

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
3, 9, 39, 12, 21

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 0, 6

Evening picks: 8, 7, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race Time: 1:42.52



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

Jessica Parks graduated from high school in Oakland County, Mich., in May, with high grades, a varsity letter in cheerleading, and other entirely typical achievements of high-performing teens, all done without benefit of arms, which she has been without since birth. Among her special skills: putting her contact lenses in with her toes, and driving her car with no special equipment, just one foot on the gas and one on the steering wheel. And in June, NewsChannel 4 in Oklahoma City featured Laura Stringfellow's dog Faith, whose front legs failed to develop and so now, at age seven months, has learned to walk and chase cats while on her hind legs.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nice guys finish last, but we get to sleep in."

— Evan Davis



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Go dancing, Sag 2



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Tenth victim dies in farmer's market crash

Police still investigating tragic car accident

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A 7-month-old boy became the 10th casualty in Wednesday's farmer's market tragedy.

The infant, identified as Brendon Esfahani, was the first casualty to arrive at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center. Emergency Room Medical Director Wally Ghurabi said he heard the child was limp in his mother's arms when police first arrived on the scene.

At the hospital, Esfahani was not breathing and had to be

revived. His air passageway was opened and he was stabilized before being transported to the pediatric ICU at the UCLA hospital in Westwood.

However, attempts to save him failed and he died at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Seven of the nine dead have been identified. At least one person, Movsha Hoffman, 78, is from Santa Monica. The LA Coroner's Office is waiting to notify the families of the other two before releasing their names. Autopsies are expected to be completed today.

Police estimated that 15 were critically injured on Wednesday and were taken to six different hospitals. It appears that four remain in critical condition — all

other patients have been upgraded to serious, stable or fair condition.

The driver, Russell Weller, 86, of Santa Monica, has not been charged in what appears to be an accident, though the investigation

is ongoing. The Santa Monica Police Department and the Los Angeles district attorney's office are working together on the case.

Santa Monica Police searched

See VICTIMS, page 6

List of victims who died in market accident:

Victim:	Date Of Birth:	Age:	City of residence:
Brendon Esfahani	12/02/02	7 mo.	Unknown
Cindy Palacios Valladares	07/07/00	3	Los Angeles
Molok Ghoulain	01/01/41	62	Los Angeles
Lynne Ann Weaver	09/24/55	47	Woodland Hills
Gloria Olivera Gonzalez	04/13/68	35	Venice
Movsha Hoffman	10/08/24	78	Santa Monica
Kevin McCarthy	04/12/53	50	Los Angeles
Diana Y. McCarthy	06/07/62	41	Los Angeles
Unidentified victim (Female)	07/26/52	50	Unknown
Unidentified victim (Male)	05/21/48	55	Unknown

Elderly suspect remains out of the public eye

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The man responsible for killing 10 people and wounding nearly 50 others Wednesday apparently remained secluded in his daughter's Santa Monica home Thursday after being questioned and released by police.

James Bianco, 86-year-old Russell Weller's lawyer, said on a Thursday visit to the Stanford Street residence there would be no comment from Weller. Friends and neighbors said he is crushed by the enormity of the tragedy he caused.

"He's so distraught right now and I think they need to be by themselves," said neighbor Herb Roney, who spoke with Weller's wife, Harriett, and daughter, Meredith, by telephone Thursday morning. "I doubt if he's even going to come home anytime soon."

Authorities are considering filing criminal charges against him.

Weller has reportedly not been home since he drove his car at what witnesses said was a high rate of speed through a crowded farmer's market on Arizona Avenue Wednesday afternoon. The car traveled two-and-a-half blocks, from Fourth Street to west of Second Street.

Weller's 1992 Buick Le Sabre has a six-cylinder engine that probably could have gone 0-60 mph in seven to eight seconds, said Jack Mirsky, a service advisor at Martin Cadillac in West LA.

"It's a small six cylinder but don't let it fool

See SUSPECT, page 7



John Wood/Daily Press

A man pauses to reflect at the victims' memorial on Third Street and Arizona Avenue.

City begins to grieve, heal

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN

Special to the Daily Press

Nearly 24 hours after a car plowed through a crowded farmer's market killing 10 people, Santa Monicans began to recover Thursday from what many considered the worst tragedy in city history.

As donors lined up to give blood for the injured at a Red Cross Bloodmobile and mourners laid flowers at a makeshift monument, local businesses along Arizona Avenue initially opened their doors to an empty street normally filled with customers.

"It's been eerie and quiet all morning," said Megan Sheehy, a manager at Lago restaurant on Third Street and Arizona. "I'm still in awe. Everything that happened was way too close for comfort."

Sheehy stood in front of Lago at noon Thursday and watched while police officials removed yellow tape that had blocked off Arizona Avenue, allowing the public to walk through the street for the first time since 1:47

See GRIEVE, page 6

Market will take place on Saturday

BY JASON AUSLANDER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Farmer's Market will take place on Saturday as usual, a city spokeswoman said Thursday.

"A number of farmers who were there (on Wednesday) said they would like to come

back," said city spokeswoman Judy Rambeau. "For the sake of the community we want to get back to normal operations as quickly as possible."

"We will not let this horrible thing ruin the goodness of the market."

Next Wednesday's market will go on as

See FARMER'S MARKET, page 7

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 18, 2003:

Many rare opportunities tumble into your lap. Visualize more of what you want. If you act on an instinctive level, you could be delighted by what comes down your path. Your emotional, knee-jerk reaction evokes much more of what you want. Consider going back to school or increasing your expertise in your chosen field. Travel also could play a role in your year. You will gain greater insight as a result. If you are single, you will meet people in most unanticipated ways and odd places. Fall presents you with quite a few travel and social opportunities. If you are attached, detach when getting into a power struggle, and you will find the right path more easily. Be more indulgent and understanding of your sweetie. ARIES pushes you professionally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You can sense a change in the astrological weather. Finish up some details and clear your desk. By late afternoon, you will be like a tiger stalking its prey, impossible to hold back. Integrate your need for security with what is going on around you. Tonight: You're all smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to make sure you're heading for success. If you're unsure, ask. Remain poised no matter where and when. You're in the driver's seat right now. Remain optimistic during a meeting. Tonight: Greet the weekend and get some much-needed sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Aim for a sense of completion at work, and you'll feel much better. Investigate the possibilities that become possible financially and emotionally. Consider options with a greater sense of what you want. Tonight: What starts out as a get-together after work could develop into a long night.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might want to continue on your set course of action. Your perspective will change a lot if you kick back and try something different. Detachment remains key to your success. If you feel as if you need to work late, do so. Tonight: Count on going till the wee hours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Work with a key associate and/or partner. You'll clear out important financial business because of teamwork. What you thought impossible becomes a distinct possibility. Weigh an opportunity, knowing that a decision doesn't need to happen immediately. Tonight: Take off for the weekend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others particularly enjoy relating, which could create an obstacle to clearing out your work. Realize when you've had enough. Others give more than 100 percent to help you get what you want. Give up the word "impossible." Tonight: Dinner for two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Plug into work, deciding to get the job done. Visualize more of what you want by making an effort to communicate with those who can grease the wheels of change. You know what you want; do what is necessary to get there. Tonight: Away you go ... out of work to play.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your happy ways draw many. At this point, if you follow your emotions, you'll flourish. Realize that nearly anything can happen if you remain open. Let your creativity spark the different facets of your life. Tonight: Opt for something relaxing (for now).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Realize what is going on with your family. You might need to stop and take your time with a decision. Allow your abilities to come forward in both closed meetings and relating individually. Let your creativity bud. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ How you see a situation could change substantially because of others' conversations. If you sit back, you might discover a lot more. Make calls, but vow to yourself to be a good listener. Not everything is as clear as you would like. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Dealing with finances will flow as long as you're willing to put in the time. Your ability to get a job done efficiently earmarks you. Complete as much as you can before starting to return calls. Tonight: To your favorite haunt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to get as much done as possible. You might feel overwhelmed by what is going on in your own world. Others offer you a lot. Decide which way you would like to go. Allow yourself to flow. Tonight: You're all smiles.

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LOCAL

The Q-Line

Readers sound off on homeless services location

This week's Q-Line asked:

"Is Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue an appropriate location for the city's largest homeless services provider? Why or why not? If not, where else should it go?"

Here are your responses:

■ "In theory, it's not a bad place. It's an industrial area. There aren't playgrounds or schools nearby. There's a recycling center where a lot of homeless people take cans and bottles to earn a little money. That part seems OK. The question is, is it going to relocate the main attraction for homeless people to an area which is actually just across the freeway from a very high density residential area where there are schools? If people start going over there to sleep in yards and front doorways, there are going to be big problems. The other part of this that I'm really curious about is, where are they getting the money for this? This is \$5 million for the building, \$4 million to fix it up and a \$7 million a year operating budget while our schools are going broke and our roads need fixing. There are so many needs and it just doesn't always add up economically I don't think."

