

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
13 24 35 37 40
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$36 Million

FANTASY 5
11 15 21 24 31

DAILY 3
Daytime: 4 3 9
Evening: 5 0 9

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:47.04

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

As many as 10 percent of Japanese youths may be living in “epic sulks” as hermits (“hikikomori”), according to a March Taipei Times dispatch from Tokyo, thus representing no improvement in the already alarming problem that was described in a News of the Weird report in 2000. Many of the hikikomori, in fact, still live in their parents’ homes and simply never leave their bedrooms. Among the speculation as to cause: school bullying, academic pressure, poor social skills (after obsessively whiling away hours at video games), inaccessible father figures, and an education system that suppresses youths’ sense of adventure.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 203rd day of 2005.
There are 162 days left in the year.

On July 22, 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleveland.
In 1942, gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic seaboard.
In 1943, American forces led by General George S. Patton captured Palermo, Sicily.
In 1946, Jewish extremists blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 90 people.

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Robbery victims kill attacker

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
AND ROBERT FATURECHI
Daily Press Staff Writers

LINCOLN BLVD. — A couple of diehard golfers, set on getting out to the links early Thursday, found themselves embroiled in a homicide investigation after killing a man who tried to rob them at gunpoint, police said.

At about 4:45 a.m., the victims — one from Inglewood and the other from Venice — had stopped at the drive-thru at Jack in the Box, 2025 Lincoln Blvd., before heading to a San Fernando Valley golf course, said Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. When they got to the drive-thru window, a man in a hooded sweat-shirt and a black ski mask approached their commercial plumbing van, pointed a semi-automatic pistol at the passenger’s head through an open window and demanded money, police said.

The passenger grabbed the suspect’s hand and a struggle ensued. During the tussle, the suspect, with his free hand, grabbed a kitchen knife in his pocket and stabbed the passenger, resulting in a minor laceration. That’s when the driver reached behind his car seat, grabbed his own gun and fired several shots at the suspect, Butts said.



Santa Monica police detectives comb the scene of a homicide near the drive-thru of Jack in the Box on Lincoln Boulevard early Thursday morning. A masked gunman, attempting to rob two men getting food, was shot dead by the victims.

The suspect staggered a few feet before falling down in the alley behind a fishing tackle store at 2817 Lincoln Blvd. He was shot in the chest and was pronounced dead at the scene by responding

police officers and paramedics. His body lie in the alley for more than an hour before the Los Angeles Coroner’s Office transported him to the morgue. A bullet hole about an inch in

diameter could be seen Thursday in the fishing tackle store’s exterior wall, just a few feet from the drive-thru.

See SHOOTING, page 10

Bayside wants to spend more downtown

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Business leaders are saying some may have to pay more money if they want stepped-up services downtown. Board members of the Bayside Business District Corp. — a non-profit organization that manages downtown Santa Monica along with City Hall — are looking into ways of securing more money to increase services in and around the Third Street Promenade. In order to do that, Bayside might expand the district and change its fee structure by which businesses and property owners are assessed by City Hall.

Board members have set their sights on an extra \$1 million to

“Before anything is presented to (Bayside), we want to have a clear idea exactly how much they want to raise assessments, how businesses would benefit from them, and what their share would be.”

MIRIAM MACK
City economic development manager

pay for improved street lighting and landscaping in the area. According to Bayside Board Chairman Bill Tucker, the money also would likely go toward the new ambassador program — hiring individuals to guide visitors and help manage the bustling

downtown area, as well as serve as watchdogs for illegal activity. How to pay for the new ambassador program, which is estimated to cost \$500,000 annually, and other programs remains an issue.

See DOWNTOWN, page 11

NATIONAL

A slice of cheese: Utah film festival applauds the campy

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — You won't find any Hollywood moguls, budding starlets or brooding film experts lingering around Utah's other film festival this weekend. The Bicknell International Film Festival screens B-movies, those campy films that can be so bad they're good. Now in its 10th year, the festival shares little with Utah's more well-known Sundance Film Festival, Robert Redford's hugely successful

See FILM FEST, page 14

Jacquie Banks

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Don't go far, Sagittarius

Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You find that your creativity and willingness to spread your wings increase today. You might actually change plans as a result. Some of you might decide that a workshop, trip or different type of adventure might work, too. Tonight: Bring your friends together.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You enter a period in which you might feel like saltwater taffy being pulled in all sorts of directions. You need to take care of your responsibilities first. Your family could become demanding. You can only do your best. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your mind moves around more than it has in quite a while. You toy with many ideas. There is also a possibility that you might take flight more often. You are in the mood to explore. Open up your horizons. Tonight: Try something different.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You can't avoid dealing with your finances any longer. If working as a couple, you might need to divvy up your checking accounts, as well as have a joint one. Your focus on work will also be one of your assets. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The Sun swings into your sign midday, christening your birthday period. You might feel a bit pulled or manipulated, as others seem to prod and push for what they want. Do you really care? Go with the moment. Tonight: Do what the Lion does best: socialize.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your ruler goes retrograde, perhaps putting you out of sorts. In fact, as soon as you can clear out your obligations, the better you will feel. Take some long-needed downtime. Don't take on any more responsibility. Tonight: Easy works.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ If you are focused and your charming self, you are in a period in which your desires can become realities. Emphasize your innate creativity right now when approaching different situations. Someone really does care. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ You might need to soften your strong personality for the next few weeks. Others have the power in their hands. Emphasize home and family. Attention paid to your special loved ones is most appreciated. Tonight: Movies and pizza.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your ability to understand starts peaking today. You also might feel like an amateur psychologist, as you see what others don't. Read between the lines. Make calls and reach out to others. Tonight: You don't have to go far.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with basic elements in your life, and stay out of more volatile situations. A partner or associate might want a lot more say-so. You need to encourage this self-expression, as he or she is usually quiet. Tonight: Your treat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Yes, you are hot stuff, but so are others. It is clear that there is plenty of laughter and chemistry around to really focus on an important project. Know when to call it quits and make it an early day. Tonight: You seem to start a happening wherever you are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Work or a project demands your attention. If you can distance yourself from others, you will complete what you need to far more quickly. Recognize that you might need a break or some quiet time. Schedule some time for yourself. Tonight: Do for you.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



File Photo

The Marion Davies Estate sits idle on the PCH, awaiting its much-needed facelift.

Ball's rolling for the Davies Estate facelift

By Daily Press staff

City Hall is getting the beach ball rolling this summer at 415 Pacific Coast Highway and is asking for the public's input on how to bring the sparkle back to the sand and the sea.

A design team open house in July and a two-day workshop in early fall will give the public opportunity to meet the 415 PCH design team and provide input on the emerging design for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Marion Davies Estate.

Developed in the 1920s by William Randolph Hearst for actress Marion Davies, the 5.5-acre ocean front property at 415 PCH originally included a 100-room mansion, an ornate swimming pool, tennis courts and a guest house. After being operated as a private hotel and then a private beach club, the city operated the site as a public beach facility. Following the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, City Hall began an extensive community planning process to develop a plan that would take advantage of the site's beachfront location, its colorful history and its potential as a unique public destination. The City Council awarded the design/build contract to the team of Pankow Special Projects and Fred Fisher Partners on June 28.

Beginning July 25, an "e-workshop" will be available at 415pch.smgov.net.

