

FREE

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2002

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Above: City officials and construction crews sign a beam on top of the city's new public safety building on Friday. The facility will house the police department, fire department and other emergency personnel. Friday marked the end of construction for the exterior of the building.
Left: A worker looks down from the building's top floor.



Police get rooms with a view

New public safety shell complete; interior work to begin

By Daily Press staff

Cheers and applause rang out Friday as construction workers lowered a steel girder into place, completing the skeleton of Santa Monica's new public safety building.

City officials hosted a "topping-off" ceremony on the building's roof to celebrate the completion of the structure's framework, which has taken 21 months. Construction will now swing into full gear on the interior of the building. The project is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

When complete, the building — which is between the back of City Hall and Fourth Street — will reach 75 feet tall and house the police department, the fire department and the city's new emergency operations center.

Up to this point, there have been 64

contractors with more than 250 employees working on the building. Officials noted that no one has been injured on the job.

"We can only hope that you will continue to have as safe a record as we have had this far ..."

— SAM ROSARO
Project's construction manager

"We can only hope that you will continue to have as safe a record as we have had this far and that no injuries befall you in this building," said Sam Rosaro, the project's construction manager.

The building currently has 30,000 cubic yards of concrete and four million pounds of reinforcing steel.

See BUILDING, page 5

Library records subpoenaed by FBI, Secret Service

Action sparks controversy over civil liberties

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica Library officials said agents from the FBI and Secret Service attempted to subpoena a patron's library records last month.

At first librarians refused the agents' request for access to the main library's files because they did not have a court order.

The agents returned within the week carrying the proper paperwork, only to find the suspect was not a library patron, officials said.

However, librarians said the agents would not have found much information even if the suspect had a library card because they do not keep detailed lists of what its patrons have checked out.

Once material borrowed from the library is returned and is found not to be damaged, the library deletes it from the patron's record.

"It is the patrons' business, not ours, to know what they have read," said Gregory T. Mullen, a Santa Monica librarian. "The entire library system is designed that way precisely to protect the rights of our patrons."

"In fact, it would be impossible for us to come up with a list of materials someone had read over the past few years," he

added.

Mullen points out that many people come into the library on a daily basis and use its resources without ever checking anything out or leaving any record of what they were looking at.

"Checking a suspect's library record can show what they have been thinking about or studying or even where they have been traveling to."

— LAURA BOSLEY
FBI Spokeswoman

"So people already can come in here and use the resources and we would never know about it unless they check something out," he said. "And we think that's a good thing."

The FBI would neither confirm nor deny that they had subpoenaed any files from the main library or that the library is involved in any on-going investigation,

See LIBRARY, page 5

Building evacuated after gas leak reported

By Daily Press staff

A medical office building at 20th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard was evacuated early Friday morning because of a natural gas leak.

At about 8 a.m., a building in the 2000 block of Santa Monica Boulevard was cleared out by the Santa Monica Fire Department after construction crews inadvertently cut a natural gas line. A SMFD engine company was on the scene within four minutes. A total of 28 fire department members responded to the scene, along with several gas company representatives. The gas line was shut down at 8:32 a.m., and the building reopened at 8:40 a.m. There were no reported injuries.

If you suspect a natural gas leak or smell natural gas, call 911, evacuate the area and avoid operating light switches.

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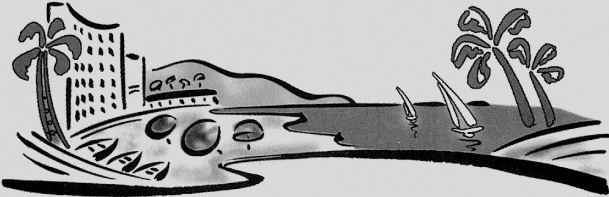
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ A friend's offer or suggestion could be irresistible. Do what you want. Readjust your plans if you feel the need. Express more of what you feel to a family member. Both of you rejuvenate in a different setting. Tonight: Go for exotic.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ A good idea takes off faster than you thought possible. An associate or partner thinks you're the cat's meow. Make plans that you love, and others will happily join in. Ask that important question or have that key talk. Tonight: Don't let pressure motivate you.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Demonstrating caring can be quite different for one person as it can be for another. A particular person would like to see your caring in concrete, material terms. Listen well as others reveal much more of what's on their mind. Make plans to be among the throngs. Tonight: Where the party is.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Express what is on your mind, remaining confident that others do want to hear you. Don't minimize the importance of another's reactions. Share a favorite sport or pastime with a child or loved one. You don't need to have major plans. Tonight: Don't make anything hard.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your fiery nature dances well with a new friend or a child. You intuitively know what to do — and when and where. Others delight in your company and cannot get enough of you. Express what you have been holding back. You'll find the right words. Tonight: Do something special with a friend or loved one.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A friend or close associate goes out of his or her way for you. This person wants to let you know how very much you're cared about. Celebrate good news close to home, inviting friends along. Make the most out of the moment. Tonight: Where the party is.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Brainstorm and catch up with others' news. You might be happy chatting away while walking on the beach, nibbling over a meal or even doing errands. News from a parent or someone you put on a pedestal thrills you. Tonight: At your favorite spot.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You're unlikely to stay put right now. You might want to take off and explore a new spot or a museum. Don't hold yourself back. Now is the time to make the most of the moment. A friend or loved one appreciates your efforts. Tonight: Indulge someone close to you.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Go out of your way for a family member or a partner. How this person reacts gives you a lot more feedback as to where he or she is coming from. Discussions become far more intimate and revealing. Share more of yourself, too. Tonight: Whatever you decide works.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Slow down and take your time with others. You could find that someone close is extremely chatty when you really want to play the recluse. Cut off a conversation with sensitivity so you won't offend someone close. Be politically correct. Tonight: Vanish into your own world.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your sensitivity to different issues can make all the difference in the outcome of a personal matter. Offer to pitch in and help some friends with what they feel is an important cause. You'll have a good time wherever you are. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Bring others together for a fun outing, a concert or maybe dinner out. You find that the further away from home you are, the happier you are. Visit with a relative. Go off and paint the town red. Others smile to see you out and about. Tonight: In the limelight.

QUOTE of the DAY

**“Some of us are becoming
the men we want to marry.”**
— Gloria Steinem

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530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason . . .sack@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	PRODUCTION ARTIST Corinne Ohannessian . .corinne@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com SALES REPRESENTATIVE William Pattnosh william@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
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LOCAL

Strummin' in the park



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Yosuke Tauchi spends some personal time at Palisades Park practicing chords on his electric guitar one recent afternoon.

Obituary

Forrest Lloyd Freed 1927-2002

By Daily Press Staff

Forrest Lloyd Freed, a fifth generation Santa Monican, descendant of the settlers of Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, passed away Thursday, July 18, at 4:30 a.m. He was surrounded by family and close friends.

Born Sept. 3 1927, he grew up in Santa Monica Canyon amidst sycamores, crystalline creeks, fields to roam in, and a large and loving family. From this family background, love for education and appreciation for other cultures shaped Freed's life.

After returning from military service in World War II, he attended and graduated from UCLA. Freed became a teacher and for more than 40 years taught young people at Santa Monica High School. In addition to teaching them language, he instilled in them a pride in their own cultures. His commitment to the Latino population in Los Angeles brought him to Santa Monica College to teach senior Latinos who were

learning English to become U.S. Citizens.

Throughout his life, Freed was involved in education, service to the under-served and combating prejudice and ignorance. He was president of the Santa Monica Sister City association for five years, president of the League of United Latin American Organization, a member of the Retired Teachers Association, and an active member of the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

For his efforts on behalf of the elderly population, he was elected California Senior Legislator. His legacy — a message of global peace and creating a better world for all young people — took shape in the establishment of a scholarship fund at Santa Monica College for Latino students.

He is survived by his life-long friend Mel Risher, his cousin Stephanie Marquez and many other cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Judge refuses to ease terms of comedian's probation

By The Associated Press

A Santa Monica judge refused Friday to change probation terms for comedian Paula Poundstone in a child abuse case.

Superior Court Judge Bernard J. Kamins denied a defense motion to modify her probation conditions, said her attorney, Mark Werksman.

"We're trying to get this court to allow the dependency court to take over all decisions" regarding the reunification of Poundstone with her foster children, the attorney said.

"This has been a long, frustrating experience," he said. "It appears there's a long road before things will be back to normal in her life and (for) her family."

Poundstone, a Santa Monica resident, lost custody of her three adopted children after pleading no contest last year to a felony count of child endangerment and a misdemeanor charge of infliction of injury on a child. The endangerment charge involved driving while drunk with children in her car.

The children were placed with a friend of Poundstone's who is a court-approved foster parent. Poundstone, 42, sees the children daily but the visits are monitored, her attorney said.

"She wants her kids back," Werksman said. "She'd like to have them returned to her."

Another probation review hearing was scheduled for Sept. 27.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

A mix of minor swells keeps local breaks mostly in the one-to-three foot range this weekend. Good southwest exposures. Zuma, Point Dume show slightly better sets, averaging knee- to waist-high with rarefied chest level surf.

Saturday and Sunday promise pulses from a small, peaking southwest swell, which will mix with a fading northwest wind swell to put LA County in ankle- to waist-high surf. Leo Carrillo, Topanga and Surfrider, small currently, should remain so. Best bet is probably Zuma or County Line, though longboarders and/or beginners may want to hit up Bay Street where sets look small, clean and consistent.