■ "I think it's very admirable of you to print these questions about what's going to happen in Santa Monica. A lot of homeowners, property owners, and others respond to them, but nothing is ever done. The City Council isn't going to listen to the people who live here. They're going to do what they want to do. Of course they shouldn't have a homeless center at Cloverfield and Michigan! How about 10th and Montana? That seems like a great location!"

■ "There will never be a solution to the homeless problem until the central state and county governments devise a program that will get to the root cause of homelessness — alcoholism. After a well-thought-out program is devised, the federal government should stop giving American dollars to foreign countries, which for the most part hate us, until all American problems are solved. America could be a utopian society if it were not for those greedy individuals among us. Charity starts at home and America is our home for one and all."

■ "I live directly across the street on Delaware from that area and I'm sick and tired of the homeless coming through there

two and three times a week and using our street to pick up cans and bottles out of the trash cans that are on the street. They also go across the street from the apartment next door to me and sit there for hours on end drinking beer and urinating onto the fence on the freeway. And I don't think that it's fair that the Pico neighborhood should be burdened with all of the homeless population problems in our neighborhood. Why don't they go somewhere else, even if it's north of Wilshire, for a change? They have nothing like what we have over here. We have Virginia Park, which they have taken over because it's close and it's cool and they can sleep there all day long. So, I'm very unhappy with this situation. We also have this new program down here at the Claire Foundation on Pico Boulevard that I think is stupid. Why should we have to take in drunks from other cities and put them in our facilities that are supposed to be used for Santa Monica? I think it's absolutely ridiculous. I'm sure these people need somewhere to go but let them go to other parts of the city, not over here. True, it's by the dump and it's by Olympic Boulevard and everything else but we're going to be impacted by this situation here. I've seen it in the past. I've been here for 37 years and I've never seen it as bad as it's been in the last five to six years."

■ "Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue is not an appropriate location for the city's largest homeless provider. In the first place, we shouldn't have any homeless in Santa Monica to begin with. They should all be sent to Beverly Hills, Culver City, and other areas out of Santa Monica. The feeding program is getting out of hand and we should get rid of the homeless."

■ "I'm not sure it's a good idea to locate it there for a couple of reasons. First of all, I think there's an over-concentration of social services in the Pico neighborhood and I think that should be analyzed by the city. Second of all, the Pico neighborhood already has a whole host of crime problems that the police cannot get a handle on, so

surf report

Weak and steeply angled NW wind swell will mix with minor background SW swell on Friday. Northern LA spots see 2'-3' waves at most spots. South bay spots see the wind swell primarily for 2'-3' surf at many breaks and chest high sets at best spots.

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

Today the water is:

74°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:23	-1.3	2:24	2.3	9:59	3.9	8:45	7.0
SUNDAY	4:08	-1.5	3:14	2.3	10:45	4.1	9:31	7.0
MONDAY	4:52	-1.4	4:03	2.3	11:28	4.1	10:16	6.8
TUESDAY	5:34	-1.2	4:52	2.3	(12:11)	4.2	11:00	6.4
WEDNESDAY	6:14	-0.8	5:43	2.4	(12:54)	4.2	11:44	5.8
THURSDAY	6:54	-0.3	6:40	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:38	4.3
FRIDAY	7:32	0.2	7:47	2.5	12:29	5.1	2:23	4.4

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why increase them? Third of all, the majority of the homeless population lives closer to the beach and even the OPCC director indicated that he would rather have had the center be farther west. And as a potential location for them to relocate to, how about the RAND facilities that are becoming available. And also there's potentially room in the current police headquarters, which is going to be vacated soon for the new building."

■ "OPCC provides an absolutely essential service to the homeless and the location on Cloverfield and Michigan will be quite appropriate for that service. The need doesn't go away because their present location is not available for the future. This new location will serve as will others if this one doesn't work out. The service is what is essential and we have an organization that can now provide it at

this location. I would support this."

■ "I believe that the Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue location is definitely appropriate for OPCC. I believe there is no residential impact and it is a suitable space that has been sitting there like a white elephant and can be better used and serve those in need."

■ "We believe that it's an excellent move for the Santa Monica community because you are removing the access center from a more downtown location to a more remote location that would provide a greater access and greater flexibility for the homeless population and the mentally disturbed people that it serves. We believe in the long run, this will be a tremendous asset for the City of Santa Monica."

See Q-LINE, page 8



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LETTERS

The city should accept liability

Editor:

As an attorney, it appears to me that the City of Santa Monica bears a great deal of responsibility for the tragic accident at the farmer's market. Placement of substantial barriers at both ends of Arizona (similar to the steel posts on Third Street, or a Mack truck-like CALTRANS uses) may have prevented a vehicle from driving down a city street filled with people. Usually, the city attorney announces she will "vigorously defend" lawsuits against the city. Hopefully the city will accept liability and deal fairly with the victims and their families. As the city is self-insured we need to ensure funds are available to compensate the victims. The housing manager recently announced an intention to spend \$120 million to develop rental units for low income tenants. It is time to make choices. I, therefore, urge the City Council to immediately enact a freeze on all spending for the development of low income housing projects so that money is available to compensate the victims.

Mat Millen
Santa Monica

Weller should never have been driving

Editor:

I saw the helicopters yesterday and I heard on the news about the carnage on Arizona Avenue at the farmer's market and I see today the age of the driver of the vehicle was 86. Why did he have a driver's license at that age? Obviously he was no longer able to tell the difference between the gas pedal and the brake pedal. That sounds to me like he should have had his keys and license taken away long before something like this happened.

Now, George Russell Weller is a murderer. I don't buy as an excuse, "I got confused." To go 2 1/2 blocks is not a sign of trying to control the vehicle. And if he was confused, isn't that a sign of diminished capacity? What is he doing behind the wheel of a vehicle when he could possibly have diminished capacity?

And to Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr., I say, this man is guilty of taking lives and injuring people. It may not be first degree, but it is manslaughter. If I were on the jury that would be my finding.

Dane Swanson
Santa Monica

Photos were in poor taste

Editor:

I have never written to a newspaper, but I had to this morning. I believe that some

of the pictures posted in your newspaper (especially of the mother who lost her daughter) was chosen with incredibly poor taste. The writing is fine, but to snap a picture of the mom huddled behind a police officer within minutes of losing her daughter (and with the stroller and bags of fruit captured in the frame) is really horrible. She was sobbing for goodness sake! I understand that you are in the business of selling papers, being first to get a lead story, and grabbing prominence in your medium, but I believe there is a point where you need to give the grieving some dignity and privacy.

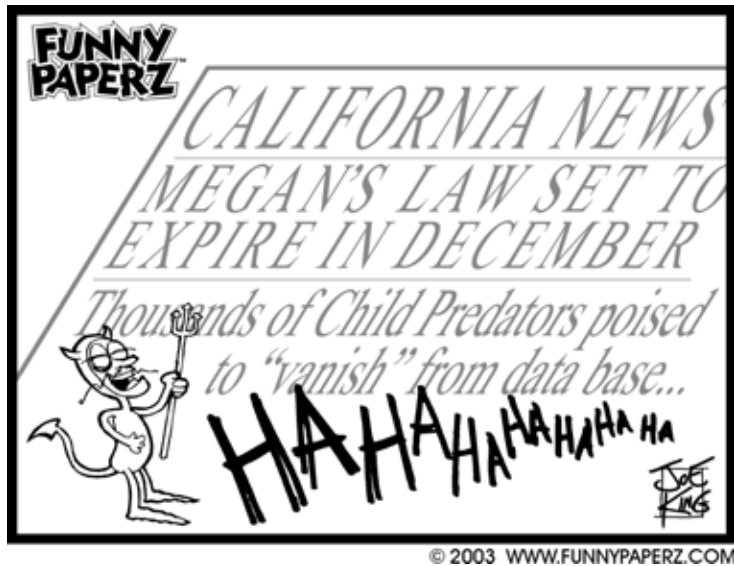
Veronica Lynn Watkins
Santa Monica

Return the roads to bicycles

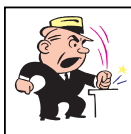
Editor:

As I reflect on just having walked down carnage-filled Arizona Avenue with my bike, seeing bloodied bodies strewn along the Santa Monica farmer's market where I

See LETTERS, page 5



Welcome to Santa Monica's newest Skid Row



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Isn't it ironic that my column last week on "too many social services" hit the streets the same time that Ocean Park Community Center Executive Director John Maceri hosted a press conference to unveil plans for a new, expanded homeless drop-in center and shelter.