The e-workshop will provide historical information on the site, background information on the revitalization project and an opportunity for community members to provide input on their vision for the site. Comments received will be forwarded to the design team.

On July 28, community members are invited to stop by the 415 design team open house at Back on the Beach located at 445 Pacific Coast Highway between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. for a tour of the 415 PCH site and an opportunity to speak informally with the design team. Due to limited parking at the site, people are encouraged to walk or bike.

In addition, a two-day community workshop will be held at the site in early fall. For more information, or to sign up for the 415 PCH interest list, visit 415pch.smgov.net, or call community and cultural services at (310) 458-8310.

The revitalization of 415 PCH is made possible by a grant from Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation in partnership with the city of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Additional information about the project will be available at 415pch.smgov.net beginning July 25. Information about the Annenberg Foundation can be found at www.annenbergfoundation.org.



SURF REPORT

We're expecting a small burst of southern hemi SW from the lower 50's. This isn't much, but should help south-facing breaks get into knee- to waist-high sets. Weather will be partly cloudy with highs from the 70s at the beaches.

Today the water is:

63°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	2:13	-0.4	12:44	2.6	8:53	3.4	7:21	6.5
TUESDAY	2:57	-1.0	1:42	2.4	9:35	3.6	8:11	6.9
WEDNESDAY	3:40	-1.5	2:36	2.2	10:15	3.9	9:00	7.2
THURSDAY	4:23	-1.7	3:29	2.0	10:54	4.1	9:49	7.2
FRIDAY	5:05	-1.6	4:12	1.9	11:33	4.3	10:37	7.0

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The QLine

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The city of Malibu recently made it tougher for filmmakers to secure permits to shoot within their boundaries, adhering to resident complaints of noise and disruption. Many feel a ripple effect could adversely affect filming in bordering cities, like Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: Would you welcome a respite from the ongoing presence of filmmakers in the city, or is it invaluable promotion?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lose the religion

Editor:
I was surprised by something I read in Winter Johnson’s front page story about Santa Monica’s 130-year history (SMDP, July 15, page 1). About one man who bought a town lot, your reporter wrote: “Zamoyski paid \$500.” But another man who came to town is described this way: “Harris Newmark, a prominent Jewish wool merchant ...”
Why did Winter Johnson (if that really is his/her name) identify Newmark as a Jewish merchant but left Zamoyski without any ethnic or stereotypical job identification?
Thanks for clearing this up.

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

(Editor’s note: The information was taken directly from a historical book, which described Newmark that way.)

Gang fight at beach a worrisome sight

Editor:
On Sunday, July 17, 2005, I was relaxing on beautiful Santa Monica beach, spending the afternoon enjoying nature before heading off to St. Monica Parish for an evening church service. But as I got up from the beach to leave, I saw something shocking: an out of control, wild, violent gang fight right on the pedestrian and bike path that borders the beach. Four or five men were violently going at it like nothing I’ve ever seen — throwing metal beach trash cans at each other, grabbing and hitting each other with 10-foot long collapsed restaurant umbrellas from the nearby Perry’s Beach Café — at 2400 Ocean Front Walk, south of Santa Monica Pier — and causing a huge scene. It shocked me that such out of control behavior could happen there — just east from Wolfgang Puck’s Chinois on Main, and the beautiful new Urth Caffe. I must say this violence makes me less likely to return to this beach.
Businesses should be worried beach goers may go elsewhere, making a drop in customers likely. I hope leaders from Santa Monica’s civic, business, religious and residential communities will make stopping gangs and gang violence their top priority, and do everything possible to address the problem. Otherwise, I fear it will drive away residents, visitors and their money, and businesses and their investment. The violence shocked me — but the police response also shocked me, I’m afraid. Far from sending a message of power and control, the police response struck me as small and quiet. A single patrol car pulled up, with no flashers or siren, to the area where the fight occurred, and a single patrol officer emerged. By this time, the gang members had run away, but were eventually caught by other patrol cars — I later saw them in custody on a side street. Instead of quietly pulling up with no siren or lights, the patrol cars — and there should have been many, many of them — should have rushed to the scene making a scene themselves, loudly blaring sirens and flashing lights. As it was, the dominant image for onlookers was of the violent gang members — the police response was hardly noticeable. I feel the police response in these situations should project a much stronger image — a strong police response is useful not only to send a message to the gang members, but also to the crowds watching, which might include teens tempted to join a gang, who should see that the police are in control, not the gangs.
Finally, I was shocked by the California Highway Patrol’s 911 system. When the fight broke out, I called 911 on my cell phone. I got a recorded message telling me to press a button. If this was an emergency, which I did, and then I was put on hold. I finally gave up and hung up, calling back nervously several times and never getting through. It is scary not to be able to instantly get through in an emergency — the state needs to put more resources into CHP 911 call centers, or needs to find a better 911 system — quickly.

David C. Murphy
Beverly Hills

Questions linger over band director-teen relationship

Editor:
Regarding Carl Hammer, (SMDP, July 16).
What is unclear is: Why did that student stay with Hammer for four hours? Why didn’t she try to get away or call out for help? What is wrong with her parents for continuing to live next door to Hammer? Why does Mrs. Hammer stay with her husband, especially considering they have children who are also exposed to their father’s perverted behavior? Why isn’t she afraid he’ll do to their children what he did to the student? Why isn’t she afraid of his perverted behavior? Why didn’t the victim’s family change where they worship on Sundays? Considering that perverts/pedophiles don’t have only one victim, I wonder how many other students were Hammer’s victims?
This makes no sense because the 15-year-old victim is continuing to be victimized by her own family (i.e. their continuing to live next door to Hammer). It also makes no sense because Hammer’s children are victimized by their father’s problem and their mother’s failure to get them out of that environment. This puts Hammer’s children in the hot seat of having to continue to love their father despite his problems, so they’re not allowed to make the choice of keeping themselves safe from him as well as keeping quiet about this family secret.

Cheryl Erb
Santa Monica



*Apologies to Berkeley Breathed... © 2005 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

Pico park’s time has come



OUR TOWN
BY TED WINTERER

I gripe a lot about civic affairs in this column, for a variety of reasons. The foremost is my preternaturally gloomy temperament, which springs from an unhealthy blend of German and Irish DNA. Then there’s my belief that journalism, even the inferior variety such as this, serves a vital role as a watchdog over government.
Finally, carping and kvetching is what grabs readers’ attention. If folks wanted only sanitized happy-speak about how everything’s honky-dory in Santa Monica, I assure you the city would make its “Seascape” house organ a daily paper, sell ad space and make a few bucks. So if “Our Town” is ever going to be nationally syndicated, it seems prudent to keep on whining.
But just for a change I thought I’d sing the praises of a couple of City Hall’s initiatives. The first is the November opening of the long-aborning Virginia Avenue Park expansion. After years of planning and construction, and after the city spent millions on the Palisades, Douglas and Reed parks north of Wilshire, the under-served Pico neighborhood will soon get its own grand public space. Is it too optimistic to hope that our city leaders might next spend some money on upgrading other parks south of the freeway where Mercedes and Beemers don’t line the streets?
Then there’s the equally fine notion to upgrade the ramp from Ocean Avenue to the Pier. In dire need of a seismic retrofit, the bridge is also patently unfriendly to any mode of transport but cars. I’ve spent enough time running, biking and pushing a stroller up and down the ramp to want to invest in Kevlar body suits, for the minuscule sidewalks afford scant protection from autos.
So I’m all for widening the walkways on the ramp. I’m a little more skeptical about the concept of an additional ramp leading down to the 1550 lot just north of the pier, which would allow visitors immediate access to parking when the 277 spaces on the Pier itself are full and spare us the traffic snarls which result from confused tourists navigating our surface streets. I’d prefer to first try a pilot program in which the existing bridge is closed