Today's Tides:		
Low-	1:45a.m.	-0.18'
High-	8:12a.m.	3.62'
Low-	12:39pm	2.29'
High-	7:08pm	6.35'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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Kid's coloring contest set

By Daily Press staff

Los Angeles children will design their own angelic creations this Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. for a coloring contest at Santa Monica Place, Center Court, Level 1. The contest runs through July 30. Contest submissions will be exhibited on the walls that surround the "comic Book Angel" being decorated at the shopping mall. The winners will be announced on Monday, Aug. 5, and will receive a 20-inch replica of the life-size 2002 angel statue, as well as passes to Paradise Pier.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Cars are evil

Editor:

This was anonymously sent me after the appearance of Ron Scott Smith's "Have we learned nothing from the '70s gas shortage," July 17.

What is a car? A car is the devil's machine for the stupid and indolent. Forgive them. Nature and future generations; they know not what they do. Please, ****, do not forward this to any of your addictive car driving friends. I wish to live a long life, at least until the Santa Monica ocean water starts flooding my apartment, and do not want to be crucified by those beings that think they are the children of God. I've been wanting to pop off for a long time about this stuff. I have written some "reasonable" pieces for publication.

At a public meeting I said that driving cars was an insanity so vast that the public could reassure one another that they were sane. Great for making friends.

Write something down for history.

Andrew Kay Liberman
Venice

Vagrants are abusing the system

Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter that was written to the editor in Friday's paper by Randy Walburger. Mr. Walburger is missing the point. Let's start with the fact that the people Ms. Sackariason referred to are vagrants and or panhandlers who may or may not be homeless. And these are the same people who were on the streets when the economy was booming. So it is not about them getting a job. This is about people abusing the system. This is about people disrespecting the rights of others by urinating and defecating in public places (and private property) and making it uncomfortable for others to even be in the same area.

You might consider not being ashamed by what was reported but by what is allowed. So, if you are a vagrant in Santa Monica who wants to hang out in the down-

town area all day — not accept employment — litter, as you spend all day panhandling, that's OK? But if you are a hard working business person and your customers tell you that they are accosted as they try to walk into your store by the people that are hanging out that is no good, right?

Maybe if less people in this town acted as enablers and it was clear that certain behaviors were unacceptable, maybe just maybe, some of these people on the street could actually improve their lives. Defending antisocial behavior helps no one in our society. And by the way, Ms. Sackariason is the boss.

Barbara Tenzer
Brentwood

Promenade music distorted

Editor:

On Friday afternoon around 1 p.m. I was sitting on the patio of Trastevere, a wonderful Italian restaurant on the Promenade, with my friends and family, who were in from out of town, and we could not carry on a conversation because the music from the street performer was so loud. My friend went to the police kiosk and asked them to send someone over to get the street performer to turn down the music. Then I went over to the musicians and asked them to please turn the music down myself because no police came.

Finally, Steele from Bayside came to our rescue. He asked them to turn their volume down and then told us that they were a little loud but within the allowable limit. These two guys are out there to express their talent and make some money. If I was playing on the street and no one was donating any money and people were asking me to turn down my volume I might get the hint that something was wrong. The music was not bad, it was distorted and made it very uncomfortable for anyone to listen. Guys, I don't know the name of your group but you need get rid of the distortion and maybe you will then develop a following and start to make some money. That is the reason that you are playing, isn't it?

Lori Innes
Santa Monica

Do you remember Santa Monica in its hey day?

GUEST COLUMN

By Rufus Baker

Do you remember...

Meet me at Curtis Corner, "the daily message in the personal column, sending young lovers to the corner of 4th and Santa Monica?"

A day of fun for \$1.91 at Pacific Ocean Park?

Stan Laurel waving to passers-by from his Ocean Avenue balcony?

Back when your phone prefix was Exbrook or GLadstone and you probably had a party line?

Do you remember...

Cashing in your Blue Chip stamps at the redemption center at Lincoln and Bay?

Skating at the rink on the pier?

The "dutchess" selling penny candies from a jar in her tiny market at 12th and Arizona?

Hot Lips and Fingertips performing

each weekend at O'Mahoney's Whip on Main Street?

Back when cable TV in Santa Monica meant only the Z Channel?

Do you remember...

Sunday grocery shopping to the sounds of Dick Lane's KHJ Polka Parade in the supermarket at 4th and Broadway?

Billy's fish Market and Miller's Market, on Montana?

Buying Scout uniforms at Campbell's, toys from Haber's, hardware in Noonan's, pottery from Beryl's, books at Martindale's, browsing the Horace Heidt Arcade, inhaling the organ music from Henshey's mezzanine, or bowling at Harold Lloyd's Llo-da-Mar, later the Samoa Lanes?

Back when Third Street routinely flooded at Wilshire outside Ralph's, before the city installed sewer drains?

Do you remember...

Bob & Al's burger shack, next door to the original Muscle Beach, on the lawn of the municipal lifeguard headquarters?

Snax Fifth Avenue, with its half-dozen, well-worn stools across from the main Post Office?

Mama, Papa and Baby Burgers from the A&W stand on Wilshire?

Sweet 16 on Montana, the Zanzibar on 4th, the Crandall House on Lincoln, the Scuttlebutt on Wilshire, the two Friars, Coffee Dans, or Bucky's swinging doors on Pico?

Back when the IHOP was on Ocean Avenue at Broadway?

Do you remember...

The open-air beach trolleys with nautical names plying the then-only Promenade in town?

Crossing the 7th Street bridge to Samohi?

Washington Elementary School on 4th Street and Charnley Jo-Helen School on Montana?

The city's first handicapped parking space, on 7th Street, designed for Democratic activist Margaret Cavanaugh's electric cart with the JFK464 miniplates?

Good morning, Josephine! — The weekly greeting in eyepatched Gordon Macker's Independent Journal column?

The Oscars at the Civic Auditorium?

Back when the bus from LA was green?

Do you remember...

The rich aroma of fresh leather permeating Molloy's Shoe Repairs on Broadway, where all the workers were deaf and mute?

The impressive Stanton McDonald Wright murals at the city's 5th Street Carnegie Library?

America's first fully automated radio station, airing, "the beautiful sounds of the surf, KSRF" from a glass cubicle at the entrance to POP?

Santa Monica's daytime only radio station KDAY, with 4th Street studios next to Montgomery Ward catalogue store?

The after-hours club Mirror-Go-Round on Main Street?

And back when Mrs. Pryday used to come on Friday to lead singing classes at the city's public schools?

If you remember all of these things, if you truly remember, well, then, dearie, you're much older than I!

(Rufus Baker is a Santa Monica-Malibu school district substitute teacher and former newspaper reporter. He has lived in Santa Monica since the 1950's.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL

Santa Monica Library records kept confidential

LIBRARY, from page 1

said FBI spokeswoman Laura Bosley.

Although Bosley said checking the library records of persons under investigation is a common method for FBI agents and often can reveal details that otherwise would never have been discovered.

"Checking a suspect's library record can show what they have been thinking about or studying or even where they have been traveling to," she said. "It's a common, normal thing for our agents to do."

Secret Service officials did not respond to requests for comment.

In November President George W. Bush signed into law the Patriot Act, which gives law enforcement agencies more power to gather evidence in protecting citizens from terrorists plotting criminal acts.

The act has drawn much discussion among librarians and civil libertarians. They fear government officials could use the power to access personal information without just cause.

Santa Monica librarians, for example, had refused to even reveal if the FBI and Secret Service's suspect had a library account until the officers obtained a court order.

"This new legislation has been approved and there are possibilities that there may be other investigations or questions arising," Mullen said. "However it's important to remember there are laws covering the confidentiality of our records and we still must follow those guidelines and laws."

Mullen said requiring the subpoena helps not only to protect its patron's privacy but also any case the agents may be compiling against a suspect.

"If we just gave them information, a lawyer could later on get anything they

found thrown out of court for being obtained improperly," he said.

In his 11 years working in Santa Monica libraries, Mullen said he can count on one hand the number of times federal agents and police officers have requested to look at an individual's library records.

"If it weren't for the help and assistance of public servants, like librarians, we would never be able to completely do our job."

— LAURA BOSLEY
FBI spokeswoman

"Usually the first thing they want to know is if that person is a library patron and if they have anything checked out," he said. "They may want to look at library records to check out the person's interests and see if they are interested in nefarious activities."

Though Bosley would neither confirm nor deny whether any agents had even set foot in any of Santa Monica's libraries, she did say that the FBI depends on the cooperation and help of local librarians in their investigations.

"We are in a heightened state of alert and agents are tracking down leads and tips all the time," she said. "If it weren't for the help and assistance of public servants, like librarians, we would never be able to completely do our job."

Public safety building first facility in new civic center

BUILDING, from page 1

"I don't think this building will budge an inch when we have our next earthquake," said Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson, which drew a nervous laugh from the audience.

Councilman Richard Bloom said the public safety building will be the first part of the civic center redevelopment plan to become a reality.

"It's the first major piece of our new civic center we are building," he said. "So it's really a cornerstone of what we are envisioning for our new civic center."

"But it is also the cornerstone of our city because of the importance we place on our police and fire services," he said.

