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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

It Must Not Be Difficult to Fly Cessnas: In a widely reported incident in June, an apparently intoxicated 20-year-old man with seven hours' student flying time stole a single-engine plane in Danbury, Conn., and joyrode for three hours before landing in White Plains, N.Y. However, a week before that, a 14-year-old boy, who, according to police, had never flown before, stole a Cessna in Fort Payne, Ala., took it up for about 30 minutes, and touched down and took off again, before landing hard on a road (but suffered only cuts and bruises).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 216th day of 2005.
There are 149 days left in the year.

On Aug. 4, 1944, Nazi police raided the secret annex of a building in Amsterdam and arrested eight people, including 15-year-old Anne Frank, whose diary became a famous Holocaust-era account. (She died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common."

JOHN LOCKE
ENGLISH PHILOSOPHER (1632-1704)

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He nose art



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Artist and author Gille Legacy, who has no use of his arms and legs due to cerebral palsy, paints angels with his nose on the Third Street Promenade on Wednesday. For more than 40 years, Legacy has created Impressionist images using the tip of his nose. His paintings — done in oils, acrylics and watercolors — have gained international recognition and displayed worldwide. Legacy also has written and published four books, typed using his nose.

Search continues for missing man

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

A 73-year-old Santa Monica man has gone missing since leaving his retirement home last Thursday for an early morning stroll, prompting family and police to spend the past week checking local hospitals, homeless shelters and food lines in the hopes of spotting the Alzheimer's victim.

Though he's fine physically, Roland Baker's mental health has gradually deteriorated the last few years. Baker's son said a decline into dementia would prevent his father from surviving long on his own.

"He does well from time to time and everything is fine, but then he has these lapses when he's not fine," said Baker's son, John.

See MISSING, page 11



ROLAND BAKER

Neil Diamond tribute: They are, they said

BY WINTER JOHNSON

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER — The Twilight Dance Series is planning to flash a diamond today — Super Diamond, that is.

But before the band shines, It's A Beautiful Day, a folk-rock band that emerged from the underground music scene of the San

Francisco Bay area in the late '60s and early '70s, opens the show this evening. Led by violinist David LaFlamme, who was a soloist with the Utah Symphony and rocked with Janis Joplin and Jerry Garcia, It's A Beautiful Day scored a big hit in 1969 with "White Bird," according to offi-

See TWILIGHT CONCERT, page 12



SUPER DIAMOND

College workers happily take hike

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — Santa Monica College has approved salary increases for hundreds of employees who have not had a raise in years — a bone of contention between officials and workers in the recent past.

SMC's board of trustees unanimously approved a 2-percent raise on Monday that will apply to 743 administrators and support staff. The raise will be retroactive from Jan. 1 and will continue through December. In addition, the employees will receive a 3.5-percent pay increase beginning January of 2006 which will be good through December of next year.

More than 662 SMC support staff, which includes everyone from clerical assistants to gardeners to security personnel, are affected by the raise. So are 81 college administrators and managers.

None of the groups have had a

See SMC RAISES, page 10

LOCAL

Man eludes police, jumps to his death

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A Santa Monica man fell to his death Wednesday after police were unable to prevent him from leaping from the 15th floor of an oceanside apartment.

Bruce Benjamin Shaffer, 39, jumped from a window to his death at 7:59 p.m., as officers were speaking to him at the Pacific Plaza, 1431 Ocean Ave.

Shaffer, a Santa Monica resident, was pronounced dead at

See SUICIDE, page 12

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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 might be a bit too fiery for others — perhaps that is why you often get a strong reaction. Use your ingenuity and creativity much more in the near future. You might be delighted by the possibilities that enter your life. Tonight: Do what you enjoy most.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You and another person could easily come to blows about a family or domestic issue. Is this what you want? Settle in and make important arrangements when you chill out, like tonight. Tonight: Let go of having to be right.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Choose your words with care. You might not be aware of how angry you are and that this emotion is coming out in the tone of your voice. Perhaps scheduling a serious talk for later when you feel calmer might be a good idea. Return calls. Tonight: Chat over dinner.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Take your time before you commit to a get-together or a project. You might want some time to regroup and take care of yourself. Evaluate your budget and spending on this New Moon. Resolutions made today will work. Tonight: Think "money."