to all cars save for one lane for emergency and delivery vehicles and parking on the Pier itself is eliminated to spare the waters below from leaky oil pans and the like. Why not experiment with the low-cost, low-impact option until the Circulation Element is revised, so traffic to and from the Pier can be evaluated as part of a comprehensive downtown plan?
But the saving grace of a second bridge is the clever idea to make it only for one-way access into the 1550 lot, so that cars must exit by the PCH and the 10 freeway. If the environmental analysis for this project shows that such a ramp will substantially reduce traffic on surrounding streets, then the tradeoffs involved will be worthwhile, even if a new ramp tends to perpetuate the auto-first planning paradigm.
So much for the plaudits for City Hall. I now must revert to form if I’m ever to get that coveted spot in the “Wichita Standard.”
Another scheme to improve parking at the Pier is expanding the 1550 lot by paving over more of the beach. Even if such a cockamamie caprice could pass muster with the Coastal Commission, it seems foolhardy to roll more asphalt over our greatest natural resource. We’re in the midst of a spirited public debate about using a small part of our beach for an off-leash dog run. So what sense does it make to consume part of that beach for the benefit of visitors and businesses when residents are so passionate about the usage of every square foot of sand? And by what bizarre calculus is it appropriate to demolish the RAND Z building because of the city’s need for more open space and to then consider paving open space? And doesn’t the Sustainable City Plan require preservation of natural resources?
I happen to believe Santa Monica is our town, that it belongs to the residents and not to business and government. So new parks for citizens are always a great idea. And while an upgraded bridge to the Pier and a ramp to the parking to the north may stimulate sales by lessees and revenues to the city, there are enough public benefits to make these projects worthwhile. But pave over our beach just for the sake of merchants and City Hall’s tax coffers? I don’t think so.

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Dealership thieves came for snacks

At 3:27 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, the Santa Monica police responded to the 800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a possible theft in progress at the auto dealership. When officers arrived to the scene, they observed several suspects in the parking lot crouched down behind several vehicles. Officers approached on foot and detained the four suspects. A preliminary investigation indicated the suspects were breaking into the vending machine on the parking lot. Aaron James Azzato, 21, of Cypress, Jeffrey Matthew Gray, 23, transient, John Lucky Knight, 19, transient and Tracy Lee Osborne, 27, transient, were arrested for vandalism and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$20,000 each.

At 4:46 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, Santa Monica police responded to the 1700 block of Lincoln Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said that he was a mechanic working in the garage when he felt someone pulling on his pant leg. The victim looked at the subject, whom he had an earlier argument with. This time the suspect was armed with a knife and began swinging it and yelling at the victim. Other employees came to the victim's aid and they used a plastic trash can to disarm the suspect. Shawn Lomant Taylor, 50, of Los Angeles, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and parole violation. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 10:54 a.m. on Monday, July 11, the Santa Monica Police responded to the 200 block of Palisades Beach Road regarding a burglary. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted the reporting party, who said he was working at the beach club when he saw that two window panes had been broken through the rear door. The witness looked inside the rear door and saw the suspect lying on the couch. The police were notified and arriving officers contacted the suspect. Olga Jeanette Fuentes, 30, transient, was arrested for burglary. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 4:50 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, the Santa Monica police undercover officers went to the 2800 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a compliance check. When the officer entered the location, he spoke to an employee who asked if he wanted a massage. The undercover officer said 'yes' and the employee said it would cost \$50. After paying the money, the undercover officer was taken to a room, and while waiting in the room, a masseuse entered. During the massage the masseuse, offered the undercover officer sex for an additional \$50. The officer gave the pre-arranged signal to the other officers, who entered the location. Ilsen Choe Cervantes, 51, was arrested for prostitution. Bail was set at \$2,000.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.



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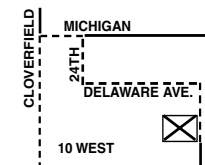
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STATE BRIEFS

Unprotected skaters force park to close

By The Associated Press

SANTA PAULA — The city’s skatepark was shut down for a week because skaters refused to wear helmets and other required protective gear.

“Closing the park is the only way we have to enforce the rules. We need to make sure that people understand that the rules need to be followed,” City Manager Wally Babkeiwicz said.

The skate facility at Veterans Memorial Park was closed Tuesday and it won’t reopen until July 27.

Besides not following rules posted on signs, skaters vandalized the signs themselves and scrawled graffiti at the park, Bobkiewicz said. The skate park is unsupervised.

“The rules are posted. It’s up to those who use the skate park to self-regulate,” he said. “If people want to use the park, then they have the responsibility to follow the rules, keep it safe, and keep it in good repair. If they can’t, then the privilege is withheld.”

Some skaters were skeptical the “time out” would get people to follow the rules. "Closing the park will only make the problems worse," skater Patrick Tafoya, 40, said. “The kids who cause the trouble aren’t the skaters. Youths use the park as a means to stay out of trouble. It’s freedom of expression.

“It’s just not right to let a couple of kids ruin it for the rest of us.”

Vandals broke into the park Tuesday night and destroyed the “Park Closed” signs.

Thieves target construction sites

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Thieves are plundering construction sites in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, taking advantage of the construction boom along the Interstate 10 corridor into the Coachella Valley.

Builders are losing millions of dollars worth of equipment, including backhoes, forklifts and tractors, as well as lumber and other construction material.

More than \$5 million in heavy-duty equipment was swiped in the first three months of 2005. Last year, the California Highway Patrol said \$18.9 million worth of stolen machinery was reported.

Some materials and equipment end up being sold in nearby states and Mexico, while other stolen property ends up getting sold back to the original builders, law enforcement officials said.

“It’s becoming such a multimillion-dollar loss that you just have to get people educated,” said Earl Gunnerson, executive director of the Construction Industries Crime Prevention Program of Southern California. “Any company that says they don’t have any equipment stolen probably doesn’t know where their equipment ...”

‘Tis the season to be beachy

By The Associated Press

HERMOSA BEACH — It’s looking a lot like Christmas in beach cities this summer.

Metal Christmas tree cutouts are being hung from telephone and cable wires in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach and Christmas tree decals are showing up on stop signs, trash containers and poles. There’s no text on the trees.

Police are stumped by the mystery trees.

“As much as I would love to have an answer for you on this story, I haven’t got a clue,” police Sgt. Paul Wolcott told the Daily Breeze. The Hermosa Beach department has a box full of the hanging sheet-metal trees.

Redondo Beach police have also collected about 40 metal trees from the wires and found about 50 stickers in streets and alleys.

Prosecutor Alan Honeycutt said vandalism and tampering with overhead wires are misdemeanors. Each tree is an individual criminal count worth six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, he said.

"I'm going to say this is some kind of guerrilla marketing," Manhattan Beach maintenance superintendent Juan Price said. “We get that all the time where these guys are trying to start up companies.”

