

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

18-22-45-21-7

Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$33 million

FANTASY 5

39, 23, 28, 9, 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 1, 8
Evening picks: 3, 8, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms
2nd Place: 11, Money Bags
3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.51



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

California's Got Issues: According to an April New York Times report, California has spent \$13 million in education money since 2001 defending its deteriorating school facilities against a class-action lawsuit; the state argues that it is providing as best it can on a shrinking budget (which of course has shrunk by \$13 million just on this lawsuit). And a California Senate committee revealed in May that misconduct investigations of prison employees proceed so slowly that an accused worker could be on paid leave for more than two years before ultimately being fired when the charges prove true.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't get the idea that I am knocking the American system."

— Al Capone



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Funeral home cremates the wrong body

Distraught wife says husband specifically didn't want cremation

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica funeral home is being sued for incinerating the remains of a man who was adamantly opposed to cremation.

Brian Sturrock, a 46-year-old

professional speaker who suffered from a rare form of lymphoma, died in March 2002. His immune system had been weakened by chemotherapy.

Nurses convinced his grieving wife, Eleanor, 39, to leave her husband's body so that he could be taken to the coroner. They told her she would see him again before he was buried.

Eleanor Sturrock, a musician and mother of three youngsters,

reluctantly left. She then contacted Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller-Murphy, a local mortuary on the corner of Arizona Avenue and 20th Street.

She arranged for her husband's body to be preserved and flown to a cemetery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There, an open-casket funeral was scheduled to be held before Brian Sturrock was to be buried in a family plot next to his father.

The next day, Sturrock said a worker at the funeral home called and asked that she come to the funeral home immediately but refused to explain why.

She arrived at the funeral home and was told that a worker had apparently mixed up two bodies and her husband had been accidentally cremated, according to court documents.

See CREMATION, page 5

'Relay For Life' raises thousands for cancer fight

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans raised more than \$70,000 this past weekend for the fight against cancer.

The Second Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life took place this weekend at Santa Monica College and raised \$13,000 more than last year.

The estimated total raised by 45 Santa Monica-based teams this year was \$77,100, said Santa Monica College President Piedad Robertson during closing ceremonies Sunday morning.

The team event began Saturday at 9 a.m. and ran continuously until 9 a.m. Sunday at Santa Monica College's Corsair track.

The Relay for Life is a 24-hour community event to increase cancer awareness while raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Teams are made up of at least 10 to 20 people who walked or ran around the SMC track in shifts for the entire 24 hour period.

Last year, 30 teams doubled the event's goal of \$30,000 by raising \$63,000. The Santa Monica Police Department was the largest contributor, raising \$23,000.

The event is not only to raise money to fight cancer, but also to remember loved ones who lost battles to the disease and to celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

One of the survivors is the event co-chair and Santa Monica Police Department spokesman Lt. Frank Fabrega, who was also involved with the event last year.

Fabrega, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer earlier this year, said the event was even more important to him. He underwent surgery last month and is now cancer-free. He thanked the Relay for Life teams at the closing ceremony and said that he may not have survived if it weren't for their efforts.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's national signature event. It is held in 3,000 communities across the country and raises more than \$200 million nationwide. The money from the events accounts for 25 percent of the American Cancer Society's annual income.

See RELAY, page 5



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Participants in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life walk around the track at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field on Saturday, while at left, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. and SMC President Piedad Robertson talk to the crowd.

Case of phantom car underlines thriftiness of Santa Monica juries

BY DAVE DANFORTH

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica jury Friday couldn't decide if a "phantom car" caused a 1999 accident.

But even if it had, the verdict underscored the belief held by many plaintiff's attorneys that local juries are thrifty and scoff at large awards.

Jurors — many of whom wondered how a lawsuit over a \$637 repair bill could result in a request for about \$28,000 in damages — awarded the plaintiffs, a long-time Santa Monica family, only about 10 percent of what they asked for.

"I guess we still won," said Cheryl Turner, attorney for the plaintiffs.

David and Michael Turner were rear-ended in slowing traffic on the Santa Monica Freeway on November 13, 1999. Several months after the mishap, they learned that the couple who hit them, David and Branislava Warner of Santa Barbara, contended they'd been rear-ended themselves and had been pushed into the Turner car.

The third car, which had rear ended them, had sped off in a classic hit-and-run, the Warners said.