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Examine what is going on around you. With the New Moon in your sign, you can make a resolution and probably be able to stick to it. Laugh and make the most of this positive moment. Don't allow someone to bug you. Tonight: It is your world.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You have the ability to understand a lot more than you let on. Listen well to others without putting in your 2 cents. You might make an important personal decision. Let go of tension by learning yoga. Tonight: Rest up. Do something for yourself.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Friends make a difference. You feel very drawn to others, whether you are at work, out and about or joining friends. You also might make an important decision about the quality of your life or a goal. Tonight: Wherever you are, the party is.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink your role at work or within your community. If you feel that a change is necessary, make that decision today. Start planning for this transformation now. New beginnings are possible. Tonight: Out late.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ For once, tame the strong, fiery get-up-and-go in you, and everything will turn out OK. Others need to demonstrate their ideas and flair. You might be surprised at what you see. Tonight: Play second fiddle.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Yesterday you might have thought that the world was falling apart, as others were acting so very strangely. Some might have experienced general upset. Now you can calm everything down. Let others think they are in charge. Tonight: Say yes.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Get down to work, and use the lull to get as much done as possible. Your concentration could be important. If you are retired or a homemaker, you will get into a project at home. Tonight: Go to bed early.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Let others chill out, including you. Not every moment has to be intense or charged. Sometimes you cause more uproar than you realize. A partner plays a significant role in your day. Listen to his or her suggestions. Tonight: Happy as a clam.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

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

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sen. Kuehl speaks to your health

By Daily Press staff

California health insurance now has a new face. The Santa Monica Democratic Club has announced it will host state Sen. Sheila Kuehl at its next meeting. Sen. Kuehl will speak on the new single payer health insurance plan, applicable for all Californians. The proposed new plan has passed in the California Assembly and is pending in the state Senate. Sen. Kuehl will present the plan details, discuss the November special election, and answer questions. The meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Annes community room, 2017 Colorado Blvd. The event is open to the public. Admission and parking are free. Refreshments will be provided.

In the red: Blood drive may set world record

By Daily Press staff

More than 5,500 units of blood are expected to be pledged in the next several days throughout Southern California. ABC/Disney's 95.5 KLOS will host their 24th Annual Blood Drive this week in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Blood Bank of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The event, which is widely recognized as the largest blood donation event in the U.S., is expected to set a world record this year for the largest simultaneous blood donation with more than 5,500 units pledged so far. The KLOS Blood Drive began 24 years ago as a single-site, single-day event collecting 200 units of blood and has grown into a 17-site, three-day event, collecting more than 6,250 units last year alone and more than 70,000 units collectively. 95.5 KLOS personalities will make appearances at several of the donation sites during the three-day event, including Gary Moore at the American Red Cross in Santa Monica today and Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Blood can be donated at the Santa Monica Red Cross chapter, 1450 11th St., from 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The 24th Annual KLOS Blood Drive will take place on Aug. 4, 5 and 6. Participants in this year's drive will receive a commemorative 24th Annual KLOS Blood Drive T-shirt and one general admission ticket to see either Ozzfest on Saturday, Aug. 20, or Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers on Sunday, Aug. 21st at the Hyundai Pavilion while supplies last. Tickets donated by Avalon Attractions.



SURF REPORT

We're expecting the SW to back off, but still hold some occasional sets in the waist-high range. NW wind swell should diminish to near nothingness by the looks of things today. There will be areas of low clouds and fog in the morning then mostly sunny, highs near 70 and lower 80s inland.

