

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

41 40 12 43 14

Megamember: 12

Jackpot: 7 Million

FANTASY 5

13 19 27 34 39

DAILY LOTTO

Daytime: 9 4 2

Evening: 8 8 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic

2nd: 04 Big Ben

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:48.16



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In April, Rocky Sanchez, 36, a former civic award-winner in El Monte, Calif., was sentenced to 1,002 years in prison on 41 felony counts, including the rape and torture of his wife, with the long sentence reflecting the fact that any one of the counts was Sanchez's sentence-enhancing "third strike." Under California law, however, if his wife had died during the attack, Sanchez might have received only about 50 years. (That's because he would be subject instead to the capital murder statute and might have gotten life without parole, but then again, he might have gotten the death penalty.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 22, 1933, American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world in seven days, 18 and three-quarter hours.

■ In 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleaveland.

■ In 1916, a bomb went off during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco, killing 10 people.

■ In 1934, a man identified as bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The truth is all things seen under the form of eternity."

— GEORGE SANTAYANA
SPANISH-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER

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\$3.50 a day 13-15

Malibu schools want to split from SM

Breaking up may be hard to do for Malibu residents, who feel like a 'second thought' to district

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU — Residents of this well-heeled, rural community are spearheading a formal push to break away from the local school district, taking with them more than \$20 million in revenue.

With only 2,300 pupils in five schools, organizers said they're often overlooked by officials at

the 13,000-student Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. They cite the 30 miles between Malibu and school district headquarters, and said that distance is a prime reason for change.

"They figure that we'll just take care of ourselves," said Susan Holley, a co-president of the Parent Teacher Association at a Malibu elementary school, who just weeks ago helped form an LLC dedicated

solely to the split. "We're just a second thought, and we've always been a second thought."

Made up of mostly parents, the Malibu Unified School Team, LLC, has established a board of directors and meets regularly. They also have commissioned a 27-page study outlining nine state mandates for establishing their own school district. Thomas M. Griffin, a Sacramento educator and former counsel for the State Board of Education, said Malibu could establish a strong indepen-

dent district, despite added administrative costs.

"It's a very cohesive community and it seems to me that, if they formed their own district, it would generate even more community support for the schools that they have now," said Griffin, who was paid \$2,500 for the study.

"It's an interesting phenomenon that you have the Malibu section of the district that is not connected to the Santa Monica portion of the district. I don't know

See SPLIT, page 6

Reeling from city delays, Aero Theatre readies to open

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

MONTANA AVENUE —Facing delays of more than a year, the historic Aero Theatre is the latest victim of City Hall's bureaucratic red tape.

The renovation of the 65-year-old theater was originally expected to take about five months. With the nuances of the building department at City Hall included, the project is expected to last at least 17 months. Theater officials hope the Aero will be back in operation by September.

Officials from American Cinematheque, the nonprofit arts organization that took over the Aero in April of 2003, originally hoped to open the theater last fall after a series of renovations.

"There's just been an endless backing and forth over things," said Barbara Smith, director of American Cinematheque. "It's really hard to

get permits in Santa Monica, and with the waiting, resubmitting, then something pops up and you do it again, it's a long process ... Having gone through a \$12 million project in Los Angeles, this probably didn't seem like it would be such a big deal to us."

It took American Cinematheque less time to do a \$12 million renovation of the historic 1922 Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood than it has taken the organization to complete the half-million dollar renovation project of the Aero, Smith said.

Cinematheque signed a 10-year-lease with theater owner James Rosenfeld in the spring of 2003. The nonprofit presents a diverse, year-round series of rare and unusual films from all over the world at the Egyptian Theatre. Smith said the Aero will feature films similar to those

See AERO, page 7



File photo

The historic Aero Theatre is expected to open in September, one year late. Owners blame City Hall for the delay.

Gypsy jazz with the French and Latins on SM Pier

By Daily Press staff

Tonight on the pier, expect to hear the sounds of Latin, French and gypsy jazz.



Les Yeux Noirs

The group Les Yeux Noirs has been sharing its brand of all the magic and emotion of Gypsy music around the world for more than a decade. The nomadic music reflects the lives of a persecuted people in exile, caught up in a massive Diaspora, all with an unshakable will to live. It's been said that their technical excellence ranges from improvisations combining Bohemian and Yiddish themes and folklore.

The other band playing tonight — Quetzal — was formed in 1993 by Quetzal Flores. He sought to push the boundaries of Chicano music by featuring a violin as the lead instrument and using female vocals as the centerpiece. More than 10 years later, his vision is

realized. Moved by the social and political issues of their native Los Angeles and the Zapatista movement of Mexico, Quetzal weaves deeply personal topics into unique and accessible Latin-style music. Rich in musical layers, with influences that range from hip-hop to jazz to R&B, the band is led by the vocals of Martha Gonzales. Fueled by their drive to affirm humanity through art, their mix of Cuban and Mexican rhythms is super-charged.

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 2 with a special finale — KCRW's showcase of independent artists Next up!, on Saturday, Sept. 18. Admission is free.

Pier officials strongly recom-



Quetzal

mend walking, biking or riding the Big Blue Bus to the concerts, as parking is limited. A free shuttle is available from the 2030 Barnard Way lot south of the pier starting at 6 p.m. each Thursday.

For more information about the concerts, call (310) 458-8900 or visit www.twilightdance.org.

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Celebrate with friends, Sag

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

*****-Dynamic ****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult



 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
***** You experience a major mood swing later in the day. From Mr. or Ms. Work, you turn into a veritable party animal. Maybe not that wild, but you really do enjoy yourself and others. Use the occasion and your mood to socialize or, excuse me, network. Tonight: Keep the fun going.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
**** Realize that as much fun as you might be having, there is a major swing in your mood. Recognize that you have a lot to accomplish, and you will if you just settle in. The social Bull might need to close his or her door in order to get anything done. Tonight: Working late — sorry.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
**** You might start slowly, but once you get going, you are unstoppable. Think creatively. Brainstorm with others. You might be surprised by how much information you get. Return calls and schedule meetings. Tonight: Let go of your serious demeanor.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
**** Your ability to see through the obvious comes through. If you get an early start, you'll clear out a lot of work. As a result, you might have time to do something more enjoyable, whether it is socializing or hanging out. Tonight: Shop if you want, or treat another person to dinner.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
***** The Sun moving into your sign today heralds a period of greater happiness and joy. You might even feel the change in the air if you are sensitive. Because of concerns about money, you suddenly want to socialize the days away. Tonight: Celebrate living in the moment.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
**** Use the morning hours for any key matters or events. You are at your best during this period. You need to or will want to slow down later in the day. Close your door and get work done. Be careful if you decide to take a catnap! Tonight: Pay bills.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
***** You suddenly feel renewed and recharged. What you thought you couldn't handle now becomes a piece of cake. You notice that everything is manageable. Tackle an issue in the afternoon, and you will be delighted by the results. Tonight: You call the shots.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
**** You choose to become a bit less esoteric and a lot more present. In fact, the time is right to grab the reins of power and tackle a job that needs to be done. Laugh and play along with a superior or someone in charge. Tonight: Catch up on sleep.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
***** You feel the difference between going for it and getting where you want to be today. There is a sudden swing in your mood or in the air. You understand that success is eminent. Don't hold back. The time is now. Tonight: Celebrate with friends.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
***** Fly with the moment and be responsive to what comes forward. You discover that being a stronger leader, but also working with one other person, draws you into the limelight. Take charge this afternoon. You will make a difference. Tonight: You are a force to be dealt with.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
**** Work with one other person in the morning to complete a key task that could involve finances. You will see that someone close to you has important information. Reach out for the facts and expertise if need be. Tonight: Follow the music.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
**** Go along with others, as the cards are stacked in their favor. Use this situation to your advantage. Find out what others are thinking. Refuse to make a judgment known, or refrain from making any judgement at all. Let others express who they are. Tonight: Have dinner with a favorite person.