See PHANTOM, page 5



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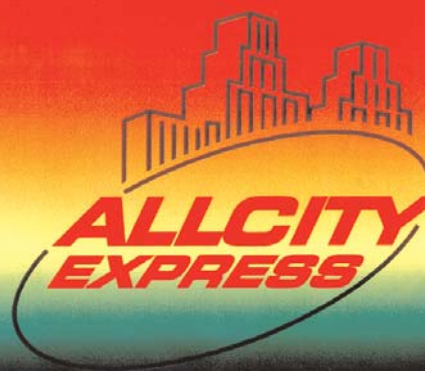
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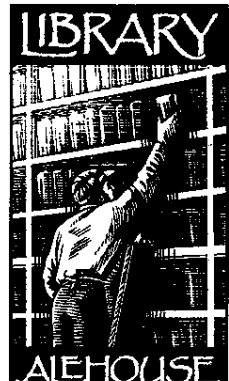
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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, July 28, 2003:

You'll have an unusually dynamic year if you are willing to tune in to your inner self. You see way beyond the obvious, though you might not choose to share your perceptions with others. Your insights and ability to move past problems point you in a new direction. You will find that with your magnetism and personality, you'll create much more of what you want. People love to be around you because of your unusual insight. If you are single, be careful about your choice of partners. You could easily become involved with someone who isn't what he or she appears to be. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish if you take frequent getaways together. Add that special touch of romance. LEO is a soul mate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Whatever you do, you do well right now. Express your caring and gratefulness in an effective way so that a family member can hear it. Allow your imagination to go haywire, but you might want to charge this unique energy into your work. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Good news heads your way. Work with what you hear, with an eye to new ventures. Realize more of what you need through meetings and calling on others to participate. Use your skills to motivate others. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Whatever you do, you do well. Your ability to express your feelings plays a role in events. Make calls and reach out for those around you. Look at what might be going on with a real estate investment. Share more of yourself. Tonight: Happy as a clam.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Investigate what might be happening before taking the big plunge. What appears to be office gossip might have a bit of truth to it. Consider your options carefully when dealing with a boss or superior. You might need to take charge. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Use care with your finances. Something might look too good to resist, and you probably won't be able to. Make sure you really want what you purchase. Reach out for a friend or an associate toward the end of the day. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Work individually with others if you want to obtain results. Someone clearly trusts and understands you. Together you become quite a team. Reach out for experts when dealing with a vague issue. Getting the right advice could make the difference between success and failure. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ With the Moon in your sign, your desirability speaks for itself. You beam, and others naturally respond to you. Understand that you create the pace, making what you want happen. Make a money decision later in the day. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Continue to allow others to run with the ball. Much more will reveal itself if you take charge. Learn the art of observing. In the afternoon, you might want to take someone up on an overture. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ A compliment might touch you, but don't overreact. You might feel mellow, but try to avoid going to la-la land thinking about this person. Late this afternoon you can do something about this fantasy. Find out where the other person is coming from. Tonight: As you like it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Co-workers' good will allows tremendous movement on a project. The end results will be pleasing. Save the later afternoon for calls, returning messages and networking in general. Loosen up and relax with associates. Tonight: Out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want from someone close. Your ability to handle difficult if not touchy situations comes forward in a meeting. Assume the best, and you will like the end results. Close your door in the late afternoon to clear up work. Tonight: Do something ultimately for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Clearly, a child or loved one cares. You might have difficulty focusing on work or other matters. If you can, take a personal day just for yourself and a loved one. Otherwise, do your best to focus, but don't be surprised if you don't get a lot done. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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LOCAL

The Q-Line

Santa Monicans offer opinions on city tragedy

(Editor's note: The Santa Monica Daily Press opened our Q-Line last week to give community members an opportunity to share their feelings and thoughts about the recent farmers market tragedy. This is the last installment.)

■ "I think that Steve Stark, the city's new finance director, will have his hands full with all the lawsuits that are going to be filed against the City of Santa Monica for the farmers market crash. I imagine that everybody that was killed and most people who were injured will be filing lawsuits of half a million dollars or more. Santa Monica's deficit of \$16 million will balloon and continue on for a couple more decades because of this. As your paper said, this is the worst disaster Santa Monica has ever had."

■ "I would just hope that this accident would help the community of Santa Monica to realize there's been a big change in Santa Monica and people are not as considerate of their neighbors, especially in traffic. There is a big concentration on rushing to get places, cutting people off, impatience, tail-gating, swiping around them, not any eye contact — it's changing here in Santa Monica and perhaps this could help people come back down to earth and realize it's important to acknowledge people in a very respectful way."

■ "It's amazing with all the building on the streets going on and all the construction and new benches and new street signs that nobody would have thought to put up barricades around the farmers market, which seems like a very simple thing."

■ "I just wanted to say I grieve along with all the people of Santa Monica for

this terrific loss of life. But we must remember two children are also dead. These are two children who will never grow up and this man who hit them should be made to pay."