Someone will eventually explain what’s going on, Redondo Beach police Sgt. Phil Keenan said.

“Obviously someone is putting time and effort behind this,” Keenan said. “They are begging to tell their story. I know they are.”

Lack of progress on special ed front

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A federal court monitor criticized the lack of progress toward better special education in the school district and said a June 2006 deadline for drastic improvement may not be met, it was reported.

In a memorandum obtained Wednesday by the Daily News, independent monitor Carl Cohn told Superintendent Roy Romer that the district’s special-education performance in 2004-05 was “haphazard at best” and the absence of accountability toward achieving the goals was “inexcusable.”

Cohn issued a reminder that 18 negotiated provisions of the court consent decree call for outcomes that district officials expected to be achievable and to establish high performance standards.

“Time is short. Based on my review of current outcome data, I have serious reservations about the ability of the district to achieve the outcomes in this final

STATE



Homeland Security backs off civilian border patrol

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Department of Homeland Security announced Thursday it has no plans to enlist citizens volunteers to patrol U.S. borders on the day after its top border enforcement official said he was exploring how to involve civilians in his agency’s work.

That refutation sought to calm reaction to a controversial idea that seemed to catch Homeland Security higher ups by surprise.

On Wednesday, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner told The Associated Press that his agency was considering the training of volunteers to create “something akin to a Border Patrol auxiliary.”

A Homeland Security spokesman issued a statement Thursday backing off Bonner’s suggestion.

“There are currently no plans by the Department of Homeland Security to use civilian volunteers to patrol the border,” spokesman Brian J. Roehrkas said. “That job should continue to be done by the highly trained, professional law enforcement officials.”

Roehrkas said that Bonner, whose agency is part of Homeland Security, had not told department officials “any specific details of the idea.”

A message left with a Customs and Border Protection spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

Bonner’s comments had marked a significant shift.

Before a high-profile civilian campaign along the Arizona-Mexico border in April, Bonner had urged citizens not to interfere with his agents’ work, saying “ordinary Americans” weren’t qualified for what can be a dangerous task.

Apparently, however, that “Minuteman Project” had an effect. Bonner had said that his agency focused on citizen involvement after noting how eager volunteers were to stop illegal

immigration.

“It is actually as a result of seeing that there is the possibility in local border communities, and maybe even beyond, of having citizens that would be willing to volunteer to help the Border Patrol,” Bonner said in an interview while visiting the Los Angeles-Long Beach ports Wednesday. “But with some training and being organized in a way that would be something akin to a Border Patrol auxiliary.”

Bonner said that the idea was conceptual and that details such as whether citizens would be deputized to enforce federal immigration law hadn’t been worked out. A spokeswoman said that a range of proposals were being considered, including having volunteers do clerical work so more agents could work in the field.

Immediate reaction to Bonner’s idea was generally skeptical.

Immigrant friendly groups panned it and one organizer of the Minuteman Project said it was well-intentioned but not likely to become reality.

On Thursday, a representative with the Border Patrol agents’ union critical of the concept agreed with Homeland Security officials.

“The whole idea that (CBP officials) were going to create a volunteer force was a diversion to mollify the organizers and the participants in the effort,” said T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, which represents agents. “And I don’t think it worked.” T.J. Bonner is no relation to Robert Bonner.

Robert Bonner had said that his agency was examining as potential models the volunteer auxiliaries of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Auxiliary helps with non-law enforcement programs such as public education, vessel safety checks, safety patrols, search and rescue and maritime security.

On Thursday, Homeland Security there already are programs for civilian volunteers such as Citizen Corps, which helps coordinate preparedness activities nationwide.

STATE BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 6

year,” he wrote in the June 20 memo.

“We are looking carefully at the accountability of everybody down the line,” Romer said. “Whether we’ll be able to meet those goals has yet to be determined. We know the challenges right in front of us.

“I’m going to do everything I can to make this district perform under this (decree).”

The attorney for Chandra Smith and other plaintiffs who won the consent decree nine years ago said administrators should be fired for failing to comply.

“There need to be consequences for openly defying the law _ a number of school site administrators that should be fired,” attorney Robert Myers. “I think administrators need to know that, if they violate the civil rights of children with disabilities, they will lose their jobs.”

The 1996 consent decree followed a civil rights lawsuit filed in 1993 on behalf of then-17-year-old Chandra Smith and others. Smith’s attorney said the school district violated federal law by allowing her to fail 10th grade twice before conducting tests to determine that she had the academic skills of a second-grader.



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STATE

Court orders the sale of Unabomber writings

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Thursday ordered the government to sell Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski's writings and other materials the authorities seized in 1996 from his Montana cabin — and use the proceeds to pay restitution to his victims.

The Unabomber, who pleaded guilty in 1998 to a nearly 20-year bombing spree that killed three people and injured 23, wanted to donate his works to the University of Michigan.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the government's plan to retain his autobiography and other written works "was untenable" and that his property should be sold for whatever it can fetch in the marketplace. The proceeds, the court said, must be used to help settle a \$15 million restitution order for his victims.

The government claimed that selling his works on the market would allow the Unabomber to profit from his crimes. When he pleaded guilty, he agreed not to profit from his celebrity status as the man who led authorities on the country's longest manhunt ever.

"Applying the revenue from the sale of Kaczynski's property, even inflated by his criminal celebrity status, to his restitution debt would benefit not Kaczynski but the victims of his crimes," Judge Michael Daly Hawkins wrote for the unanimous court.

The judges ordered the government to promptly come up with a sales plan. If it does not sell the works for its commercial value, it must "return Kaczynski's property to him."

The materials the Unabomber wants to donate to the library include journals, letters and an autobiography. He is also seeking the return of other belongings, including books and clothes.

Sacramento U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott said in a statement: "We will do our best to protect the interests, financial and

otherwise, of the victims of these heinous crimes."

A McGregor spokeswoman said his office was still reviewing the decision and would not comment on the government's next move.

Christopher Durbin, an attorney representing the Freedom to Read Foundation and the Society of American Archivists in the case, said the "government has simply been sitting on these documents for no reason, because they don't like Kaczynski or they just don't want him to reach an audience."

He would not speculate on what the materials may be worth at a public auction.

Kaczynski's attorney, John Balazs, said the government has been steadfast in refusing a public sale and speculated it may return Kaczynski's works to him rather "than make a spectacle out of it."

Kaczynski, 62, is serving a life term without the possibility of parole for a deadly bombing spree that lasted from 1978 to 1995. He led authorities on the nation's longest and costliest manhunt before his brother tipped off authorities in 1996. He pleaded guilty in 1998 to killing three people and injuring 23.

A Harvard graduate who holds advanced degrees in mathematics from the University of Michigan, Kaczynski has maintained in his writings that technological advances have reduced human freedom. He has said his attacks were connected to his campaign against what he considered the tyranny of technology.

The government labeled him the Unabomber because many of his early attacks were directed at university scholars.

The University of Michigan has told the court it would include the materials in the school's world-renowned research library of social protest. The university did not immediately return a call for comment.

Several relatives of victims declined comment. Messages left with two victims injured by the Unabomber were not returned.

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NATIONAL



Children can stay put as judge dismisses case

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A judge on Thursday threw out the deportation case against four young people who were brought to the United States illegally when they were toddlers.

U.S. Immigration Judge John Richardson granted a request to exclude key evidence in the case, ruling that border agents questioned the four based on their Hispanic appearance.

