

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

6 8 13 30 32
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$24 Million

FANTASY 5

7 10 15 18 19

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 4 6
Evening: 9 6 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:47.89

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Travis Williams, 25, and his passenger, Brandon Calmese, 27, were arrested in March when sheriff's deputies decided to pull them over after seeing them driving on Interstate 380 near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at 55 mph with the hood up and both men craning their necks out the window to see where they were going. A week before that, in Hemet, Calif., a 21-year-old man was hospitalized (with DUI charges pending) after hitting two parked cars, a tree, a fence, and a bus, driving a car with the hood sticking up and deployed airbags flapping in the wind.

■ Joseph R. Holland, 23, who escaped in February from prison in Schuylkill County, Pa. (near Allentown), but who was captured the following day, wrote to a judge in March disputing the escape charge against him: (1) The warden never told him he couldn't escape, he said (in his syntax-challenged petition). "(I) was never provided with any orientation, a handbook or ever signed any contract ... I was never informed to follow any rules, cause I knew no rules!" (2) "I wasn't gone over 24 hours, and all my personal belongings were ever here. I had every intention of coming back, who's to say any different?" (3) And besides, he said, the guards actually opened the gate for him (even though it was really for another inmate coming in, with Holland managing to sneak out at the same time).

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Actor Mike Buffo gets into character, as Parolles, for the upcoming Shakespeare Santa Monica production of "All's Well That Ends Well." Looking on are (from left to right) Vinny Cardinale, Ian Roettger and Camron Robertson.

Wherefore art thou plays in the park?

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

REED PARK — Shakespeare has arrived in Santa Monica.

In true community theater format, Shakespeare Santa Monica, in association with the Powerhouse Theatre Company, has returned for a second year to

offer residents free performances in the park, specifically in the Miles Playhouse and on the tennis courts at Reed Park.

"All's Well That Ends Well" opens tonight at the Miles Playhouse, under the direction of Louis Scheeder, the director and founder of The Classical Studio at New York University's Tisch

School of the Arts.

"Romeo & Juliet," directed by John Farmanesh-Bocca, will debut on July 21 at the playhouse. Both shows will run intermittently through July 31, with four days of outdoor performances set to begin on July 28 on tennis court No. 1.

See **SHAKESPEARE**, page 10

NATIONAL

Scientists scared as the skies are falling

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — With record numbers of dead seabirds washing up on West Coast beaches from Central California to British Columbia, marine biologists are raising the alarm about rising ocean temperatures and dwindling plankton populations.

"Something big is going on out there," said Julia Parrish, an associate professor in the School of Aquatic Fisheries and Sciences at the University

See **SEABIRDS**, page 6

Dune boogie: Desert blues on tap at Pier

BY WINTER JOHNSON

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER — Hundreds will be hearing the Saharan desert blues tonight as the Thursday free outdoor summer concert series presents Putumayo Presents Mali: Tinariwen with Markus James and The Wassonrai.

Opening the Santa Monica Twilight Dance Series will be Markus James and The Wassonrai.

See **SANDSTORM**, page 6



Eric Mullet/Special to the Daily Press

Tinariwen brings its Mali-influenced music to the Santa Monica Pier tonight.

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Happy Birthday Natchi Furukawa

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)

★★★ Though you like to keep your cool,
you still could lose it when dealing with others.
You want everything done yesterday. Also, plans
or a project might be debunked out of the blue.
The only person you have control over is you.
Tonight: Just go along with others.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Your frustration comes out when
dealing with those in your daily life. What you
hear might not be the way to handle a problem. A
partner pitches in and helps. Use care when
expressing your feelings, especially negative
ones. Tonight: Get some exercise.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might have to handle many
different people with sometimes conflicting
views. Fortunately, you are the sign of the Twin
and can deal with multiple demands. Use your
ingenuity to prevent hassles. Tonight: You
deserve to enjoy yourself.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ If you can stay home and work or
take a personal day, do so. A higher-up or some-
one you have to answer to makes demands and
loses his or her temper. If you can avoid a fight by
closing your door or staying home, do so.
Tonight: You don't have to go out every night.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Although someone has good
intentions, you have to deal with this person's
fussing. In fact, this person's anger is profound.
Your understanding and willingness to work
through an issue breed new confidence. Return
calls. Tonight: Happily hang out.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You will gain financially if you listen
to your own instincts rather than the advice of
others. People can be very strong about their
opinions. Seek advice only from those who have
an understanding of your security. Tonight: Make
sure your budget is on target.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You are clearly on a roll and
quite unstoppable. If someone flares up right
now, especially with criticism, just listen. He or
she might be jealous or be talking about him- or
herself. Others expect a lot from you right now.
Tonight: Ask for what you want.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Someone in your daily environment
could be very touchy and difficult. So keeping
your nose out of others' issues might be a very
smart action or attitude. Keep your opinions to
yourself, and you will be better off. Tonight: Play
ostrich.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might have your hands full
with a rebellious and difficult child. Remember
what you want in your relationship with him or
her, and you will make strong decisions.
Meetings add to your feeling of success. Tonight:
Discuss a problem with a trusted friend.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might have trouble on the
home front or with a family member. Focus on
what you can be successful in. Dive into work or
a public commitment. You know what you are
doing here. Relax and do what you do well.
Tonight: Work late.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be much more harsh
than you realize when making a request. Detach
from your emotional issues, and you'll get better
results. A friend makes a suggestion that you
need to listen to. Ask for advice. Tonight: Take the
high road.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A partner wants to help you see
other ways of handling your money. You could be
a lot tougher than you realize with your spending
habits. A second job or overtime might not be the
answer. Tonight: Listen rather than speak.

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LOCAL



Stand by



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Authorities survey the scene after an unidentified pilot was forced to make a crash landing at Santa Monica Airport on Wednesday when his landing gear failed. No one was injured.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica Elks zero in on drugs

By Daily Press staff

The Elks are raising awareness on drug use.

The Santa Monica Elks, in conjunction with the Jack Showers Foundation, will conduct a drug awareness program on Saturday, July 23, from noon until 3 p.m. at the Santa Monica Elks Lodge at 1040 Pico Blvd.

Lisa Meinhart, drug awareness chairwoman, said there will be a movie and a demonstration by a Santa Monica Police Department dope-sniffing dog. There also will be hand-out literature available. The program is for children of all ages. All are welcome.

Grady Sain, president of the Jack Showers Foundation, said there will be hot dogs, snacks and lemonade served.

For more information or to make a reservation for a large group, call (310) 980-5976.

In other Elks news, the local chapter won first place in the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Parade for its float, which featured seven early American Flags and bunting.

The flags were the Pine Flag (1775); the Snake Flag (1776); the Continental Colors, which was made by imposing white stripes on British Red Ensign (1777); the Betsy Ross Flag (1777); the Star Spangled Banner, which had 15 stars and 15 stripes, for Kentucky and Vermont (1795); Old Glory, which had 20 stars, seven red stripes and six white stripes (1818); 48 stars (1912), and the present flag of 50 stars.

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SURF REPORT

Our next SW swell is due on Thursday, this is from a system that that formed in the Southern Ocean and got quite intense, throwing some decent SW swell at the California coast. Expect chest- to head-high+ surf by Friday. On Thursday, size is expected to reach chest- to shoulder-high, with standouts seeing some head-high sets.

Today the
water is:

64°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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 QLine

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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.

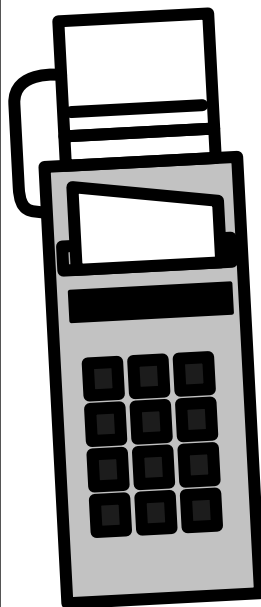
So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you feel safe here in Santa Monica? Where would you not go because you feel unsafe?"

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the leaders lead

Editor:

Ever wonder why the city of Santa Monica is so ineffective? It's because it's so infested with bureaucratic hoopla that no one knows what's going on. Take the homeless issue. Bobby Shriver decides the best way to tackle the issue is to appoint a homeless secretary to work on a regional level. Julie Rusk thinks it's best to appoint a homeless unit with one head and two helpers only tending to Santa Monica. Now, how does it make sense to have two different units in the same city working on the same issue but completely independently of each other? I thought the City Council was looking to appoint a "lean mean homeless fighting machine?" They said they wanted one senior individual who could work effectively with them on a local and regional solution. There should be one homeless secretary supported by city staff and working to carry out the mandate of the council. Two different units is not what the city needs.