■ "I was thinking about the two little children who were killed in the farmers market accident and I believe that they did have purpose in life and maybe God called them to be two little guardian angels in heaven to watch over all the little children of Santa Monica. Maybe — just maybe — this was their mission and maybe this is purpose of their little lives. Maybe the children now are better protected and two little stars in heaven are now watching over them. I, for one, sure would like to believe it."

■ "As a longtime senior citizen of Santa Monica who drives, I have to state that although I might be a little put-out by the inconvenience, I do think that everyone over 60 should be given a yearly competence review with whatever that might entail. Medical and physical competence reports should be required. Lives and safety are far more important than convenience. The man may regret his actions — albeit a bit too late — but wasn't he overheard saying, 'They should have gotten out of the way?'"

■ "Having grown up in Santa Monica since 1941, I have seen many changes — some good, some bad. I've always loved the farmers markets and frequently shop there. I missed the tragedy on Arizona the other day because I had stopped in for lunch a few blocks down the way at Chez Jay. My heart goes out to the families and victims of this tragedy, one of whom could have been me. But I'm puzzled by the fact that neither Senators Barbara Boxer nor Dianne Feinstein have not yet taken the publicity opportunity to try and blame the entire accident on lack of gun control."

surf report

Small scale mix of NW wind swell and background SSW swell on Monday. Northern LA spots see surf in the knee-to-waist high range, with some rare plus sets at best SW exposed breaks. South Bay spots see mainly small NW swell mix with surf in the 1'-3' range.

Today the water is:
72°

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

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:00	-0.1	1:48	2.7	9:40	3.7	8:07	6.0
SUNDAY	3:33	-0.4	2:27	2.6	10:10	3.8	8:43	6.3
MONDAY	4:04	-0.6	3:05	2.5	10:39	3.9	9:19	6.4
TUESDAY	4:36	-0.7	3:44	2.3	11:08	4.1	9:56	6.4
WEDNESDAY	5:08	-0.7	4:26	2.2	11:39	4.2	10:34	6.2
THURSDAY	5:41	-0.5	5:13	2.2	(12:12)	4.4	11:15	5.9
FRIDAY	6:15	-0.2	6:07	2.1	N/A	N/A	12:48	4.5

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The Q-Line

The recent accident at the Santa Monica farmers market that left 10 people dead and scores wounded has raised many questions about how to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

In fact, in a stunning coincidence earlier this week in Florida, an elderly man did almost the exact same thing as the 86-year-old Santa Monica man, though no one was killed in that incident.

One of the most talked about solutions revolves around coming up with some kind of new test that drivers over a certain age must take and pass on a regular basis if they want to keep their driver's licenses.

ver's licenses.

In the past, attempts to pass such a law have been met with strong resistance from senior groups.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know, "Should senior citizens be regularly required to demonstrate the physical and mental skills necessary to operate a motor vehicle? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll include your response in Friday's paper. Please keep your answer to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response before you dial the phone.



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LETTERS

What be done about homeless problem?

Editor:

Once again I find myself in need of writing to the editor about the issue of homelessness. I just finished reading the very well-written letter to the editor (June 24, SMDP) by John Medlin and I am in total agreement with him about the many problems the "privileged" (i.e. hard-working, taxpaying, law-abiding) people of Santa Monica constantly have with the homeless.

I want to add, once again, the issues of breaking and entering, burglary and property destruction committed by the homeless. Last week, once again, some currently vacant property that I own, that is boarded up and fenced in, was broken into by some homeless people who even somehow managed to tap into the electricity.

Needless to say, they trashed the place and once again I am left with the hassle and expense of picking up, cleaning up and trying to think of a new and even more expensive way to protect my property from them.

If these people would only use the time, resourcefulness and energy that they use to break the law, they could become contributing members of society. However, that is obviously not their goal.

Can't anything be done? Writing letters to the editor helps vent the frustration and anger about this dangerous and unnecessary situation, but let's get organized and do something! Things are out of control and only getting worse.

Carole Orlin
Santa Monica

More homeless problems

Editor:

To Mr. Charles Springer: You write well — and you are homeless? My daughter has her MBA two years past. She works two part-time menial jobs to get by.

Regarding other homeless who don't hesitate to confront senior citizens while walking on Third or Palisades Park. Oh yes, we've encountered them leaning over rails at outdoor restaurants and grabbing food when they don't receive money. Lastly, walk through the Palisades Park and see the debris left on the lovely grass by them.

Diane Steiner
Santa Monica

Count blessings, then support OPCC

Editor:

Please consider this an open letter to the citizens of Santa Monica.

Although I regrettably no longer work or live in Santa Monica, it wasn't that long ago that I was chamber president, long-time chair of the chamber's Homeless Task

Force and very actively involved in both civic, non-profit and business affairs.