Today the water is:

65°

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	2:45	-0.2	1:37	2.9	9:37	3.7	7:48	5.8
TUESDAY	3:20	-0.4	2:18	2.7	10:05	3.8	8:36	6.0
WEDNESDAY	3:50	-0.4	2:53	2.5	10:28	3.9	9:01	6.0
THURSDAY	4:18	-0.4	3:25	2.4	10:50	3.9	9:33	6.0
FRIDAY	4:44	-0.4	3:58	2.2	11:12	4.0	10:04	5.9

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The Q Line

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Animal-rights activists are criticizing City Hall for its attempts to reduce the local population of squirrels — the fleas of which can carry disease — by setting out pesticide bait traps. Officials, who say the city stopped setting the traps in late June, contend the measure was necessary in the interest of public health.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you feel the city was correct in setting out poison traps to reduce the number of local squirrels in the name of public health? Why or why not?"

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

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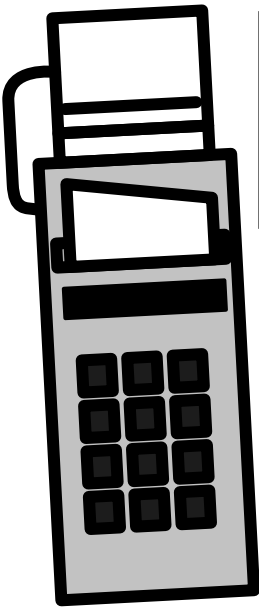
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give us our park back

Editor:

On Wednesday, July 13, on the front page under the picture of Reed Park was the statement that “City Hall is reaching out to schools and other groups for programming at the park in order to make the space more active.” And then it said “Vagrants are known to congregate on the lawn, resulting in their domination of the park.” I guess the theory is if we get enough groups of people in the park, they will push the vagrants out. Not!

I have lived right across from the park for years and have longed to go there just to sit in the shade and read a book. It can’t be done. First, there are no benches in the park proper. Of the few benches on the periphery, all are occupied by the homeless.

Ah, you say, bring your own lawn chair and put it under one of those lovely eucalyptus trees. It can’t be done. Each and every tree has at least one human log under it. The whole scene is very depressing.

The city’s notion that bringing in schools and other groups to the park to make it more active (it isn’t too active already?) will squeeze out the homeless and end at least that problem. I don’t think so. They will just move to the edge of the park, as they have done while the fence has been up allowing the new grass to grow in. Speaking of bringing in schools and groups, should private religious schools and groups be allowed to use public property? Better check that out, Mrs. City Attorney.

A better solution would be to stop feeding the homeless there almost every day. Give this park a break. Direct them someplace else for a while, please.

If you want groups in the park, No. 1 on your list should be the senior apartment building right across the street. And there’s another one a block away. There are more than 600 seniors living there. Most of them live in one room each. They have no bedroom, they have no individual balcony. There is one common balcony that never gets any sun. Nowhere can they take a little sun. If you don’t believe that Reed Park evokes fear in its elderly, go there and count how many of them use the park. What a wonderful gift it would be if they, me included, could have a small enclosed area only for seniors where they could enjoy a little of the outdoors — safely.

My bottom line is please don’t bring in more groups. There are too many now. The city even allowed a church group for the homeless to use a room for services on Sundays — it folded for non-attendance, I believe.

Look, a park is where you go to quietly read a book. A playground is something different. Don’t turn this park into a busy noisy playground any more than it already is.

Caroline Jacobs
Santa Monica

Top concerns still not addressed

Editor:

I completely agree with the article by Bill Bauer (SMDP, Aug. 1, page 4). There are many problems that Santa Monica needs to deal with in a compassionate and logical manner. For example, we need to help the homeless in a compassionate way by helping them with resources and enforce behavior that is acceptable in a civilized society. The City Council also needs to address the issue of parking. I live in the Sunset Park area and half the time I cannot park near my house. Parking in my neighborhood is permit parking, but most times I see students and people working near Ocean Park Boulevard park for free in my neighborhood, rather than pay for permit parking in a nearby lot.