Fire and police officials said they are eager to move into the new building, adding that having a centralized emergency services will help the departments in their "customer relations."

But Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. said the new building also will say a lot about the importance Santa Monica places on its police and fire fighters.

"As a police department we have always thought of ourselves as a world-class police department," he said, "and now we will truly look like one."

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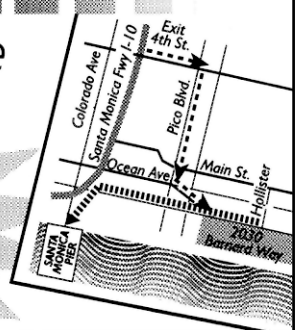
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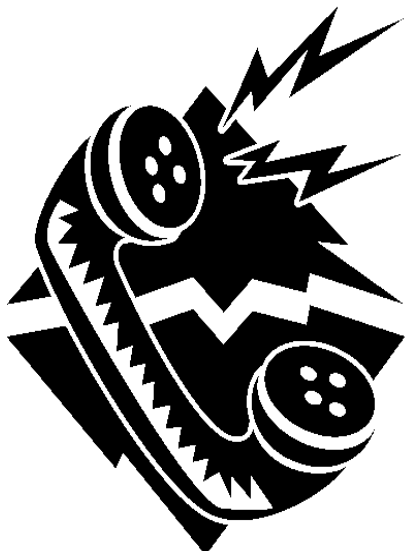
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STATE

Entertainment industry hunting down people who trade movies online

BY SIMON AVERY

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — The movie industry is hunting down people who swap digital films online and demanding that their Internet service be cut off — all part of an effort to stamp out piracy and avoid the online trading frenzy that has plagued the music business.

The Motion Picture Association of America uses a special search engine to scour the Web for copyright movies, which circulate on the same peer-to-peer software networks as MP3 music files.

Since 2001, more than 100,000 customers have been ordered to stop their activities through cease-and-desist letters sent from their Internet service providers, the MPAA said.

In a newer initiative, AOL Time Warner's broadband division has begun trying to identify and stop customers who upload huge amounts of data — which in almost all cases means people trading bulky video or music files.

"We are not blocking the use of any applications or access to any Web sites," said Mark Harrad, a spokesman for Time Warner Cable. "But we are doing various things to manage bandwidth better and to interfere with people who are in violation of (their) service agreements."

Harrad declined to elaborate on interference techniques. But he denied the effort was specifically targeted at people swapping music and movie files, saying the issue is bandwidth hogs, not piracy.

AOL Time Warner owns one of the seven major studios, Warner Brothers, a member of the MPAA. It also owns Warner Music Group, one of the five major record companies.

Meanwhile, Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., is preparing legislation that would allow entertainment companies to obstruct the peer-to-peer networks with a variety of invasive electronic techniques, including software that blocks file transfers, redirects users to other sites or confuses users with fake files.

Privately, music industry officials already admit to frustrating file traders by putting up bogus files. Individuals trying to download unauthorized tracks from Eminem's latest CD last month, for example, occasionally got files containing only a single verse repeated continuously, rather than a complete song.

Such acts could, however, be illegal today under the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

The law allows people to duplicate copyright material for their own use. But the distribution power of the Internet, which allows someone to share a personal copy with millions, has left the concept of "fair use" unclear.

Movie files are harder to share over peer-to-peer networks because they are significantly larger than music files. At more than 600 megabytes, a full length movie can easily take six hours to download over broadband. By contrast, an average music file of six megabytes takes a few minutes.

But Hollywood studios worry that the

rising number of broadband connections and improved video compression techniques will open the door to runaway piracy.

Between 400,000 and 600,000 copies of movies are downloaded illegally each day, according to the consulting firm Viant. Though far fewer than the 3 billion daily music downloads off the now-defunct music swapping site Napster at its peak, it's enough to spook the movie industry.

**"... We are doing
various things to
manage bandwidth
better and to interfere
with people who
are in violation of (their)
service agreements."**

— MARK HARRAD

Time Warner Cable spokesperson

"Our industry could be damaged as much as the music industry," said Ken Jacobsen, senior vice president of worldwide antipiracy at the MPAA.

The MPAA uses special monitoring software from San Diego-based Ranger Online Inc. The automated software provides the Internet address of the file-swapper, which the MPAA forwards to the relevant Internet provider.

The MPAA then asks the provider to contact the user with an ultimatum: Remove the copyright files from your computer or have your service disconnected.

Almost everyone served with a cease-and-desist letter by their Internet provider complies, Jacobsen said. The group said it does not keep records of how many users have actually been disconnected, though at least one recipient has fought back.

InternetMovies.com, a Hawaii-based Web site, filed suit against the MPAA for causing a business disruption after it was tagged for illegal file-swapping and had its Internet service disconnected. Jacobsen said the MPAA will wage a vigorous defense.

Some critics of the MPAA's initiative question how long Internet providers will continue to assist the hunt against their own customers.

It's just too expensive for the providers to lose those customers, said Fred von Lohmann of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit group representing defendants in copyright infringement suits.

"Hollywood is pressuring intermediaries to do their police work. That was never the intention of copyright law," von Lohmann said.

But the MPAA says Internet providers have many reasons to cooperate: They don't want illegal activity on their networks, they don't want to be exposed to litigation and they don't want users eating up extra bandwidth by trading large movie files.

STATE



A mother speaks



Kevork Djansezian/Associated Press

Adelina Avila talks to reporters as she also speaks by telephone to her son Alejandro Avila at her apartment in Lake Elsinore, Calif., early Friday. Authorities arrested the 27-year-old man Friday as part of their investigation into the kidnapping and slaying of 5-year-old Samantha Runnion.

Medical pot users can get immunity from prosecution

BY COLLEEN VALLES
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Medical marijuana users are immune from criminal prosecution in California state courts under a ruling by the state's Supreme Court.

Under California law, possessing or growing marijuana "is no more criminal than the possession and acquisition of any prescription drug with a doctor's prescription," the California Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

Writing for the unanimous court, Chief Justice Ronald George said a section of California law "reasonably must be interpreted to grant a defendant a limited immunity from prosecution."

Users of medical marijuana, however, are still subject to prosecution under federal law.

The ruling stems from the arrest and conviction of Myron Mower, who uses marijuana to alleviate complications from diabetes. Mower was arrested in 1997 and

convicted of possessing and cultivating marijuana.

The appeals court affirmed Mower's conviction. The ruling on Thursday sent the case back to the appeals court for a new trial.

California was the first state to approve medical marijuana in 1996 with the passage of Proposition 215. But the U.S. Supreme Court said last year that it's illegal to sell or possess marijuana for medical use.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, whose office prosecuted the case, applauded the state Supreme Court decision.

"As a supporter of Proposition 215, I believe that the court's decision strikes an appropriate balance in helping to ensure that truly needy patients whose doctors have recommended medical marijuana to alleviate pain and suffering related to serious illnesses will have access to this medicine under California law," he said in a written statement.

Forest officials force flagpoles off federal land

By The Associated Press

KYBURZ — The U.S. Forest Service told one of its tenants that his 20-foot flagpole is unauthorized and has to go.

David Knickerbocker has flown the American flag on the pole next to his summer cabin in the Sierra Nevada for almost two decades. He leases a quarter-acre lot in the El Dorado National Forest.

The former Stockton Police officer who served almost 40 years in the U.S. Army called the order "unbelievable."

"Of all the things to regulate, the flying of the flag of the United States?" he said. But the Forest Service, which sent Knickerbocker a letter about the flagpole on July 8, suggested hanging flags from brackets on their cabins instead of from flagpoles.

"If you're putting holes in the ground where Native Americans once resided, that needs an archaeological review," Forest Service spokesman Frank Mosbacher said.

The Forest Service discovered the poles last year when they began inspecting lots for lease renewal.

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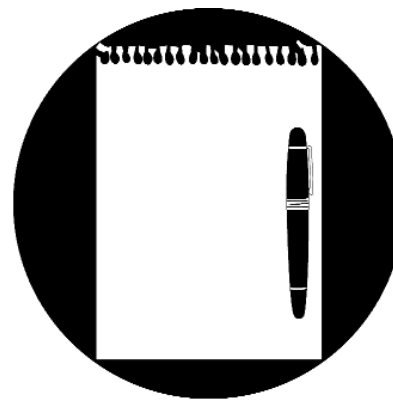
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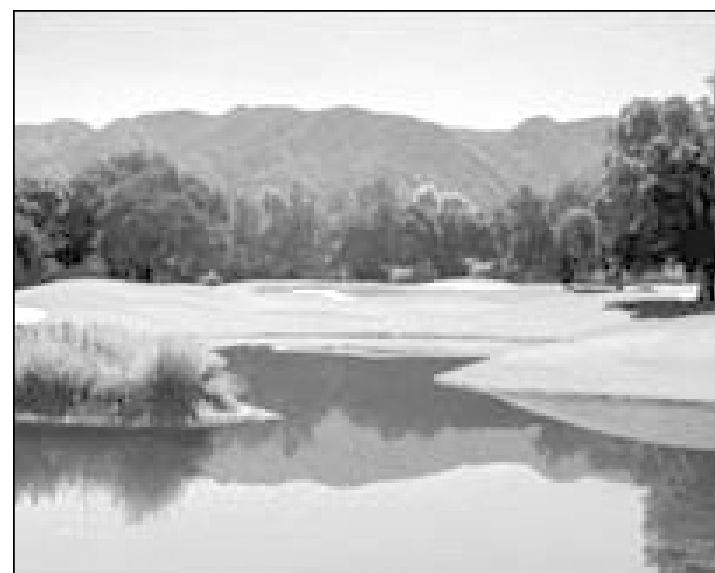
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NATIONAL

\$35M initiative plans to get rid of chronic homelessness

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration outlined a \$35 million initiative Friday to stamp out chronic homelessness, targeting people with addictions or disabilities, who have lived on the streets for over a year.