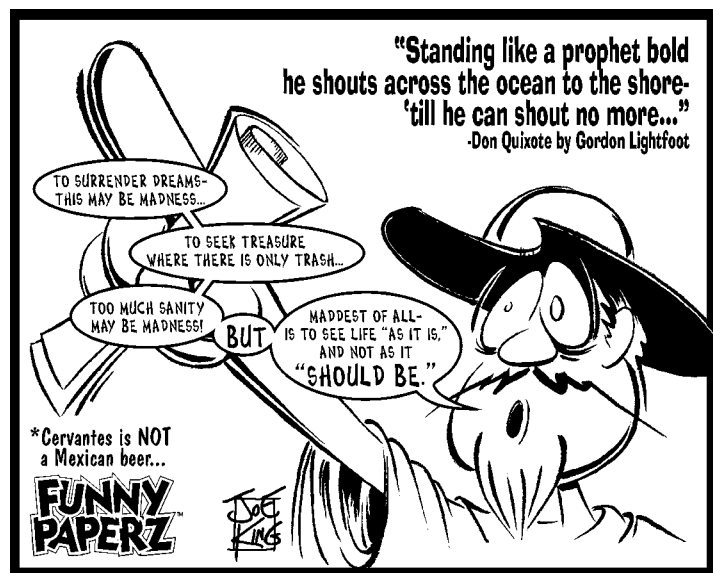
But I still read the Daily Press everyday and it's with a combination of sadness and irritation that I see the controversy over Ocean Park Community Center's new location for the Access Center and Daybreak Shelter.

After 10 years of conducting business in Santa Monica and, yes, seeing first-hand the challenges of homelessness on the streets and in the parks, and being frustrated like many people, I believe absolutely that the solution lies with programs like OPCC's. They DO work, they do!

But you have to let them work. And you can start by supporting OPCC's need for the Cloverfield/Michigan site. OPCC has an imperative job to do and fights like these only distract them from their mission at hand.

Please, first count your own personal blessings and then let OPCC and those they assist count on your support. Homelessness in your city, in our cities, is NOT going away and we are NOT going to find a solution by just saying no.

Karen Bauer
Westchester



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Letter writer needs vacation from the rat race



When I read the letter last Tuesday by John Zarchen, I was shocked and am grateful the SMDP printed a retraction to it.

I have since had a letter from this individual in my own e-mail — this time spouting the same rhetoric about homeless urinating and defecating all over, panhandling, being anti social etc.

I had to laugh when I read it because for someone who is a professional, he sure does not have his facts straight.

But, then again, it is the way of the neo-conservatives to exaggerate the truth and look at the negative aspects of anything they disagree with unless it involves

money or power over those who cannot defend themselves, such as the homeless.

If this person would look beyond the almighty dollar and use his head for something more than a hat rack, he would see how bad this situation truly is. He would see that the figures for unemployment do not include the people who have exhausted their benefits, have been without work in their related fields for more than a year and those of us who are homeless and able to work.

If these figures were taken into consideration in the conservative statistics, the numbers for both would be much higher, as would the figures on the homeless situation. I would guess at least 10 percent unemployment and more than 3 percent homeless. (The government says somewhere at 6 percent unemployment and 2 percent homeless.)

He would also realize that the gangs he wants to attack us are more concerned with their territories where their money is concerned. The gangs are there as a result of the discrimination of certain minority

groups who live in poverty and see no way out of their situation except through criminal activity. They would be more likely to attack him for his wallet than some homeless person who has no money.

So he is deluded here as well.

I see this person as a really misinformed professional. An overworked individual who really needs a vacation from the "rat race," as the game cash flow calls it.

So I would like to invite this individual — as I have invited Mr. Street and Mr. Bauer — to be educated first-hand on the life of a homeless person.

But alas, these individuals are too elite to come out here on the street and learn first-hand what they do not know. I guess they are so enlightened that they know everything.

The really ironic thing about them is they seem to give the homeless of Santa Monica credit for everything from 10,000 people leaving this city due to the lifting of rent control and rent going to astronomical prices, to the decline of business

on the Promenade due to the Sept. 11 incident, to the non-depression this country is in and the war in Iraq.

Well, one of my sources tells me business has increased about 16 percent over last year. Maybe the homeless are responsible for that as well. I would like to think they would give the homeless credit for something positive.

On the serious side, what Mr. Zarchen did was nothing short of criminal behavior. Calling an act of terrorism on American citizens is just what the Patriot Act is against — or have perhaps he's forgotten his neo-conservative buddies in Washington passed that into law not long ago.

I think Mr. Zarchen should think about what he writes next time he prompts the attacking and killing of American citizens, homeless or otherwise.