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LOCAL



On a mission to find a cure

By Daily Press staff

Later this week, Santa Monicans will rally together for 24 hours to battle cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight team event that raises awareness of cancer in the community and raises money to fight the disease.

The team event begins Saturday, July 24, at 9 a.m. and runs continuously until 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 25.

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



Joanna L. Morales, Esq.

Age: 27

Residence: West Los Angeles

Relay for Life title: Mission delivery chair

Profession: Attorney, assistant director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights.

How did you get involved in Relay for Life?

This spring, Andrea Balch, a former co-worker at the John Wayne Cancer Institute and the Relay committee secretary, invited me to join the Relay committee. Based on my experience educating cancer patients, she thought I would be interested in being mission delivery chair. I jumped at the chance to help educate Santa Monica Relay participants about American Cancer Society programs and services related to patient support, cancer awareness, advocacy, research and volunteer opportunities.

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

The greatest thing about the American Cancer Society Relay For Life is that it shows people impacted by cancer that they are supported by their own community, and it includes people with all types of cancer.

What has been your experience so far?

Having grown up in Santa Monica and attending Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High School, I learned how tight-knit the community of Santa Monica can be. I have been thrilled to be able to give back to a community that has given so much to me. It has been so easy to get individuals, organizations, and businesses involved in the Relay For Life, once they understand what an amazing event it is.

What has been your experience with cancer?

During my senior year at Santa Monica High School, I began working at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica. I worked for the psychosocial care program and as coordinator of the Positive Appearance Center, counseling and educating patients regarding the comfort and cosmetic side effects of cancer treatment. I spent eight years at the institute, while attending UCLA and Loyola Law School.

While in law school I also interned at the Cancer Legal Resource Center. On a daily basis I was educated about the myriad of issues that cancer patients have to face as a result of their diagnosis. After graduating, I wanted to be able to use my law degree and my experience working with people impacted by cancer. I was fortunate to receive the Loyola Law School post graduate fellowship in public interest law to work at the Cancer Legal Resource Center.

Why are you involved in this event?

Many cancer-related organizations are dedicated to the noble goal of researching a cure for cancer. However, having spent my adult life working with patients that cur-

See RELAY, page 7

CORRECTION — A front-page article in the July 21 edition of the Daily Press about local resident Bobby Shriver's possible bid for a seat on the City Council misidentified Shriver. He is a Kennedy family descendant and brother-in-law to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.



SURF REPORT

Thursday will see a mix of primary NW wind swell, building SSE tropical swell and leftover SW Southern Hemi swell. Northern LA County spots see surf in the knee- to waist-high range off the swell mix, while standout combo spots see chest-high+ sets. South Bay spots see the NW wind swell for knee- to waist-high+ surf at many breaks.

Best exposed NW wind swell breaks see occasional bigger sets. The tide hits a 0.5 low at 7 a.m., so expect that to hurt consistency in the morning, with the best waves likely coming through on the tide push through mid morning. Winds are generally light to light onshore in the morning, building out of the W in the 8-12 knot range by the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

71°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:38	-0.5	3:31	2.6	11:17	3.8	9:46	6.1
SUNDAY	5:08	-0.5	4:07	2.6	11:46	3.8	10:19	6.0
MONDAY	5:38	-0.4	4:46	2.5	12:16	3.9	10:52	5.8
TUESDAY	6:08	-0.2	5:30	2.5	12:48	4.0	11:28	5.4
WEDNESDAY	6:38	0.1	6:23	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.2
THURSDAY	7:09	0.5	7:28	2.4	12:09	4.9	1:56	4.4
FRIDAY	7:42	1.0	8:50	2.2	1:00	4.3	2:36	4.6

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The Q Line

Los Angeles County health officials recently posted warnings at area parks that West Nile Virus could be in the area.

Officials recommend residents avoid spending time outside during dawn or dusk, drain any puddles of water where mosquitos gather, and wear bug repellent, shoes, pants and long sleeves when mosquitos are most active.

Though the sometimes-fatal disease hasn't been detected in Santa Monica, it is moving westward, and officials expect it will infect all

areas of LA County by the end of the year. There have been no reported deaths in California.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How concerned are you about West Nile Virus? What steps, if any, should the city take to protect residents?"

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

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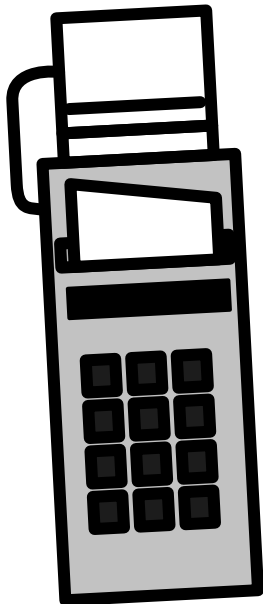


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OPINION

U.S., China stage a girly-man, make-believe war

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Dixie Chicks and Whoopi, you've got company. Make room for Linda Ronstadt on Bushamerica's most-hated-females list. The legendary songstress was hissed and booed while performing her "Desperado" standard at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas last week after dedicating the song to filmmaker Michael Moore. Members of the audience, stirred to furor by the mere mention of the Bush antagonist's name, tossed drinks into the air and later tore down concert posters in the lobby. Aladdin President Bill Timmins evicted the singer from her suite and had her escorted off the property. "It was a very ugly scene," said Timmins. The ugliest part of it was Timmins' over-reaction. The Dixie Chicks were banned from radio stations across the country, and Whoopi Goldberg lost her Slim Fast endorsement deal for criticizing Bush, but now the bar is lowered. You need not directly slam the president to be blacklisted, to lose your gig, to be thrown out of hotels. Merely citing someone's work, who does, is now enough.

One must ponder what blacklists await Texas Congresswoman Eddie Bennice Johnson, who wrote a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on July 1, asking for international monitors to oversee the American election in November. "We are deeply concerned that the right of U.S. citizens to vote in free and fair elections is in jeopardy." The measure actually came up for a vote before Congress and was defeated along party lines, 243-161. Remember the good old days when it was Banana Republics and corrupt dictatorships far from America's shores that required outside intervention to ensure fair elections?