I don’t understand why the City Council would approve a church expansion and not consider parking for this populated business area. I know the area in question and already it is absolutely impossible to find any parking, during the week and on weekends. Why are the residents in Santa Monica being victimized with this chronic ill of inadequate planning for parking? Wise up City Council, we don’t need to build 107 housing units on Main Street to add to our overpopulation and parking mess. We need to find a solution to our more pressing problems, like the homeless and parking.

Paula Drutz
Santa Monica

Loving the ‘Luka’: Vega rocked reader’s world

Editor:

Too often of late, I have felt reasonably compelled to address negative phenomena, such as governmental corruption, resurgent bigotry and gross inequity, that increasingly plague our lives in these rather dark days. For this reason, it is with great pleasure and some much needed relief that I feel compelled to share the joy I experienced attending last week’s Thursday Twilight Dance Series concert on the Santa Monica Pier that featured the enchanting and poetic Suzanne Vega.

Ms. Vega truly held court, mesmerizing a large and seemingly warm crowd of admiring fans and music lovers. The subsequent SMDP weekend edition’s front-page color photo of Ms. Vega is an excellent still picture that perfectly captures the artist’s presence and that evening’s intimate ethereal quality.

She cast a pacifying spell alongside a breathtaking west coast sunset and made a picturesque evening into a truly sublime one. There was also some poetry and symmetry to be found in learning that the New York-based singer-songwriter is in fact a Santa Monica native who was born here at St. John’s Hospital. The trying times being what they are, this was a special treat, and I for one hope that our community can have more such opportunities to come together for similarly inspirational events.

Ivan Smason
Santa Monica

Revisiting the rapture that changed the world

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



(Editor’s note: Ron Scott Smith is on vacation. This column appeared on Nov. 11, 2004, in the aftermath of the reelection of George W. Bush.)

This one is difficult.

I’ve got the chills, and the fingers are jumping around all out of control, so forgive the misspellings, the content, the commas, I called in sick, but my dear editor would have none of it, and baited me on, filling my head with visions of green bottles of beer, football, and fried chicken tenders. “But, editor,” I said, “I’ve been sleeping in night sweats, and awakening in nausea for days now. My doctor was heartless, and prescribed no pain-killers. He forbade me to watch any news broadcasts whatsoever, except for Channel 13, weeknights at 11. He warned that listening to talk-radio on the AM band would result in a catastrophic turn for the worse, that it could thrust me into an advanced state of dementia.”

I’ve been sure since one early January morning in 1994 — that’s exactly what the end of the world sounds like — that ungodly cacophony created when every car alarm within earshot was jolted on by the Northridge earthquake. If there’s an audio track in hell, that sound is playing in a non-stop loop.

But a new sound emerged on election night to compete with the anti-chorus of car alarms for what the end of the world might sound like and it was the ghoulishly fair and balanced monotone of Brit Hume’s voice as he declared, “We are now able to call the state of Ohio, with its 20 electoral votes, for President Bush ...” He kept going on in that deathly drone of his, but the words trailed off now into vapor as I descended into a state of panic.

I tripped over the exercise ball as I ran to get the pants, the flashlight and the transistor radio, a few extra batteries and the couple gallons of water I kept hidden behind the couch for just such emergencies. I knew the lights and the TV would be going out soon, and that marauding bands of robbers, rapists and thugs would soon be marching up and down Broadway. Damn that postal service, the AK-47 I ordered when Bush OK’d their return into decent society had not yet arrived in the mail, so I ran outside to look for my neighbor who wore the six-shooters in the holsters on both hips during the ’94 quake aftermath. I figured he’s got this end-of-the-world thing down to a science and I’m hanging with him.