The effort reallocates existing funding from three federal agencies — Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services and the Veterans Administration — into programs that provide permanent housing and social services for the homeless.

HUD Secretary Mel Martinez said he would like to eliminate chronic homelessness within 10 years.

"This joint collaboration on homelessness has never been tried before. Yet it makes perfect sense," Martinez said in a speech Friday at a conference of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

"The Bush administration's commitment to America's homeless men, women and families has new breadth and new

depth, and this gives me new hope that we will succeed," he said.

The initiative was coordinated by the federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, which on Thursday met for the first time in six years.

Currently, 14 federal programs totaling \$2.2 billion a year help the homeless in America. HUD provides nearly half of that funding.

Martinez's speech got a mixed reaction from homeless advocates attending the conference.

"It's a good initiative. Hopefully in the next year we can make great strides," said Hilary Eversol of Bowling Green, Kent.

Shawnel Lee, of Meadville, Pa. said the situation has worsened in her area in the last two years because of economic unrest.

"I think (Martinez) was blowing smoke," she said. "We have more people who are one paycheck away from being homeless."

The government estimates that about 2.5 million Americans experience homelessness every year, with 10 percent who are chronically homeless.

Mentally ill Georgian jail inmate gouges out own eyes

By The Associated Press

HAZLEHURST, Ga. — A mentally ill man who was jailed after wandering into traffic and knocking on doors late at night gouged his eyes out in his cell, authorities said Friday.

Jailers discovered 49-year-old Alvin Kent Smith in his cell with his eyes plucked out April 4, Sheriff Jimmy Boatright said. Doctors saved one eye, but it is unlikely Smith will regain his sight.

Smith's family thought he was attacked by his cellmate, but a Georgia Bureau of Investigation report concluded Smith's injuries were self-inflicted.

Smith had no injuries to his eyelids or face, which almost certainly would have

occurred if someone attacked him, Boatright said. Also, there was no trace of Smith's blood or tissue under his cellmate's fingernails.

Smith would not tell investigators how he lost his eyes.

"The only thing he said was that somebody put ink in his head and it was clouding up his thinking," Boatright said.

Smith was picked up late April 3 after several people reported he was walking in traffic and knocking on people's doors.

Boatright said no charges were filed because the department knew of Smith's mental illness. The sheriff said that before he could decide whether Smith should be hospitalized, he plucked his eyes out.

Wall Street worries



Richard Drew/Associated Press

Specialist Thomas Murphy, right center, directs trading in shares of Johnson and Johnson on the New York Stock Exchange floor, Friday. Johnson & Johnson, the maker of Band-Aids and Tylenol and other health care products, is down on news that one of the company's factories is under investigation by the Food and Drug Administration.

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NATIONAL



Iranians call for U.S.'s death



Vahid Salemi/Associated Press

Iranian demonstrators pass over the Hafez bridge during an anti-U.S. rally in Tehran, Friday. Tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets of the capital Tehran on Friday, condemning President Bush for criticizing their government with calls of "Death to America" and "Death to Bush."

Rumsfeld orders internal investigation of Pentagon leak

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered an internal investigation into who leaked a highly classified document on possible military actions to topple Iraq's Saddam Hussein, officials said Friday.

The investigation, which has not been publicly announced, is being conducted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, whose primary missions are criminal investigation and counterintelligence.

The Pentagon public affairs office would not comment, but the investigation of the leak to The New York Times was confirmed by several senior officials, including some who said they had been questioned in their offices this week by agents of the Air Force Office of Special Investigation.

An official with direct knowledge of Rumsfeld's decision said it was the first such probe he has ordered since taking office in January 2001. This official, who discussed the matter on condition of anonymity, said Rumsfeld issued the order shortly after the Times story was published July 5.

Bryan Whitman, a deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said he could not comment.

Maj. Mike Richmond, spokesman for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, said that as a matter of policy he could not confirm an investigation. He said probes into news leaks are uncommon; he could not recall one in the two years he has spent with the agency.

Rumsfeld often has publicly warned Pentagon officials that leaking classified information is a criminal act.

In a July 12 memo Rumsfeld ordered Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and all other senior Pentagon officials to meet with their staffs to discuss "the seriousness of the lack of professionalism we continue to see on a daily basis" — a reference to leaks of classified information to

reporters.

Rumsfeld attached to that memo a one-page unclassified CIA analysis which concluded that the al-Qaida terrorist network has learned a great deal from American and foreign news media about how to foil U.S. counterintelligence efforts. It said this has hurt the U.S. war against terrorism.

It was unclear why the Air Force's criminal investigations arm has taken the case instead of equivalent agencies within the departments of the Army or Navy or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In his July 5 report, New York Times reporter Eric Schmitt wrote that a person familiar with the planning document said it called for air, land and sea-based forces to attack Iraq from three directions. It envisioned tens of thousands of marines and soldiers probably invading from Kuwait.

Hundreds of warplanes based in as many as eight countries would assault thousands of targets, including airfields, roadways and fiber-optics communications sites in Iraq, the Times report said.

The document, entitled "CentCom Courses of Action," was prepared by planners at the Central Command in Tampa, Fla., the Times said. The document described an attack concept but was not an actual war plan.

One official said Friday that the investigators were having trouble correlating the information described in the Times report with a known planning document.

Asked about the Times disclosure, Rumsfeld said Monday in a CNBC interview that it appeared to him to have come from "somebody who advises somebody at a lower level" of the government.

Rumsfeld said he was disturbed by the leak. It is "putting people's lives at risk," he said. He did not specifically mention an investigation but alluded to hunting down leakers and punishing them.

"I would dearly like to find them," he said. "I think that people who know who those people are would do the country a service if they'd let me know who those people are. And I'd like to see them behind bars."

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NATIONAL

House panel refuses to delay airline baggage screening

BY CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A House panel refused Friday to postpone screening of airline bags for explosives as lawmakers moved closer to approving legislation creating a new Homeland Security Department dedicated to protecting Americans from terrorism.

The House Select Committee on Homeland Security voted 6-3 to reject an attempt by Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, to postpone the Dec. 31 deadline Congress set last fall for airports to set up screening devices for checked baggage.

"It is a disservice to the American people and it is certainly not providing homeland security," said Rep. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., chief sponsor of the amendment to uphold the deadline.

The committee planned to vote later Friday on the overall bill. The measure would give President Bush most of the power and agencies he sought in a new Cabinet agency. The department would have 170,000 employees and a \$38 billion annual budget and serve as the new home of the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Customs Service, Secret Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Bush "believes the outcome will be what he has asked for," once Congress finishes the bill, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. The legislation is expected to reach the House floor next week.

Armey said he included the airline baggage issue in his legislation to permit time for better technology to be

developed and because so many airports, including those in Denver, Chicago and Atlanta, have indicated they cannot meet the Dec. 31 deadline.

Comparing potential terrorists to snakes, Armey said the deadline could foster "a false sense of security ... and it's a false sense of security that's going to get you bit."

Another contentious debate involved Bush's request for increased flexibility over the new agency's workers, which the president says is needed for rapid response to new terrorist threats and deal quickly with poor performance. Democrats and their labor allies view this as an assault on the civil service system and its benefits, as well as an attempt to thwart union collective bargaining.

"The way you breathe life into this lump of clay is to protect the people who work there," said Minority Whip Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

But on straight party-line votes, the committee defeated efforts by Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas, to beef up employee protections. It voted instead for an amendment by Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, that he said gives the president added flexibility over workers for national security reasons but emphasizes protections such as those for whistleblowers, collective bargaining, equal opportunity and merit hiring.

"We've tried to reach a consensus here," Portman said.

Several other Democratic amendments were defeated on party-line votes, including efforts to set up a new government-funded think tank tasked with providing the new agency with analysis and research and an attempt to enshrine in law the White House homeland security

office now occupied by Tom Ridge.

In both cases, Republicans accused Democrats of seeking to expand government.

"We are going and making things bigger, adding things," said Majority Whip Tom DeLay. "I'm trying to keep a handle on this process."

Democrats said that was an unfair characterization.

"All we seek to do is make the department more efficient and more effective," Menendez said.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., released his version of legislation creating the department.

It too tracks closely with Bush's plan but seeks to augment the agency's ability to gather and analyze intelligence from the FBI, CIA and others. That bill is to be considered by the Senate committee Wednesday.

NY firefighters take center stage at golf tourney

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

STATELINE, Nev. — The annual celebrity golf tournament at Lake Tahoe is a star gazer's dream, on the golf course by day and at the casinos by night.

In the wee hours of Friday morning, fans at Caesars Tahoe strained their necks around security guards to get a glimpse of Michael Jordan chomping a cigar at the high-limit blackjack tables with \$100 minimum bets.