The Pentagon announced they are considering extending the tours of National Guard troops beyond the 24-month limit in the bottomless Operation Iraqi Freedom nightmare. "We're breaking new ground here," said Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a Defense Department spokesperson. The ground they're breaking is the ground directly beneath the families of the guardsmen and reservists, who already bear the brunt of a military stretched beyond its capacity. Not only do the meager salaries of the men and women who daily put their lives at risk on the front lines pale in comparison with the hefty paychecks received by contract workers from Halliburton and the like, but now ABC News reports that a full 95 percent of mobilized reservists are having trouble getting paid fully and on time. It's a sad reminder of the self-proclaimed

"war president" that many children of those he sent off to fight his war rely on charity and the public dole to get by. If our military is stretched thin now, you might not want to think about where it goes if Summer Pulse-2004 turns out to be more than a drill. It's a U.S. "crisis simulation" and involves 150,000 troops, 50 warships, 600 aircraft and seven aircraft carrier groups, and is being staged not just in the Pacific, but around the world, in response to war games currently being held by China that simulate an invasion of Taiwan. A security expert at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Andre Tan, said, "The largest military exercise the United States has ever held is meant to send a direct signal to the Chinese. This is gunboat diplomacy and its point is to warn China not to step over the mark." If China would happen to step over the mark, well, let's not go there. It's only pretend.

"I call them girly men," came the declaration from the Governor of California in setting a new standard for civility in California politics.

Faced with deadlocked state budget negotiations, Arnold went straight to the Mr. Universe Official Leadership Manual and found the part that says, "When all else fails, kick sand in 98-pound weakling's face." He decided the way to get this thing done was to question the manhood of his rivals in the Democratic-controlled Legislature who happen to disagree with him on where some of California's borrowed dollars should go.

Last Thursday the governor also took a page from the same manual in exclaiming, "I will stay here and I will stay here, and I will stay here. And I will fight like a warrior for the people of California." But instead of staying there and staying there in Sacramento, trying to hammer the tedious thing out, Arnold showed up at a mall in Ontario just two days later, where he delivered the challenge to the masculinity of those who oppose him.

Here on page four, we don't claim to be experts in the nuts and bolts of California budget battles, but we suggest that nuts and bolts like the ones Arnold is pulling out of his pocket aren't likely to hold together a movie façade, let alone this complex, diverse state. Sen. John Burton, 70-year-old leader of the Democrat-controlled state house — and clearly one of the main targets of the barbs — when asked if he would contact the Governor to attempt to mend fences and restart talks said, "Are you crazy? I'm a scumbag girly-man, why would he want to talk to me?" Hold onto your horses, cowboys, the Hollywood ending is nowhere in sight.

(Ron Scott Smith is on the edge of his seat waiting to see how things played. To reach him, e-mail Edgeofthewest@aol.com).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification needed

Editor:

In the July 20 edition of the Daily Press, writer John Muller in his article about school board endorsements (page 1) mentions that Ms. Kelly Hayes-Raitt is the spokesperson for the Ed Coalition. She is not. She may be the spokesperson for the SMC Faculty Association political action committee but she is not the spokesperson for SMMCTA.

As the elected president of SMMCTA, I am the only official spokesperson for our union.

In addition, the article implies that Wisnicki and Vasquez "beat out" retired teacher Jim Jaffe. Mr. Jaffe made it known to our association that he was not able to make a "committed run" for the school board.

Moreover, it is public knowledge that Mr. Jaffe would like to serve on the financial oversight committee. He would be a great addition to that very important committee. SMMCTA will aggressively advocate for his appointment.

Harry Keiley
Santa Monica

Making the distinction

Editor:

Your July 19 story about relocation fees and the Ellis Act needs correction (page 1). In it your reporter says that owners can turn their apartment buildings into condominiums, and imply this is a reason that owners go out of the rental housing business under the Ellis Act.

Not true. Owners cannot convert existing apartment buildings to condos in Santa Monica. Owners may go out of the rental business, and one option is to pay the necessary fees and apply for the necessary permits to tear down their building and replace it with a newly built condominium project.

See the difference? This inability to convert to condos is one reason the amount of Ellising stays relatively low.

Michael Tarbet
Santa Monica

Inaction versus action

Editor:

I thought the letter from LeRoy Lauer (SMDP, July 20, page 6) was hilarious. There was one passage in particular: David wondered what Phil had ever "personally done to help the college." Well, I know what he hasn't done. Congrats LeRoy, you put a smile on my face.

M. Fred Bailey
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

Santa Monica Daily Press: Att. Editor 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica, CA 90401 Or email: sack@smdp.com



OPINION



Movie etiquette: Shut it

INSIDE OUT

BY AMY PERRITT



When people talk in a movie theater my husband's blood boils, then curdles.

For the five rows behind us to witness, he shakes his head from side to side like he just got out of the pool and is trying to get water out of his ears. He shifts his body from right to left like someone with a bad case of hemorrhoids. He sighs so deeply the 10 rows of people ahead of us wonder if they're sitting in some sort of wind tunnel. Then he starts mumbling obscenities to himself that would surely bring his mother to tears.

But last night his usual warnings made little impact on the four people sitting right behind us — where a constant hum of whispers had been coming from ever since the previews had started. We were now three quarters of the way through the movie. He tried a new tactic.

"Shhhhhh," he said, loudly enough for 10 rows around us to hear.

I jumped from my seat startled.

"It's OK babe," I whispered. I gently took his hand.

"Unbelievable." He shook his head.

Keeping a tender hold of him, I slid down into my seat hoping the people in the adjacent rows now peering over didn't know the sound had come from us. Or more importantly, they didn't know us period.

I grabbed another piece of licorice and tried to get my mind back into the movie.

Fifteen minutes later, just as we were watching the wife discover whether her husband was dead or alive, I heard the woman behind us murmur again.

I braced myself.

"Shhhhhh!"

I can't be certain but I think at that point a splash of my husband's venom may have landed in the hair of the lone young woman sitting in front of us. She too ducked down in her seat.

It's not like I accept the in-theater chit chat. People who go to the movies to catch up on a person's month-long surfing trip to Hawaii, to discuss a project they're collaborating on, or to gossip about a mutual friend whose boyfriend is cheating on her and they can't figure out how it is she doesn't know, make me crazy. Have they never heard of restaurants, parks or

the comfort and privacy of one's own home?

But I was mortified.

"I can't believe you did that!" I said to my husband as we walked briskly to the car afterwards. I didn't want anyone to match our faces to the shhhh's.

"Did what?"

"Shhhh'd the people behind us."

"So what? They wouldn't stop talking."

"I know but I think you notified the whole theater."

We got into the car.

"I couldn't hear the movie. They were being completely inconsiderate," he said. "What would you have preferred I had done?"

"Maybe you could've just asked them to be quiet. Something might have been wrong with one of them," I said. We started to drive home.

While at a movie last winter, I had turned and quickly glanced at two incessant chatters sitting behind me. Of course the "look" hint didn't work — they proceeded to kick my seat several times and I still smiled at them on my way out. But at least I did something less intrusive.