Dr. Mike Gruning
Santa Monica

Feeling bookish about library's lack of soul

Editor:

I just read your article regarding the Santa Monica City Council's decision to recondition the Mountain View Mobile Home Park (SMDP, July 12, page 1). I'm glad to hear that they are helping to preserve this local housing option. I am also hopeful that the city does a better job with the reconditioning of the mobile home park than they did with the construction of our new library.

My concerns are based on an experience I had just a few days ago. This past Sunday, I was walking along Santa Monica Boulevard with my two children ages 18 and 14. When we arrived at the corner of Sixth Street we saw, for the first time, the newly unveiled main branch of our public library. We were stunned by what confronted us. For months we had been watching the library's progress. Concerned about the seemingly non-descript exterior, but hopeful that, when the scaffolding was taken down, it would reveal a well-designed building that was a welcome addition to Santa Monica.

Instead, what we saw before us was a building so unattractive and uninviting that even my teenagers were appalled. The library they had grown up with was torn down and replaced by this?

How could we describe it? We struggled at first, then finally agreed that it looks like a prison — or worse, a sewage treatment plant, complete with what appears to be a three-story industrial drain-pipe marking the main entrance.

The walls are flat gray slabs. The windows are framed in shapeless aluminum and tinted like prison guard houses. In short, it looks like a piece of gulag architecture, a barren concrete box with no heart, no soul and no beauty.

Where is the joy? The passion? The warmth? How could a community with so many creative, talented, interesting residents end up with this monstrosity as our main public library? What was the approval process? Who voted yes? How did this thing get built?

We better find out fast, because if the same people who approved this design have anything to do with approving our Civic Center we are in deep trouble.

Forget about the people-friendly and vibrant environment that many of us have been hoping for. With these people driving the process, our new Civic Center is destined to be one very expensive, and very uninviting, wasteland.

Even a kid can figure that out.

John Petz
Santa Monica

Rate of exchange is invaluable

Editor:

I would like to take this time to applaud the local families who opened their homes to international exchange students. It is the time of year when schools are out and families take a moment to pause and consider not only the year past, but also the year to come. Students from Brazil, Germany, South Korea, and Norway had been staying with these families since last August. And now August approaches again — the time where past students will be replaced by record numbers of new students from as many as 35 different countries.

All this is made possible by the support and care of local volunteers working for Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE). Volunteers serve as mentors to the students throughout the school year. They help by first interviewing the potential families. Once the students arrive, they meet with the families, students, and the schools once a month, either in person or by telephone, to help them adjust to one another. At the same time, the volunteers develop friendships with the students that can last a lifetime.

More volunteers in the community are desperately needed to help with the new arrivals.

Many thanks to all the families for a great year, and thanks in advance for the wonderful families to come.

Cindy Knight
Los Angeles

London alarm goes off, seems like wise-up call

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



I'm not kidding. A resident of Leeds, England, said her friend and neighbor, one of the suspects in the London suicide-bombings, had a favorite song. It was "Make the World Go Away."

"Wisdom," according to Ms. Miriam-Webster, is (1) "the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting;" or, just plain (2) "common sense."

Don't ask me. I come here with not nearly enough of it to solve this thing. Then again, it's not my job. It's not yours either so if they hit you with that lame "well, ingrate, if you don't like the way it is, what would you do to fix it" thing, don't feel bad about replying, "hell if I know."

What you do know is this: It is somebody's job and somebody better get busy. You can't be riding home on a bus thinking the roof is about to be blown off the thing with your head following right behind it. You can't be doing that for too long. You can't be taking the train downtown with one eye on the morning Times, and the other on every backpack, briefcase or overly bulked-up chest, thinking it may just be the one that takes you in a violent split-second, to the other side.

If civilization seems lately to be hanging by a thread, take it easy, it's not all that new. Even before these brutal, random acts of violence by men possessed of a cause for which they are willing to blow themselves and anyone in the vicinity to pieces became a fact of life — small nuisances like war, famine, and pestilence have left human beings to retire at night in a state of semi-trepidation ever since they started recording history. Civilization somehow has found a way to continue on, through it all. But this now, this new merger of suicide with mass murder at the intersection of righteousness and zeal, may be the stuff that civilization finally is unable to withstand. So far off the hook of anything we deem to be sane — even given our own private insanities — these attacks stun and scar us in our deepest recesses. Something's got to give.

I don't think I have to repeat in here my opinion of the Bushian logic that's been the official American logic employed for some four years now in an utterly misguided attempt to solve this most illogical problem. It's like God was bored and created a great riddle for his beautiful blue planet to solve, a riddle that perhaps even he finds challenging, let

alone George W. Bush.

"We're gonna hunt 'em down, and bring 'em in," were the first words out of the president's mouth last Thursday in response to the London bombings when they stuck a microphone in front of him during a break at the G-8 Summit in Scotland. Surprised? His signature "smoke-'em-out-of-their caves" thing was mercifully left out this time. Is he beginning to wise up?

Wisdom. It is hereby declared to be planet earth's last great hope, and where is it? It's coming from no one. Not from the macro-powers who use organized military might to stomp around the globe handing out death and destruction. And not from the micro-powers, who turn troubled beings into human bombs sacrificing their existence to a higher power that might not have the welcome for them that they expect.

But where could the wisdom possibly come from that would convince the ones who strap the explosives to their chests that their methods are any less "legitimate" than those who amass aircraft carriers, stealth bombers, and vast armies in somebody else's land? Do you think suicide bombers, when recruited, are told of the bombs called Daisy Cutters that have to be parachuted to the ground so the aircraft that drops it has time to flee the massive explosion it has dealt out below?

Wisdom. Somebody find it fast to calm the anger that grows from watching suicide bombers roaming freely through our open societies, taking advantage of the openness and freedom they could never experience in their Muslim homelands. They need to wise up. There's only so much anybody can take.

I, for one, am sick and tired of being an "infidel" in the eyes of zealots who are certain they have the answer. The terrorists perhaps have a legitimate basis for labeling us "war-mongers, conquerors, occupiers," and many of us stand up against all of that. But lose the "infidel" thing. Do they really think Muhamed would approve of the suicide vest any more than Jesus would approve of the Daisy Cutter?

If you've stayed with this collection of confused sentences that may seem to cross wires on each other then you know — that I don't know. Bush doesn't know, and Bin Laden doesn't know, either. Call me an appeaser, but there's got to be a way to reach an arm out to somebody without a closed fist belting them in the mouth.

Who among us solves the riddle before the riddle solves us?

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Existing hedge heights to be grandparented in

HEDGES, from page 1

while acknowledging some property owners may prefer taller hedges than has been previously allowed.

Residents will be required to maintain the 42-inch height limit for any new front yard hedge installation, while side- and rear-yard enclosure limits will be bumped from eight feet to 12 feet. The council directed staff to establish rules to permit the grandparenting of hedges, fences and walls, as well as establish a procedure for appeals with the planning commission.

Grandparenting permits will cost \$100. A final reading and adoption of the new hedge law is expected to take place at the July 26 council meeting.

The new ordinance was approved unanimously by the council, but not without debate. Seventeen residents turned out to speak, many of whom complimented staff on coming a long way since the "Hedge Wars," as some called it, began more than a year ago.

While some residents were grateful for the grandparenting clause in the new ordinance, others complained the new law and its enforcement would continue to prove a burden to both them and City Hall.

"We started with the city thinking it was going to show citizens who's boss, then logic started to happen," said Santa Monica resident Aaron Mendelsohn. "I've enjoyed the debate immensely, and I look forward to the next chapter."

Last year, Santa Monica's hedge law was revisited for one of the first times in over a half century, drawing international headlines when City Hall directed 200 households to cut their hedges or face a \$25,000-a-day violation. Many of the residents lived in multi-million dollar homes north of Wilshire Boulevard. Some had hedges a few feet above the restrictions, others with greens measuring 30 feet tall.

Residents subsequently flooded City Hall to complain about the sudden enforcement, many claiming it trampled on their personal rights.

The need to reassess the law and related enforcement issues prompted Councilman Bobby Shriver, a hedge violator himself, to run for elected office. Incumbent Councilmen Ken Genser and Richard Bloom worked on a new hedge proposal with Shriver, which fell through when Shriver won his seat, Genser said.

"It was very similar to the new ordinance," Genser said. "In fact, (the new ordinance) may be more conservative in some respects."

At Tuesday's meeting, Shriver and Councilman Herb Katz supported non-

regulation, except as it might relate to safety issues, on the basis that enforcement of the new ordinance would prove too costly and ineffective.

"Enforcement is just going to be a nightmare," Shriver said. "Safety standards can be handled by the court system."

"We're complicating life again."

COUNCILMAN HERB KATZ
Regarding the new hedge ordinance

Genser argued that safety could only be the basis for regulation if Shriver and Katz could define, exactly, how safety standards would work. Otherwise, Genser said City Hall was better off accepting the new ordinance.

"The goal in this process is to have more liberal regulations," Genser said. "This ordinance grandparents all existing hedges, with new height limits and an easier adjustment process."