A few steps away, George Brett tossed the dice at a regular craps table, Marcus Allen climbed on stage at a lounge to help sing "Play That Funky Music White Boy," and Charles Barkley signed everything from basketball jerseys to \$20 bills while four security guards insisted, "Mr. Barkley is not signing autographs."

But the real heroes at this year's American Celebrity Golf Championship are not the past Super Bowl winners or World Series champions.

It's a trio of New York City firefighters tourney sponsors flew in to play the 54-hole tourney alongside the likes of John Elway, Mario Lemieux, Marshall Faulk, Carlton Fisk, Jason Kidd and Chris Webber.

"When I first got the call, I thought they were setting me up for a good prank and I couldn't believe it," said firefighter Tom McCann of Brooklyn, N.Y.

McCann, a die-hard New York Giants fan who has spent much of his life cheering for his favorite players, had the tables turned on him at a players banquet where a silent auction of sports memorabilia raised more than \$23,000 for the Uniformed Firefighters Scholarship Fund.

Kevin O'Brien of Staten Island and retired New York firefighter Guy Warren also are playing in the tournament, televised live by NBC 1-3 p.m. (PDT) Saturday and Sunday.

McCann, who birdied the first hole and was even par midway through Friday's opening round, said dozens of people approached the firefighters on the Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course to thank them for their efforts.

"We are thanking them as much as they are thanking us. A lot of what the people have done for us is a lot of what has gotten us through the whole thing," McCann said.

The firefighters' winnings in the tourney with a \$500,000 purse are to be added to the scholarship fund.

Plenty of cat calls for all-feline TV show

BY TED SHAFFREY

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Esther Friesner fluffed the pink boa draped across her neck, adjusted her Cat Woman ears, thanked her cats for their support and summoned forth her best inner feline.

"Meow, meow, meow, meow," she sang, her voice pitched high in imitation of a commercial for cat food. "I want turkey, salmon and chicken, oceanfish flavors keep me lickin'."

Friesner, a science fiction writer from Connecticut, was one of dozens of adults and kids Wednesday trying out for a spot on "Meow TV," a new show being shopped around for the

fall season for cats.

No, not for cat lovers. For cats. "If you can imagine the Discovery Channel for cats," said Richard Thompson, CEO of Meow Mix cat food, who is producing the show. "There will be squirrels, bouncing balls, birds and all the things cats love to watch."

Lacking opposable thumbs, felines will have to rely on their owners to tune in to the half-hour show.

According to Thompson, there are 85 million cats in 35 million American households, and 22 percent of pet owners watch TV shows they know their pets enjoy. He thinks he's got a consumer market.

Thompson hopes to put lots of chil-

dren on the program, so he launched an eight-city auditioning tour — other stops include Atlanta and Dallas. He's also looking for the "Vanna White of cats" to host the new show.

"I like cats a lot, I have two at home," said Melanie Bayon, 14, of New York, who took a turn at the microphone. "I also want to be an actress."

The tryout was a good place to find that extreme devotion some people have for their pets.

"I have to confess I often talk to my cat," said Catherine Goodman, after she belted out a spirited yet shrill meow. "They were my role models growing up."

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SPORTS



A royal battle ensues at the British Open

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

GULLANE, Scotland — Ernie Els was on his way to the kind of lead that usually belongs to Tiger Woods in the major championships.

One bogey changed everything, and brought just about everybody — Woods included — into the mix Friday at the British Open.

At the end of a wet and wild day on the links of Muirfield, Woods was very much in contention to capture the third leg of the Grand Slam. All he has to do now is fight off two dozen other players separated by a mere three strokes.

“Over the weekend, things might get a little tighter,” Els said.

It was plenty tight going into the weekend, with Els among five players tied for the lead, the biggest logjam at the halfway point of a major in 30 years.

The Big Easy had a 66 and shared the lead with Padraig Harrington (67), Shigeki Maruyama (68), Duffy Waldorf (69) and Bob Tway (67). They were at 136.

Another stroke back was 49-year-old Des Smyth of Ireland (69), Soren Hansen of Denmark (69) and Carl Pettersson of Sweden (70).

Woods had a bogey-free 68 and was among eight players at 138, perfect position to add the silver claret jug to the trophies from the Masters and U.S. Open, which he won earlier this year without this much of a tussle.

“Anytime you’re near the lead in a major championship, you must be happy,” Woods said.

Els certainly was pleased with his score on another relatively calm day off the Firth of Forth. Still, he knows it could have been lower, and his comfort margin a little larger.

He birdied six of the first eight holes, had the lowest nine-hole score (29) in the

British Open since 1996 and found himself leading by three shots as he stood in the 11th fairway with a wedge in his hand, 130 yards from the hole.

The shot went 144 yards, sailing over the flag and into the rough for his first bogey.

“I got too aggressive,” he said. “My blood was pumping there. After making bogey, I knew there was a lot of difficult holes to come, and that was the case.”

Another bogey followed on No. 13 when Els found a pot bunker so deep the 6-foot-4 South African couldn’t see over the top of the lip. He left his first shot in the bunker, then managed to get up-and-down to limit the damage.

Five pars later, the last one saved by a wedge from 80 yards that stopped 4 feet from the hole, he was still in good shape, tied for the lead going into the weekend at a major.

“I’m challenging for a major championship again,” Els said. “I’ve got an opportunity to achieve one of my goals, and that’s to win a claret jug. Obviously, other players would like to win this tournament.

“It’s going to be pretty exciting come Sunday.”

Now, add another element into the picture.

At 7,034 yards, Muirfield is by far the shortest course of all the major championships this year. The first two days have been nearly perfect for scoring.

And the best anyone could manage was 6 under par.

“If the wind ever blows, it’s going to be interesting,” Woods said.

That was in the forecast for Saturday, which could help separate the field. As it is, Muirfield is such a complete test of golf that it doesn’t favor any particular style, only the players who keep it out of the knee-high rough and treacherous pot bunkers.

“The way Ernie played the first nine, I thought he was going to pull away,” Tway said. “If you have some wind

blowing, you may see the scores come a little more apart.”

Tway was the last player to join the lead when he saved par from the bunker with a 20-foot putt on the final hole. Five players at the top was the most since there was a six-way tie for the lead after two rounds at Pebble Beach in the 1972 U.S. Open.

And it’s crowded all the way down to the bottom.

Phil Mickelson had to birdie the 17th hole to avoid missing the cut. He shot a 76 and was at 2-over 144, still only eight strokes behind. David Duval was seven strokes behind at the halfway point last year, and he went on to win by three.

“I’m not about to give up with two rounds to go,” Mickelson said.

Neither was Duval. Despite a double bogey on the 17th, the defending champion managed to make the cut for the first time this year in a major.

Sift through all the names, and the wild card in the middle of this race is Woods, who now has gone 26 holes without a bogey and still hasn’t had to hit from any of the 148 bunkers at Muirfield.

While Els’ momentum slowed with a bogey, Woods actually gained some by making a par on No. 10, the only time he was in serious danger Friday.

From the deep hay left of the fairway on the 475-yard hole, the best he could do was to chop it out some 15 yards to the fairway. He hit his approach into 18 feet, then made an uphill putt that had nearly a foot of break.

“I hadn’t hit too many bad shots the entire front nine, and all of a sudden I’m looking at dropping a shot,” Woods said. “That was the only hole I did that on. I wanted to continue the momentum.”

He did that, and crept even closer to the leaders on the par-5 17th from more thick grass on a knoll to the right of the green. The ball wound up on the fringe, and Woods holed the 15-footer for birdie to get to 138.

Woods anywhere near the lead going into the weekend at a major is cause for concern. The difference this week is that there are so many other players, any number of which could produce a great round in the next two days.

The favorite among the Scottish gallery is Colin Montgomerie, whose 64 made

them to take their hands off their umbrellas for rousing applause — that equates to a frenzy compared with U.S. majors.

“I know I can win,” said Montgomerie, who never has in a major. “I’ve never been frightened of winning, ever.”

He was in the group with Woods at 138, along with Thomas Bjorn and a pair of 45-year-old major champions, Nick Price and Mark O’Meara.

Having won seven of the last 11 majors, Woods remains a betting favorite. Still, the week at Muirfield has played out just as many expected.

“If there are 30 guys (close to the lead), that’s one-fifth of the field,” Harrington said. “If you cut it down the next two days, that’s 12 guys with nine holes left to go.”

British Open Scores

By The Associated Press

Friday at Muirfield, Gullane, Scotland
Purse: \$5.3 million
Yardage: 7,034; Par: 71
a-amateur

Second Round

Ernie Els, South Africa	70-66 — 136
Shigeki Maruyama, Japan	68-68 — 136
Padraig Harrington, Ireland	69-67 — 136
Duffy Waldorf, United States	67-69 — 136
Bob Tway, United States	70-66 — 136
Des Smyth, Ireland	68-69 — 137
Soren Hansen, Denmark	68-69 — 137
Carl Pettersson, Sweden	67-70 — 137
Mark O’Meara, United States	69-69 — 138
Tiger Woods, United States	70-68 — 138
Ian Poulter, England	69-69 — 138
Nick Price, Zimbabwe	68-70 — 138
Colin Montgomerie, Scotland	74-64 — 138
Stephen Ames, Trinidad & Tobago	68-70 — 138
Thomas Levet, France	72-66 — 138
Thomas Bjorn, Denmark	68-70 — 138
Jeff Maggert, United States	71-68 — 139
Corey Pavin, United States	69-70 — 139
Lee Janzen, United States	70-69 — 139
Retief Goosen, South Africa	71-68 — 139
Darren Clarke, Northern Ireland	72-67 — 139
Warren Bennett, England	71-68 — 139
Steve Stricker, United States	69-70 — 139
Scott McCarron, United States	71-68 — 139
Ian Garbutt, England	69-70 — 139



Adam Butler/Associated Press

Tiger Woods of the United States plays an iron shot during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship at Muirfield golf course in Scotland, Friday. Woods posted a score of 68 to go to 4-under par for the tournament.