There he was, but he wasn’t wearing the guns. I ran up behind him and said, “Bob, have you heard the news, Bob, where’s the guns?” He turned around with the most serene smile I have ever seen, and replied, “Don’t worry, be happy. Feel the rapture my friend, surrender.” I said, “Thanks Bob, yes, feeling it, I surrender, got to go, see ya, wouldn’t want to be ya.” Not that being him was a bad thing — that’s just how I always said good-bye to him.

Geez, man, there’s a bunch of zombie-like fellow citizens out here walking around in a daze, certain they’re about to be lifted upwards into heaven, and this is Southern California. Imagine what’s going on in Nebraska. Looks like you’re off to see the wizard again, Toto.

I walk over to the church on Lincoln to see if there are any clues as to what’s going on around here, or at the very least, to get a list of “what to bring, what not to bring” to the rapture. When I went in, there were two female figures knelt down near the altar. As I got closer, all the while looking for any helpful rapture brochures or printed material, I noticed it was Mary Cheney and her life-partner, and I overheard them asking forgiveness for allowing her daddy to use sexual orientation like theirs as the wedge issue that split the electorate wide open and laid it out to bleed, bright red. I couldn’t help but notice the light glancing off their identical wedding bands as they held their hands to their lips.

“I will hunt them down and I will kill them, I will hunt them down and I will kill them,” started going through my head over and over as I left that church and it wouldn’t stop. It was as if I had been programmed, brainwashed — that Manchurian Candidate thing — where I knew I had to hunt them down and kill them, but I didn’t know who they were. I concluded I was just playing follow the leader. Bush said early on, beginning way back on Sept. 12, 2001, and repeated it so often it became a sort of religious mantra of his, that “I will hunt them down and I will kill them.” Of course he added some more colorful things like, “I’ll smoke ‘em out of their caves” and “wanted dead or alive,” and cool stuff like that. So poor John Kerry knew he’d have to jump in there somewhere to make it clear he would be no slouch when it came to “hunting them down and killing them” because he must have said it about 10,000 times during his campaign, until it started sounding ridiculous in the broken-record kind of way that Bush sounded ridiculous.

So there I was, mumbling about hunting guys down and killing them, clutching my rapture “things-to-do” list, while treading down dark streets where all manner of angelic derelicts laid on panels of cardboard trying to get a decent night’s sleep, and every one of them just happened to open their eyes at exactly the moment I passed by to stare daggers right through me. I tried to lift the spirits of one frail, 70ish-looking woman by mentioning the impending rapture but she gave me the finger. Out in front of the Boys and Girls Club I think it was, I stumbled over a handsome young man with a senatorial haircut that looked so familiar as he sat up on his cardboard and told me in a recognizable North Carolinian accent, “There are two Americas, you know.”

I know that guy, I thought, who is that? But it wouldn’t come to me. He shouted out one last thing as I walked on into the darkness, “We will hunt them down and we will kill them.”

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

STATE



Governor can still call whole thing off

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has the authority to cancel the November special election and can do so anytime before voting begins, according to an analysis released Tuesday by the non-partisan California legislative counsel.

The ruling, which was drafted at the request of state Sen. Debra Bowen, D-Redondo Beach, came as another Democratic lawmaker announced he would introduce legislation calling on Schwarzenegger to scrap the election.

The developments were the latest in a series of skirmishes over the fate of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's embattled government reform agenda. But as Schwarzenegger expressed hope for a compromise with legislators over his ballot initiatives, his campaign team vowed to press ahead with a full-fledged campaign.

According to Deputy Legislative Counsel Christopher Dawson, the governor has the sole authority to rescind a proclamation calling for a special election. That contradicted an opinion by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, who had suggested lawmakers could approve legislation by a two-thirds vote that would call off the election.

"In our view, where the California Constitution has granted discretionary power to the governor, the Legislature may not validly enact a statute that would negate the Governor's exercise of that discretion," Dawson wrote.

Additionally, Dawson wrote, "the governor may rescind the proclamation calling for a statewide special election until the date of the election." Until now, supporters and opponents of the governor's reform initiatives had viewed Aug. 18 as the deadline for making any changes to the ballot.