OPCC's new facility is slated for a two-story commercial building at 1751 Cloverfield Blvd. The property will cost \$5-million with another \$4 million needed for renovation. OPCC will ask the City Council to loan it \$7 million for the venture at its Aug. 12 meeting.

The 22,000 square foot facility will house a drop-in center to service up to 250 people a day and a 55 bed shelter for homeless or mentally ill. It will replace OPCC's operation at Seventh Street and Colorado Avenue, which must be abandoned because of bus yard expansion.

Julie Rusk, manager of the city's social service department waxed enthusiastic about the "attractive exterior, landscaping,

lighting and barriers to separate the outdoor area from motorists," according to the Daily Press (Monday, July 14)

Rusk sounds like OPCC's public relations flack when she speaks glowingly about how this will "improve the quality of OPCC's approach of giving consistent and ongoing care to help transition people from the streets, into jobs and long-term housing arrangements."

When city staff lobbies for an outside vendor, "conflict of interest" comes to mind. For example, why doesn't city staff lobby for the Santa Monica Chapter of the American Red Cross — charged with providing emergency support to the city in times of disaster such as at the tragic event this past Wednesday at the farmer's market.

I don't see staff advocating for another private, non-profit — the Boys and Girls Club, which provides services to children. But, when it comes to homeless services, campaigning for favored suppliers is par for the course.

Are city staff "samurai" working to promote an agenda on behalf of the City Council — the majority of who are unabashedly pro-homeless? Or is staff running amuck and using the city bully pulpit to promote personal agendas?

More social services attract more transients, enabling them to live on the streets.

Providers such as OPCC and homeless sympathizers then feel compelled to offer even more services. It's a vicious circle that spirals on. In less tolerant communities, there are few if any services, food handouts and transients.

Rusk's claims the cities "continuum of care" hasn't been successful in transitioning people off the street.

However, according to the most recent "2001/2002 Annual Review of the city's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services and Related Issues," of the 2,566 people who applied for services: 10 percent were placed in permanent housing, 13 percent were placed in transitional housing, 17 percent were placed in emergency shelters, 9 percent received permanent employment and 8 percent received temporary employment.

The "review" provides no information as to how many people stay in housing or maintain jobs much beyond placement. So, it appears the failure rate of the city's "continuum of care" hovers around 90 percent — not including thousands who don't apply for services or who refuse them.

Although Maceri says, "nothing has been cast in stone" and "the community is to be included in the process," OPCC is in escrow on the property. Frankly, it smells like a done deal to me.

OPCC's project will likely go through at the Michigan/Cloverfield site even though Maceri admits that it's not the best location, but it was their only option. Hmm, I'm willing to bet that OPCC didn't look outside the city. Why should they? With their in-house lobbyists and blind support from politicians for programs that reek of failure, they'll get what they want.

Will the City Council "loan" OPCC the \$7 million?

You can bet the family Buick, they will. They beat around the bush about supporting schools, but they won't hesitate to throw away millions to sustain a nasty and unsolvable problem.

And, they'll probably purloin recently freed-up TORCA funds, which are supposed to subsidize housing for low and moderate income households, to do it too.

While some might argue that these funds can be used for "transitional housing," which could include shelter beds, it was clearly not the intent of the measure.

So, watch for a court challenge on this.

In the meantime, welcome to Santa Monica's newest Skid Row.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and freelance writer.)

LOCAL



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

was about to shop, I am reminded of the council's "traffic calming" transportation renovations.

We bicyclists have known the danger of auto intimidation for a long time since the council "improved" the streets by eliminating bicycle lanes, and that in Santa Monica it's "car uber alles" with the parking lots and the enhanced streets. And take a look at Wilshire, where the council is up to the same there, aiding the cars at the expense of the environment and the people.

Isn't it time we further closed off auto traffic to the Promenade area and returned the sidewalks and streets to people, bicyclists and nature instead of to what Ralph Nader correctly calls the four-wheeled, steel, internal combustion engine?

Andrew Kay Liberman
Santa Monica

Speechless and distraught

Editor:

I just happened to be there shortly before the horrific accident that claimed so many lives and caused so many injuries (Wednesday), and then was back shortly after the terrible tragedy. I just don't know what to say. I am horrified. I can't imagine what the people at the scene at the time must have experienced, not to mention their families and friends. Although I do not know the particular circumstances regarding the driver responsible for the "manslaughter" until further information is available, I hope and pray that he is never allowed to drive in Santa Monica again and that he is held fully responsible for his horrific deeds. I am distraught.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Don't excuse the elderly

Editor:

Doesn't anyone else find it asinine and hypocritical that 86-year-old Russell Weller can kill nine people and injure "20-30 more" and not even be arrested? Do you think for a second if I had drunk only beer, blew a .02 and simply injured a person with my vehicle I wouldn't have been arrested for DUI? I have never had a DUI, I drive 60,000 miles a year and I can tell you from experience that I have seen hundreds of elderly drivers over the years make very stupid and dangerous mistakes with their vehicles that are consistent with those of a drunk driver. It is time to get the drivers with poor reaction times and motor skills off the road even if it is only because they are elderly.

Andy Kives
Jonesboro, GA (Atlanta)

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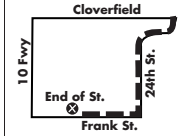
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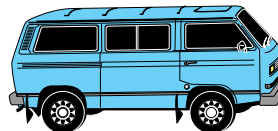


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Why man drove through crowd is still undetermined

VICTIMS, from page 1

Weller's home in the 600 block of 25th Street late Wednesday night, looking for medication and other evidence relating to the tragedy.

Police said they found evidence that leads investigators to believe that the wall of Weller's garage has been hit with a vehicle at least twice. The investigation is questioning Weller's ability to drive.

"Once the investigation is complete, we'll present it to the DA's office," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

If criminal charges are filed, they could range from vehicular manslaughter to misdemeanor charges, which don't involve intent.

DA office spokeswoman Jane Robison wouldn't speculate on what charges could be filed, if any.

"We had a team of prosecutors ready to go if he had been arrested but that didn't happen," she said. "We hate to get into hypotheticals and we don't speculate because the facts of each case is different."

At 1:47 p.m. on Wednesday, Weller drove his car down a crowded portion of Arizona Avenue that was roped off for the twice-weekly market, which attracts thousands. It is unknown why Weller drove through the crowd, however there has been speculation that he may have blacked out or lost control of his vehicle.

Witnesses say he reached speeds up to 70 miles per hour in the two-and-a-half blocks of the market he traveled.

Kevin McCarthy, 50, the ninth victim, who died Wednesday at about 9:30 p.m., underwent five hours of surgery at Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica, said ER Medical Director Russ Kino.

McCarthy suffered a critical chest injury and damage to his lung and several fractured bones. McCarthy also had severe lacerations, including a large one on his scalp.

"We were just unable to stop the bleeding," Dr. Kino said. "There were so many sites just oozing blood. It was a non-survivable injury."

His wife, Diana McCarthy, 41, also died. The couple lived in Los Angeles.

A total of nine patients were brought to Saint John's. Three patients were left in

stable condition. One patient will undergo surgery to help repair severely broken legs. One person is being kept for observation and another has a slight spinal injury that did not affect the spinal cord. All three are expected to be released soon, Dr. Kino said.

Five patients were treated and released with minor injuries.

At Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center, 12 patients were brought in, including 7-month-old Esfahani. One of those four seriously injured patients underwent surgery Wednesday. Another patient is undergoing surgery today. One of the remaining two seriously injured is in serious condition and one is in good condition. All seven patients with minor injuries were treated and released.

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center spokeswoman Julie Rees said two patients were brought in by helicopter. The 54-year-old male is listed in critical condition and a 53-year-old female is listed in good condition.

Four patients remain at UCLA Hospital in Westwood — one adult and one child remain in critical condition. Two adults are listed in fair condition and nine patients were treated and released.

USC County Hospital had two patients, one of whom was in critical and is now in serious to fair condition. The other was discharged.

Doctors from both Santa Monica hospital emergency rooms said the situation was difficult to handle, but handled well. Dozens of doctors from all fields rushed to the ER rooms to lend assistance.

"There were pediatric doctors, general surgeons, cardiac surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and a surgeon who I hadn't seen at the hospital in 10 years who all showed up to help," Santa Monica UCLA's Ghurabi. "We had a neurosurgeon cleaning wounds and stitching up a leg."

"It was just an outpouring of goodwill," he added. "I've been working in Santa Monica for 25 years and I've seen the earthquake (Northridge) and a zillion other things. There were a lot more injuries (in the quake) but this was far worse. It was upsetting enough that I had a hard time sleeping. We may be ER doctors but we are still human beings."