"But we need to have some standards," Shriver and Katz were unable to convince their fellow councilmembers how a safety-based regulation might work.

"The people who spoke said the ordinance meets their needs," said Councilman Bob Holbrook. "This is an ordinance that is workable, and perhaps we should move forward with it."

Still, ideas on how to enforce the new ordinance quickly came under sharp attack by Katz.

"We're complicating life again," Katz said. "There were no big problems (with the hedge issue) until we started going out and investigating the hedges."

Katz said one aspect of the new ordinance — grandparenting — would be especially difficult for City Hall to monitor.

Genser disagreed, saying residents could e-mail or send hedge photos once the ordinance takes effect. This would provide City Hall with a database to work with for further enforcement.

"Are you suggesting a hedge registry?" asked City Manager Susan McCarthy.

"Yes, sort of," Genser said. "It would allow you to see hedge height in relation to the house."

Katz said photos could easily be manipulated and were no exact measure of hedge heights. Staff agreed they would have to do a site inspection, if enforcement of the new ordinance were to be effective.

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Warming waters believed to be a taking toll

SEABIRDS, from page 1

of Washington. "I'm left with no obvious smoking gun, but birds are a good signal because they feed high up on the food chain."

Coastal ocean temperatures are 2 to 5 degrees above normal, which may be related to a lack of upwelling, in which cold, nutrient-rich water is brought to the surface.

Upwelling is fueled by northerly winds that sweep out near-shore waters and bring cold water to the surface. The process starts the marine food chain, fueling algae

and shrimplike krill populations that feed small fish, which then provide a source of food for a variety of sea life from salmon to sea birds and marine mammals.

On Washington beaches, bird surveyors in May typically find an average of one dead Brandt's cormorant every 34 miles of beach. This year, cormorant deaths averaged one every eight-tenths of a mile, according to data gathered by volunteers with the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team, which Parrish has directed since 2000.

"This is somewhere between five and

10 times the highest number of bird deaths we've seen before," she said, adding that she expected June figures to show a similar trend.

This spring's cool, wet weather brought southwesterly wind to coastal areas and very little northerly wind, said Nathan Mantua, a research scientist with the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. Without northerly winds, there is no upwelling and plankton stay at lower depths.

"In 50 years, this has never happened," said Bill Peterson, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Newport, Ore. "If this continues, we will have a food chain that is basically impoverished from the very lowest levels."

Problems at the bottom of the food chain could also be related to decreases in juvenile salmon populations this summer.

NOAA's June and July surveys of juvenile salmon off the coasts of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia indicate a 20 percent to 30 percent drop in populations, compared with surveys from 1998-2004.

"We don't really know that this will cause bad returns. The runs this year

haven't been horrible, but below average," said Ed Casillas, program manager of Estuarine and Ocean Ecology at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle.

Scientists tracking anomalies along Washington's coast reported the appearance of warm-water plankton species and scores of jellyfish piling up on beaches. A Guadalupe fur seal, native to South America, was found dead in Ocean Shores.

Parrish and a scientist near San Francisco report changes in bird breeding. Both said starvation stress could be the cause for decreased breeding and increased bird deaths.

Peterson, the NOAA oceanographer, said many scientists suspect climate change may be involved.

"People have to realize that things are connected — the state of coastal temperatures and plankton populations are connected to larger issues like Pacific salmon populations," he said.

Parrish cautioned that human activity could jeopardize the survival of animals already stressed by environmental changes.

"This, for instance, would be a truly bad year for an oil spill," she said.

Musical sandstorm on the Pier for third Twilight Dance concert

SANDSTORM, from page 1

For many years, James has been traveling in Mali and recording blues-influenced music with traditional Wassoulou and Sonrai musicians, officials say.

In the United States, James has performed with Malian artists playing Kameme n'goni, the eight-stringed hunter's harp of the Wassoulou people, the kurubu and njarka violin of the Sonrai people, as well as calabash and Bolon, the three-stringed gourd bass.

The music features vocals, which alternate between Bambara, Sonrai and English. The group performed at the Festival In The Desert in 2003 and 2004, as well as in Timbuktu and other towns and villages in northern Mali.

Following James and the Wassonrai is Tinariwen, continuing the Saharan theme. Begun in 1992, the musicians of Tinariwen are all from the Adrar des Iforas in the Republic of Mali, and their subject matter reflects the exile and wandering situation of the Tuareg people, officials say.

Finding refuge in the 1970s in Tamanrasset in Algeria, the band's musi-

cal style entitled "Tishoumaren" focuses on political consciousness and approaches the problematic aspects of the exile; of the oppression in Mali and of the political policy of the expulsion to Algeria.

The band first performed for the Libyan barracks, leading to some of the members enlisting in the Libyan army. Over the years, the band has evolved from its grassroots origins to what is considered to be the pioneer of Tuareg music, and has a cultural impact on youth in Algeria, Libya, Mali and Niger, according to officials.

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.santamonicapier.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 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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STATE



Voting booth burnout for California's voters

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Is there such a thing as too much democracy?

California voters are in the midst of what might seem like a never-ending election cycle — soon to decide their fourth statewide election in two years — and some of them are starting to get burned out.

The cavalcade of candidates and ballot propositions — dating to the October 2003 election that put Arnold Schwarzenegger in office — has left many weary of the baggage that goes along with the elections: the high cost, the finger-pointing and the barrage of television commercials.

"I'm not looking forward to another special election," said 61-year-old retiree Mike Wells. "I'm not too happy."

Schwarzenegger's determination to get a tighter grip on the state budget and retool a Legislature known for its political extremes has led to the November special election. Eight initiatives have qualified for the November ballot, and the number could grow even larger by Election Day.

After years of runaway spending and increasing public debt, the governor has argued his "Year of Reform" initiatives are critical to changing the way state government operates. His supporters are equally eager to push for the ballot measures this year, rather than waiting until the state's June 2006 primary.

"I have no patience for folks who say, 'I have voter-fatigue,'" Fresno Mayor Alan Autry, a fellow Republican, said after Schwarzenegger called the special election last month. "The governor's trying to solve problems. I fully support him."

The governor's proposals would give him a stronger hand in state spending, redraw congressional and legislative districts and raise the bar for teachers to obtain tenure.

Other measures would require minors seeking abortions to get parental approval, reregulate the state's energy market and lower prescription drug prices.

But that could be just the start. The ballot could become more crowded — and confusing — if Schwarzenegger and legislators reach compromises that could

place other measures before voters in November.

If that were to happen, the governor would have to persuade voters to reject his initial offerings in favor of the compromises.

"Confusion about issues on the ballot is a considerable barrier for voters in the state," said Kim Alexander of the California Voter Foundation, an advocacy group. "My fear is people who are burned out may choose to sit home."

If recent polls are any indication, Schwarzenegger may face an uphill battle. A May survey by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that California voters view Schwarzenegger's special election an unnecessary imposition.

"People scratch their heads and say, 'Why are we doing this?'" said Democratic consultant Kam Kuwata.

Californians have long prized their system of direct democracy, in which any group that collects enough signatures can place a proposal on the ballot. At least 86 initiatives were proposed this year — a record — although most never qualify for the ballot.

But at times it can seem like too much.

Schwarzenegger barely finished the oath of office in November 2003 before the presidential election kicked into gear. There was a spring 2004 primary, followed by the November election, in which voters had to wade through a list of candidates for president, U.S. Senate, the state Legislature and 16 ballot questions that touched on issues from slot machines to DNA databases.

Then there were local elections. Los Angeles residents, for example, had a primary and runoff election for mayor this year. That means a voter could have been to the polls five times since October 2003, or an average of about once every four months.

Beyond possible voter fatigue, the state's perpetual election cycle has led to resentment about the expense — the November special election is projected to cost taxpayers more than \$50 million.

Los Angeles bus driver Stephen Beverly wondered if schools and hospitals could use the money that will be put toward the special election: "I find it contradictory that the governor talks about saving taxpayer money," said Beverly, 46.

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Business

Mid-year outlook: Caution and opportunity



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

It has been said that of the emotions, fear is among the most powerful motivators.

Investors in recent years can certainly confirm the reality of that statement. Fear of monetary loss can be a very influential modifier of behavior, and at extreme levels it can lead people to avoid even low-risk activities. But while exercising a certain degree of caution is always a healthy attribute when investing, investors should be careful not to overlook opportunities.

Take the example of stock market investors just five years ago, during the run up before the "tech bubble" burst. Despite the fact that the market was at all-time highs, fear of missing big gains led many people to throw caution to the wind and invest even more in an already inflated market. Today, on the other hand, fear of big losses — which is exactly what happened to many equity investors immediately following those all-time highs — now leads many to forget about prudent opportunism.

Successful investors find a way to ignore the classic emotions that tend to cause problems when making investment

decisions. When others see nothing but big profits in the immediate future, "prudent opportunists" employ a more disciplined approach that emphasizes caution. Conversely, those same investors look for opportunities for profit when most are overcome by fear of loss.