Earlier Tuesday, Assemblyman Johan Klehs, D-Hayward, held a news conference to announce that he would introduce legislation calling on Schwarzenegger to cancel the special election.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Klehs called the special election "a complete waste of money" and said he had consulted with the legislative counsel's office before drafting his legislation.

"The law is very clear," Klehs said. "The governor can call the election, and he can cancel it. And the public is clearly in favor of canceling it."

The Secretary of State's office has estimated that the special election will cost the state between \$45 and \$80 million to carry out. A statewide Field Poll taken in June showed a majority of voters oppose the special election, particularly when they learn of its projected price tag.

Schwarzenegger has said he would like to negotiate a bipartisan agreement with

legislators that would had off a divisive ballot fight. He's met several times with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, and Senate Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, but both sides say negotiations have stalled in recent weeks.

At an event Tuesday in Sacramento promoting emergency measures to prevent heat-related illness, Schwarzenegger repeated his wish.

"I'm optimistic and I continue working to make sure we exhaust every avenue possible to come up with a bipartisan compromise," he said.

Nunez spokesman Steve Maviglio echoed that sentiment, saying the speaker did not support Klehs' proposal to cancel the election. But Maviglio said he doubted Schwarzenegger would ever consider canceling the election, given money he has already raised to campaign for the measures.

"What would the governor say to the donors who have given him \$23 million? Sorry?" Maviglio asked.

Schwarzenegger announced in June that he would call a special election Nov. 8 for voters to consider several measures aimed at overhauling state government. But the effort has run into fierce resistance from Democratic lawmakers and public employee unions, and several of the reforms he originally advocated have been abandoned or are facing legal challenges.

A proposal to pay teachers based on merit rather than seniority failed to qualify for the ballot. Schwarzenegger dropped a plan to convert public employee pensions into 401(k) style amid criticism from public safety unions.

Talk of canceling the special election began in earnest last month, after a judge tossed a measure off the ballot that would strip lawmakers of the power to draw legislative boundaries. Sacramento County Judge Gail Ohanesian ruled that supporters violated California's constitution by using two versions of the initiative in the process of qualifying the measure for the ballot.

Schwarzenegger has championed the redistricting initiative as a way to restore accountability to the Democrat-controlled legislature. An appeals court will hear arguments Friday on whether Ohanesian's ruling should be overturned.

But if the ruling is upheld, only two of the governor's initiatives — enacting a state spending cap and increasing from two to five years the time needed for teachers to get tenure — will appear on the November ballot.

Schwarzenegger political adviser Todd Harris said the governor had no plans to call off the special election, and that the campaign to pass the initiatives was proceeding as planned.

"We're moving full speed ahead," Harris said. "There is no reason to expect he will change his mind on this."

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STATE

Youth gone wild: CA adult guards to rescue

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California's most notorious youth prison was so out of control last month that 30 guards and gang specialists were brought in from the adult prison system to clean things up.

Corrections officials say the action at Stockton's N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility illustrates how the new combined adult and youth prison system can operate more efficiently under a restructuring that took place July 1. Meetings are planned soon to increase cooperation between neighboring facilities that once were separated by a bureaucratic divide.

Critics say the reorganization blurs the lines between adult and youth corrections, as they'd feared before the California Youth Authority and Department of Corrections were combined under the new California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"That's an outrage, a complete undermining of any faith that I put into this reorganization," said Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, who carried Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's restructuring bill with the understanding the youth system would remain distinct. "They cannot blur the lines, they cannot feel the way to deal with this is to bring in the guys from 'the big place' — that's ridiculous."

Romero spoke from Colorado, where she was touring facilities that are considered national leaders in rehabilitating young offenders. She and other critics again called for closing the facility commonly known as Chad, which Romero said "symbolizes everything that's wrong with the old system."