(Charles Springer is a freelance writer and artist and a resident of Santa Monica. He can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



Lawsuit filed after funeral home cremates wrong body

CREMATION, from page 1

Sturrock said she didn't know what to do. "I just went nuts," said Sturrock, adding that her husband had repeatedly stressed his feelings against cremation. "I didn't know what to say. I didn't know what to do. So I walked out of the office and I lost it outside."

"That's a really big mistake," she added. "I couldn't keep a promise to my husband and there's nothing I can do about it. He would have been outraged."

Officials from the funeral home owned up to the mistake and attempted to make amends.

"We made a mistake," said Terry Hemeyer, managing director of Service Corporation International, which oversees more than 2,000 funeral homes worldwide, including the one in Santa Monica. "Those employees let us down and we terminated them."

But Sturrock said the apology was not enough.

She and her mother-in-law, Janet, filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court in March, claiming the mortuary was guilty of negligence and inflicting emotional distress.

They are seeking an unspecified amount of money. Sturrock said last week

that the lawsuit is also intended to ensure the same type of thing does not happen to others.

"I want some sort of closure," she said. "But there's no way of fixing the mistake they made. There's some sort of emotional stuff that goes on with me. I don't want them to just kind of say, 'Oops.'"

"I have to explain this to my children someday. And when they say, 'Mommy, did you make it right?' I want to be able to say, 'Yes, I did' — to be able to say, 'I loved your dad so much that I wasn't able to just forget about it.'"

Sturrock's attorney, Catherine Lerer, said the funeral home failed to make an

offer until the suit had been filed and that the offer was insufficient. Beyond that, Lerer refused to comment on the pending litigation.

In the meantime, Hemeyer said he is eager to make up for the mistake. He characterized this type of mix-up as very rare and said it had only occurred a few times before.

"We have over 20,000 employees, so it's like anything else," he said. "Somebody's going to make a mistake, so our policy is to own up for it and do everything we can."

"And believe me, I wish it didn't happen."

Donations can still be made in SM cancer event

RELAY, from page 1

More than 1.5 million people participate in Relay for Life, which is the largest nonprofit fundraising event in the world, according to the American Cancer Society.

The most emotional part of the event was the luminary ceremony, which honored survivors and remembered those who have died from the disease. At 9 p.m. on Saturday, white bags lined the track that were filled with white sand and a candle. Each one was dedicated to a person touched by cancer and was lit during a special ceremony. The candles burn throughout the night, lighting the way for walkers.

Santa Monica resident Neil Carrey, whose son died of cancer, said during the luminary ceremony that if more efforts

like the Relay for Life were held, the cure for cancer would be found. He said that the biggest enemy in this country is cancer, which claims hundreds of thousands of people's lives each year.

Carrey said if the government spent its billions of dollars on cancer research and finding a cure instead of on wars, then more people would be alive today. He asked people to contact their legislators to urge them to start spending more money on cancer research.

The total raised in Santa Monica will be finalized in a few weeks as donations are still coming in. Anyone who is interested in contributing to the effort can send checks to: The American Cancer Society, attention SM Relay for Life, 5731 West Slauson Ave., Suite 200, Culver City, CA, 90230.

Winners, losers a matter of degrees with city's juries

PHANTOM, from page 1

Thus began the case of the "phantom car," in which jurors were asked if they believed the mysterious fleeing car caused the accident.

David Turner was represented by and his daughter, Cheryl, a litigation attorney and Michael's sister. She assured curious jurors that there was nothing "sinister" in the arrangement. Her father, 64 and an insurance broker, needed a lawyer after the Warner's insurance company turned down their claim, so he hired his daughter.

The Turners took their case before Superior Court Judge Diana Wheatley and a jury. Cheryl Turner insisted that even if jurors accepted the phantom car theory, that the Warners were still speeding and tailgating before their car struck the Turner's Acura Legend, which had logged 187,000 miles.

Scott MacDonald, the Warners' lawyer, argued that the only plausible explanation for the fact that the Warners had been hit twice was that the Warner car behind them was itself rear-ended and shoved ahead.

"This was a minor accident," MacDonald said. "It was a tap."

He called an expert witness who likened the jolt felt by the Turners to the sensation of stepping off a curb, or getting

slapped on the back or jostled in a crowd. He produced photos showing that the Warner car had minor damage. With little damage visible to the rear of the car, the Turners disputed the validity of the photo.

The battle, which began over a \$636.52 repair estimate, was on.

Cheryl Turner argued that the story was concocted by the Warners and that there never was a phantom car. But just in case the jurors believed the Warners, she insisted that even if there was a third car, the Warners were still negligent. She produced a doctor's bill for \$3,298 and said her father was bedridden for over a month after the collision.

MacDonald disputed that claim. The investigating officer didn't even classify the mishap as a "moderate" accident, he noted. It wouldn't have happened had his clients not been rear-ended.