In today's market, those two polar extremes appear to be at work simultaneously. Many investors are betting on the profit potential of real assets — especially real estate — but at the same time they remain fearful of financial assets, especially stocks. Replacing that fear with caution and opportunism should bode well for investors going forward.

In addition to the dynamics at play in the market, current economic conditions also are leaving investors a bit unsettled. Adding to investor anxiety is the fact the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates due to the fact that policymakers believe that the economy no longer needs the help of rates that were at record lows.

When the Fed raises rates, many investors fear those higher rates could negatively impact economic growth. In fact, by "stepping on the brakes" and raising rates, the Federal Reserve has helped create a climate that will actually help sustain the recovery by keeping inflation low. Economic growth has cooled — but not stopped — and inflation has remained relatively modest despite rising oil prices.

Helping keep inflation in check, commodity prices also have pulled back

slightly. Simply put, this means businesses aren't spending quite as much to manufacture their products or to re-invest in their business. Barring unforeseen developments, all of these factors should help sustain consumer spending, business investment and the economic recovery.

Given the state of the market and the economy today, those who take the "glass-half-empty" view may think they can make a case for what they have to fear. On the other hand, there is certainly a "glass-half-full" argument to be made, and investors who work diligently to find

opportunities in this market could be pleasantly surprised by what they encounter.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. Hepp can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

Plan for collecting capital



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

One topic that I frequently am asked about in my business development practice is "How do I get working capital?"

So to answer that question I am going to write about my own company, and what we are going through to raise additional working capital.

There are two main phases in a company's life cycle, and depending on which one your company is in, that will generally dictate the amount of money, the type of investor and what you have to give up, in order to raise additional working capital.

For the company that is still someone's dream, that has not left the drawing board, there are several immediate ways to develop working capital. Usually there is the friends and family round of investing. They are generally not very sophisticated business people, and mostly are giving an unproven business money, because they love you.

On the other side of the coin are the venture capitalists and angel financiers. These are people who are professional gamblers — they just don't go to Vegas as much as they take flyers on people they are willing to believe in.

The company that has not gotten off the ground is a hard sale. Anyone who has ever dealt with a pie-eyed wanna-be entrepreneur knows the look of enthusiasm and glee at the prospect of opening their own business. They have dreams of millions of dollars flowing into their till.

Sadly, this is not a good prospect for someone to invest in. They have an unrealistic view of their business and the prospects for success because they think that it's a way to work less. In general, most entrepreneurs find that they are working more than when they had a regular job. The second phase of a company's life cycle is when actual operations have begun, revenues have been generated, and a client base has been developed. This is an easier sale to friends and family, and to venture capitalists.

The reason why is that, like my sleep apnea testing company, the product has been proven, the market is there, the internal problems have been worked out. Once a company has a year's worth of revenues and operations on the books, it becomes much easier to make realistic projections. Part of the problem with getting

investors in a business venture has to do with the "show me" factor. People like to be shown something that's real. If they can touch it, feel it, smell it, see it, they can then put themselves in the picture.

When you are trying to get someone to give you money to build your business, it is much easier if you have something tangible to put in their hands.

Take my sleep apnea testing company. We are raising funds from individuals based on what is called a "private placement." We are soliciting funds from people who are either accredited investors, or people with whom we have a pre-existing relationship. This allows us to raise funds without the costs that we would incur, if we were to float an initial public offering.

Additionally, it allows us to take on investors at a much faster rate, and because we are a smaller company, we can be more flexible with our investors. We have a smaller buy-in than most IPOs. I have one investor who is interested in taking on an administrative position with the company, in addition to making an investment. This would be one way that he can feel more secure about his investment, and it allows us to have a stronger administrative team.

Part of the process of preparing for a private placement is drafting a business plan and creating projections. Projections are really nothing more than educated guesses. For the most part, when a company is doing projections and they do not have actual operational experience, it is a shot in the dark. No experienced business person or academic, ever accepts the projections as real. There are always contingent costs that are higher than expected.

However, when you are doing projections based on a going concern, your credibility factor goes way up. With my sleep apnea testing lab, my revenue projections are based on actual experience of what an insurance company will pay for a test, and what the technicians make on an hourly basis. The projections come with a reliability factor that's generally higher.

People prefer to see the real thing in action, which is why having actual checks that you can hold and show, makes it so much easier for someone so see the opportunity that they are being presented.

The next step is the difference between individuals and investor groups. Groups like an institutional investment fund have a process for evaluating opportunities and you must go through their hoops to get to their money.

(David Pizarra can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

New company offers Hollywood's cozy side

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica is soon to welcome a new boutique production company.

The new company, called Snug, is the project of director Michael Grasso and executive producer Fran Wall. The goal of the new company is to provide a client-focused environment that is different from most other production companies.

"We want to keep Snug small and focused with an attitude that tells clients, 'hey, we're here, we understand your problems and we'll work together to help solve them,'" Grasso said.

Grasso has had extensive directorial experience. His past projects include campaigns for the Halliburton Company, Fannie Mae, Land Rover, Bank of America, Dr. Pepper, American Airlines, and many more. In 1993, he partnered with award-winning director James Gartner where he first worked with executive producer Diane McArter. Grasso and McArter eventually formed Omaha Pictures in 1996, which stands as one of the top production companies in the U.S.

Grasso's partner, Wall, brings over two decades of commercial production business experience. She has served as executive producer at Cielo Films, where she worked with such directors as David Lunch, Wim Wenders and Guy Ritchie. Wall also acted as head of production for OneSuch Films, and served as a freelance producer/production manager.

Both Wall and Grasso anticipate the success of Snug Films, which is located at 1221 Ocean Ave., suite 404 in Santa Monica. Clients are offered multiple conference spaces, a full business center, valet parking, and a roof-top pool and deck. Visit www.snugfilms.com, e-mail info@snugfilms.com, or call (310) 451-7374 for more information.

Art workshops being offered

By Daily Press staff

Community members are given another opportunity to explore their artistic side.

Ten Women Venice, a co-op art and gift gallery, will hold a series of workshops called "Art in the Garden." Participants can create a glass tile or suncatcher with Ten Women member artist Kristin duCharme. Also the owner of Firework Studio, duCharme is an exhibiting fine artist and educator who specializes in fused glass sculpture and jewelry.

The workshops will take place on Saturday, July 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Sunday, Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The instruction and material fee is \$60, and space is limited. Ten Women Venice is located at 1237 Abbot Kinney Blvd. in Venice. For workshop reservations or more information, call (310) 452-2256.

Rolling over IRAs worth mulling over



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

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.

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 trans-

fer 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.

ROLL OVER 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.

ROLLOVERS CONTINUE TAX DEFERRAL

If you decide to roll over your retirement assets into an IRA Rollover Account, taxes on your distribution will be deferred until you begin making withdrawals.

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.

(Kirk Aguer can be reached at the Santa Monica Morgan Stanley branch at (310) 319-5220.)

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bush looks to Galvan-ize the SBA

By Daily Press staff

WASHINGTON — President Bush has designated U.S. Small Business Administration Chief of Staff Stephen Galvan as acting deputy administrator of the agency.

Galvan will continue to serve as the SBA's chief of staff and chief operating officer, positions he has held since July 2004. He also has served as the agency's chief information officer. Galvan is a native of Chicago.

As SBA's acting deputy administrator, Galvan serves as second in command in managing an agency with more than 80 offices across the country. He is responsible for overseeing policy development and program supervision for the SBA.

Before coming to the SBA, Galvan served as E-Government portfolio manager for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). There, he used modern technology to improve internal federal government processes to reduce costs in areas such as supply-chain management, financial management and knowledge management.

Galvan, a former entrepreneur, has extensive business and information technology management experience in telecommunications, media, utilities, consumer products and insurance industries. He has worked for Fortune 500 companies and consulting firms.

SBA announces web chat series

By Daily Press staff

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the kick off of a live web chat series for small business owners on entrepreneurship, beginning in July, to engage business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in a national dialogue about the issues that matter to them most.

The live web chat series will provide business owners with the opportunity to have an exchange on relevant business issues with real-world industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs. Participants will converse online in real-time, having direct access to the Web chats via questions they will provide, and be able to receive instant answers to their questions.