Victims' fund set up by Santa Monica chamber

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce announced it is spearheading the creation of the Santa Monica Farmer's Market Victims Assistance Fund.

The fund will assist victims and their families who lost loved ones, or who were injured in the farmer's market misfortune.

The fund has received numerous commitments from community members so far. Mike Gruning, chairman of the chamber board, said Wells Fargo Bank has volunteered to be the depository for the fund with a donation of \$10,000 to the fund and \$10,000 to the Santa Monica Police Department.

US Bank also has agreed to donate \$10,000 to the fund and will waive all credit card fees for people who want to make donations.

The local law firm of Harding, Larmore, Kutcher & Kozal is donating \$1,000 and the Wild Oats Market will donate 5 percent of its sales for a day in both of its Santa Monica stores.

"100 percent of all contributions go directly to the victims," Gruning said. "There are no overhead or administrative costs."

A panel of community leaders will determine how the funds will be dispersed, Gruning said. Victims and their families can contact the Chamber of Commerce at (310) 393-9825 for compensation applications.

Anyone who is interested in donating can call (310) 393-9825 or donate directly at www.smchamber.com. The Chamber of Commerce is applying for charitable status; therefore all contributions will be tax deductible.

Mourners pay tribute at Promenade memorial

GRIEVE, from page 1

p.m. on Wednesday — the time Russell Weller's 1992 Buick LeSabre blasted through the farmer's market at speeds some witnesses said approached 60 mph.

"I guess this is the part where we're all supposed to move on," Sheehy said. "It won't be easy at all. We'll see what happens, but it won't be easy."

Directly in front of Lago, mourners paid tribute to the 10 victims by laying flowers, candles and cards under the dolphin statue in front of Cafe Promenade. Others stopped in front of the makeshift monument and pausing while saying a silent prayer.

"It isn't much, but it's the least we can do," said Gia Aron, who along with her 7-year-old son, Adam, placed a candle and card on the monument.

Adam Aron watched the evening news Wednesday and was deeply affected by the events, his mother said.

"He loves to watch the news all the time, but I really tried to keep him away from it when they showed what was happening," Gia Aron said. "It's tragic and sad and we came out here today because we feel so awful for those families."

Further up the Promenade, on Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, hundreds waited in front of three Red Cross Bloodmobiles to donate blood.

Among the large crowd that gathered was Jorge Jimenez, an economics teacher at Santa Monica High who brought most of his summer school class to donate blood.

Jimenez was troubled by what he saw Wednesday because he has been taking students to the downtown farmer's market for years to teach them the principles of supply-and-demand.

"The market has always been Santa Monica's Shangri-La," Jimenez said. "When I saw all the damage on television, I was shocked."

When Jimenez expressed that shock to his class of 15 students Thursday morning, many asked what they could do to help. After Jimenez suggested they help at the Red Cross drive, many of them called parents to get verbal consent and then immediately went to the Promenade to help.

"I'm so glad I came out and did this today," said Makan Hoorizadeh, a senior in Jimenez's class. "Everyone's been super nice and it's great to be a part of something so positive."

Jose Huarango, who was waiting to donate blood Thursday, said he came out because Wednesday's tragedy affected him too.

"It's my opportunity to help others and the community," he said.

Tiffany Burchard, who works nearby, felt the same way.

"I guess this is the part where we're all supposed to move on."

— MEGAN SHEEHY
Manager, Lago restaurant

"I haven't given blood in years because I'm afraid of needles," she said. "(But) it's important to give blood because it's a way to give back to the community."

Though many were turned away from the Bloodmobiles because so many people turned out, a press release from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center said that less than a day's supply of O-negative blood, traditionally the least common blood type, remained in Southern California.

"UCLA Medical Center needs healthy donors of all blood types to come and donate," according to the release. Those interested should call the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center at 310-825-0888, ext. 2.

Karen Rodriguez, who works for the Red Cross, said "there is always great need" for blood in Southern California.

"Even though it's wonderful (that so many people volunteered Thursday), we need this much participation every week," she said. "Only 3 percent of California residents donate blood."

With the announcement that Saturday's farmer's market will take place as usual, it seems the healing process has begun.

Caroline Bessolo, a resident of Santa Monica all her life until she moved to Thousand Oaks 10 years ago, returned to the Promenade on Thursday. She said she still would like to continue to shop at the farmer's market as she has her whole life.

"Santa Monica should never be a ghost town," Bessolo said. "It's always been the best place to walk around and shop. I hope that never changes."

(Daily Press Staff Writer Lauren Wolman contributed to this report.)

Services, vigils scheduled to mourn market victims

By Daily Press staff

There are several interfaith services scheduled in Santa Monica in response to the Wednesday's farmer's market tragedy. Here is the schedule:

Saturday, June 19: Noon. Service at St. Augustine-by-the-Sea, 1227 Fourth St.

Wednesday, June 23: Day of community remembrance and reflection. Events to be announced.

For more information, call (310) 394-1518, or SMBayInterfaithC@aol.com

The American Red Cross and the Department of Mental Health will be offering counseling services to those affected by the disaster at Wednesday's farmer's market. Here is the schedule:

Friday, July 18: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Arizona and Third Street at the Third Street Promenade.

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Ken Edwards Center,

1527 Fourth St.

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Drop-in mental health counseling at the American Red Cross of Santa Monica, 1450 11th St.

Saturday, July 19: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Arizona and the Third Street Promenade.

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St.

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Farmer's Market, Pico and Cloverfield boulevards.

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Drop-in mental health counseling at the American Red Cross of Santa Monica, 1450 11th St.

Sunday, July 20: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., farmer's market, 2640 Main St.

Wednesday, July 23: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., farmer's market, Arizona Avenue and Third Street.

24 hours a day, seven days a week: Department of Mental Health toll-free counseling number at 1-800-854-7771.

LOCAL



Driver called pastor while still in custody

SUSPECT, from page 1

you," he said, adding that the car weighs about 3,600 pounds. "They have pretty fair power."

Car acceleration is often tested on quarter mile stretches, which equals about three blocks. A fast car — like a Corvette — will cover that distance in about 13 seconds, Mirsky said. A slower car — like the LeSabre — would cover the distance in 15-16 seconds, he said.

On Thursday evening, Flowers and cards were piled on Weller's doorstep while a handful of news vans idled in the street.

While Weller has kept out of the media limelight, he has not remained silent altogether.

Dr. Stephen Lien, pastor at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church, where the Wellers have been members for more than 30 years, said he received a call from Russell Weller while he was in custody.

"One of the first calls he made was to the faith community," said Lien, who called Weller a loving and gentle man. "And when I said, 'We're praying for you, Russ,' he said, 'Pray for those affected by this.'"

Those who know him universally described Weller as an articulate and humorous man who loves crossword puzzles, reading and being involved in the community. He has spent his retirement volunteering at the local library, leading prayer groups and tutoring athletes and other students at Santa Monica High School.

His daughter, Meredith Weller, recently retired after more than 30 years as a Samohi special education teacher.

Weller, a UCLA graduate and die-hard fan of the school, was born in Knoxville, Tenn., 86 years ago. He moved to California as a young man, met his wife when he was just 10 or 12 years old and married her when he was 22, Lien said.

City will rent tents and tables to market vendors

FARMER'S MARKET, from page 1

scheduled too, she said.

An 86-year-old man drove his car at high speed through the farmer's market Wednesday, killing 10 and wounding close to 50. Russell Weller apparently lost control of the car and authorities have not decided whether he will be charged or not.

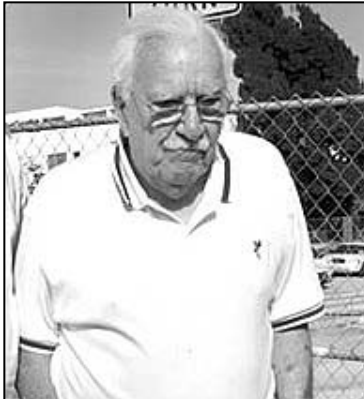
A group of city officials met Thursday to discuss if the Saturday market would take place and ultimately decided it would, Rambeau said.

However, those officials are bracing for a higher than usual number of people and the inevitable crush of media Saturday's market is likely to attract, she said. In addition, the city will park a public works truck across intersections at both ends of the market to provide shoppers with peace of mind, Rambeau said.

"We don't expect that to be long-term, but we'll have to wait and see," she said.

The city has been using the same procedures and signs announcing the closure of Arizona Avenue during the Wednesday farmer's market for 22 years without incident, Rambeau said.

"We're trying to learn lessons from



Russell Weller

Roney said he settled down in Santa Monica to begin his career as a wholesale grocery salesman after a tour with the U.S. Army in post-WWII Korea.