Lleyton Hewitt withdraws from Mercedes-Benz Cup

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and Australian Open winner Thomas Johansson of Sweden withdrew Friday from next week’s Mercedes-Benz Cup at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the UCLA campus.

Hewitt, ranked No. 1 in the world, has a form of viral gastroenteritis while Johansson, ranked seventh, has a knee injury.

“Hopefully, it will just be a matter of days before Lleyton is ready to resume training and be back on tour,” said Tom Ross, Hewitt’s agent. “Lleyton is as disappointed to have had to withdraw from the Mercedes-Benz Cup as are tournament officials and fans in Los Angeles.”

Tommy Haas of Germany is seeded first in the tournament that begins Monday. Defending champion Andre Agassi is seeded second; Sebastien Grosjean of France third; Andy Roddick fourth; three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil fifth; Sjeng Schalken of The Netherlands sixth; Xavier Malisse of Belgium seventh, and Max Mirnyi of Belarus eighth.

The tournament, which finishes July 28, has a 32-player singles draw and 16-team doubles draw.



INTERNATIONAL

Greek police one step closer to elusive terror group

BY ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece — An alleged leader of the elusive November 17 terrorist organization was charged with 13 murders Friday as Greek authorities bore down on the violent, left-wing group that had operated with impunity for 27 years.

Handcuffed and wearing a bulletproof vest, 58-year-old Alexandros Giotopoulos, an alleged founder and ideologist for the secretive group, was taken to an Athens court and read the murder and attempted murder charges against him. He denied them all.

Prosecutor Panagiotis Angelopoulos also filed murder charges against 48-year-old electrician Vassilis Tzortzatos for allegedly killing eight Greeks, including businessmen, politicians and police officers. Retired printer Theologos Psaradelis, 55, was charged with two counts of armed robbery.

With seven suspected members of the organization now in custody, police were conducting a nationwide hunt for other aging founders and members still at large.

Despite the sudden progress in the case — which came as Greece faces intense international pressure to improve security in advance of the 2004 Olympic Games — Socialist Premier Costas Simitis said much remained to be done to rid the country of terrorism.

Giotopoulos, who had been living under an assumed name, was arrested Wednesday on the eastern Aegean island of Lipsi, where he has a holiday home. Court authorities said he appeared stunned to be taken into custody.

But police spokesman Lefteris Ekonomou said Giotopoulos' fingerprints match those found on a document referring to the November 17 assassination of Greek-British businessman Costantinos Peratikos in 1997.

The document was found in one of two Athens apartments November 17 used as hide-outs and to store weapons, including dozens of anti-tank rockets stolen from an army base. Giotopoulos' handwriting also matched notes found in the hide-out, Ekonomou said.

Police were led to the hide-outs after Savas Xiros, a 40-year-old religious icon

painter and son of a Greek Orthodox priest, was severely injured June 29 when a bomb he was allegedly carrying exploded. He remains hospitalized under heavy guard.

Savas Xiros was visited in the hospital by several of his 10 siblings, including two brothers who were later arrested. Christodoulos Xiros, a 44-year-old musical instrument maker, was arrested at his brother's bedside.

Vassilis Xiros, a 30-year-old mechanic, was taken into custody at the family home in the northern port of Thessaloniki, along with the third suspect, Dionissis Georgiadis, 26.

Police said Christodoulos Xiros, Vassilis Xiros and Tzortzatos have confessed to a variety of attacks, including the killings of U.S. defense attache Capt. William Nordeen in June 1988, Air Force Sgt. Ronald O. Stewart in March 1991 and British defense attache Brig. Stephen Saunders in June 2000.

They have also confessed to the killings of eight Greek businessmen, politicians and policemen; the attempted murders of nine people, including a Turkish official, and the bombings of two

buses carrying American servicemen.

Giotopoulos has been charged with participating in all the attacks to which the others confessed.

Britain's Foreign Office welcomed the arrests.

"These are all very positive and significant developments and we are grateful to the Greek police for the excellent cooperation they've given us throughout the investigation into Brig. Stephen Saunders' death," a Foreign Office spokesman said. Saunders was November 17's last victim.

November 17 first appeared with the 1975 assassination of Richard Welch, the CIA station chief in Athens, and has claimed responsibility for 22 killings, including those of four U.S. and two Turkish officials. Police say the group is also responsible for killing a police officer in a 1984 robbery.

The FBI and CIA have been working on the November 17 case for decades, while Britain's Scotland Yard joined the effort after Saunders' murder.

Israel arrests relatives of Palestinian attackers, destroys houses

BY MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers arrested 16 relatives of two Palestinians suspected in bloody terror attacks this week, and, in what would be a new policy, officials Friday were considering expelling some of the men to the Gaza Strip.

Israel Radio said expulsion of the fathers and brothers reflect new harsh measures the Israeli government is considering to deter potential attackers. Israeli soldiers also destroyed the family homes of the two suspected Palestinian militants.

In a statement, the militant group Hamas threatened to launch "unique martyrdom operations" if the deportations are carried out, a reference to suicide attacks.

Close-knit family relations dictate much of Palestinians' everyday lives. Deportation to Gaza from their home villages would remove much of their social, emotional and economic support systems.

The two attacks, a bus ambush in the West Bank and a double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, were the first fatal strikes against Israeli civilians since Israeli forces moved into seven of the eight main Palestinian towns and cities in the West Bank on June 20, after back-to-back suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

A woman injured in the bus ambush near an Israeli settlement in the West Bank on Tuesday, Yocheved Ben-Hanan, 21, died in Tel Aviv hospital Thursday, police said, bringing the death toll to nine. Three bystanders, including two foreign workers, were killed in the double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday.

A new group affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah

movement called Al-Nazir, "the warning" in Arabic, claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv bombing, identifying the bombers as Mohammed Attala, 18, and Ibrahim Najie, 19, from the Balata refugee camp, next to Nablus.

Overnight, Israeli forces moved into the Askar refugee camp and the nearby village of Tel, near Nablus, the military and residents said.

In Tel, soldiers destroyed the house of Nasser Aseida, 26, a leader of the Hamas military wing who was suspected of organizing the bus ambush. Soldiers arrested his father and four brothers, and detained relatives of two other wanted Hamas leaders, who are in hiding, like Aseida.

In a similar operation in the Askar refugee camp, soldiers destroyed the house of a leader of the Fatah-linked Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militia, Ali Ajouri, 23, badly damaging several nearby houses, residents said. Soldiers arrested Ajouri's father and two brothers, they said. Ajouri was not captured.

Altogether, the Israelis detained 16 men, Palestinians said. In a statement, the military said the operation was "part of the war against the terrorist infrastructure."

A senior Israeli official said the government was awaiting final recommendations from Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein — expected within a few days — on whether deporting the 16 men to Gaza was legal.

Rubinstein initially recommended that there were legal grounds for "selective deportation to Gaza" for those people "directly involved in supporting" the militants, the official added.

If Rubinstein approves and the Cabinet determines deportations would be an effective deterrent, the government would proceed, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a veteran peace campaigner who supports talks with the Palestinians, said he would support the new measures if they win legal approval.

The intent is to counter the support families of suicide bombers receive from militant groups and from outside governments that amounts to "bribery to commit mass murder," said Daniel Taub, a Foreign Ministry legal adviser.

Iraq sends up to \$25,000 to those families.

"We've seen mothers appearing in videos of suicide bombers before they go out to commit their atrocities. We've seen families of suicide bombers afterward expressing the wish that their other children will follow suit," Taub said.

"We have to try and break this cycle, we have to try and provide a deterrent."

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat denounced the deportation idea as a war crime and violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, which governs the treatment of civilians in war zones.

"When nations in the year 2002 decide on collective punishment, and decide to deport (families) from one place to another, this is a war crime, and we will pursue it as such," he said.

The Israeli human rights group Betselem said the Geneva Conventions banned forced deportations and said such collective punishment "will constitute an unerasable moral blight on the state of Israel."

Israel used the deportation tactic quite often in the 1980s, but largely held off until it sent 26 militants to the Gaza Strip in May to end a standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Investigation in Britain puts killer doctor's toll at 215 patients

BY BETH GARDINER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Dr. Harold Shipman, the once-beloved family doctor who is serving 15 life sentences for killing patients, murdered at least 200 more, a judge announced Friday, after a yearlong investigation to try to determine how many of the people who died in his care were killed.

For more than two decades, the families of Hyde, England, went to Shipman for maladies serious and small, welcoming him into their homes when they were too ill to go to his office.

The investigation by High Court Judge Dame Janet Smith was unable to offer any firm explanation for why Shipman turned

on the town that trusted him.