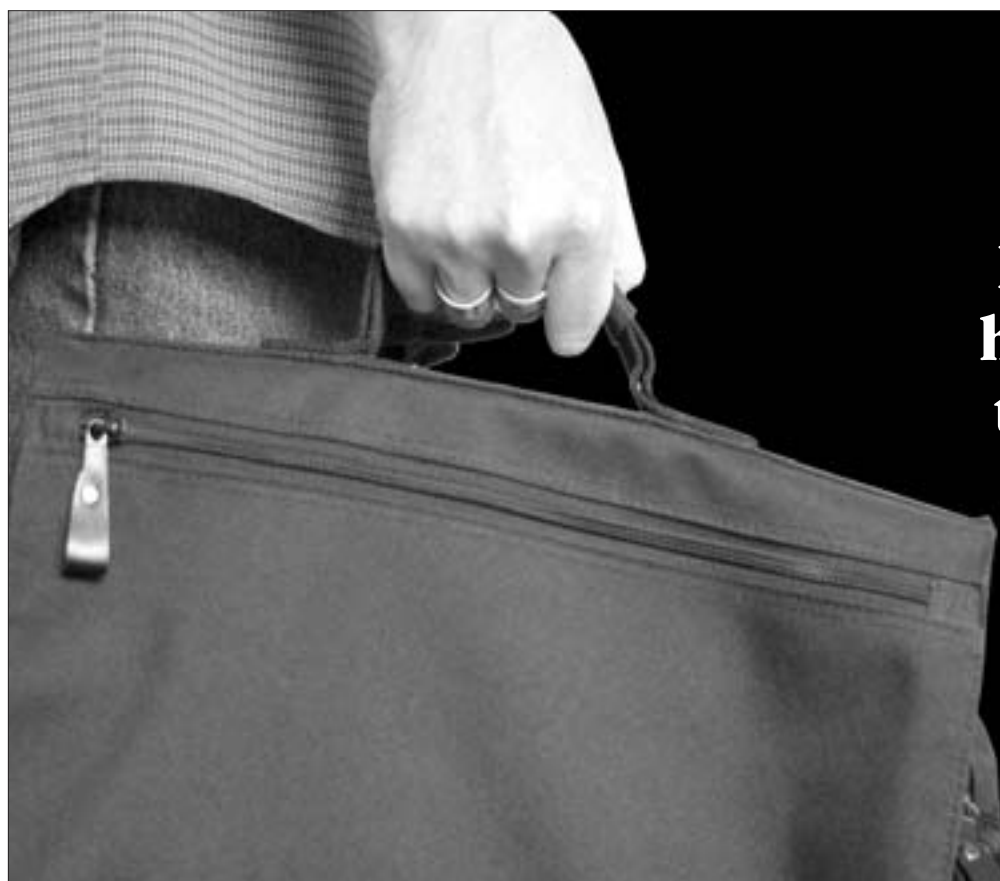
Kicking off the first chat will be J. Scott Plank, chief administrative officer of Under Armour Performance Apparel, on Thursday, July 21 at 10 a.m.

The web chat will focus on "entrepreneurship: innovative strategies for small business growth." Plank will share the story of helping to build a multi-million dollar business with other entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners, as well as provide insight on the successes and challenges of entrepreneurship.

Under Armour Performance Apparel was inducted into the SBA's 2005 Hall of Fame, awarded to former small businesses that received early-stage SBA assistance. Under Armour, headquartered in Baltimore, Md., is the originator of performance apparel, a line of moisture wicking microfiber clothing that pulls perspiration away from the skin to keep athletes cool, dry and light throughout the course of a game, practice or workout. The company employs more than 450 people, and received the SBA honor based on its exemplary leadership in the business community, innovation, growth and job creation.

Participants can join the live web chat by going online to www.sba.gov and clicking "Your Small Business Voice Live Online."

Plank will answer questions for approximately one hour. Participants may also post a question for Plank before the July 21 Web chat by visiting the same Web page and posting their question online. The live web chats will be held monthly on a variety of small business topics. For details on future live web chats, go to www.sba.gov.

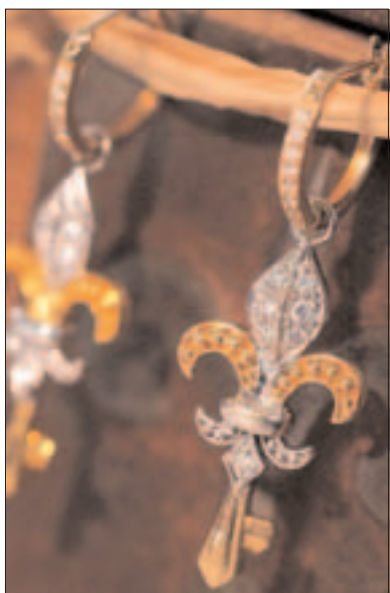


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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Louis Scheeder, director of 'All's Well That Ends Well' on Monday coaches Arnell Powell, who plays 'Parolles.' The Shakespeare Santa Monica theater company has been rehearsing since June to prepare for tonight's premiere at the Miles Playhouse.

Young actors in good company

SHAKESPEARE, from page 1

The outdoor performances are an attempt to reconnect with the roots of community theater, which were largely held on grass tennis courts and lawns as early as the 1500s.

Last year's inaugural production of "Much Ado About Nothing," also directed by Scheeder and performed at Reed Park, attracted about 1,000 people of all ages within the community.

This year, Farmanesh-Bocca, the founding artistic director and producer of Shakespeare Santa Monica, hopes the two productions attract a combined 3,000 people. His dream is to grow the community theater production in Santa Monica so that it eventually has multiple venues, possibly even on the beach and at other parks.

"Free Shakespeare is a cultural phenomenon that every world-savvy community should have," Farmanesh-Bocca said. "I was interested in doing something in Santa Monica because I wanted to fill that vacancy."

Farmanesh-Bocca has assembled a company of young and established talent from both coasts to present Shakespeare in what he describes as a vital, rigorous and contemporary style.

The 25 actors and their mentors arrived in Santa Monica at the end of May, training and rehearsing ever since.

"Just because it's free doesn't mean it shouldn't have the highest quality," Farmanesh-Bocca said, adding he strives for the same caliber of performance as what's seen on stages off-Broadway and in the south of London. "Although our production values are modest, we try to be as absolutely elegant as possible."

The company focuses on training actors as its first goal, with live performances being offered in Santa Monica as a bonus for both participants and residents. The actors, some of whom are theater graduates and working professionals, and others who are still students, paid between \$10 and \$15 for each of the 70 hours of training they received prior to rehearsal.

Company members spent the first three weeks in training and another three and a half weeks in rehearsal, for a combined total of 100 hours of painstaking, detailed work under the direction of some of the best theater and drama instructors in the country.

To receive the kind of instruction from a professor of Scheeder's caliber would require spending nearly \$60,000 for two years at NYU, before making it into his class — since he only teaches third- and fourth-year students, Farmanesh-Bocca said.

Farmanesh-Bocca is a graduate of NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing and just finished a two-year

directing fellowship at The Juilliard School in Manhattan. Combined, the two directors have decades of experience both on and off stage in theater production throughout the United States and in other countries.

Actors involved in this year's production say the instruction from Scheeder and Farmanesh-Bocca complement one another.

"Louie's style is very simple — you play actions, you breathe, you drop your jaw," said Danielle Levanas, who studied under Scheeder at NYU and plays Juliet in the Santa Monica production. "He seems to be traditional, but he's not. He's open to anything."

Farmanesh-Bocca, who studied under Scheeder and describes him as one of his mentors, said Scheeder loves to work and is straightforward in his teaching. At the same time, he challenges his students.

"He begs actors to argue with him so he can win," Farmanesh-Bocca joked.

Camron Robertson, who plays Bertram in "All's Well That Ends Well," said that technique works well in challenging him to be a better actor.

"(Scheeder) does a really good job of showing you how it works," Robertson said.

Actors receive comprehensive instruction in voice, acting and text, as well as learning how to play actions, move on stage, access emotions and feelings and learn how to perform verse, which in Shakespeare plays, is especially detailed because it deals with the iambic pentameter — the building block of poetic forms and a rhythmical pattern of syllables. The "iambic" part means that the rhythm goes from an unstressed syllable to a stressed one, while the "pentameter" part means that the iambic rhythm is repeated five times.

To master that art, actors spent two weeks receiving direction from Ralph Zito, chairman of the voice and speech department at The Juilliard School of Drama.

The rest of the training comes from Scheeder and Farmanesh-Bocca, who are meticulous in their work. At rehearsal earlier this week, Scheeder commanded the upstairs of the Miles Playhouse, working and reworking the actors' physical presence on stage. Meanwhile, Farmanesh-Bocca sat around a table downstairs with other performers repeatedly going over pronunciation of verse, particularly the "O," for hours.

"There is a lot of verse work ... word by word, thought by thought, line by line," Farmanesh-Bocca said. "We start at the table, pause at a line of 10, so they can start a new thought ... it assists the actors to see what they are feeling on stage and it helps them so they don't get up in front of a group and lock up."

See SHAKESPEARE, page 11

LOCAL



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

From left to right: Tim Halligan, actor; John Farmanesh-Bocca, director; Danielle Levanas and Anna Greenfield, both of whom play 'Juliet' go over lines of 'Romeo and Juliet.'

A case of the Shakes hath cast at the ready

SHAKESPEARE, from page 10

The actors, who range in age from 20 to 50, not only benefit from the instruction — they are able to take what they've learned and apply it almost immediately.