But an attorney for the four, Judy Flanagan, said the case isn't over because she expects the government to appeal it.

Jaime Damian, 20, Yuliana Huicochea, 20, Oscar Corona, 20, and Luis Nava, 21, were on a school trip in June 2002 to compete in a solar-powered boat competition near Buffalo, N.Y., when they drew the attention of immigration officials.

The students wanted to make a side trip to Niagara Falls in Canada. Federal agents looked into their immigration status after a teacher asked whether the students would be allowed to return to the United States with only their student IDs.

All have finished high school, and three of them are either enrolled or have completed college.

If ordered to leave, they would probably have needed to depart within four months.

The judge didn't elaborate on his decision and said he would provide a more detailed ruling in the future.

The students said they faced aggressive questioning about their identification, country of birth and when they were brought into the country illegally.

One testified that officers refused her request to call her mother. Another said he asked for a lawyer four times, requests that were denied at each turn.

Damian, the first student to be questioned, said a border officer asked "if there were other students like me."

Three of the students testified that two border officials made racially offensive comments in their presence.

A female border supervisor, whose name none of the students remembered and who wasn't identified in court, had said the students may blend in in Hispanic-heavy Arizona but stuck out in Buffalo, the three testified.

Two of the students testified that a border agent, when planning a meal, suggested that he might eat Mexican food, prompting a smirk from another officer.

Nava said he interpreted the statement not as a genuine plan for a meal, but a comment on the Mexican heritage of the students.

"It was offensive," Nava said. "I cannot believe he said that."

Martin Mahady, a border inspector at the time of the incident and the only border official to testify Thursday, said he didn't hear anyone making racially derogatory comments in the presence of the students.

Jane Juliano, principal of the high school the four attended, said a female border official said she could send the four to Mexico immediately unless the school sent the students' birth certificates.

"She said, 'Don't send your illegals to New York,'" Juliano said, explaining that the comment came up as she tried to emphasize that the students were on a field trip and should be protected.

Tim Counts, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which pressed the case in court, said no decision has been made yet on whether to appeal the decision with the federal Board of Immigration Appeals. The government has 30 days to file an appeal.

Asked to respond to allegations that border officials made racially derogatory remarks to the students, Counts said: "We prefer to make our comments in a court of law."

An estimated 65,000 illegal immigrants who have lived in the country for at least five years graduate from high school each year, according to the Urban Institute, an economic and social policy research group.

Advocates for immigrants say it's rare for students who aren't legal citizens to undergo deportation proceedings after spending most of their lives here.

They say Congress should approve a 3-year-old proposal to give children of illegal immigrants the chance to become U.S. citizens.

The proposal - known as the Dream Act - would allow students to apply for legal residency if they entered the United States before they were 16, have lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school or are enrolled in college.

It was first proposed in Congress in 2001 and is expected to be reintroduced in the coming months.

Supporters say it's unfair to deport the students because their parents decided to bring them into the country illegally and that those kids have spent much of their lives here and are essentially Americans.

Opponents say it would lead to more competition for legal students who are seeking admission at universities.

"It's not over," Flanagan said of her clients' fight to remain in the country. "We need the Dream Act. Still, they don't have to leave the country. That's priority No. 1."



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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Police investigators take in the scene near the body of a robbery suspect who was shot and killed by his victims Thursday morning. A bullet hole remained lodged in the wall of a building next door to the Jack In The Box restaurant where the shooting occurred.

Residents are alarmed by shooting, but not surprised

SHOOTING, from page 1

Preliminary investigation reveals that the shooting was a justifiable homicide, although the case will be forwarded to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office for further review once SMPD detectives finish their work, which could take up to five days. The DA's office also will determine if it will charge the victim for carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle, which is a misdemeanor.

"We want to make sure this is a thorough and complete investigation," Butts said. "We want to make sure it's not a murder disguised as a justifiable homicide."

Both victims cooperated and were released on Thursday, Butts said. The SMPD's investigators will determine if the victim was carrying the gun legally.

The suspect, whose identity is not yet known, was described as a white male in his mid to late 20s. The SMPD is checking with the Department of Justice to determine if the suspect had a criminal record.

Butts estimated that the incident lasted about 30 seconds. A Jack In the Box employee heard the suspect demand money over the drive-thru speaker but didn't witness the shooting. Jack In the Box employees wouldn't comment.

It doesn't appear there were any witnesses except for the victims. However, many nearby residents heard the shots and screaming.

"I heard shouting before the shots and after, but in this neighborhood that's not completely unusual," said Les Wright, a lawyer who lives in an apartment across the street from Jack In the Box. "It was loud. I think I've heard shots before and it's just popping, but this was loud."

Several neighbors were awakened by the shots, most of whom said there were between four and seven rounds fired.

"I was sound asleep and I heard rapid gunfire ... I found it very powerful," said Richard Chase, who lives across Lincoln Boulevard on Grant Street, adding he immediately called 9-1-1. "In a strange way, I'm glad it wasn't the guy who was innocent serving food ... I hate to say it,

but anyone who goes up to rob you with a knife deserves it."

The shooting occurred several feet away from the Rest Haven Motel, startling several guests who were asleep in their rooms.

Janet Lastimoso, the motel's manager, said police began knocking on guests' doors at about 5:20 a.m., asking them if they had witnessed anything.

"They just wanted to know if anybody saw exactly what happened, but most

"Santa Monica is not what it used to be, since the meth and the heroin took over."

SHAE WILEY
Neighbor

people were sleeping," Lastimoso said. "I saw the body lying there but I didn't go close and see the face."

Police officers sealed off half of the block between Pacific and Grant streets. Detectives worked the scene for hours, clearing out at 12:30 p.m. Jack In the Box also re-opened for business on Thursday.

Some residents said the area is not known to be one of the safest in the city, especially because Lincoln Boulevard serves as a major thoroughfare and is frequented by prostitutes and drug dealers. "(The shooting) made me feel like I was just waiting. I feel so unsafe and vulnerable here," said a woman who only gave her first name, Eileen, and lives in a house next to the fast food restaurant. "To me, I knew it was coming one day. I didn't feel surprised at all."

"Santa Monica is not what it used to be, since the meth and the heroin took over."

Shae Wiley, a young woman who lives next to Jack In the Box, didn't appear fazed either.

"People think stuff can't happen around here, but it can."

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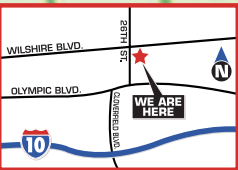
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LOCAL



Inter-twined



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Acrobat Alicia Schultze, who hails from Venice, dangles high above Santa Monica's Muscle Beach.

Greater Promenade Association wants more control of assessments for downtown

DOWNTOWN, from page 1

Currently, businesses located within the district — between Wilshire Boulevard and Broadway, and Second and Fourth streets — pay City Hall \$791,000 a year to maintain the Third Street Promenade, said Miriam Mack, city economic development manager. That breaks down to as much as \$22,000 per year for some downtown businesses, Mack said.

Property owners who don't provide on-site parking are collectively assessed \$500,000 annually, which pays for facility operations, maintenance and improvements.

In addition, property owners also pay an assessment that goes toward the debt service on bonds issued to make improvements on the Promenade. Next year, that assessment will be about \$1.1 million.