My husband wondered what could possibly be wrong with the inconsiderates in front of him and questioned my reasoning that something could have been terribly wrong.

"Like what?"

"Someone could have been ill. Maybe one of them didn't understand the movie. Who knows? Maybe they missed the commercial about turning off your cell phone and not talking during the movie."

"Aim, they were fine. We could hear them remember?"

"Yes. But even though I wanted to yell: 'Shut up!' I didn't."

"Even though I wanted to ask them whether they realized they were talking as if competing against five 1,800+ watt hair dryers in a hair salon, I didn't."

And ... believe me. I would've loved to have asked them how they could so blatantly disturb at least 70 people who had paid \$25 each (if you take into account buttered popcorn, M&Ms and soda) just to be able to sit back, in the silent darkness to watch a movie ... but I didn't."

"Why not?"

"Because ... it would have been impolite."

(Amy Perritt can be reached at aperritt@hotmail.com).

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LOCAL

Malibu seperation drive would need state support

SPLIT, from page 1

how they formed that in the first place, but there is a section of the statute now that says you cannot form a district with non-contiguous territory."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA MONICA?

What effect the move could have on local schools is unclear. District officials said they had not been told about the plan and declined to take an early position.

"There's no analysis," schools superintendent John Deasy said. "I will form an

opinion when I see the facts."

Deasy pointed to numerous issues that would have to be addressed in any break-up plan, including how the district's assets would be divided and what effect the split would have on the district's two unions. Deasy said his staff was researching an earlier failed attempt to split up the school district, and said he expects details soon.

"It's more common to unify than to separate," he added.

Griffin agreed it's relatively uncommon for a unified school district to split up, but said it's not unheard of. Under the

current proposal, he said Malibu would take more than \$20 million from the district's \$102 million budget, but both districts would be adequately funded. While per-pupil spending across the state averages about \$5,000, it's closer to \$7,000 in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district, Griffin added.

"It's clear that it'll have some financial impact," he said. "You have a specific program at \$100 million dollars and 20 percent of the bills go away, 20 percent of the kids go away, 20 percent of the teachers go away. Santa Monica is then left with a smaller program, but very self-sustaining."

Others were quick to point out that if the district did split, Santa Monica wouldn't have to share a \$6 million annual contribution from City Hall. Still others raised further considerations.

"I think it's great for the students in the district to have the opportunity to go to either school," said Patricia Hoffman, a former school board member and City Council candidate. "I like the fact that we have two cities with two very different high schools that serve the needs of the district."

Hoffman was on the school board in 1990 when there was an earlier attempt by Malibu to break away. Apparently the plan lacked enough students or a sound economic plan. Hoffman said Malibu, which became a city in 1991, in the past often has overpaid for its share of the district, adding she understands the frustrations of Malibu residents. Still, Hoffman said the bottom line is students' needs should be put first, and unity keeps options open.

THE BREAKING POINT

Pushed over the edge by what they considered disingenuous discussions over a proposed gift-sharing proposal that would take 15 percent of cash donations and distribute them between all district schools, Malibu residents feel disenfranchised, pushed around and laughed at, Holley said.

"These decisions are politically driven," she said. "They're not rationally driven. They're not intellectually driven."

Communications between Malibu and Santa Monica also broke down over a recent school fundraiser at the Santa Monica Pier that included rock musician Jackson Browne, Holley added. Apparently, Malibu officials who helped organize the event weren't told until later that 50 percent of the revenues were reserved for disadvantaged Santa Monica schools. Holley said organizers probably would have agreed to give the money to the troubled schools, but said they should've been consulted.

The push to split Malibu from Santa Monica has been quietly in the making for months.

"We're trying to be extremely careful (not to say), 'Oh yeah, we can do this,' and then, 'Whoops!'" said Holley, who will host a cocktail party Aug. 1 to present details of the possible split to members of the Malibu school community. "We want to be able to put our money where our mouth is."

The group feels an independent Malibu school district will increase fundraising opportunities, while giving local educators a chance to focus on gifted and remedial education — areas Holley said currently are underserved. The idea is to attract more kids now being home schooled or sent to private schools.

Organizers face the task of collecting signatures from 25 percent of residents in Malibu and the surrounding area. The group will then send their petition to the County Committee on School District Reorganization, which will make a recommendation and send it to the State Board of Education, which will make a final decision, Holley said. Though the group claims it doesn't need approval from the local school board, Holley said it hopes to depart with the district's blessing, adding group leaders plan to meet with Deasy early next month.

Nine down ...

A group of Malibu parents are pushing to split Malibu from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. According to the group's organizer, the following must be proved for the state to approve the break up:

- 1) The new district has a sufficient number of students.
- 2) The split won't affect either community's identity.
- 3) Buildings and other assets can be split equitably.
- 4) The split won't promote racial or ethnic discrimination.
- 5) The state won't suffer increased costs of more than 10 percent.
- 6) Education programs won't be disrupted.
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LOCAL



Aero to open in September

AERO, from page 1

shown at the Egyptian.

Andy Angle, the city's assistant director of planning and community development, said he hadn't been aware of anything out of the ordinary with the Aero project. He said the American Cinematheque has been within the city's normal time standards for its permits and any perceived delays were outside of City Hall's control.

"There are people who would like the timing for plan checks or for inspections to happen more quickly," he said. "I think you'd find that true with a variety of services. We have standard turnaround times for the different things we do and we're pretty good about meeting those. We understand that people would like to have faster service, so we have all our staff running as fast as they can."

For the past year, the planning department has been under fire by residents, developers and business owners. They complain that getting what should be simple approvals costs them thousands of dollars in time and delayed plans.

Officials within the department, who say they are short-staffed and blame the slow-down on City Hall's complex laws and policies., hadn't been ready to take action until recently.

A consultant, who was paid \$75,000 by City Hall, recently studied the department and made recommendations on how to fix the inefficiencies. Officials have not yet taken any action.

Mike Gruning, a former chair of the Montana Merchants Association and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, expressed frustration with City Hall's policies of "unreasonable delays and unreasonable costs," which have kept the Aero Theatre shut down.

"All of us would like (the Aero) because it's a major boon to the area and it may be hurting a lot of businesses (because it's been out of business for so long)," he said. "The Aero used to be a major attraction on Montana, a tourist destination, and a place where people might come and then go to other places around it."

"Who knows, maybe Wolfgang Pucks would still be operational if this process hadn't taken so long," he added. "Who knows, but it's been a frustration to all of

us. It's an eyesore."

The renovated theater will feature a bigger screen, updated projection and sound systems, better acoustics and seats, and an improved concession stand, Smith said. In addition City Hall's delays, workers have had to deal with the unexpected twists and turns of renovating a theater for which they don't have blueprints, she said.

"It's always harder when you have an old building and you knock out a wall and there's something there that you didn't think was going to be there," Smith said. "Or when something you thought was going to be in there isn't there."

The Aero's history has had just as many twist and turns.

In May 2000, a representative for Robert Redford announced to the Santa Monica City Council that the actor/director had plans to buy the theater and restore it as part of a planned chain of independent movie houses. But Redford's plan soon unraveled due to financial problems.