"He's a tremendous person and I'm sure a very good salesman," Roney said. "He's jovial, he's bright, he faces things very realistically and he deals with people very, very well."

Weller has two grandchildren and three great grandchildren, Roney said.

Weller's friends and neighbors said there is no way the accident was intentional. They expressed sadness and shock over the destruction he caused and said the victims weigh heavy on their minds.

Dr. David Rimer, a long-time friend, once treated Weller for a gastro-intestinal disorder. He and his wife Annie met with the Wellers once or twice a year on social occasions, such as the Fourth of July.

"It's just one of those tragic things," Anne Rimer said Thursday. "It's such a wonderful family and such a tragedy for everyone involved."

(the accident)," she said. "Safety is the utmost concern to us and we'll be taking a look at (the procedures)."

Concrete barriers at each end of the market would be impossible to erect and take down for the twice-a-week markets, she said.

Officials will wait until the police investigation is complete — probably by the middle of next week — before determining the city's liability in the accident, she said.

"Certainly it's something that's on our minds," Rambeau said.

To help the approximately 50 farmers who lost goods and equipment in Wednesday's carnage, the city will rent tables and canopies to them for Saturday's market and possibly Wednesday's as well, she said.

"We have all been just extremely grateful for all the aid we've received," she said, including private ambulance services, hospitals, area police and fire departments and the people on the street who helped the victims.

"We are so saddened," she added, her voice breaking with emotion. "Our hearts go out to all the victims and their families."

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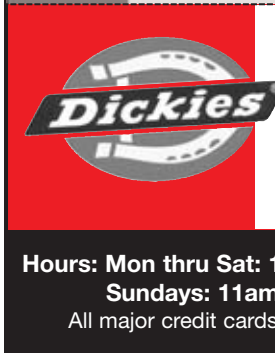
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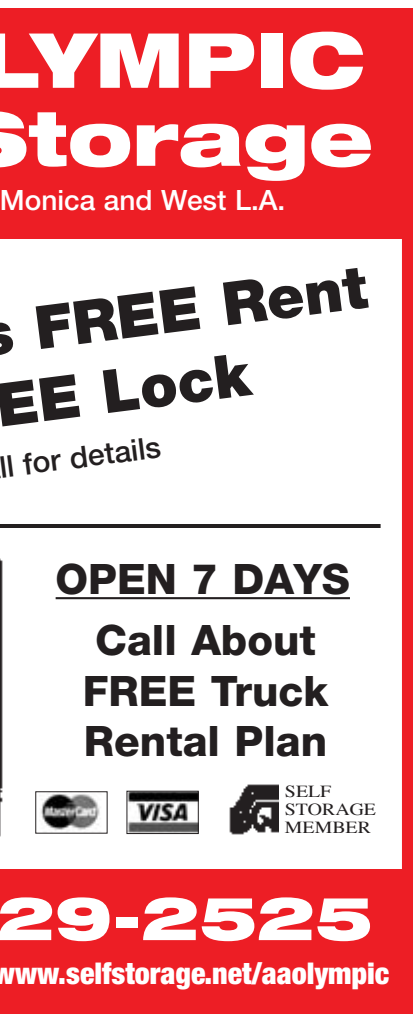
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OPINION



The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 3

■ "I think it meets the needs of both the residents and the needs of the homeless in the city, of which there are quite a few. It's an industrial area, so it's not near any homes or anything. I think this will be very good for the city, the homeless and the residents."

■ "Yes, Cloverfield and Michigan is a very appropriate place for OPCC's access center and daybreak shelter. OPCC is a major social service provider in Santa Monica. The access center and daybreak shelter have to move. In this dense, urban environment they have found a place that is appropriately zoned and not in the center of residential housing. This site will accommodate these programs and have minimal impact on the surrounding area. OPCC provides a tremendous service for Santa Monica. They help people recover their lives and move off the street. They need a place just like this."

■ "No. Service locations for the homeless should be dispersed throughout the city and kept at a more manageable level. For example, no more than 15 at each location."

■ "I think that it's not going to bother people and it would be better to have it at the old location but apparently the bus service doesn't want it there anymore. There are very few other places where this type of service would be acceptable. So, we need to just deal with the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) folks and keep this center in an area where there are the fewest objections."

■ "I think the Ocean Park Community Center is a joke. Instead of wasting taxpayer money giving it to this you should give it to two wonderful organizations that really do some good: the Salvation Army and the Union Rescue Mission. That way, you can help all the homeless in downtown LA and not just here in Santa Monica."

■ "Wasn't there any room in the Pico neighborhood?"

■ "I think all the homeless service providers should be in the big hotels by the beach because everyone knows how much tourists love the homeless."

■ "No, Cloverfield and Michigan is not the appropriate location for the city's largest homeless or vagrant facility. Other places it could go are Robin's Auto Top, which is currently vacant. That \$7 million could buy that property. It could go into the RAND building that is going to be vacated when RAND moves, or it could go behind City Hall when the police move in to all of those vacated offices. The Pico neighborhood is already home to the social services and numerous low income projects. So, it's not a matter of NIMBY, it's a matter of AIMBY, Already In My Back Yard."

■ "Cloverfield is not an appropriate location for a homeless shelter. The Pico neighborhood has too many homeless service agencies as it is. Preferably, Beverly Hills or Culver City for OPCC. Or, Santa Monica Airport if it must be in Santa Monica. Move to Skid Row."

■ "We should first dispense with the term homeless and make the distinction between the truly mentally ill who deserve ongoing help and shelter, drug addicts and alcoholics who, through aggressive treatment and shelter, hopefully can regain productive roles in

society, and, thirdly, the large number of derelicts who simply don't care about anything and are happy to sleep outdoors in our moderate climate, get free meals each day, and use whatever money they can get through government welfare and panhandling to party with. No one wants 355 homeless people each day in their neighborhood. Do people have the right to live on the streets? No, they don't. And this third group, derelicts, need to be told to clean up their lives or they will be warehoused. And all of this must be done on the federal level of government. The citizens of Santa Monica are sick of our City Council using this so-called homeless population as props to point out what they feel is the heartlessness of a capitalistic system. Rather than wasting time on such comparatively minor issues such as ATM fees, these lefties could do something really useful and organize people nationwide to demand that the federal government take aggressive action on what is a national disgrace. And if you think we have a problem now, just wait until the ongoing gentrification in downtown LA pushes even more people into Santa Monica. It's going to be a real problem."

■ "Yes, I think it's a good location for now because it's right next to the place where all the artists are and a lot of the people there are big supporters of the homeless so I think that it's appropriate that it be right down the street from them. The other thing is that after we move it from there, we should move it to Palmdale and we should pay Palmdale \$2 million a year, like we pay \$2 million a year anyway and have people in Palmdale take care of it. That way, we can take the homeless and drive them up to the facility in Palmdale and rehabilitate them there."

■ "Putting a new homeless shelter at Michigan and Cloverfield would not be in the best interests of the Pico neighborhood community. It's a community that has children and families. It's a community that is striving to work out a lot of problems. It's a community that is moving ahead. I think putting the homeless shelter there would provide one more roadblock for the community. The community has gone through enough lately, with a rash of shootings. We're working really hard to improve the community and I think it's in the city's best interests to help the community in this effort and not put the homeless shelter in that particular location."

■ "I live on Cloverfield between Pico and Michigan. Let me tell you, your idea of putting a homeless shelter there is very, very bad. Right now, we have a problem of drunks and addicts. They drink, they throw and break their bottles on Cloverfield. It makes it dangerous for all of us. We're elderly people that live here! And there's no way for us to tolerate all the garbage! Plus, these people, they're really not homeless. All their problems, the ones that they're talking about, I know where that's at. And I know who they are and they're mentally ill. So, you want to throw all these mentally ill people on all of us? No. That's wrong! I say no to this question, no to your suggestion, no to Cloverfield between Pico and Michigan. We have enough homeless people, drunks and addicts already that are giving us problems and it's hard to put a stop to it right now. And you want to put a homeless service provider? They're mentally ill people. Please do not put this facility over here. We have enough problems."

■ "They should move it there but they have to have very good building security. They have to make sure that the homeless don't go causing problems. They should really monitor the outlets. But that's a good place to put it."

STATE



Homeowners association dictating freedom of speech

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

GOLD RIVER — As the war in Iraq grew imminent, emergency room doctor and Vietnam veteran Bill Durston protested by taking down his American flag and raising a United Nations flag.

Citing its rules, his neighborhood homeowners association told him to take it down. Citing the Constitution, Durston refused.

The flag remains, as does the dispute between Durston and the association. It's one of many in the growing conflict between a fast-growing way of living — inside a homeowners association — and traditions of liberty and free speech.