The central business district — comprised of businesses between Ocean Avenue and Seventh Street, from Wilshire Boulevard to the I-10 Freeway — pays \$200,000 annually for Bayside's promotional fees.

However, Bayside's operational income has not changed significantly in the past few years, said Rob York, Bayside's financial consultant. The budget averages approximately \$900,000 per year, \$608,000 of which comes from City Hall.

As a result, York said Bayside has been unable to provide the level of service it would like to for guests.

"The budget hasn't moved much, so a lot of this is just trying to maintain the current level of services," York said.

Tucker said one way Bayside is looking to increase its revenue is to invite businesses and property owners beyond the Third Street Promenade to join Bayside.

Additional assessments from those groups may help fund the ambassador program and other downtown projects.

Tucker said he is part of an informal group of commercial property owners based on or around the Promenade, called the Greater Promenade Association, which has hired a business consultant who specializes in the creation of business districts and assessments.

Tucker said some members of the GPA are frustrated by the way City Hall assesses fees. They would rather have more direct control of funding in order to prioritize how money is used downtown.

"Property owners are trying to unite in a group that will advocate assessments that will make sense and will be used for the district as a whole," Tucker said.

Tucker said one group that might become interested in joining up with downtown business efforts is Macerich, Inc., which owns Santa Monica Place Mall.

As plans are expected to come forward to re-develop Santa Monica Place in coming months, Macerich might find it worthwhile to unite with downtown business leaders to support mutually-beneficial projects, Tucker said.

Another approach to increase revenue for downtown would be to increase the actual fees businesses are assessed, an option being explored by City Hall.

Mack said the idea is still in its formative stage. However, if it is to be successful, she said it would be imperative that money being raised would go toward programs in which those who stand to benefit most pay the most.

"Before anything is presented to (Bayside), we want to have a clear idea exactly how much they want to raise assessments, how businesses would benefit from them, and what their share would be," Mack said.

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Entertainment

‘Bears’ have still got game

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Richard Linklater (“School of Rock,” “Dazed and Confused”) directs Billy Bob Thornton (“Friday Night Lights”) in this enjoyable remake of the seminal 1976 comedy classic about a degenerate ex-ballplayer and the misfit Little Leaguers he’s coerced into coaching. Scribes Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, who also teamed with Thornton for 2003’s delightfully raunchy “Bad Santa,” remain very faithful to the late Bill Lancaster’s original script, with a few minor (and very funny) modernizing tweaks. As Buttermaker, Billy Bob does his predecessor, Walter Matthau, proud with a performance that is equally odious and lovable. Linklater swung and missed, however, in casting the two most important supporting characters. Sammi Kane Kraft (who plays star pitcher Amanda Whurlitzer) and Jeffrey Davies (bad boy Kelly Leak) are real-life whiz kids who were chosen primarily for their baseball skills. Neither has acted professionally before. It shows.

(Rated PG-13 for rude behavior, language throughout, some sexuality & thematic elements. Running time: 111 minutes)



Pimpin’ ain’t easy, but stardom is assured

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Ever since it netted the Audience Award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, there’s been plenty of anticipatory buzz surrounding the theatrical release of newcomer Craig Brewer’s rappin’ “Rocky” saga, “Hustle & Flow.” Now that it’s finally here, moviegoers would do well to head to the theaters to see and hear what the well-deserved hype’s all about. Though built upon a cliché — that of the triumphant million-to-one shot — “Flow” is as fresh and exciting a film as you’re likely to see this year. Brewer sticks to the basic recipe for a good old-fashioned redemptive tale, but is smart enough to avoid bathetic conventions that usually do in movies of this ilk, imbuing his story with several unexpected twists. He added an original “crunk” soundtrack (“crunk” is a subdivision of southern hip-hop), set it in the authentically downtrodden streets of Memphis, and brought in actors who were up to the considerable challenge of transforming a group of societal pariahs into working-class heroes.

Many a chart-topping rapper lyrically boasts of being a drug-pushing pimp, but DJay (Terrence Howard in a star-making turn) walks the walk, hawking weed and women to low-rent consumers out of the back of a beat-up Chevy. He lives with his three working girls, played with total conviction by Taraji P. Henson, Taryn Manning and Elise Neal, listlessly managing their “careers” while bemoaning his own unrealized dreams. Then comes his date with destiny, beginning with a



chance encounter with a high school acquaintance named Key (Anthony Anderson), a sound engineer who’s enjoyed modest success producing gospel singers. After DJay is enlisted by a local bar owner to supply illegal party favors for a bash being thrown by homegrown platinum-selling rapper Skinny Black (Chris “Ludacris” Bridges), he convinces Key to help him cut a demo with designs on slipping it to Skinny. To that end, he gets

additional help from the unlikeliest of sources, including a skinny white deejay (DJ Qualls) and a pregnant hooker (Henson) with a golden set of pipes. Certainly there’s more hype in store for “Hustle & Flow” — the kind reserved for Oscar contenders.

(Rated R for sex and drug content, pervasive language and some violence. Running time: 114 minutes)

‘Island’ girl had the right idea about going for ‘R’ rating

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Note to the braintrust of the religious right: When the foundation of your opposition to abortion rights and stem cell research become the key components to the plot of a Michael Bay movie, it might be time to revise your lobbying strategy. In “The Island,” Hollywood’s reigning shlockmeister posits that in the near future, human beings will be cloned and harvested

for body parts by evil scientists operating at the behest of the fabulously wealthy. This can only mean it’ll never, ever happen.

Note to Michael Bay: Impressively, you held out for nearly an hour before adrenaline over came you and you started blowing everything to smithereens, including what was shaping up to be the most interesting story you’ve ever taken on. Alas, the relentless sensory drubbing delivered in the film’s second half, along with the ridiculously implausible resolution, should render all but the frat-slappiest of filmgoers numb.

Note to Scarlett Johansson, who reportedly protested over not being allowed to go topless in a love scene with co-star Ewan McGregor: We’re with you on the nudity, SJ. The R rating would have helped office sales.

Note to the hordes of big corporations who paid heavy currency for product visibility: You wasted your money. “The Island” represents the most egregious example of product placement overkill in film history. Audience backlash seems inevitable.

(Rated PG-13 for intense violence and action, some sexuality and language. Running time: 127 minutes)



THE
IMBIBER
BY DAN DUNN

IMBIBER summer drink round-up

Tragically, the summer is half over and the Imbiber is just now getting to his annual round-up of “Stuff You Ought To Be Drinking This Summer.” All apologies for the tardiness but in my defense, like millions of other Americans, I spent the past two months obsessing over the outcome of “Dancing With the Stars.” Now that Kelly Monaco has won, I can die a happy man. That said, let’s get down to brass tacks:

White Wine Winner: I flipped (and subsequently injured my back) over St. Supéry Virtú 2002 White Meritage from Napa. It’s a blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon grapes harvested at night to maintain ripe fruit flavor, because staleness, apparently, is afraid of the dark. Best \$25 the Imbiber spent on a bottle this year.

Other affordable white wines: Not much room for tasting notes, so you’re just gonna have to trust me on these ... Gavi DOCG “Il Gavi” 2004 (\$15) ’04 was a fabulous year for Piedmont wines; Frei Brothers Reserve 2003 Russian River Valley Chardonnay (\$20) — big, intense and fruity, like that black sheep uncle we all have.