Rosenfeld then began his search to find the right operator for his theater. He approached American Cinematheque in 1998 after visiting the Egyptian, but it wasn't until the end of 2001 that discussions between the two parties became serious.

At the time, the theater ran second-run blockbusters under operator Chris Allen, who fell behind on the \$10,000-a-month rent. By the end of his time at the theater, only five or six people were arriving for most showings.

Smith said American Cinematheque's programming would be more fitting for the historic theater than its more recent offerings. She said neighbors of the theater have been calling her for months asking when the theater will be open and expressing their support.

"Our programming is going to be much better," she said. "My understanding is that they showed Shrek for like six months before they closed. I don't think you're going to be doing too well if you're showing Shrek for that long as a little neighborhood theater ... We chose the Aero because we thought our programming would fit the theater and its customers."

Survivors, others prepare for relay

RELAY, from page 3

rently have cancer, I have realized that it is equally important to assist those that are currently dealing with cancer. The American Cancer Society is able to successfully help people who currently have cancer, while they sponsor research to find a cure for cancer.

What does your committee need?

My committee needs volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Anyone who would like to offer their time may contact Lisa Purkhiser, volunteer coordinator, at lapurkhiser@Raytheon.com

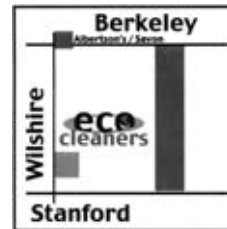
The Santa Monica community has raised more than \$100,000 since 2002, when the first American Cancer Society Relay For Life was held. This year, the third annual Relay will be held at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field on July 24-25.

Teams are made up of at least 10 to 20 people who will walk or run around the SMC track in shifts, with the goal being that someone is on the track at all times. Each team member raises money in the weeks leading up to the event. The event is not only to raise money to fight cancer, but also to remember loved ones who lost their battle to the disease and celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

There will be dozens of cancer survivors — representing all forms — walking the opening lap on Saturday morning. From there, the weekend is all about fun, community and raising money. To participate, recruit friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors to form a relay team. People camp out and create a community party atmosphere together.

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Business

Money management tips for the single parent



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Being a single parent is far from a rarity in the U.S. In fact, one-parent households number in the millions, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Even if another parent provides monetary assistance, single parents often independently make decisions that impact their child's financial security. Here are a few guidelines that may help single parents ensure their family's future.

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

Discuss finances with your children. Kids today are very aware of their environment. Discussing your finances with them will help them to manage their expectations of what the family can afford.

Live within your budget. An obvious step to saving money is to develop a streamlined budget that still meets your family's needs. This may be as simple as limiting discretionary spending which, for

some, can add up to a savings of hundreds of dollars a month.

INITIATE PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Protect your income with long-term disability insurance. A significant number of mortgage foreclosures are the result of loss of income, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Should you become unable to work, long-term disability insurance may be obliged to cover a portion of your salary for an extended period of time. The easiest way to get long-term disability insurance is through your employer. Check the specifics of your company's benefits. You may be covered and not know it.

Update your will. A will ensures that your wishes for your children will be followed instead of being mandated by a state's intestacy statutes. Moreover, assets such as real estate, investments, automo-

biles and jewelry can add up to a sizable amount. A will can provide guidelines for how you wish your assets to be managed or used to benefit your children.

INCREASE YOUR NET WORTH

Learn about savings and investment opportunities. With the cash you save from your new budget, consider the many savings and investment opportunities available to you. For instance, instead of keeping too much cash in low- or non-interest-paying accounts, you may want to consider the growth opportunities available through a wide variety of mutual funds or tax-deferred investments. These accounts can be incorporated into a college and/or retirement savings plan.

GET PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Your financial advisor can suggest specific strategies tailored for your situation and point out any additional considerations, such as a systematic or dollar-cost averaging plan. However, a program of systematic investment cannot assure profit or protect against loss in a declining market. Because such a program involves continuous investments regardless of fluc-

tuating share values, investors should consider their financial ability to continue the program through all market cycles. But the investment strategy helps you make consistent contributions on a regular basis.

Being a single parent can be difficult and demanding. However, successfully managing your finances does not have to be. Your financial advisor can help you develop a personal financial plan to help you get started.

(Morgan Stanley financial advisors Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown can be reached at (310) 319-5210. Morgan Stanley and its financial advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. Consult your tax or legal advisor before making any tax- or legally related investment decisions. This article is published for general informational purposes only and is not an offer or solicitation to sell or buy any securities or commodities. Any particular investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual circumstances and objectives. Morgan Stanley is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC).

High-skill, low-tech: A wine lover's aging art

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

NAPA — THWACK, THWACK, THWACK! The sound of master cooper Douglas Rennie hammering metal hoops off a leaky barrel thunders down the long corridors of the Stag's Leap Winery cave.

It's noisy work, but quick. In minutes, Rennie has whipped out the offending stave (the skinny pieces of wood that make up a barrel's side), replaced it with a new one and — WHAM, BANG, BANG! — put the pieces back together.

Technology may reign elsewhere in the wine business, from computerized inventories to aerial photos of vineyard growth, but it's all about tradition for barrel repair, a resolutely high-skill, low-tech art.

"I love the job," says Rennie, a fourth-generation cooper, the traditional term for barrel maker. "I've been doing it 30 years; it's what I know."

Squat and potbellied, wine barrels aren't the glamor players of the wine industry but they do play an important role. And a well-compensated one — premium French oak casks can cost as much as \$900.

More than 240,000 French oak barrels were imported to California in 2002, and another 59,000 barrels were imported from Hungary, according to a report by St. Helena-based wine analysts Motto Kryla Fisher.

Figures on the reclusive industry aren't easy to get, but a survey by the Kentucky-based Associated Cooperage Industries of America estimated at least 42,000 American white oak barrels were produced in the United States in 2003.

Rennie works for the Napa arm of the well-known French cooperage Seguin Moreau. The company's U.S. operation, Seguin Moreau Napa Cooperage, sells about 50,000 barrels a year with revenues of \$25 million to \$35 million, company officials said.

Barrels are particularly important to the premium wine industry, where they are used to impart flavor to the wine.

Before they're filled, cask innards are toasted by fire pots placed inside the barrel, which at that point has no top or bottom. The toasting caramelizes the wood sugars, which become the source of the flavor.

Winemakers order the level of toast they want, controlling how the finished product will taste.

"In a traditional winery, part of the signature style of the house can come from the cooperage," says Bo Barrett, winemaker at Chateau Montelena Winery in Calistoga. "Get this about barrels," he adds with a grin, "there's no sales tax. It's considered an ingredient."

Barrels run in Rennie's family. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather all made whisky barrels in Scotland and

he remembers going to the works with his dad as a boy of 10 and being "just fascinated" by the bee hive of activity.

These days, Rennie can often be found in his tool-packed van making house calls to customers in Northern California, which is as far as he goes right now.

In a coincidental echo of the French-California wine connection, Rennie's two stops on a recent run were at the two wineries that bested the French at a famous 1976 Paris tasting, Chateau Montelena taking top honors in white wines and Stag's Leap in red.