The jury initially split 6-6 over the phantom question, with a quorum of nine needed for a verdict. But, jurors said, they felt sympathetic to the Turners, but not very.

Their eventual award, on a 10-2 vote, imposed a drastic haircut on the Turners. Where David Turner had asked for \$15,000-\$17,000, he received \$1,745. His son, who requested \$11,000-\$12,500 in damages, was limited to \$1,100 by the jury.

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STATE

Caves are newest trend for California wineries

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

CALISTOGA — In a chill, dark hollow of rough-hewn rock, flickering candles cast shadows over the old cave walls and across the faces of the dozen or so people standing in silence.

A drifting poltergeist would feel right at home here, but the only traces of the spirit world are the fermented kind. These are the magnificent caverns of the Schramsberg vineyards, a popular stop on the trendy cave-crawling circuit.

Things are happening beneath the surface of wine country as caves catch on, a hot spot for storage — and a cool place to hang out.

"Wine caves are sexy," says Scott W. Lewis, an engineering geologist who has worked on several of the scores of caves carved under California wineries over the past decade.

Or as one Schramsberg visitor, Laura Zaccaria, put it with a mischievous grin, "It's the gentleman's spelunking."

The Schramsberg caves were begun in the late 19th century under the direction of Napa Valley pioneer Jacob Schram, dug by Chinese laborers who used picks to chip away at the rock.

Things go a bit faster in the 21st century. A machine known as a "roadheader" slices through rock with forceful efficiency.

Building a cave is expensive — estimates start at around \$1 million — but

going underground allows wineries to expand without using up potential vineyard land, and caves are suited to the hilly terrain common to premium vineyards.

Winemakers like caves because they provide cool storage without air conditioning and with a natural humidity that reduces evaporation. For red wine, the difference is about one gallon a barrel lost per year vs. three gallons, says Lewis, who works with Northern California-based Condor Earth Technologies Inc.

Storage is only half the story; today's caves go well beyond wine warehouses, incorporating everything from streams to streamlined kitchens.

At Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, a Foucault pendulum is suspended over a quartzite floor. Powered by an electromagnet and the movement of the Earth, the pendulum appears to move as the planet rotates. "In a cave, the way we tell time on the outside is not available," explains owner Warren Winiarski, "that gives us our metaphor for time."

Winiarski, maker of the cabernet sauvignon that beat some noble French vintages at a famous Paris taste test in 1976, says the winery went to caves for the simple reason that, "we ran out of room on the ground."

At the Benziger Winery in Sonoma County, family members were about to put up a new building to ease their growing pains when they hit on the idea of a cave, says Joe Benziger.

"It's a perfect place to settle our wine,"

says Benziger. Then there's the tourist bonus: "You take them into the cave. If they don't leave with a bottle of wine, we're doing something wrong."

The Benziger caverns boast their very own cave man, Bob Nugent, a professor of art at Sonoma State University who has sketched various animals on the curving walls of the winery's 28,000 square feet of caves.

Some of the animals — bears, horses, coyotes — are visible to visitors taking a tour. Others are hidden behind barrel racks for the edification and entertainment of workers moving them around.

"It's an ongoing project. Every once in a while, I'll sneak in and do a new one and not let them know," says Nugent.

Every once in a while, a visitor will want to know if Nugent's artistically smudged drawings are really thousands of years old.

Far from it. Benziger's caves went in last summer.

The cave wave hasn't been without controversy.

In the emerging wine region of Mendocino County, vintner John Fetzer's \$800,000 wine cave is locked up due to a dispute with county officials. Chris Warrick, the county's chief building inspector, says wine caves are structures, and require a construction permit from the county.

Fetzer counters he doesn't need the permit since state officials signed off on construction of the caves.

Regulations vary from county to county, but generally the tunneling process must be overseen by state inspectors and then local permits are required for fire safety and whatever use the owner plans for the cave.

In Napa County, for instance, permits are required for plumbing, electricity and the cave entrances, said Steven Lederer, deputy planning director. Owners also have to get "use permits" for whatever they decide to do in their caves.

On a hot day at Benziger's Sonoma County winery, it's easy to see the appeal of wine country's underground movement. Step through the portal and the temperature plummets from somewhere around 100 to a balmy 60 degrees, courtesy of nature.

Over at Schramsberg, the cellars begun as a modest storage room now run almost two miles long, storing up to 2 million bottles at a time.

Through the rocky passageways, the bottles gleam greenly, their round bottoms looking like a very superior kind of wall tile.

Swags of lichen hanging from the ceiling add a gothic touch.

"It's magical," says Jamie Davies, whose family took over Schramsberg in the 1960s. "You're really in a cave and it's eerie and you see all these bottles lined up and they glitter in that low light."