"The way in which Shipman could kill, face the relatives, and walk away unsuspected would be dismissed as fanciful if described in a work of fiction," Smith said.

Smith examined records on the deaths of 494 people in Shipman's care between 1974 and 1998, and found that he began killing — mainly by lethal injection — in 1975, a year after he started practicing. His victims ranged in age from 41 to 93, and included 171 women and 44 men.

Smith said the full toll may be even higher, citing a "real suspicion" that Shipman had killed 45 more people for whom there was insufficient evidence to be certain. In another 38 cases, there was too little information to form any opinion

on the cause of death, Smith said.

Smith's panel was appointed after the doctor was convicted in January 2000 of killing 15 elderly patients. It was charged with first determining how many other deaths he caused, and will next consider how he got away with it.

Smith said she had "reached no clear conclusion" about Shipman's motive. In all but one case there was no evidence that he killed for money, and there was "no suggestion of any form of sexual depravity," she said.

Noting that he was addicted to painkillers when he first started practicing medicine, Smith speculated that whatever had pushed him toward drugs may also have driven him to murder.

"The psychiatrists say that a person who has one addiction is quite likely to be subject to other forms of addiction," she told reporters.

"It is possible that he was addicted to killing."

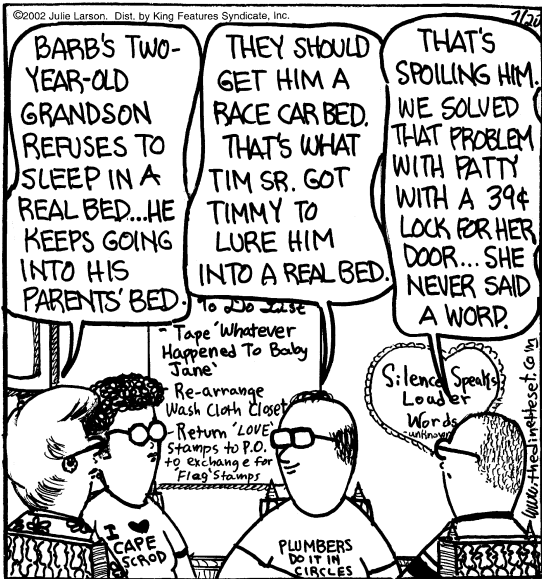
South Manchester coroner John Pollard, who sometimes worked with Shipman, told the British Broadcasting Corp. the only explanation he could offer "is that he simply enjoyed viewing the process of dying and enjoyed the feeling of control over life and death."

Shipman, 56, is serving 15 life sentences with no possibility of parole, and prosecutors have ruled out further trials. He maintains his innocence.

COMICS



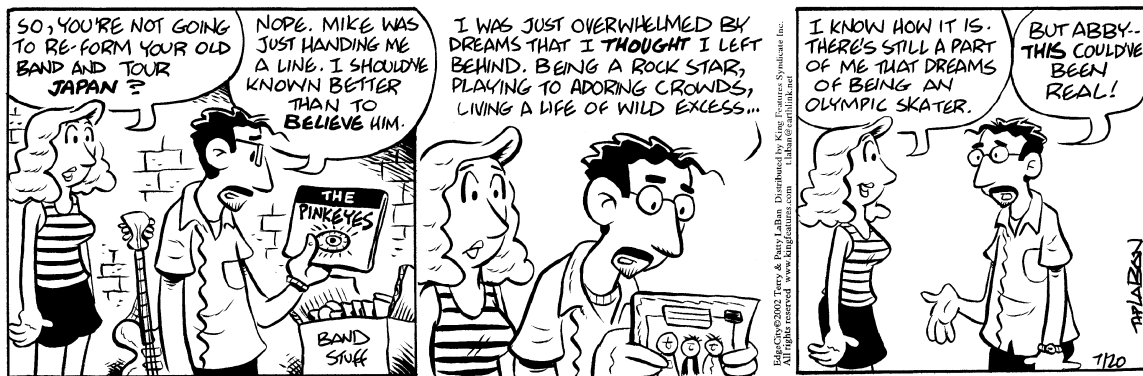
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Yesterday's answer

ACROSS 42 Confronts

- 1 Diving positions
- 6 Invigorate
- 11 Big name in TV talk
- 12 Wide open
- 13 Declare
- 14 Seasonal songs
- 15 Thrifty ones
- 17 Ignited
- 18 Island strings
- 19 Overwhelms
- 22 Writing need
- 23 Persist with
- 24 Casual talks
- 25 Wraps
- 27 Pinnacle
- 30 Bing, for one
- 31 Genetic stuff
- 32 Embrace
- 33 Competitors
- 35 Test for purity
- 38 Number unit
- 39 Tours is on it
- 40 Sheepish
- 41 "Small-village" family

DOWN

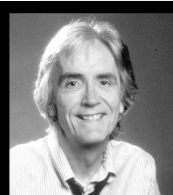
- 1 Even chance
- 2 Comprehension
- 3 Cowardly
- 4 Hudson of Hollywood
- 5 Kipling's tiger
- 6 Bad review
- 7 Conceit
- 8 Saffron-flavored dish
- 9 Elevate
- 10 Nuisances
- 16 Casual shoe
- 20 Trashes
- 21 Good times
- 24 Dove call
- 25 Friday finder
- 26 Enters a pass-word, perhaps
- 27 Like "Hamlet"
- 28 Surfing, in a way
- 29 Sticks
- 30 Pool hall stuff
- 34 —
- 36 Museum topic
- 37 Common reply

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7-20

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Woman slapped in head with raw steak

- Tim and Donna Vogle filed a lawsuit against a restaurant in St. Joseph, Mo., in June, claiming that the owner slapped Mrs. Vogle in the head with a raw steak (after she complained that it was overdone) and that as a result, the couple's sex life has been 75 percent diminished.
- June Bond, 34, filed a \$300,000 claim against Ventura County (Calif.) because her husband (on a work program for violating probation) stomped a palm frond down into a Dumpster, and it snapped back and severed his ear, causing him, she said, to no longer be affectionate.



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SANTA MONICA \$875.00 Spacious 1 bdrm, r/s, crpts, close to SMC, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$898.00 Charming 1 bdrmm, pet ok, r/s, hrdwd flrs, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 Spacious 1 bdrm, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT

Guest Houses

MARKET YOUR Guest House in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Guest house, everything new! R/S, parking, new carpet, new floors. (310)829-3582.

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Cozy guest house, pet ok, hardwood floors, patio, W/D, pond, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 Cozy Dplx, r/s, hrdwd flrs, deck, close to beach, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 Nice cottage, stove, hardwood floors, pet ok, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Charming Cottage, pet ok, hrdwd flrs, new kitchen, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1495.00 Charming Dplx, r/s, hrdwd flrs, patio, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Classified Advertising Conditions :DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

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Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.101

CLASSIFIEDS



Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 Charming Hse, pet ok, r/s, crpts, w/d hkups, yard, pking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 Charming house, pet ok, R/S, carpets, W/D hook-ups, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1850.00 Lovely hse, pet ok, r/s, hrdwd flrs, frplce, Indry, deck, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Townhouses

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Huge townhouse, R/S, carpets, patio, large closets, W/D hook-ups, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1845.00 Charming spacious duplex, cat ok, R/S, hardwood floors, fireplace, W/D, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Roommates

SANTA MONICA Apt. to share \$650.00 (unfurnished) Private bedroom, share bath, no pets, stove, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, street parking. Available now! (310)260-4711

W.LA \$800.00 2+1 House to share. Lrg/yard, across from park, W/D. Non-smoker, no pets. (310)312-8927.

Roommates

SM \$800.00 +utilities. Private room in 4/bdrm condo. Bedroom has sliding glass door to lrg/patio. Pool table/BBQ/ W/D/12 blocks from beach, great neighborhood! W/C pet. Available immediately. (310)395-4348.

Commercial Lease

COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

RETAIL STORE off Main St. 2300 sq. ft. \$2.00 per ft. 208 Pier Ave. Agent (310)396-1439 ext.234.

ART STUDIO Approx 800 sq. ft. \$1200.00/mo. No live in. Off Main St. (310)396-1439 ext. 234.

Storage Space

SANTA MONICA Single enclosed garage. Montana & 20th. Storage. \$200/mo. Available Sept. 1st (310)453-1440.

Vehicles for sale

70 GRAND Torino. Runs good. New 2003 tags. \$1600.00 (310)313-0848.

LINCOLN VERSAILLES 1977 Runs good. VERY low mileage! \$1,500.00 (310)829-1314.

Massage

MASSAGE CARING, soothing, relaxing full body therapeutic, Swedish / back walking. You will melt in my magic hands! Home/hotel/office/outdoors ok. 1-4 hours. Non sexual out call. Anytime or day. Page Doris (310)551-2121.

MASSAGE ENJOY a really great, amazing and wonderful full body massage. Swedish, deep-tissue and Tantra. (Platonic only!) No time limit. Will come to you. 24/7 Cute, slim, fit, petite mature chocolate. 14 years experience. Dolly's pager (310)236-9627.

MASSAGE THERAPIST C.M.T., M.S., Therapeutic massage with specialty in physically challenged elderly and rehabilitation. Burke (310)459-5973.