"One thing that I love is that it's not just performing, it's also the training," Levanas said. "There are not a lot of companies that do that. Plus, community theater is a benefit for Santa Monica, which I like."

About 80 percent of the actors have had some experience with Shakespeare and about half of them have worked with either Scheeder or Farmanesh-Bocca previously. Around half performed in the Santa Monica company last year.

So far, the company has not had to hold auditions — the actors either come from referral or hear about the production through word of mouth.

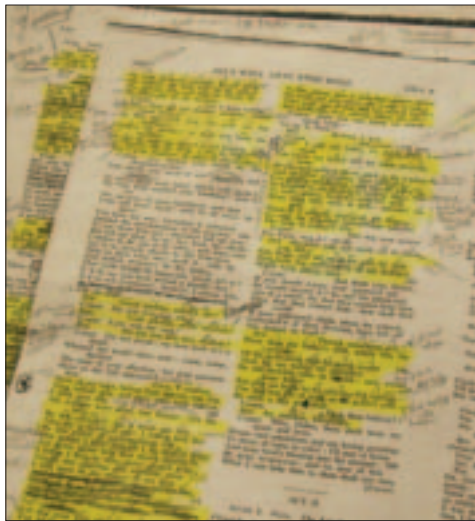
"We try to mix it up, and every year it feels like a new company," Farmanesh-Bocca said. "We are trying to bring (the actors) tools that allow them to be the most expressive and communicative ... to have a real experience they can share with the audience on stage."

"That is training at its best."

The production is sponsored in part by the city of Santa Monica's cultural affairs division, which is beginning to focus on more cultural programming within the community's open space, based on feedback it has received from the public in the past few months.

"Small theater productions are really growing in Santa Monica," said Jessica Cusick, who has been working with Farmanesh-Bocca this year. "We feel that it's a benefit to the community to have free Shakespeare in Santa Monica, and it was well attended last year. We hope attendance grows even more this year."

While acknowledging that the production is still a pilot program here, Farmanesh-Bocca hopes to make Shakespeare in Santa Monica a summer tradition. But first, he wants to make sure



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

An actor's notes of 'All's Well That Ends Well' written by William Shakespeare.

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Shakespeare in Santa Monica is free. However, because of limited seating, reservations are recommended.

Reservations can be made by calling the Powerhouse Theatre Hotline at 1-800-OFF-MAIN or by going to the Powerhouse Theatre Web site at www.powerhousetheatre.com. For more information about Shakespeare Santa Monica, including exact show dates and performance times, visit www.shakespearesantamonica.com.

it's done right in the formative years. That requires building credibility within the community and at City Hall, as well as attracting sponsors to take the financial burden off of the students.

"We want to make sure we do what we say we are going to do," he said. "If people find what we are doing valuable they should write to the cultural affairs division and to the city and request their continued support."

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NATIONAL

Mad cow mystery has court looking to Canada

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE - Whether it's protecting profits or consumer health, the U.S. meat industry has a lot riding on the Agriculture Department's effort to reopen the border to Canadian cattle, which have been banned since Canada's first case of mad cow disease was discovered in May 2003.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture insists it is safe to resume the imports, despite the ruling of a Montana federal judge who sided with U.S. ranchers who fear dire economic and health consequences from a mad cow outbreak in the United States.

On Wednesday, a panel of judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hears the Bush administration's challenge to the ruling by U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull of Billings, who said the USDA decision "subjects the entire U.S. beef industry to potentially catastrophic damages" and "presents a genuine risk of death for U.S. consumers."

Mad cow disease is the common name for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. People who eat meat tainted with BSE can contract a degenerative, fatal brain disorder called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or vCJD. More than 150 people died from it following a 1986 outbreak in the United Kingdom.

The dispute between ranchers - whose profits have improved slightly without Canadian competition - and feedlots and packers - which have fewer cows to feed and slaughter without Canadian supplies - became more complicated two weeks ago, when the government revealed that a 12-year-old cow born in Texas tested positive for BSE.

Ranchers, who sued under the Montana-based lobbying group Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers, said the infected Texas cow shows the need for a closed border, to prevent an epidemic.

But Philip Olsson of the National Meat Association, a trade group representing packers, processors, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, said the Texas cow deflates the ranchers' argument that consumers would lose their appetite for U.S. meat if Canadian cattle were allowed in.

"They're not telling anybody not to eat their meat now, are they?" Olsson asked.

And some industry watchdogs say the argument is really all about profits, not consumer health. After all, Canadian and U.S. cattle had been cross-breeding for so many years that they are equally at risk, according to The Center for Media and Democracy in Madison, Wis., an advocacy group that has closely followed the issue.

Also, Canada and the United States each test about 1 percent of the herd at slaughter, compared to 25 percent by the European Union and 100 percent in Japan, which has barred both U.S. and Canadian cattle, said Diane Farsetta, a senior researcher at the center whose work supported the 1997 book, "Mad Cow USA: Could the Nightmare Happen Here?"

"Just looking at it strictly from the health perspective, neither Canada nor the United States is doing what it needs to do," Farsetta said. "There is an artificial political and economic distinction being made between the two countries right now."

The situation has U.S. ranchers facing down packers and feedlots.

"One fear, if they let those cattle come in and more cases of BSE turn up, we could lose consumer confidence, and people are gonna shy away from us," said Jon Wooster, who operates a family owned cattle ranch in the Central California town of San Lucas. Wooster says he now sells his cattle for more than 80 cents a pound, and was getting more than \$1, up from about 70 cents right before Canadian cows were banned.

But profits have declined at packers and feedlots, which are paying the higher prices for cattle to process.

They say Canada's cattle are safe, and that the ranchers are more interested in monopolizing supplies than protecting the meat-eating public.

Cody Easterday runs a feedlot that has been in his family for three generations outside the town of Pasco, Wash. He says he may go out of business rather than purchase cows 1,500 miles away in the Midwest, compared to about 550 miles in the Canadian province of Alberta.

"It's pretty bleak," he said. "The local processor here is only running about 24 hours a week, compared to 40 to 48 hours a week before. "We all know that the cattle from Canada is safe. This is protectionism."

The National Meat Association says its members have lost \$1.7 billion in revenue because of fewer cows being processed in the U.S., idling some packing houses and prompting layoffs.

Americans' appetite for beef is being supplemented by imports, including Canadian beef that is processed to remove BSE-susceptible parts - brains, bones, eyes and spinal cords - before crossing the border.

The ranchers have found allies in some state leaders - Montana, Connecticut, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota oppose reopening the border. Mike McGrath, Montana's attorney general, said the USDA's rule places meat eaters at risk of dying from contaminated food.

Judge Cebull noted that four of 40,000 tested cows in Alberta were found positive, but the Bush administration argues that the four cows were older than 30 months. Scientists believe younger cows present less risk of spreading mad cow disease, and the USDA has made 30 months the cutoff age for importation.

"The court ignored the fact that none of the cattle infected with BSE would have been eligible for import under the secretary's rule because they were older than 30 months," Justice Department attorney Joshua Waldman said.

Resort hopes skiers want chilly reception

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

VAIL, Colo. - With the next ski season still months away, Vail Resorts Inc. has turned its attention to hotels, completing a summer blizzard of multimillion-dollar deals that have pushed its stock price near a 52-week high.

Since December, Vail Resorts has sold at least three properties and acquired full ownership of a Jackson, Wyo., lodge it may end up selling.

The transactions are part of a shift in strategy from owning hotels to just managing them while capitalizing on the healthy real estate market.

Investors appeared to endorse the concept as Vail Resorts' stock closed up 4 cents at \$29.34 Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange. It has ranged from \$17.63 a share to \$29.73 in the past year.

Analyst Dennis McAlpine of McAlpine Associates said Vail Resorts can free up capital by selling the properties and keeping the lucrative management contracts.

"They're saying rather than hang onto this stuff and ride a real estate boom back down we're going to sell it," he said. "People are agreeing with their philosophy at the moment."

Vail Resorts Chairman and CEO Adam Aron declined comment Wednesday.

Aron first mentioned the hotel strategy in September as the company sold a 49 percent stake in the Ritz-Carlton at Beaver Creek for \$13 million to a joint venture of Lehman BC and Gencom BC. At the time, he said he planned to sell up to four hotels in the next 18 months.

"It wasn't a major departure in our diversification strategy, it was just manage more, own less and capitalize for shareholders on some of the inherent value in our hotel asset holdings," Aaron told analysts during a June conference call.

In May, Vail Resorts purchased the remaining 49 percent share of the Snake River Lodge & Spa near Grand Teton National Park without disclosing the price. The company since has hired an advisory firm to look into the feasibility of selling the Wyoming lodge.

Vail Resorts last month sold the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa for \$62 million to DiamondRock Hospitality Limited Partnership while retaining a 15-year management contract.