It was an atypically gray, chilly day in the valley, but all was wine-scented warmth in the Chateau Montelena cellar where Rennie walked slowly along the rows of barrels, using a head lamp to illuminate the barrel ends.

One barrel had a streaky red stain; he tapped in a wooden wedge to plug the leak. Elsewhere, a fine spray of sawdust caught his eye, the handiwork of another industrious worker, the bore bug. Rennie filled the tiny hole with a small wooden peg, known as a splice.

That was about it for the scores of barrels surveyed. "It's amazing — no nails, no glue and approximately 30 staves a barrel — how few leaks we get," says Rennie.

It's not always such a quiet life.

Last December, Rennie was among the coopers called to the Central California

wine town of Paso Robles when a major earthquake struck. The quake toppled a downtown building, killing two people, and wreaked havoc in area wineries, smashing barrels and sending rivers of red gushing across cellar floors.

"It was horrible for the winemaker and horrible for the barrels," says Rennie.

■ SEE RELATED STORY

MORE WINERIES IN NEW YORK

PAGE 10

Whether he's fixing one barrel or 20, Rennie works with the same kind of tools his great-grandfather did, like the adze, which smooths rough-cut wood, and the croze, used to gouge the groove into which the barrel lid fits.

"It's nice to have four generations, but it doesn't make me any better than any other cooper," Rennie says. "You have to earn that, earn the respect that you're willing to sweat."

And he does.

At Stag's Leap, Rennie was red-faced with exertion as he worked the new shave in with its brethren, planing the wood smooth and sending curlicues of shorn wood fluttering to the floor.

For the final step, he whirled the barrel with one hand and brought down his hammer with the other, wielding the tool with a percussionist's precision as he banged the hoops back into place.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, he was done.

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NATIONAL

Schwarzenegger's performance key to Bush success in California, official says

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's success in California depends on Arnold Schwarzenegger's performance as governor, the chairman of the Bush-Cheney California campaign said Tuesday.

"Nothing is more important to us in the Bush campaign in California than Arnold Schwarzenegger's success. Nothing," campaign chairman Gerry Parsky said. "Because as he succeeds, we have the potential to complete the process that we are undertaking" of building Republican support in the nation's most populous state.

Independent analysts say Bush has scant chance of winning Democrat-leaning California Nov. 2, and Schwarzenegger has shown lukewarm interest in campaigning with the president, who is far less popular in California than he is.

However, Republican officials in California said Tuesday that Schwarzenegger plans to attend a GOP fund-raiser with Bush on Aug. 12 in a Santa Monica airport hanger. The event is being billed as the "California Presidential Gala," according to the invitation.

Schwarzenegger declined to appear publicly with Bush on the president's last trip to California. They did appear together in public in October 2003, before Schwarzenegger was sworn in as governor.

Parsky, who is also a San Diego investor

and chairman of the University of California Board of Regents, told reporters at a media round-table in Washington that Schwarzenegger's election has made California friendlier territory for Republicans.

"The dynamic has changed totally with Schwarzenegger," Parsky said.

He contended that if Schwarzenegger succeeds in getting a budget passed without raising taxes, Republicans can capitalize on the success by linking Bush's economic policies to Schwarzenegger's — and tying Democratic challenger John Kerry to the approach voters rejected when they recalled Democratic Gov. Gray Davis.

"If he succeeds without raising taxes then we have the ability ... to demonstrate in California what I happen to believe very strongly, that Kerry's solution is not very different from what you rejected of Gray Davis," Parsky said.

California Democratic Party spokesman Bob Mulholland scoffed at Parsky's analysis, saying that if Bush is counting on Schwarzenegger's budget success to bring him to victory, "then they're in trouble — 20 days behind on the budget and talking like a ninth-grader." Mulholland was referring to Schwarzenegger's statement over the weekend that legislators holding up the budget are "girlie men." Parsky declined comment on that remark.

Mulholland also dismissed as "hogwash" Parsky's assertion that California is becoming

more fertile territory for Republicans.

"This is a guy who predicted victory in 2000 and they lost the state by 12 points or 1.3 million votes," Mulholland said. "This is a guy who forgets that 9 out of 10 statewide offices are held by Democrats."

Republicans are closing the registration gap in California, but there are still 1.1 million more Democrats than Republicans in the state, and Parsky conceded that "our mountain is very high to climb."

But Parsky said Schwarzenegger is doing plenty to help Bush's re-election campaign — even though the governor has made clear he has no plans to campaign outside of California for the president, and has said that California's support for Bush depends on how much Bush does for California.

"He is doing exactly what he should be doing, namely succeeding in California," Parsky said. "He is honorary chairman of the campaign, honorary chairman of the delegation (to the Republican National Convention), and he will campaign with the president in California. There's never been any question about that."

Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson said the governor supports Bush and looks forward to speaking on his behalf at the Republican convention in August. "The governor stands proudly with President Bush and is going to stand prominently with President Bush," she said.

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NATIONAL

Bush looks for allies, wants Iran watched closely

BY GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is pressing Britain, France and Germany for strong measures against Iran in response to its violation of a non-proliferation agreement reached with the three last fall, a State Department official said Wednesday.

The issue is part of a deepening American concern over recent Iranian activities that range from weapons programs to terrorism. To head off a potential crisis, some analysts believe the administration should work harder to promote a dialogue with Iran.

The United States believes Iran is developing nuclear weapons, a view reinforced by Iran's recent decision to resume construction of centrifuges. This is a key step in the development of a uranium-based bomb, one that Iran promised the Europeans last fall that it would not take.

It is not clear what the United States expects the three European Union members to do in response. The administration believes it is imperative that the three demonstrate to Iran that it must suffer consequences for not fulfilling the agreement.

Iran has said it feels no obligation to honor the agreement, alleging that the Europeans had violated a promise to ensure that the U.N. nuclear watchdog group would give Iran a clean bill of health.

Iran insists its nuclear program has nothing to do with weaponry and is meant to meet domestic electricity needs.

There are additional American concerns, including

word that the bipartisan commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks has concluded that Iran gave al-Qaida hijackers safe passage through the country after their training in Afghanistan.

A White House spokesman said Monday there was no evidence that Iran had prior knowledge of the Sept. 11 plot. The commission report is due Thursday.

Amid the stepped-up accusations about its behavior, Iran has been projecting a benign image to the world. Rend al-Rahim Francke, Iraq's chief representative in Washington, told The Associated Press in an interview Monday that Iran has played a positive role in the post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. She said Iranian authorities recently captured 200 Afghan fighters who were en route to Iraq.

The Bush administration, in addition to lobbying the Europeans, has been attempting to persuade all members of the U.N.'s nuclear nonproliferation agency that it is time to refer Iran's nuclear activities to the U.N. Security Council.

John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, told Congress last month that the Iranian program was a "threat to international peace and security." He said Iran's hard-line Islamic regime, now 25 years old, clearly has a covert program to develop and stockpile chemical weapons and probably has an offensive biological weapons program.