To Davies, the caves "clue you in to something bigger than yourself. It tells us that we can do things very simply and well."

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NATIONAL



Weather slows advance of Glacier Park wildfire

BY COURTNEY LOWERY

Associated Press Writer

WEST GLACIER, Mont. — A lack of wind Sunday slowed the advance of a 9,300-acre wildfire threatening buildings at Glacier National Park headquarters and more than 500 homes and summer cabins outside the park.

Fire crews burned out some areas in front of the fire to halt its advance, and were planning to do more, but the fire's slow progress made the task less urgent and allowed time for more planning, said Andy Williams, a fire information officer.

In all, they plan to burn about 5,000 acres along the Middle Fork and North Fork of the Flathead River, which form the western and southern boundaries of the park, Williams said.

"When we do this, it'll essentially pinch the fire off on its eastern flank and prevent it from going further east to the West Glacier and Apgar area," two villages inside the national park, Williams said.

Joe Stam, incident commander on the Robert Fire, said his team was proceeding very deliberately with burnouts, because of the inherent risk that they might take an unexpected direction and do more harm than good.

"It's not something we take lightly," Stam told area residents at a public meeting Sunday. "We're sweating bullets when we say, 'Go ahead and light.'"

Evacuation plans had been prepared for residents of the park entrance town of West Glacier and for remaining workers at Glacier National Park's headquarters.

"At this point it is not likely that any evacuations will be ordered today," Undersheriff Chuck Curry said Sunday afternoon. "That may not be the case tomorrow. It's strictly weather-conditions dependent."

The park plans to use a siren to notify people in plenty of time to get their things and get out.

An even larger blaze, the 18,900-acre Wedge Canyon Fire, was burning into the northwest corner of the park, just six miles south of the Canadian border.

The fire has destroyed five homes, damaged one and burned 19 outbuildings. About 100 homes and cabins

were still threatened Sunday.

"Winds have been picking up and they've been doing some burnouts around some houses," Jim Pudelka of the Flathead National Forest said Sunday afternoon.

"The Canadian government is a little worried about us burning clear up to them. They've already got a contingency plan in place to allow residents (in far northwestern Montana) to escape into Canada," Pudelka said.

Fire bosses called in aerial tankers to attack the fire Sunday, but were in doubt about whether they could get all the aircraft they requested.

"We have so many major fires out here that these resources we're requesting are just not available," said Joe Fields, a fire information officer. "They're diverted or pulled off to one of the other major fires we have."

Three firefighters were evacuated to area hospitals

Saturday night, one with possible heart problems and two with reactions to bee stings.

"None of them appear at this time to be of a critical nature," Fields said.

A third wildfire, the Trapper Creek Fire, has burned 16,300 acres inside the park in a remote area north of Going-to-the-Sun Road. Fire fighters hoped to get the fire in hand Sunday.

In all, eight large fires were actively burning in Montana Sunday, covering a total of 56,331 acres, the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, reported.

The center said that weather conditions across the West are expected to be warmer and drier this week, a forecast that, if correct, could lead to more intensive fire activity.



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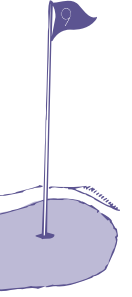
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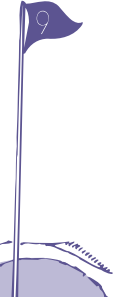
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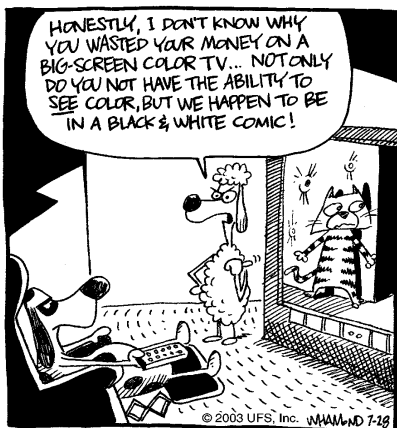
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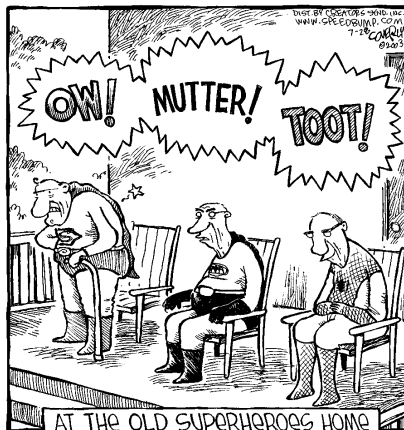
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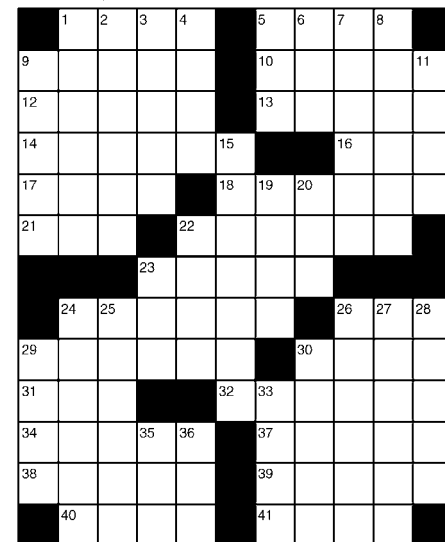
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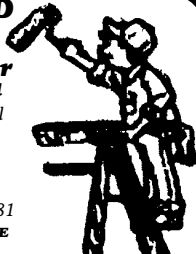
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Clarkson, Keys, Monica set to appear on 'American Dreams'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Singers Kelly Clarkson, Alicia Keys and Monica will be among the guest stars on the upcoming season of the NBC series "American Dreams" set in the mid-1960s.