In a country founded on private property rights, homeowners associations increasingly dictate the nation's home colors, landscaping, pet sizes and placement of satellite dishes. They also restrict many forms of political expression Americans take for granted.

Experts call this still-accelerating trend one of the most stunning transformations in how Americans live, rent and buy homes; an estimated 50 million people live in homeowners associations.

Especially prevalent in the Sunbelt, homeowners associations — with corporate-style rules that limit traditional town hall democracy and keep closed financial records — govern 80 percent of the nation's new housing and neighborhoods, said a trade group. A style of life originally designed for the wealthy few has exploded during the last decade into a mass phenomenon, with 249,000 homeowners associations reported nationally, and up to 8,000 new ones created every year.

This year, bills are moving through the California Legislature to override association bans on political signs and give residents rights to see how their dues are spent. Nearly one-fourth of the state's 35 million residents live in its 36,214 privately governed neighborhoods, reports the Congress of California Seniors and the Oakland accounting firm, Levy and Co.

Nationally, an estimated 1.25 million Americans serve on homeowner association boards, according to the Virginia-based Community Associations Institute. By contrast, the United States has approximately 200,000 city council members, said the National League of Cities.

This soaring growth of private government fits America's mobile society, where many consider property values and a quick home sale more important than small individual liberties, said Robert Lang, author of "Edgeless Cities" and director of Virginia Tech's Metropolitan Institute.

"This is a perfect mechanism for maintaining your house values and predicting peoples' behaviors," Lang said. Homeowners increasingly fear "the neighbor from hell" and crave a uniformity that assures neighbors will mow their lawns, won't paint the house yellow or put a car on blocks in the driveway.

"The total brake on that is the homeowners association," he said.

Experts say the movement is also driven by revenue-strapped city halls that love neighborhoods that build and maintain their own streets and parks — while providing a new pool of property taxes for city streets elsewhere. Developers are equally fond, saying it puts more people comfortably on less space and sharing amenities such as

pools and tennis courts they couldn't afford individually. Indeed, growth management activists say association-governed neighborhoods have become the nation's best examples of efficient land use.

But the phenomenon has spun off lampoon-worthy side effects. During California's energy crisis two years ago, "Doonesbury" cartoons mocked association bans on outdoor clotheslines. The television comedy "Seinfeld" skewered Florida condominium politics with episodes about a board president's impeachment after his son bought him a Cadillac. During last summer's drought in Colorado, newspapers criticized association rules requiring green lawns.

In his 1994 book, "Privatopia," about the rise of homeowners associations, University of Illinois political science professor Evan McKenzie cited a resident forced to leave when he married a woman three years younger than the neighborhood's minimum age. Other associations banned a U.S. Army veteran from flying an American flag on Flag Day and took a woman to court because her dog weighed more than 30 pounds.

But those are extremes, said Robert Browning, a national board member of the Community Associations Institute, which helps associations observe professional standards.

"Unfortunately, there are millions of people living in these communities you never hear about," Browning said. "It's just that once you start talking life, country, liberty, property — and you get one voice with a sound bite — you make a lot of noise that these are dysfunctional. But they're not."

While McKenzie agrees that most associations don't have these problems, the sheer number of associations can lead to some "authoritarian, oppressive situations."

State legislatures have begun taking steps to curb some excesses. In Arizona, lawmakers responded to the practice of boards meeting outside the state — an attempt to keep members from voting — by passing a bill requiring those gatherings to be held in Arizona.

California lawmakers, trying to defuse incidents like Durston's U.N. flag, are considering a bill that allows political signs and "free speech traditionally associated with private residential property." Another bill lets residents inspect and copy association financial records. A third proposes wholesale reforms for rules that govern associations, including written notices to homeowners before rules change and letting residents overturn rules.

Browning accuses California legislators of "significant micromanagement." People who buy into association-governed neighborhoods for uniformity expect sign controls, he said, while those who want financial records are often seeking disruption.

Such disagreements reveal the fine line between uniformity and one-at-a-time exceptions that can lead to yellow houses and 14-foot flagpoles. Boards pressured to overlook violations — such as a U.N. flag — can also be sued for not enforcing rules.

"The rules are established to benefit and maintain the value of a property," said William Calvo, who chairs the Gold River rules committee dealing with Durston's flag.

It's fine for Durston to oppose President Bush's policies, Calvo said, but that's not why the board got involved.



Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Charlie Chaplin and Bugsy Siegel

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Koreas exchange machine-gun fire

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South and North Korean soldiers briefly traded machine-gun fire in their border zone Thursday, raising tensions even as Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed optimism about diplomatic efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff.

The South Korean military said it did not suffer casualties in the shooting between two guard posts a half mile apart in the heavily mined Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ. There was no comment from North Korea on the exchange.

South Korean military officials said the North Koreans shot first. The South was investigating whether the shooting was inadvertent or a scheme to rattle nerves, possibly to gain leverage in the dispute over the North's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

A Chinese envoy visited North Korea this past week to discuss efforts to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue, and Powell said in Washington on Wednesday that he talked to Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing about the trip.

"So the diplomatic track is alive and well and I expect to see some developments along that track in the very near future," Powell told reporters. The United States "is still hopeful of a diplomatic solution," he said.

More diplomacy planned for Mideast

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Bush Administration is pushing a new round of Mideast diplomacy with White House visits by the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers later this month, as a truce by Palestinian groups has eased tensions slightly.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas will make his first trip to the White House on July 25, his office said Wednesday. The trip is also the first by a Palestinian leader since Bush took office.

Abbas' visit and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's on July 29 could be signs that the truce and pressure to end 33 months of violence are working. The United States and other sponsors of Mideast peace want to push forward on the so-called "road map," which calls for an end to violence and leads through three stages to creation of a Palestinian state in 2005.

A top Palestinian official talked of extending a limited truce indefinitely. Israel said it was skeptical.

Sharon's trip, which will be his eighth, was originally set for September but was pushed up, apparently to sustain momentum in the peace moves.

Advances made on Arizona fire

By The Associated Press

WHITERIVER, Ariz. — Firefighters made advances Wednesday on one side of a forest fire that has forced as many as 5,000 people from their homes, but wind and lightning could threaten their progress.

The fire on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation was 10 percent contained after blackening 14,000 to 16,000 acres and leading to several thousand evacuations in Whiteriver and other reservation communities in eastern Arizona.

"We're not doing as well as we'd like to but we're doing OK," said Larry Humphrey, commander of the firefighting team.

Crews made headway on the side of the wildfire closest to the evacuated communities and were evaluating when residents might be able to return, Humphrey said.

Man has mental problems

By The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A man accused of assaulting an 11-year-old girl at a Target store in West Virginia had a history of mental problems and talked about "hurting himself" just before he was arrested, his father and his lawyer said.

Allen Dwayne Coates, 37, of Irvington, Ky., was arrested without incident at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in a parking lot outside the office of lawyer Fred Radolovich.

"He was talking crazy stuff, like hurting himself and things and having some memory problems," Radolovich said. "I wanted him looked at."

Bobby Coates said his son had a history of mental problems, including depression and had been on medication but "slacked off of it."

South Charleston Police Chief David Dunlap said an anonymous tip from a person in Kentucky led to the arrest. He credited the capture to a grainy surveillance video from the department store.

The girl was assaulted Saturday evening at the South

Charleston store after she and her mother separated to shop individually.

Coates also faces charges stemming from a similar incident Friday at a Wal-Mart in Ashland, Ky., police there said in a statement.

'Queen of Salsa' dies

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Celia Cruz, who went from singing in Havana nightclubs to become the "Queen of Salsa," died Wednesday, her publicist said.

Cruz, who was 77, died of a brain tumor. She had surgery for the ailment in December but her health faltered. She died at her home in Fort Lee, N.J., according to her publicist, Blanca Lasalle.

Her husband, trumpeter Pedro Knight, was at her side; the pair had celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on Monday, Lasalle said.

Her alliance with fellow salsa star and "Mambo King" Tito Puente resulted in some of the biggest successes in her career. The two recorded albums and regularly performed together, and they were considered legends of the genre.

She recorded more than 70 albums and had more than a dozen Grammy nominations.

Democrats decide to address NAACP

By The Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Three Democratic White House hopefuls who earlier this week skipped the NAACP's presidential forum have apparently reconsidered the snub and now want to attend.

Three days after being labeled "persona non grata" by the president of the NAACP, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich were expected to address the group Thursday.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said he learned late Wednesday that both Gephardt and Lieberman wanted to travel to Miami Beach to publicly apologize. He said his staff then contacted Kucinich, and the Ohio congressman's campaign said it "wanted to come and do the same."