SEEKING FEMALE with or w/o formal training to trade massage with. Non-sexual. Paul 310.741.1901.

STRONG PROFESSIONAL Deep Tissue bodywork by fit therapist. Introductory offer: \$35/hr or \$65/2 hrs. Paul: 310.741.1901.

Massage

TAKE CARE of yourself. Increase well-being and decrease stress. Rebalance body and mind. Michael, CMT/LMT. 310-902-1564.

THE BEST solution to low cost advertising. Fill your appointment book by running your ad in the Daily Press. Only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to place your ad today.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Announcements

ESL TUTOR Reasonable rates. Flexible schedule. Ask about our U.S. Naturalization Exam Prep Program. (310)943-7249

GET YOUR message out! For only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to run your announcement to over 15,000 interested readers daily.

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

Services

QUICK AND Dirty (if the news-print rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

ALLDIS PLASTERING Interior finish plaster. Acoustic ceilings plastered smooth (no dust). (310) 458-9955
License number 701350

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

MATURE BABYSITTER Several years experience. References available. Call Joanne at (213)880-4207.

MEDICAL/DENTAL BENEFITS \$49.99/month for the entire family. (310)281-1920.

Services

SPECIAL EDUCATION Day program. Tutoring. Saturday program also available. For more information call Nelda. (310)459-5973.

TALENTED, DECORATIVE Painter. Walls, cabinets, furniture, moldings...glazing, antiquing, refinishing and much more! Call for estimate. (310)612-6042.

TALENTED, DECORATIVE Painter. Walls, cabinets, furniture, moldings...glazing, antiquing, refinishing and much more! Call for estimate. (310)612-6042.

Business Opps

WOULD YOU care to be a private investor? I have a \$3,500 project and I hate Venture Capitalists. Robert Greene (310)394-1533.

Yard Sales

CORNER OF Santa Monica/3rd, Sat. 7/20, 8am-1pm. Bike accessories, snowboards, furniture, women's clothes size 4-6, books, lots more!

MOVING OUT of the state! Everything must go. Appliances, furniture and televisions. 13961 Osborne St. #109, Arleta CA. Sunday, July 21. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Classified
ADS WORK!**

**CALL
NOW!
(310)458-7737**

Calendar

Saturday, July 20, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
The Sum of all Fears (PG-13)
9:30. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. *Like Mike* (PG) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15. *Stuart Little 2* (PG) 11:00, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40, 3:15, 7:10, 10:30 *K-19: My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50. *Men in Black II* (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40. *Halloween: Resurrection* 11:45, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00. *K-19: The Widowmaker* (PG-13) 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Lilo & Stich (PG) 12:10, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05. *Mr. Deeds* (PG-13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:40, 7:20, 10:10. *Insomnia* (R) 9:15. *Reign of Fire* 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00. *The Crocodile Hunter* (PG) 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30. *Road to Perdition* 12:30, 1:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 7:35, 9:45, 10:20. *Eight Legged Freaks* (PG-13) 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Fast Runner: Atanarjuat (NR) 11:30 | 3:15 | 6:45. *Lovely and Amazing* (R) 12:15 | 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:15 | 9:45. *Notorious CHO* (R) 10:05.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 12:35 | 5:10 | 7:45 | 10:15. *Read My Lips* (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. *Me Without You* (NR) 1:00 | 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:50 | 10:10. *Tadpole* (PG-13) 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55.

Today

Theatre / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a newly forming musical theatre company for children. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

Music / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa

Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

Improv and standup nite: Loosely Based, 8 p.m., \$10 (\$7 with a reservation). Comedy Hideout's Rotating Talk Show, 10 p.m., \$5. Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. *The showtime entrance is in the alley. Show info/Reservation line: (310)451-1800. No drink minimum!

Willy Porter, 8 pm, \$17.50. McCabe's Guitar Shop. Pico at 31st. (310)828-4403.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

Sunday

Community

Toastmasters - An education and leadership organization that promotes speaking and listening skills. Kick-off meeting, 7:00 p.m. @ Tandoori Restaurant, 11819 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. Second floor of Granville Center (look for Kinko's). Featuring a presentation on the art of flirting and a captivating romantic story.

Theatre / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$25.50. Show starts at 6:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

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The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Almost Vaudville. 2 pm and 5 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar editor:

Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

BACK PAGE



A dozen strikes after 1 stroke

By The Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. — Bowling a perfect game is tough, but how about doing it at 82 years old and just 17 days after a partial stroke?

A Vero Beach man did just that. Ted Byram had been temporarily incapable of speech and unable to lift his right arm — his bowling arm — a little more than two weeks before bowling a 300 during league play Wednesday at a Fort Pierce bowling alley.

"After getting eight strikes in a row, I knew I had a chance," said Byram, a New Jersey native who moved to Florida 20 years ago. "That last ball felt like it weighed 25 pounds. But it had nothing to do with the stroke. It was nerves."

Byram, who bowls five days a week and carries a 190 average, once rolled a 280 game. Never had he rolled 12 consecutive strikes. And for it to happen so soon after suffering a stroke?

"Pretty unbelievable, huh?" Byram said as a smile crept across his face. "I just rolled the ball and the pins kept dropping."

Ponds have taken on new identities

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Department of Transportation was having trouble keeping track of its several hundred drainage ponds at highway interchanges.

So it named some of them Bart, Barney and Milhouse.

Yes, TV's "The Simpsons" has come to stormwater runoff management, courtesy of state hydrologist Patrick McLarnon. "It's just something fun," he said, and a better naming scheme than the numbers and letters that used to be employed.

The Simpsons ponds — there's also Apu, Clancy Wiggum, Maggie, Itchy, Lenny, Quimby, Scratchy and Seymour — are all part of the Interstate 494-Highway 61 interchange project in Newport in the metro area.

McLarnon also has named ponds after "Happy Days" characters Richie, Joanie, Chachi and The Fonz along Interstate 94 and for "Star Wars" aliens along Highway 12.

None of the names appear on plaques at the ponds, but that's how they're designated in state databases to track water quality and runoff flows.

Other state planners use different naming schemes, McLarnon said. One had a project with five ponds, which he named for his five children.

What's next? "Maybe 'South Park,'" McLarnon said.

The zoo of misfits

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Henson Robinson Zoo is getting lots of new visitors and they aren't human.

Pet owners are dumping unwanted animals at the zoo's front door.

Snakes, an African pygmy goat, fighting roosters, reptiles and feral cats all have been left on zoo property.

Two prairie dogs are among the latest animals to be abandoned.

Zoo workers arrived June 27 and found the two prairie dogs — believed to have been pets — inside a plastic box in front of the main entrance.

The prairie dogs are in quarantine until it's determined if they are carrying any diseases or parasites. Prairie dogs are territorial by nature, so they can't just be put in with the 10 already at the zoo.

"We're not sure what we're going to do with these two yet. We can't put them in this exhibit because the prairie dogs that are here would kill them," Henson Robinson director Talon Thornton said. "Our first

responsibility is to our animal collection here."

Thornton encourages people who have unwanted pets to try to find a new owner instead of leaving the animals on the zoo's doorstep.

"It would be great if we could take all the animals in Springfield that people don't want, but it's just not feasible," Thornton said.

Buy a piece of Vail for \$295

By The Associated Press

VAIL, Colo. — For as little as \$65, you can take home a piece of chic Vail.

In a novel merchandising effort, town officials are hawking Vail manhole covers adorned with a "V" logo and the words "Elev. 8150" and "Founded 1962."

"We can rest assured that no one else is selling these, so we're not stepping on anyone's toes," said town spokeswoman Suzanne Silverthorn. "I guess they'd look good in someone's dorm room."

The 2-foot diameter, 75-pound, cast-iron covers sell for \$295 apiece, while smaller, 8-inch utility covers cost \$65. They are available in black or nickel finish.

The brainchild of Town Manager Bob McLaurin, the sale of the manhole covers comes after a series of thefts of those in use.

"We didn't have a problem with people stealing them until we started using customized ones about a year ago," said police Commander Joe Russell. "At that point, they seemed to become collector's items."

In the past year, two of the full-size covers and eight of the smaller versions were swiped before public-works crews began gluing them down with a sealant, said Larry Pardee, the town's streets and maintenance manager.

"I guess they've become college souvenirs," he said last week.

Vail code-enforcement officer Bill Bresnahan wondered why anyone would want an industrial piece such as the one in the pavement in front of his station.

"What would you do — use them as a paperweight?" he asked.

What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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Light the Way to a Cure



Santa Monica Relay For Life
Santa Monica College, Corsair Field

On Saturday, August 3, 2002, at Santa Monica College, Corsair Field, we will be holding a Relay For Life luminary ceremony at 9:00 p.m. The luminary bags will line the track and will have the name of a person for whom the luminary was purchased. You may purchase a luminary in "honor" of someone who is battling cancer, or has survived cancer, or in "memory" for someone who lost his or her battle with cancer. You do not need to be present or a participant in the Relay to take part in this ceremony. But everyone is invited to attend and to light their luminary candles. It's the most powerful and moving part of Relay!

Donations for the luminary bags are \$10.00 each. They will also be available the day of the event for \$10.00 each.

For additional information regarding the purchase of luminary bags, please call Arthur Spencer at 310.451.1358 or Maxine Tatlonghari at 213.368.8537.

Relay For Life



A Team Event to Fight Cancer