Until about a year ago, the United States maintained a low-key dialogue with Iran, then decided it was a waste of time.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says a renewed engagement is possible only under certain conditions.

"We're willing to sit down, if the president determines it's in our interest to do so, and if we think there's the opportunity for progress," Boucher said Monday.

A Council on Foreign Relations task force issued a report contending the administration must do more to avert another crisis in the Persian Gulf region.

"The urgency of the concerns surrounding (Iran's) policies mandates the United States to deal with the current regime rather than wait for it to fall," said the report from the panel co-chaired by former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and former CIA director Robert Gates.

Brzezinski told reporters Monday that engagement with Iran would be a useful step even if it produced no results because it would mold greater international solidarity in opposition to Iran.

Gates said the U.S. military option against Iran must never be ruled out. Still, he acknowledged, the costs of any such step would be exorbitant because key nuclear weapons sites are located in or near large civilian populations.

He added that a U.S. military attack would galvanize support for the Tehran government across the country. Iranian authorities, he said, could retaliate by destabilizing neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan, countries in which, he noted, the United States has an undeniable strategic stake.

Wineries continue to sprout up in New York state

BY MARK JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

MILLBROOK, N.Y. — About 20 years ago, John Dyson bought an old dairy farm here in the rural Hudson Valley and started planting grapes in a fledgling effort at winemaking.

Now an award-winning winery nestled among rolling hills, the former agriculture commissioner's Millbrook Vineyards & Winery houses a tasting hall, art gallery and wine making facilities. The winery attracts 15,000 to 20,000 tourists a year to sample its array of chardonnays, pinot noirs and cabernet francs, said David Bova, who helped plant the winery's first vines and now serves as its general manager.

From eastern Long Island to the Finger Lakes, Millbrook is one of nearly 175 wineries that have sprung up in New York over the past 30 years. Most are small by industry standards but New York wineries provided big business: The industry generates around \$500 million in annual sales and drew 3 million visitors in 2003, according to the New York Farm Bureau.

While the total number of farms in New York continues to drop — by about 1,000 to 37,255 from 1997 to 2002 — the number of wineries has grown to 194 from around 20 in 1975, said Jim Trezise, president of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation.

"You have to have a good climate to grow good grapes to make good wine," Trezise said. "We in New York have one of the best climates in the country, both

for growing grapes and for our business."

The boom isn't limited to New York.

The U.S. grape crop more than tripled to \$3 billion in 2000 from \$955 million in 1985. Grapes used to make wine now represent almost two-thirds of the total crop. With more than 3,000 wineries in all 50 states, wine pours more than \$45 billion into the U.S. economy and employs 556,000 people, according to WineAmerica, a trade association representing 800 wineries.

California is the largest wine producer in the United States, accounting for 90 percent of U.S. production. New York is the No. 3 producer and ranks fourth in the number of wineries, after California, Washington and Oregon.

In the mid-1970s, New York's vintners struggled as grape growers were hurt by low prices.

"It was a failure of the traditional system," Trezise said. "The market was shriveling up. Most of the small wineries today were grape growers who had no place else to sell their grapes than to the large wineries."

That changed with the Farm Winery Act, signed into law in 1976 by then-Gov. Hugh Carey, which made it viable to have a small winery in New York, Trezise said.

"It let farm wineries sell directly to consumers who came to the winery and directly to liquor stores, rather than go through a distributor or wholesaler," Trezise said. "It was the change in the distribution system that first led to the boom."

Another round of legislation in the 1980s further

deregulated the wine industry and made it easier to sell to consumers directly, Trezise said.

Millbrook makes more than a dozen wines it sells out of its own shop. Only five are distributed to retailers, Bova said.

"Our best business is through the mail or out our front door," he said.

On the eastern end of Long Island, potato farms that were struggling have been turned into 3,000 acres of profitable vineyards and wineries. Upstate, former dairy farms like Millbrook and Wagner Vineyards in the Finger Lakes now grow the delicate European vinifera grapes used to make high quality libations.

Last year, U.S. farms produced \$2.5 billion worth of grapes, ranking the crop as the seventh-largest in revenue nationally, according to Bill Nelson, vice president of WineAmerica.

But when wine production is added to the calculation, the revenues increase dramatically.

"Farmers grow the crop and process the crop. For a smaller operation, that leads to 10- or 12-fold increase in value," Nelson said. Including wine production, the grape crop ranks third in country in revenue, totaling \$13 billion to \$15 billion.

"On a per-acre basis with the value added, that's roughly \$42,000 an acre," Nelson said. "A 20-acre farm in New York is producing \$1 million a year in farm produce and that's a conservative estimate. You get a couple hundred dollars an acre at most for soybeans."

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NATIONAL



Aspen, Colorado tops California in home prices

By Daily Press staff

While California remains among the most expensive states for homeowners ages 55 to 74, Pitkin County, Colo., tops the list of U.S. counties with the highest average active adult home values, according to an analysis of 2000 U.S. Census data by the National Association of Home Builders.

Pitkin County, best known for Aspen and its world-class ski resorts, ranked No. 1 in the nation, with an average home value of \$946,036 for the 1,275 homes occupied by active adults.

Pitkin was followed by New York County, N.Y., which had an average home value of \$829,631 for its 42,844 homes owned by active adults. Teton County,

Wyo., was next with an average home value of \$650,526 for its 1,306 homes.

Ten of the top 25 most expensive counties in the country were in California, led by Marin County, Calif., in fourth place (22,212 homes, \$616,915 average home value) and San Mateo County, Calif., in fifth (49,245 homes, \$570,032 average home value).

In all, 16 counties had average active adult home values of more than \$400,000. The averages were computed by dividing the aggregate value of homes owned by the number of homes, according to the NAHB. Home values are based on owners' estimates of how much their homes would sell for at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census.

"The highest-priced counties are generally in resort

areas near mountains or on islands, where the supply of land is severely limited by geography," said Bonnie Solomon, chair of the NAHB Seniors Housing Council and a vice president of several retirement communities in St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo., and Atlanta. "The others are in parts of the country known for extremely high housing costs, such as California and New York."

The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 215,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction.

U.S. counties with the most high-priced active adult communities:

COUNTY BY OWNERS	AGES 55-74	HOMES OWNED
1. Pitkin County, Colo.	1,275	\$946,036
2. New York County, N.Y.	42,844	\$829,631
3. Teton County, Wyo.	1,306	\$650,526
4. Marin County, Calif.	22,212	\$616,915
5. San Mateo County, Calif.	49,245	\$570,032
6. Blaine County, Idaho	1,610	\$563,135
7. Eagle County, Colo.	1,754	\$557,651
8. Santa Clara County, Calif.	96,966	\$556,947
9. San Francisco County, Calif.	35,479	\$468,943
10. San Juan County, Calif.	1,867	\$460,011
11. Santa Cruz County, Calif.	15,367	\$452,229
12. Dukes County, Mass.	1,409	\$451,880
13. Summit County, Colo.	1,011	\$446,196
14. Santa Barbara County, Calif.	25,778	\$412,658
15. Fairfield County, Conn.	68,403	\$402,814
16. Westchester County, N.Y.	66,293	\$401,859
17. Monterey County, Calif.	21,266	\$390,511
18. Summit County, Utah	1,639	\$390,161
19. Napa County, Calif.	9,794	\$361,977
20. Honolulu County, Hawaii	54,951	\$357,605
21. Contra Costa, Calif.	68,619	\$351,144
22. Alameda County, Calif.	80,843	\$345,653
23. Orange County, Calif.	168,970	\$342,763
24. Alexandria City, Va.	6,821	\$341,332
25. Monroe County, Fla.	8,569	\$340,877

Snowmass adds tiny power plant

By The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — In what officials say is an industry first, a small power plant has been installed at Snowmass Ski Area to generate electricity from melting snow.