NAACP leaders lambasted the three lawmakers when they didn't make it to the convention's forum Monday. The six Democrats who did attend the forum shared the stage with four empty chairs, each labeled with the name of a candidate who did not attend — Lieberman, Gephardt, Kucinich, and President Bush.

Commander: U.S. troops in Iraq facing 'guerrilla war'

BY MATT KELLEY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein loyalists are fighting an increasingly organized "guerrilla-type campaign" against U.S. troops, and terror groups are reviving, too, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq says.

Highlighting the danger, American forces found a cache of about 4 tons of military explosives in central Iraq Thursday, a senior official at the Pentagon said. Troops found the stash of C4 explosives about 30 miles southwest of Baghdad after being tipped by Iraqis, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A statement from U.S. Central Command said troops from the 4th Infantry Division found 54 crates of C4, as well as 250,000 blasting caps.

U.S. soldiers are holding 543 Iraqis captured during Operation Soda Mountain, the latest sweep for anti-American fighters, the statement said. Those arrested include 48 identified as Saddam Hussein loyalist leaders, the statement said.

Gen. John Abizaid said the threat was nothing that the troops couldn't handle. "They're not driving us out of anywhere," the four-star general said Wednesday.

Still, Abizaid's use of the term "guer-

rilla warfare" was a striking departure for a top military leader. As recently as last week, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials refused to use the term, saying attacks on U.S. forces were too sporadic and disorganized to qualify as a guerrilla campaign.

Abizaid credited attackers with improved organization, tactics and financing as he suggested American soldiers may face deployments of a length seldom seen since the Vietnam War.

However, he pledged that soldiers in the Army's longest-serving unit in Iraq, the 3rd Infantry Division, would be on their way home by the end of September. Other U.S. troops will be given a firm homecoming date.

"It's very, very important to all of us to make sure that our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines know when they're coming home," Abizaid said at a Pentagon news conference.

He suggested that comments by a few soldiers in an interview with ABC-TV — including one who said he wanted to ask Rumsfeld to resign — simply show the frustration of young people who are ready to go home.

"Every now and then we've got to look at our young people and understand why they said what they said, and then do something about it," Abizaid said.

He declined to speculate on whether those soldiers could face punishment but added: "None of us that wear this uniform are free to say anything disparaging about the secretary of defense, or the president of the United States."

Before they go home, those troops undoubtedly will face more attacks from former members of Saddam's Baath Party and from terrorist groups who want to derail Iraq's transition to democracy, Abizaid said. He spoke on a day when attackers killed the pro-American mayor of a northwestern Iraqi town and a U.S. soldier in Baghdad.

Though Rumsfeld has avoided characterizing the situation as "guerrilla warfare," Abizaid said Wednesday it was the proper term.

"It's low-intensity conflict in our doctrinal terms, but it's war however you describe it," said Abizaid, who took over last week as head of U.S. Central Command.

Midlevel Baath Party operatives have organized themselves into cells of perhaps 10 people. With some regional coordination and financing, those cells plan attacks on American forces with improvised bombs, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons, Abizaid said.

Terrorist groups pose another threat to American forces, he said.

Those groups operating inside Iraq

include Ansar al-Islam, an al-Qaida-linked organization whose camp in northern Iraq suffered devastating attacks from U.S. forces in the early stages of the war in Iraq. Ansar al-Islam appears to be regrouping in Iraq, possibly aided by members coming from Iran, Abizaid said.

Other non-Iraqi fighters have ideological sympathies for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, if not orders from him to attack Americans, he said.

Wednesday's unsuccessful missile attack on a C-130 cargo plane landing in Baghdad was the second in as many weeks, Abizaid said. U.S. commanders remain worried about the threat from shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, the general said.

Abizaid said he was recently a passenger in a C-130 over Iraq when the crew swerved the plane and fired flares to avoid a possible missile launch.

"These were guys from the Oklahoma National Guard, and they actually thought it was fun. I was terrified," Abizaid said.

About 148,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq, bolstered by an additional 12,000 or so from coalition countries, mainly Britain and Poland. The number of troops in Iraq is about right for the next several weeks, at least, Abizaid said.

"If the situation gets worse, I won't hesitate to ask for more," he said.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

■ **NEW YORK** — Armando Benitez, the New York Mets' closer since 1999 and the team's only All-Star this year, was traded across town and will become the setup man for the Yankees.

The Yankees will pay the remainder of Benitez's \$6.75 million salary this year, which comes to \$2,729,508, plus \$456,434 in additional luxury tax. The Mets got right-handed pitchers Jason Anderson, Anderson Garcia and Ryan Bicondoa.

■ **MINNEAPOLIS** — The Minnesota Twins acquired outfielder Shannon Stewart and a player to be named from the Toronto Blue Jays for outfielder Bobby Kielty.

The Blue Jays will pick up the remainder of Stewart's \$6.2 million salary, and the Twins will play the rest of Kielty's \$325,000 contract.

BASKETBALL

■ **SAN ANTONIO** — Tim Duncan signed a long-term deal to remain with the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs. The two-time league MVP reportedly received a \$122 million, seven-year deal — the largest allowed under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement.

San Antonio also signed 7-foot center Rashaun Nesterovic to a six-year deal.

■ **EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** — Free-agent center Alonzo Mourning signed a multiyear contract with the New Jersey Nets. Mourning, a seven-time All-Star, sat out the entire 2002-03 season due to a kidney ailment.

■ **PHOENIX** — The Phoenix Suns signed center Scott Williams and Brazilian point guard Leandro Barbosa, the second of their two first-round draft picks.

Barbosa, the No. 28 pick overall, signed a three-year deal worth about \$2.17 million.

■ **INDIANAPOLIS** — The Indiana Pacers signed two-time All-Star Jermaine O'Neal to a seven-year contract.

■ **ORLANDO, Fla.** — The Orlando Magic signed forward Juwan Howard to a five-year contract.

■ **EAGLE, Colo.** — The county district attorney said he had not decided whether to file criminal charges against Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant, who has been accused of sexually assaulting a woman.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he probably won't announce his decision before Friday or early next week.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

■ **RALEIGH, N.C.** — The Atlantic Coast Conference has asked the NCAA to change a rule that would allow the league to hold a football championship game.

The ACC expanded to 11 schools two weeks ago by adding Miami and Virginia Tech, but under NCAA regulations only conferences with 12 or more teams can stage such a lucrative title game.

Shane Lyons, an ACC assistant commissioner in charge of compliance, said the ACC filed the necessary paperwork with the NCAA on Tuesday, asking that leagues with 10 teams be allowed to play conference title games.

SWIMMING

■ **BARCELONA, Spain** — Japan won the free-combined program in synchronized swimming at the World Swimming Championships. The United States and Spain shared the silver medal.

Russian distance swimmer Vladimir Diattchine won the men's 10-kilometer open-water swim. Italy picked up its second gold medal when Viola Valli won the 10-kilometer women's swim. Emilie Heymans of Canada won the 10-meter platform diving competition.

HOCKEY

■ **SUNRISE, Fla.** — The Florida Panthers re-signed top scorers Olli Jokinen and Viktor Kozlov to one-year contracts.

■ **RALEIGH, N.C.** — The Carolina Hurricanes acquired Bob Boughner from the Calgary Flames for a fourth-round draft pick in 2004.

SOCCER

■ **CARSON, Calif.** — The World Cup champion U.S. national team held the top spot in the first women's world soccer rankings, issued by FIFA.

Each of the top four teams in the rankings of world soccer's governing body — including Norway, Germany and China — were designated as the top seeds in Thursday's draw for this year's World Cup.