Champagne: Nothing says “Holy &%, I’m dizzier than Jessica Simpson” quite like a few glasses of champagne on a warm summer’s evening. If you’re looking for a refreshing alternative to popular bubblies such as Moët and Veuve, check out Pommery Brut Royal (\$37). It’s lively and elegant, and at \$37 a pop, a bit more affordable than its better-known contemporaries. Goes great with strawberries, too.

For the kids (with fake ID): There’s only one hard cider imported from Ireland to the U.S. and that’s Magner’s. Sold in six-packs of longneck bottles (\$6.99), Magner’s is the real deal among consumers in Blarneyland, where it enjoys a 90-percent market share. That means they’re doing something right. Best served over ice. Comes in original and light.

In case of hot date with Kelly Monaco: Ellipse Cognac by Hennessy. It’s \$6,000 a bottle. She’ll probably be impressed. To get a bottle, however, you “gotta know a guy.”

(E-mail questions, comments or suggestions for the Imbiber to ddunn@metro.us)

‘Rejects’ are worth revisiting

BY DAN DUNN
Special to Daily Press

Rob Zombie’s follow-up to 2003’s “House of 1,000 Corpses” is a blood-soaked homage to those low-budget 70s slasher flicks that were all the rage among wound-up, doped-up teenagers at drive-ins. The Fireflies, a clan of psychopathic, necrophiliac hillbillies who kill gleefully and indiscriminately, are back again in “The Devil’s Rejects.” Siblings Otis (Bill Moseley) and Baby (Sheri Moon Zombie, the director’s wife) and grotesque clown-faced pop Captain Spaulding (Sid Haig) embark on another murderous rampage in the desolate backwoods South while being pursued by ornery Sheriff Wydell (William Forsythe), who’s built Ford tough and is prone to quoting scripture before blasting away at bad guys. An ass-kicking Southern rock soundtrack and grainy 16mm camerawork effectively enhance the overall grindhouse feel of the film.

Review

‘Songs’ steamy

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Though it looks and feels a lot like a poorly-lit adult film, “9 Songs” isn’t hampered by an XXX-stigmatic designation, thanks to the involvement of mainstream creative forces such as director Michael Winterbottom (“24 Hour Party People,” “Welcome to Sarajevo”); star Kieran O’Brien (“Band of Brothers”), and an impressive cast of modern Brit-rockers that includes the Von Bondies, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Elbow, among others. Casting aside conventional narrative structure, character arcs, plot and most of the other key elements of dramatic filmmaking, Winterbottom pairs the well-endowed O’Brien with lithe newcomer Margo Stilley and instructs them to let it all — and I do mean all — hang out. When they’re not playing naked mattress hockey, they’re getting high and watching bands gig at London nightclubs — nine songs in all (get it?) performed in their entirety and captured on low-budget hand-held cameras.

(Not rated. Running time: 71 minutes)



(Rated R for sadistic violence, strong sexual content, language and drug use. Running time: 101 minutes)



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From fast parades to slow ducks, campy film festival is no Sundance

FILM FEST, from page 1

annual independent film venue.

Cell phone service is sketchy at best in the 355-person desert hamlet of Bicknell and parking is ample for the 250 or so fans who typically attend.

There's a parade, billed as the world's fastest, which travels on State Highway 24 from Torrey to Bicknell at speeds reaching 55 mph.

Since 1996, while a majority of Utahns are celebrating a late July holiday commemorating the arrival of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake valley, a number of die-hard fans and the curious have made the trek to Bicknell, 200 miles south of Salt Lake City, for the festival dubbed "where good things happen to bad movies."

"At that time I was so sick of the film festival world I thought it would be neat to create our own film festivals," said co-founder Trent Harris. It was a screening of his film "Rubin and Ed" at Bicknell's Wayne Theater in 1995 that helped spark the idea of holding a festival there.

Some of Harris's other campy films, such as "The Beaver Trilogy," a story about a Utah drifter starring Sean Penn, have played at Sundance or other more mainstream festivals. Current projects have kept Harris from being more actively involved in Bicknell in recent years, but it's clear he's still proud of his creation.

"There is no more prestigious festival," he'll said, joking, when asked about his other festival experiences. "It is the only film festival in the entire world that has a parade ... and I'm pretty sure that we're the only film festival with a swap meet."

James Anderson, who has owned the Wayne Theater since 1994 with his wife Nan, looks forward to the festival every year.

"There's always a lot of laughs, we typically screen a bad movie and have a seminar about it after," Anderson said. "It's the antithesis, if you will, of the other film festival in Utah."

This year the festival committee asked fans to vote over the Internet for their favorite three movies of the past 10 festivals and used that to form the schedule.

"It's the best of the worst of BIFF," Anderson said.

Harris's "Rubin and Ed," the Frankie and Annette classic "Beach Blanket Bingo" and Al Adamson's "Half Way to Hell" made the cut and will show at the festival,

which runs Friday and Saturday. Those three beat out other previous films like "Earth vs. The Spider," "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

The festival begins with the "world's fastest parade." Those interested in participating can meet in the town of Torrey for the eight-mile drive on State Highway 24, ending up at the Wayne Theater in Bicknell.

"I think one year we had more people in the parade than we had watching it," Anderson said. "We slowed it down from 65, which is the speed limit, because some of the people's costumes and things kept blowing off."

"They always give us a permit for the parade. That surprises me over and over again," said Harris.

The Saturday morning swap meet has featured everything from "strange Mormon ceramics to used tires to kittens to I think maybe the first year we had some ducks," Anderson said.

Tickets to the festival are \$7 per movie and \$10 for each of two parties. A \$45 "fast pass" allows admission to all activities and comes with a raffle ticket. Accommodations range from campgrounds to motels to an all-suites hotel near Capitol Reef National Park.

Like any festival worth its klieg lights, Bicknell has a panel discussion. This year "Half Way to Hell" cinematographer Gary Graver will join Utah Travel Council Director Leigh von der Esch in discussing "What Makes B-Movies Be?"

Past panels have featured purported UFO abductees and an entomologist with 4-inch hissing cockroaches. In those years, the festival featured alien and bug attack movies, respectively.

They get the joke, Anderson says, of those involved in the B-movies invited to the festival.

"People accept it pretty well. They understand better than anyone, actors or directors, the value of what they've made," he said. "In a certain level, they're honored."

Local residents, nearly all of whom can fit at one time in the 306-seat theater that regularly runs current Hollywood releases, were a little slower to come around, but they have.

"I think the first few years they were concerned that the regular (screenings) weren't happening and it was some strange movies that they'd never seen," Anderson said. "Now they understand it's tongue-in-cheek."



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NATIONAL



Smuggling tunnel under Canadian border busted up

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

LYNDEN, Wash. — Federal agents have shut down a drug-smuggling tunnel built under the U.S.-Canadian border in northwestern Washington, the first such passageway found under the nation's northern border, federal officials said Thursday.

Five people were arrested in the case, U.S. Attorney John McKay told a news conference at this border town about 90 miles north of Seattle.

McKay said construction of the tunnel began about eight months ago and authorities had been monitoring it for six months. It was sealed shortly after it opened Wednesday.

Although numerous smuggling tunnels have been found on the U.S.-Mexican border, this was the first found from Canada, he said. It runs 360 feet from a quonset hut on the Canadian side and ends beneath the living room of a home on the U.S. side, 300 feet from the border.