Clarkson, the original winner of Fox's "American Idol" series, will play Brenda Lee and sing Lee's hit "Sweet Nothings" in the second season premiere this fall.

Monica will portray Mary Wells and sing the former Motown star's hit "My Guy." Keys, a multi-Grammy Award winner, will play Fontella Bass and sing "Rescue Me."

Acting sisters Hilary and Haylie Duff will appear as the Shangri-Las and sing one of the group's 1960s hits.

Last year, R&B singer Usher, Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys, Vanessa Carlton, Wayne Brady and Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child were among the performers who guest-starred as singers from the era.

JERUSALEM — Former "Superman" star Christopher Reeve will visit Israel this week to study the country's treatment of spinal injuries and further his campaign for stem cell research.

Israel is a major center for stem cell study, which is championed by Reeve as offering hope for people with spinal cord injuries.

Reeve, who was paralyzed from the neck down in a 1995 horse-riding accident, is due to arrive in Israel on Monday, Israeli officials and the actor's charity organi-

zation said.

During the five-day trip he will visit Israeli research institutions, tour facilities for the disabled and meet Israelis paralyzed in terrorist attacks. He also is expected to meet Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and visit Jerusalem's Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site.

Many scientists believe stem cells from human embryos could be used to treat a vast array of conditions, from spinal injury to diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

U.S. federal law strictly limits stem cell research and Reeve has criticized the government's stance. In April, he said social and religious conservatives "have had undue influence on the critical debate."

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — Entertainment lawyer Allen Grubman was taken to a hospital and later released after a car accident in the Hamptons, almost two years after his daughter, celebrity publicist Lizzie Grubman, injured 16 people in her SUV.

A BMW collided with Allen Grubman's vintage Jaguar convertible Saturday morning. The driver of the BMW and a passenger were also taken to a hospital following the crash, and were treated and released. Grubman's wife, Deborah, was in the Jaguar but was unharmed.

Grubman's lawyer, Edward Burke Jr., told the New York Post no charges were filed and no tickets issued in the collision.

Celebrity publicist Lizzie Grubman served 37 days in jail for backing her sport-utility vehicle into a crowd out-

side a trendy Hamptons nightclub and then driving away. Sixteen people were hurt in that crash, on July 7, 2001.

Before the accident, Lizzie Grubman had built a thriving business promoting clients including singer Britney Spears, rapper Jay-Z and the Backstreet Boys.

KUNMING, China — Fans in China are finally getting a chance to see soccer star David Beckham play in their country, where the game and he are both hugely popular.

Beckham — known in Chinese as "Beikehanmu" — is preparing here with his new team, Real Madrid, for an exhibition game in Beijing on Aug. 2.

The star midfielder and his teammates, including Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo, practiced for the first time Saturday, dribbling and passing on a rain-soaked field.

"I'm very excited to see this," said 13-year-old Qi Fan, whose soccer jersey was covered with photos of Beckham. "His moves are looking good."

A fan jumped the fence and ran across the field toward the players, apparently seeking an autograph. The man was tackled by authorities and led off the field.

Beckham, married to former Spice Girl Victoria, was sold to the Spanish team in June. He had been Britain's most famous athlete and his appeal cut across all lines — he's popular with soccer fans and non-fans alike, men, women, children and different ethnic groups. And his ever-evolving haircuts are mimicked by teenagers around the globe.



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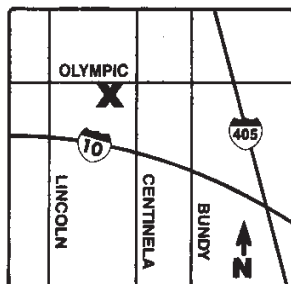
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