It also has a contract to sell the Lodge at Rancho Mirage in California for \$33 million to a partnership led by Miami-based Gencom Group but will have a multi-year management contract.



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NATIONAL



Hundreds return home as wildfires are snuffed

By The Associated Press

BEULAH, Colo. — Residents were allowed to return home Wednesday as crews steadily extended containment lines around a 12,200-acre wildfire that had forced the evacuation of an estimated 5,000 people.

The entire town of Beulah and two subdivisions outside the town were reopened to residents, but Pueblo County sheriff's spokesman Steve Bryant said he did not know how many people had left. About 1,200 people live within the town.

Beulah resident Bob Marino said he was "tickled pink" when he returned to see his home still standing. He was unable to reach his house when he returned from a fishing trip Monday, a day after the town was evacuated.

"It's like hitting the lotto," said Marino, 59. "I'm going out for a steak dinner."

Bryant said everyone in Pueblo County was allowed to return, while Custer County dispatchers reported all evacuation orders were lifted. About 100 residents in a Greenwood subdivision, who were the first told to leave their homes last week when the fire began, had been allowed to return home earlier this week.

The fire was 40 percent contained by Wednesday morning, up from 30 percent the day before.

The fire was burning in dry, steep terrain in the Wet Mountains about 150 miles south of Denver.

"Monday we got a toehold and yesterday we put a foot in," Steinke said.

Ground crews massed Wednesday on the southern and southeastern edge of the fire.

"That's the area we really need to get buttoned up today. We have open lines there and it leads to Beulah," Steinke said.

No injuries were reported and no homes burned, but more than 1,000 houses, outbuildings and other structures were listed as threatened.

About 800 firefighters, eight helicopters, nine air tankers and 56 fire trucks were on the scene.

The lightning-caused fire, which started July 6 and has

cost \$2.6 million to fight so far.

Steinke said fire managers were upbeat Wednesday morning and could set a target date for full containment as early as Wednesday evening.

In southern Arizona, meanwhile, about 30 summer homes and lodges were evacuated southeast of Tucson after a 9,260-acre blaze jumped containment lines.

The evacuations in Madera Canyon were being done primarily as a precaution, firefighting officials said. Fire crews want people out of the canyon so they can continue building fire lines there and because there is only one road out of the canyon, said Bill Watt, a spokesman for the team fighting the fire.

"It's a potentially dangerous situation because there is one road, one exit out," Watt said. "We're not in an emergency situation. We have the opportunity to move these folks out in an orderly and unhurried fashion."

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Police comb haunts of four bombing suspects

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

LEEDS, England - Police removed materials from tidy single-family houses Wednesday in this northern city that is home to a large Muslim community, searching for evidence in the neighborhoods where three of the four suspected London suicide bombers lived.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that a fifth suspect is being sought, citing unidentified sources. Police refused to comment.

In a series of raids on six residences Tuesday, police hunted for explosives and computer files that could lead to the mastermind behind what were believed to be the first suicide bombings in Western Europe. They arrested a man, identified by the British news agency Press Association as a relative of one of the suspected bombers.

At least three Britons of Pakistani descent are suspected of carrying out the July 7 attacks that killed 52 and injured 700. Surveillance cameras captured the men as they arrived in the capital 20 minutes before the explosions began.

News reports have identified three of the four as Shahzad Tanweer, a 22-year-old cricket-loving sports science graduate; Hasib Hussain, 19; and Mohammed Sidique Khan, the 30-year-old father of an 8-month-old baby. Press Association, citing police sources, said police had identified the fourth suspect, but no name was reported.

Police have not publicly confirmed any of the identities. Investigators will now have to determine whether the men acted alone - or had help in planning the bombings.

Tanweer's uncle, Bashir Ahmed, said his nephew had gone to Pakistan earlier this year to study religion, and that the family believed he was attending "some religious function" on the day of the bombings.

"It was total shock, I mean, it's unbelievable," Ahmed told reporters.

"Our lives have been shattered. It's impossible to describe it. We have had a very pleasant time here. I don't think we can continue here."

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair met with British Muslim lawmakers and pledged to open dialogue to tackle a "perverted and poisonous misinterpretation" of Islam. He also said his government would begin consultations on new anti-terrorism legislation.

Addressing the House of Commons, Blair said the government also would look urgently at how to strengthen the process for excluding from the United Kingdom those who incite hatred and make it easier to deport such people.

Neighbors of Tanweer in Leeds' rows of Victorian-era red brick houses were apprehensive and hostile, walking past reporters gathered at the cordons. One warehouse worker, who would only give his first name, Saj, said Tanweer was a "good lad" and athlete.

"He was quiet," he said. "He was religious. He went to every mosque here.

There are loads of mosques here."

Press Association said the men had driven a rental car to Luton, 30 miles north of London, and then boarded a commuter train to London's King's Cross station. Police closed Luton's train station Tuesday and carried out nine controlled explosions on a parked car, which the BBC reported contained explosives.

Closed-circuit TV video showed all four men arriving at King's Cross by 8:30 a.m. on July 7, about 20 minutes before the blasts began, said Peter Clarke, head of the Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist branch.

U.S. intelligence agencies are checking the names of the men against their databases looking for any U.S. connection, President Bush told chief executives Tuesday at the White House.

Two militant Islamic groups have claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Although police stopped short of calling them suicide attacks, Clarke said "strong forensic and other evidence" suggests one of the suspects was killed in a subway bombing and property belonging to the three others was found at the sites of the other blasts.

"The investigation quite early led us to have concerns about the movements and activities of four men, three of whom came from the West Yorkshire area," Clarke said.

The West Yorkshire region includes Leeds, and the homes of the three suspects from the city were among the six searched Tuesday.

Acting on six warrants, British soldiers blasted their way into an unoccupied Leeds row house. Streets were cordoned off and about 500 people were evacuated. Hours earlier, police searched five homes elsewhere in the city. Police still were not letting the evacuees return to their homes early Wednesday.

Mohammed Iqbal, a town councilor who represents the City-on-Hunslet section of Leeds, told The Associated Press that all of the homes raided belong to "British citizens of Pakistani origin."

Three of the homes were in the neighborhood he represents, Iqbal told the AP.

"This is not good for Muslims," Iqbal said. "We have businesses here. There will be a backlash."

Several officials, including Foreign Minister Jack Straw, have said the attacks bore the "hallmark" of al-Qaida, and one of the questions investigators presumably are trying to answer is whether the four had outside help in planning the attacks.

Jeremy Shapiro, director of research at

the center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution, said Europeans had been involved in suicide attacks in the Middle East, but he knew of no previous such bombings in Western Europe.

Clarke said police had strong evidence that the man believed to have carried a bomb onto the subway train that exploded between the Aldgate and Liverpool Street stations died in the blast, and they were awaiting confirmation from the coroner.

One of the suspects had been reported missing by his family at 10 p.m. Thursday, and some of his property was found on the double-decker bus in which 13 died, Clarke said.

"We have now been able to establish that he was joined on his journey to London by three other men," he said.

Investigators also found personal documents bearing the names of two of the other men near seats on the trains that exploded near the Aldgate and Edgware stations. Police did not identify the men.

Leeds, about 185 miles north of London, has a population of about 715,000. About 15 percent of residents are Muslim, and many come from a tight-knit Pakistani community, mostly from Mirpur, south of Islamabad in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. Other pockets of the community are mostly Arab.

Khalid Muneer, 28, a spokesman for the Hyde Park Mosque in Leeds, said the community was surprised by the raids and police claims that the bombers may have come from there.

"That connection would surprise us all, even shock the whole community. We still think it's too early to say," he told AP, adding that Muslims in the area were not opposed to Britain.

"I've seen no calls in this area for jihad against British or American forces."

Forensics experts have said it could take weeks to identify the bodies, many of which were blown apart and would have to be identified through dental records or DNA analysis. Investigators say 11 bodies have been identified.

In Brussels, Belgium, British Home Secretary Charles Clarke told a special European Union anti-terrorist meeting Wednesday the EU had to share more intelligence.

Clarke said help from European police and intelligence agencies has made "material differences" to the investigation into the London bombings, and he added that such cooperation proved that more could be done to prevent further attacks across Europe.

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INTERNATIONAL



Investigators wanted Guantanamo head to receive reprimand

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Interrogators subjected a suspected terrorist to abusive and degrading treatment, forcing him to wear a bra, dance with another man and behave like a dog, military investigators reported Wednesday, saying that justified their call for disciplinary action.

They said they recommended that Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller be reprimanded for failing to oversee his interrogation of the 9-11 suspect at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, commander of U.S. Southern Command, said he overruled their recommendation and will instead refer the matter to the Army's inspector general. Craddock concluded that Miller did not violate any U.S. laws or policies, according to officials familiar with the report.

Investigators described their findings before the Senate Armed Services Committee Wednesday. They were looking into allegations by FBI agents who say they witnessed abusive interrogation techniques at the Guantanamo prison for terrorist suspects.

