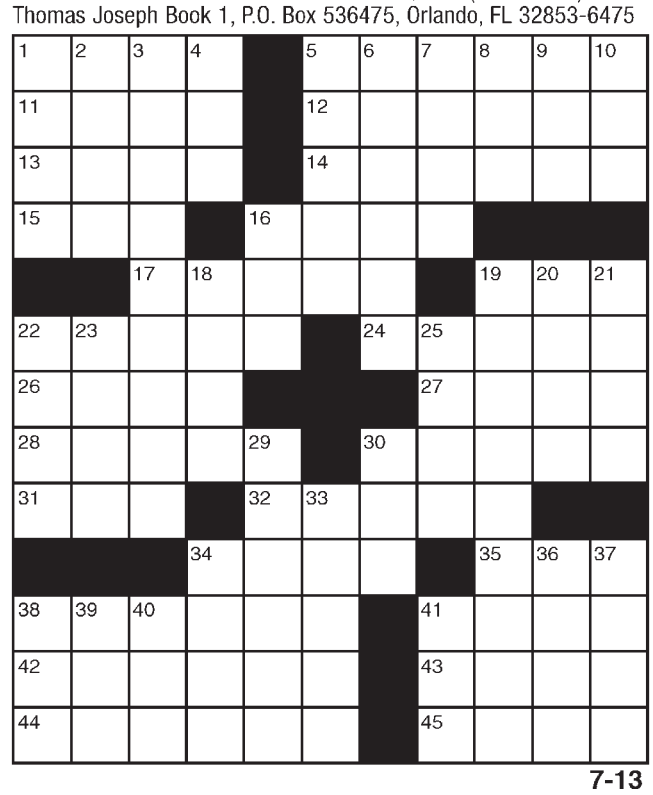
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