Reinforced with lumber, concrete and iron rebar, the tunnel is roughly 4 feet wide and tall, and between 3 feet to 10 feet below ground. It was equipped with lights and ventilation, and burrows under a highway.

"They were smart enough to build a sophisticated tunnel, they weren't smart enough to not get caught," McKay said.

Arrested Wednesday were Francis Devandra Raj, 30; Timothy Woo, 34; and Johnathan Valenzuela, 27, all of Surrey, British Columbia. They were charged Thursday in U.S. District Court in Seattle with conspiracy to distribute marijuana and conspiracy to import marijuana.

Raj owns the property where the tunnel was hidden beneath the quonset hut, authorities said. Woo was a fugitive in a 1999 marijuana case out of Seattle.

On July 16, two additional people were arrested in separate incidents for transporting marijuana that had come through the tunnel, said Greg Gassett, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Seattle.

One was a Twin Falls, Idaho, woman who authorities say had 93 pounds of marijuana in her vehicle when she was stopped in Ellensburg. A Renton man pulled over by the Washington State Patrol in Enumclaw with 110 pounds of marijuana was also arrested.

Authorities are deciding on how to proceed with charges against the two, said McKay. Their names were not released.

Pat Fogarty, an inspector with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia, said Canadian Border Service Guards noticed suspicious activity at the hut in February and reported it to his team.

"They saw dirt going out and construction materials going in," Fogarty said. "They thought it was something we should check out, reported it to us and we went from there."

U.S. officials were alerted and began monitoring the tunnel.

"We were in there before it was completed. There was not a day they did anything that we weren't assessing them," Gassett said.

On July 2, agents entered the home to examine the tunnel. They later installed cameras and listening devices in the home to monitor activities. Raj, Woo and Valenzuela were observed carrying large bags from the house and into a sport-utility vehicle with Utah plates. The vehicle was then delivered to the woman who was later stopped in Ellensburg.

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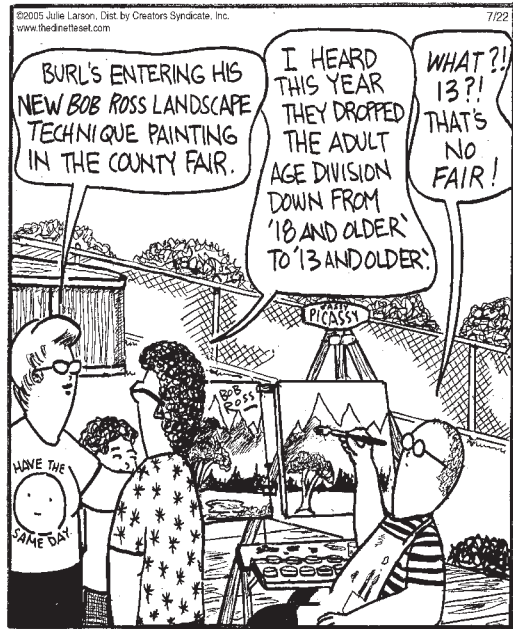


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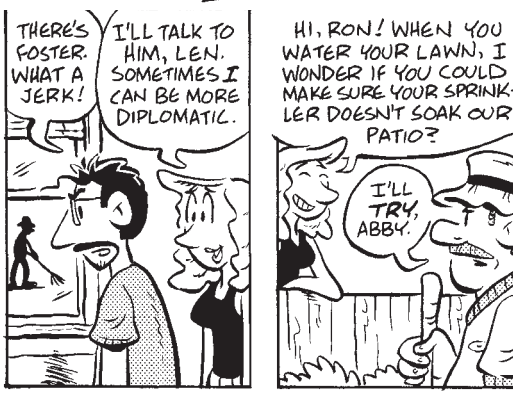


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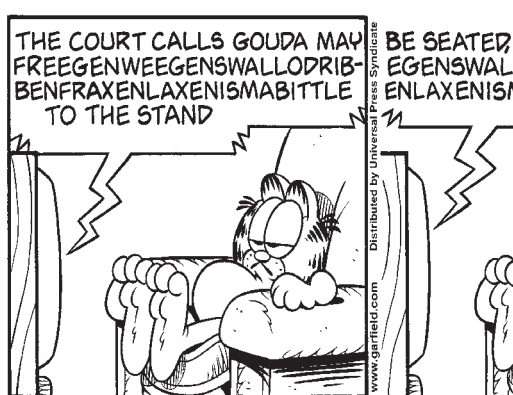
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edge city by Terry & Patty Laban



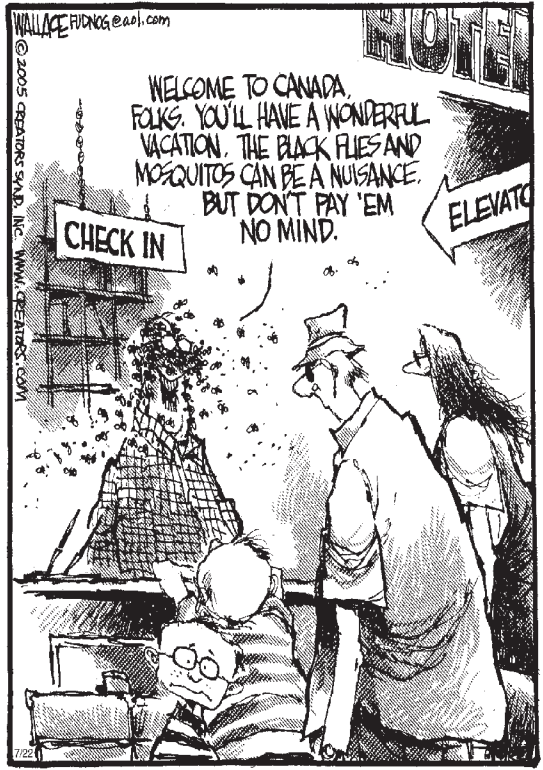
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Cabinet department
 - 6 Yam, e.g.
 - 11 Make amends
 - 12 Solo
 - 13 Made dove calls
 - 14 It's worth 10 sawbucks
 - 15 Printer need
 - 16 Gas pipes
 - 18 Earth-friendly prefix
 - 19 Dict. entry
 - 20 Mine yield
 - 21 Game callers
 - 23 Gang territories
 - 25 Bossy's chew
 - 27 Flee
 - 28 Woolly ones
 - 30 Treaty
 - 33 Salt source
 - 34 Testing site
 - 36 Title start, often
 - 37 Politico Willkie
 - 39 Take in
 - 40 Silver bar
 - 41 Friend of Aramis
 - 43 Canyon of comics
- DOWN**
- 44 1980s Attorney General
 - 45 Fire-fighting needs
 - 46 Moves carefully
 - 1 More frilly
 - 2 Immediately
 - 3 I ching
 - 4 Count start
 - 5 Made over
 - 6 Diplomatic
 - 7 Radius partner
 - 8 Lighting aid

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Yesterday's answer

- 9 Keys in
- 10 Malcolm's TV
- 17 Catch brother
- 22 Bring action against
- 24 50 Cent's music
- 26 Edits out
- 28 Looked after
- 29 Amigo
- 31 Go for
- 32 Past and future
- 33 Sweeping sound
- 35 Hold responsible
- 38 Pigeon's cousin
- 42 Brewed drink

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