The chief investigator, Air Force Lt. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt, described the interrogation techniques used on Mohamed al-Qahtani, a Saudi who was captured in December 2001 along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

It was learned later that he had tried to enter the U.S. in August 2001 but was turned away by an immigration agent at the Orlando, Fla., airport. Mohamed Atta, ringleader of the Sept. 11 hijackers, was in the airport at the same time, officials have said.

Schmidt said that to get him to talk, interrogators told him his mother and sisters were whores, forced him to wear a bra, forced him to wear a thong on his head, told him he was homosexual and said that other prisoners knew it. They also forced him to dance with a male interrogator, Schmidt added, and subjected him to strip searches with no security value, threatened him with dogs, forced him to stand naked in front of women and forced him onto a leash, to act like a dog.

Still, he said, "No torture occurred."

Al-Qahtani was provided food, water and medical care, he said. Together these techniques are degrading and abusive, he said. FBI agents raised their concerns about the techniques to Miller, and he should have monitored them, but he apparently took no action, Schmidt said.

"It is clear from the report that detainee mistreatment was not simply the product of a few rogue military police in a night shift," said Carl Levin of Michigan, the top Democrat on the committee. Bush administration officials have sought to portray the excesses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq as just that.

But Armed Services Chairman John Warner, R-Va., said investigators found only three instances, out of thousands of interrogations, where military personnel

violated Army policy. He did not immediately describe those incidents.

Investigators determined that interrogators violated the Geneva Conventions and Army regulations three times. It was unclear from the aide's description what those instances were.

The military investigation was conducted by Schmidt and Army Brig. Gen. John T. Furlow after the FBI agents' reports of abuse at Guantanamo surfaced last year. Craddock and the two investigators testified about their findings at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Wednesday.

Previous investigations of prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo have hurt U.S. standing worldwide.

No officer of Miller's rank or higher has been officially admonished in connection with any of the abuse scandals. Former Brig. Gen. Janice Karpinski, who was in charge of Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, is the highest-ranking officer to face punishment, despite calls from human rights groups to hold more senior leaders accountable.

Miller, a subject of criticism by human rights groups, took command of the prison camp at Guantanamo in late 2002 with a mandate to get more and better information from prisoners. He later went to Iraq to oversee detainee operations there. He is now stationed at the Pentagon in a position unrelated to prisoners.

According to investigators:

- A Female interrogator in one case smeared what she described as menstrual blood - it was fake - on a prisoner, but they recommended no further action on the allegation because it happened some time ago. The woman was disciplined, investigators said.

- A Navy officer threatened one high-value prisoner by saying he would go after his family. This was in violation of U.S. military law, the investigation found.

- Military interrogators impersonated FBI and State Department agents. This practice was stopped after the FBI complained.

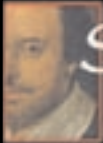
- Interrogators improperly used duct tape on a detainee. An FBI agent said a prisoner was bound on the head with duct tape, his mouth covered, because he was chanting verses from the Quran.

- Interrogators used cold, heat, loud music and sleep deprivation on prisoners to break their will to resist interrogation. These techniques were approved at certain times at Guantanamo.

- Chaining a detainee to the floor in a fetal position was not authorized; however, the investigation could not confirm an FBI agent's allegation that detainees were left in this position for long periods.

The report said the military should review how it determines the legal status of prisoners at Guantanamo, and decide what forms of treatment and interrogation techniques will be allowed.

Guantanamo holds 520 prisoners, while more than 230 others have been released or transferred to the custody of their home governments.



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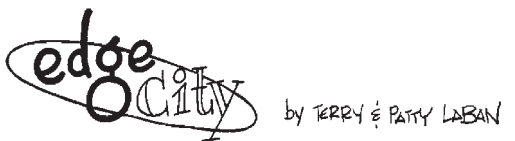
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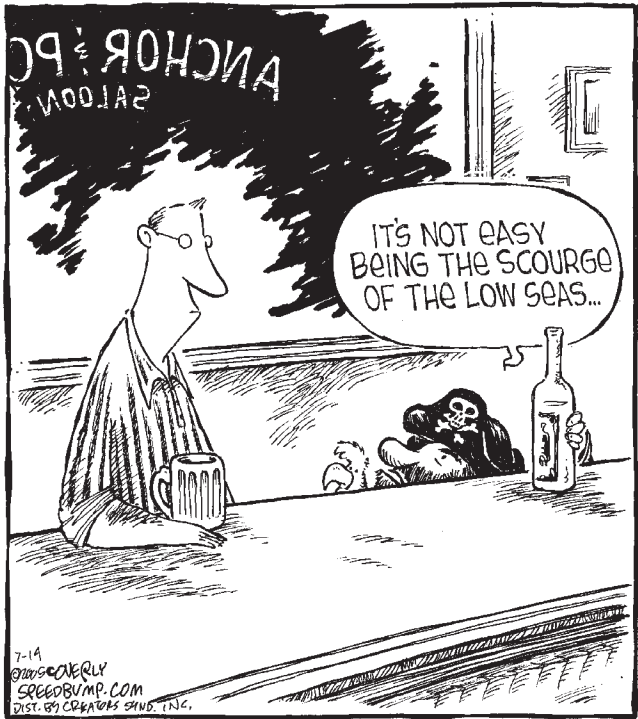
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- 34 Oscar nominee for "The Aviator"
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- 41 Bath-day cake
- 42 At a higher volume
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- 3 Swing Era hit
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- 6 Birmingham-born singer
- 7 Set
- 8 Galena, for one
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- 19 Trusted
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- 22 Haste
- 23 In the past
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CELEBRATING 67 YEARS IN SANTA MONICA

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ON ABOVE AVERAGE CREDIT - APR OFFER ONLY FOR C-CLASS AND M-CLASS MERCEDES-BENZ CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES AND TIER 1 CUSTOMERS ONLY.

CLS 500 IN STOCK NOW! IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!
\$65, SL, SLK, CL65, SL65, CLK CABS, SL55, E55 AMG, SL600

2005 C230 SPORT SED



\$329 10 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
 + 88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 39 MONTHS
 FULLY EQUIPPED

\$329.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$2179 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$2974 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$34,360. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. **OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.**

2006 E350 SEDAN



**W.I. SIMONSON
 EXCLUSIVE!**
**DEALER
 CONTRIBUTION
 \$500**
2006 E350 SEDAN
 ONLY

\$479 10 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
 + 88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 39 MONTHS

\$479.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$3866 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4661 less \$500 W.I. Simonson contribution = \$4161 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$50,770. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. **OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.**

2005 CLK 320



\$499 10 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
 + 88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 39 MONTHS

\$499.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$2816 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$3611 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$45,885. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. **OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.**

Mercedes-Benz
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MERCEDES-BENZ CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED PROGRAM INCLUDES
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STARTING AT ONLY

\$25,995

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2001 E320 VIN#314747 **\$27,995**
 2001 E430 VIN#052547 **\$31,995**
 2002 E320WAG VIN#430555 **\$31,995**
 2002 E320 VIN#490153 **\$33,995**
 2005 E500 VIN#664312 **\$55,995**

NAVIGATION

M-CLASS

STARTING AT ONLY

\$21,995

1 AT THIS PRICE '01 ML320 VIN#263221

2002 ML500 VIN#055227 **\$27,995**
 2003 ML350 VIN#438166 **\$30,995**
 2004 ML350 VIN#508335 **\$32,995**
THIRD ROW SEAT
 2002 ML55 AMG VIN#255768 **\$35,995**

OTHER MAKES AND MODELS

STARTING AT ONLY

\$15,995

1 AT THIS PRICE '03 JEEP GR CHEROKEE LTD VIN#521039

'02 RANGE ROVER 30K MI. VIN#436061 **\$24,995**
 '99 BMW M3 31K MI. VIN#C40170 **\$25,995**
 '04 JAGUAR X-TYPE 9K MI. VIN#D94237 **\$28,995**
 '02 BMW X5 38K MI. VIN#P57873 **\$31,995**

CL-CLASS

STARTING AT ONLY

\$49,995

1 AT THIS PRICE '00 CL500 VIN#005854

2000 CL500 VIN#005374 **\$54,995**
 2002 CL500 VIN#020678 **\$59,995**
 2002 CL500 VIN#023612 **\$59,995**
 2002 CL600 VIN#024453 **\$69,995**
 2005 CL500 VIN#044483 **\$84,995**

SPECIALTIES

STARTING AT ONLY

\$34,995

1 AT THIS PRICE '02 SLK32 AMG VIN#238621

2003 CLK500 VIN#043740 **\$39,995**
 2005 SLK350 VIN#005374 **\$49,995**
MANAGER'S SPECIAL
2002 CL600
 SILVER, 30K MILES, VIN#024453
\$69,995

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All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charges and any emission testing charge. Ad expires 07/11/05

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