A small hydroelectric turbine will be fed by the mountain's snowpack, with the water eventually returned to a stream.

The plant should generate 115 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power 40 homes and prevent the equivalent of 500,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released

into the atmosphere, said Auden Schendler, director of environmental affairs for Aspen Skiing Co.

"It's the first of its kind in the industry," Schendler said Tuesday.

The turbine will operate primarily from May through August and any excess electricity will be sold to Holy Cross Energy. The ski company hopes to generate about \$12,000 annually.

The company already uses about 3 percent renewable energy to power its operations; a lift at the top of Snowmass is powered purely by wind turbines.

Yellowstone crews open emergency lane

By The Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — Work crews plowed open one emergency lane Wednesday on the East Entrance Road, which remained closed to regular traffic since several mudslides Sunday night.

Park officials remained optimistic that the road could be reopened to visitors by Friday.

The slides, triggered by heavy rains Sunday, trapped 16 people in four vehicles. All were rescued safely, though some had to crawl out their car windows because of mud that was up to 4 feet deep.

By Tuesday night, crews freed the remaining two vehicles. The vehicles were loaded onto a flatbed truck and hauled to the east entrance Wednesday so owners could reclaim them and personal items left behind during the scramble to escape.

About 10,000 cubic yards of rock, dirt and water slid down the steep slope east of Sylvan Pass, covering about three-quarters of a mile of roadway.

The debris must be removed before crews can begin repairing washed-out guardrails and undermined pavement.

It was the third closure of Yellowstone's east entrance over the past four summers. Fires forced shutdowns in 2003 and 2001.

Pahaska Teepee and other businesses near the east gate are struggling again with canceled reservations.

"It always happens in peak season," said Angela Coe, owner of the lodge. But, she added, "We're open, doing business, (though) not quite as usual."

Visitors can still reach Yellowstone from the Pahaska Teepee or Cody through the park's Northeast Entrance, via the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway and Cooke City, Mont.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pete Rose has restaurant robbed, memorabilia stolen

By The Associated Press

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — Pete Rose's Palm Beach County restaurant was broken into and burglars made off with over \$10,000 in sports memorabilia.

Collector jerseys, an autographed football and a pair of Muhammad Ali boxing gloves were among the items stolen in the early Tuesday morning heist at the Pete Rose Ballpark Cafe, a Boynton Beach police report said.

"I didn't know about (the robbery) until I got here," baseball's career hits leader told WFOR-TV in Miami as he surveyed the damage.

According to the report, police responded to the break-in at 4:34 a.m. after receiving a call from a security officer at a nearby hotel. Police suspect the break-in happened between 2:30 a.m. and 4:15 a.m.

A broken glass panel on one of the restaurant's doors had been smashed, police said.

TV footage showed several blank spaces on the restaurant's wall where jerseys had been hanging. A Johnny Unitas jersey and a Shaquille O'Neal jersey from his days with the Orlando Magic were among items not taken.

LOS ANGELES — Two members of the 1960s rock band Electric Prunes sued their record label and a company that published their songs, alleging in two separate lawsuits the companies failed to pay them royalties totaling \$1 million.

Bass player Mark Tulin filed the lawsuit Monday in Superior Court against Damo Productions Inc., which the lawsuit alleges recorded albums for the rock band.

Tulin and lead singer James Lowe also filed a separate lawsuit Monday against Newcomer Music Publishing Co., which the lawsuit alleges published the band's songs.

Tulin and Lowe were representing themselves in the

two lawsuits, each asking for \$500,000 in damages.

Damo Productions and Newcomer Music officials could not be located for comment Tuesday.

The companies' business licenses were suspended in the late 1960s, according to the California Secretary of State.

In the lawsuit against Damo, Tulin alleges the company owes him royalties from album sales based on a 1966 written contract.

Tulin and Lowe allege in their lawsuit against Newcomer that they are owed royalties based on an oral agreement they and the company agreed upon in 1967.

The Electric Prunes were formed in Seattle in 1965 and recorded more than a dozen albums. Their biggest hit was the 1965 song "I Had Too Much to Dream Last Night."

CARRBORO, N.C. — A popular fan magazine and Web site devoted to Bruce Springsteen soon will be based in North Carolina.

Chris Phillips, editor and publisher of Backstreets, which has covered Springsteen since 1980, will relocate to Carrboro from Washington.

Phillips, 33, and his small staff track and review concerts, give news updates about Springsteen and his E Street Band, sell merchandise and host a lively message board where fans can chat and exchange tickets.

The decision to move south was strictly personal, Phillips said recently. He and his wife, Laura, are both Duke University graduates, and have always considered relocating to the Triangle area.

"I've seen quite a few Springsteen shows (in North Carolina) over the years, and we always thought it'd be a good place to settle down," Phillips said. "We're essentially just an office."

The local music scene attracted Phillips to the area. His office in Carr Mill Mall is just a quick walk away from Cat's Cradle, a local rock club.

"Chapel Hill was on top of my list for all sorts of rea-

sons," he said. "The music scene was one of them."

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Winding up her summer tour across Europe, Bonnie Raitt drew thunderous applause at the Stockholm Jazz Festival for dedicating a classic to President George Bush.

"We're gonna sing this for George Bush because he's out of here, people!" Raitt crowed Tuesday night before she launched into the opening licks of "Your Good Thing (Is About to End)," a cover that was featured on her 1979 album, "The Glow."

The song, written by Isaac Hayes and David Porter, has been sung by several notable performers, including Mable John and Lou Rawls.

Raitt's comments resulted in a round of applause and even whistles from among the estimated 3,000 concertgoers at the Swedish capital's annual jazz event held on the banks of the downtown Skeppsholmen island.

Swedes are skeptical of Bush, and the Scandinavian country refused to support his efforts in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The Grammy-winning singer is no stranger to political activism. Her Web site urges fans to learn more about preserving the environment and she was a founding member of MUSE, or Musicians United for Save Energy.

FRENCH LICK, Ind. — Donald Trump bested two casino groups — including one backed by hometown hero Larry Bird — for the bid to build a casino in this struggling community where movie stars once vacationed.

The State Gaming Commission awarded the contract to Trump on Tuesday, at the end of two days of public hearings. Commissioners said the billionaire developer had been unanimously endorsed by a local committee in the southern Indiana community about 60 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky.

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