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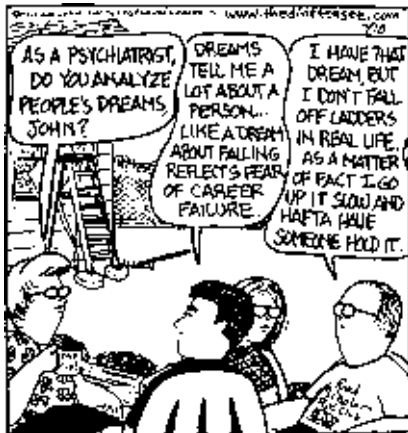
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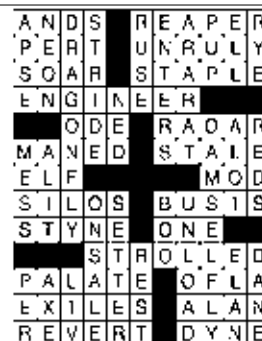
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- 1 Crack up
- 6 Numbers site
- 11 Parting word
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- 15 Prepare the salad
- 17 Maine caller
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- 20 Bill stamp
- 22 Stray
- 23 Fight site
- 26 It's straight from the heart
- 28 Bocelli, for one
- 29 Patsies
- 31 Dam grp.
- 32 Witch creation
- 33 Cries of insight
- 34 Trumpeter Baker
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- 40 Travel papers
- 43 Houston player
- 44 Draw out

- 45 Bowler's button
- 46 Magazine entreaty

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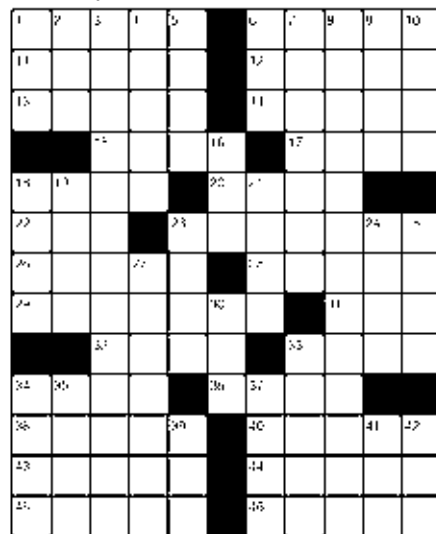
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- 7 Worship
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- 9 Late great
- 10 Perfect place
- 16 Place to relax
- 18 Map areas
- 19 Easy run
- 21 Liberal study
- 23 Carry on
- 24 Space sight
- 25 Periods
- 27 Dungeon doings



Yesterday's answer

- 16 Place to relax
- 18 Map areas
- 19 Easy run
- 21 Liberal study
- 23 Carry on
- 24 Space sight
- 25 Periods
- 27 Dungeon doings
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QUEEN DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Plush, name brand, still in plastic. Warranty. Was \$595. Sacrifice \$175. (310)350-3814.

QUEEN ORTHO Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/warranty. Must sell. \$125 (310)350-3814.

Vehicles for sale

'95 FORD Mustang, white, auto, very sharp, #sf215238, Santa Monica Ford, (310)451-1588.

'01 FORD Ranger, v6 auto, xlt, loaded, 4d, incredible, #ipa84868, Santa Monica Ford, (310)451-1588.

'00 FORD Explorer xls, 4d, black, extra nice, priced to sell, #yzzb93111, Santa Monica Ford, (310)451-1588

'03 FORD Mustang GT, Conv, only 2,000 miles, black, save, #3f326633, Santa Monica Ford, (310)451-1588.

FOR SALE : 1976 Mercedes Benz 300 D, yellow, sunroof, runs great, reliable. German built to US specs. \$3300 obo (310)383-6015.

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EXPERT in Ballroom Dancing, like to talk to people, multi-lingual, in Santa Monica. Call (310)395-6331.

Wanted

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WANTED

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For Rent

BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1175.00 Close to malls. On Sweetzer. Bright 2bdrm/1ba, laundry, parking, d/w, stove, water & trash included newly finished hardwood, fresh paint, small pet OK.

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SANTA MONICA: North of Wilshire, 2 bdrms, 1 bath, spacious and clean, good location, laundry room, patio, enclosed garage, \$1500/mo . (310)451-9673.

SM : \$1150 / mo. 1 + 1 , 1245 10th st #9 . Stove, carpet, blinds, laundry, no pets (310) 393 - 6322 mgr . JKW Properties Inc.

SM : \$1565 Large 2 bdrm/ 1 ba new appliances, new tile, very quiet, garden courtyard. Franklin/ Arizona (310)586-1069 .

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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WLA: \$1350 large remodeled 1 bd/1 ba New cabinets, tile, appliances, balcony/laundry, great location, w/c pet 1324 Barry 310-231-0352

For Rent

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WEST HOLLYWOOD \$795.00 Great 1bdm/1ba, patio, 2 units available, patio, hardwood floors, stove, fridge, Spanish style.

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SANTA MONICA: \$950, triplex, 1+1, r/s, w/d, great location, parking.
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SANTA MONICA: \$1500, 2+1, great location, near SMC, garage, flexible lease.
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GAY WHITE male seeks gay male to share 2 bdrm, 2 bath townhouse style apartment in West Hollywood. Must be employed, clean and responsible. Non smoker and no drugs. \$803.50/mo + 1/2 utilities. \$850 deposit. No pets. Please call Mitch (310)358-0430. Available now.

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U.N. and son changed actress Angelina Jolie's life

By The Associated Press

■ NEW YORK — Angelina Jolie says being a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations has changed her life.

"I used to lie there at night and wonder what it was that I needed to do," she tells *Cosmopolitan* magazine in its August issue. "That's how I stumbled on going to Washington and learning about the U.N. and traveling around the world. It completely changed me."

Jolie, 28, who stars in the upcoming "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life," says her 2-year-old son, Maddox, is the most important thing in her life. She adopted Maddox from Cambodia last year as her marriage to Billy Bob Thornton was collapsing. The couple divorced in May.

"Before Maddox, when things would go bad, I had a tendency to be depressed or self-destructive or lost, and I can't afford to be any of that now," the Oscar-winning actress tells the magazine. "He has given me strength. I've never known this kind of relationship or love before."

One challenge facing Jolie is figuring out how to tell Maddox about Santa Claus "because I don't want to tell him he exists when he doesn't," she says.

"I don't know about the Easter Bunny either. Maybe I'll have to lighten up."

Jolie won a supporting-actress Oscar for 1999's "Girl, Interrupted." Her upcoming films also include "Beyond Borders" and "Sharkslayer."

■ LOS ANGELES — The best part of the ESPY Awards for Serena Williams wasn't taking home two trophies but having comedian Jamie Foxx sing to her.

Foxx, host of Wednesday night's show on ESPN, sang "Can I Be Your Tennis Ball?" to the world's top-ranked women's player.

"I was really shocked and stunned. I couldn't stop laughing," the 21-year-old said backstage. "I told Jamie, 'I'm going to have to get the record.' The song was the

icing on the cake."

She was voted female athlete of the year and female tennis player of the year in the show that honors the year's top athletes and moments in sports.

Williams wore a long pink gown with a V-neck that plunged nearly to her navel. She said she designed it under her Aneres label, which is her first name spelled backward.

"It's important to accent a good part of the body," she said. "I try to look really nice so everybody will think my designs are really nice."

■ MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Spc. Shoshana Johnson, a former Army prisoner of war in Iraq, was honored at the NAACP's annual armed services and veteran's affairs awards dinner.

Johnson, who wore her full-dress uniform and a blue walking cast on her right leg, said she plans to make a full recovery from her injuries received after she was shot in both ankles during a March 23 ambush on her unit near Nasiriyah.

"That doesn't stop me," said Johnson, referring to her injury. "I'm still a soldier. I've been back to work and everything like that, and I expect to make a full recovery."

Johnson, 30, of El Paso, Texas, already has received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Johnson said she had spent some time in Miami shopping with her aunt, who lives in Wellington in Palm Beach County. "I lost a little weight. I want new clothes and I bought some new shoes — I only get to wear one foot though."

The awards dinner was part of the 94th annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Miami Beach.

■ LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Former President Clinton has called on his celebrity friends to share recipes compiled in a cookbook to raise funds for his

library foundation.

The Clinton Presidential Foundation said it will publish the \$35 cookbook next month. "The Clinton Presidential Center Cookbook: A Collection of Recipes for Family and Friends" contains 250 recipes from celebrities including Muhammad Ali, Bono, Christie Brinkley, Chevy Chase, Whoopi Goldberg, Don Henley, Quincy Jones, Bruce Lee, Sophia Loren, Mary Steenburgen, Barbra Streisand and Elizabeth Taylor.

The cookbook will be available by mail order and through the foundation's Web site, foundation President Skip Rutherford said Wednesday.

■ STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A piano piece by French composer Claude Debussy found two years ago will be played officially for the first time in a small church in central Sweden on Friday.

Debussy, the founder of the Impressionist movement in music, wrote the piece in 1917 during World War I. He had cancer and gave the piece to his coal supplier to thank him for keeping his house warm during the chilly winter months in Paris, when coal was scarce.

The piano piece, about 2 minutes to 3 minutes long, was stored away in a trunk until it was discovered two years ago in Paris. French pianist Jean-Pierre Armengaud was to have played the work for the first time in Paris a few weeks ago but the concert was canceled for unknown reasons.

Armengaud then decided that he would give the first performance of the piece, "The evening that was lit up by the embers," in the Blidoe church in the Baltic archipelago of Roslagen, as part of a French-Swedish music festival organized by Paris-based Swedish composer David Lampel.

"This is the first unknown piece by Debussy that has been found after his death in 1918 and probably the last piano piece he wrote," Lampel told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

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