The crackdown at the youth facility was triggered by three wards' attacks on three employees July 6. None of the employees has returned to work, and the San Joaquin County district attorney is considering criminal charges against the wards, ages 19, 21 and 24.

"It was pretty tough, pretty brutal. One of the officers was on the ground in a fetal position as he was being pummeled," Corrections department spokeswoman Nancy Lungren said.

Corrections officials concluded rampant gang activity was increasing as they attempted to release wards from their cells and provide showers, physical activity, education and other programs as they'd promised as part of a lawsuit settlement and to improve conditions that national experts have decried as deplorable.

Walter Allen III had been the youth authority's director until he was named assistant secretary for correctional safety a month ago, the agency's "top cop" in charge of the investigative units that track parolees, gangs and inmate crime for both the youth and adult systems.

He and the youth system's acting director called in about 30 adult prison guards and Law Enforcement and Investigative Unit officers specializing in gang activities after the July 6 attacks. They searched cells, interrogated wards, and shipped a half-dozen wards to a different facility, Chino's Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility — a common tactic for adult gang leaders but unusual within the youth system. The adult system officers departed after about a week, Lungren said.

"I don't know if the officers at Chad were prepared to deal with this kind of sophisticated gang organization they had down there, so we brought in the heavy hitters," department spokesman Todd Slosek said.

But Sara Norman, an attorney with the Prison Law Office who is helping oversee the lawsuit settlement, blamed Chad employees for "rather ineptly" trying to wean wards away from their cells and back into programs. Barry Krisberg of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and a court monitor, blamed staff shortages and the antiquated, deteriorating facility for problems.

Conditions have improved since the adult officers' intervention, said the prison system's Lungren.

But Belinda Griswold, spokeswoman for the reform group "Books Not Bars," and Laura Talkington, mother of a Chad ward, said conditions have deteriorated badly since the reorganization.

"It was horrendous in there before, and it's only gotten worse the last four weeks," Griswold said.

City welcomes rough times

By The Associated Press

BANNING, Calif. — Planning commissioners unanimously approved a proposed 950-home and Ken Venturi-designed golf course development.

The Planning Commission voted 4-0 Tuesday night and the project was sent to the City Council for approval.

About a dozen people expressed concerns about traffic congestion, noise and water consumption by the 184-acre, 18-hole golf course. Others said the project will bring badly needed road improvements, elementary schools and a water-

treatment plant.

The development is planned on Loma Linda University land between Sunset Avenue and Bluff Street. The homes will be contained on 190 acres, while 103 acres have been set aside for open space, recreation, mini parks, greenbelts and easements.

About 10 acres are reserved for commercial businesses and about six acres will be used for city functions, such as a fire station.

University spokesman Derrill Yaeger said construction won't begin for at least a year.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



Private security gets boost to fight terror

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — More than 80 percent of California’s buildings, power facilities and other vital structures are in private hands, watched over most closely by security guards on the lookout mainly for burglars, vandals and shoplifters.

Now many are also being trained to also watch out for terrorists.

“It’s a simple concept, but it’s like a 10 times increase in the number of eyes and ears out there,” said Gary Winuk, chief deputy director of the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security.

The state Department of Consumer Affairs last month began requiring licensed security guards’ training to include a section on what to look for and whom to alert if they see a mysterious package, someone dressed inappropriately for the season, a person taking pictures of a facility or any other suspicious activity.

“It’s all about seeing something that doesn’t look right,” Winuk said.

Four hours of the guards’ 40 hours of training must be in counterterrorism, and those four hours are among the first training the guards receive, said Steve Giorgi, who helped develop the curriculum as a deputy director at the Department of Consumer Affairs, which licenses guards. Giorgi is also a former deputy director for the state Office of Homeland Security.

Guards who are currently employed also will get the training, which includes sections on potential terrorist weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and how to respond in the event of a terrorist attack.

The lessons include a book, DVD and compact disc developed with the help of the California National Guard, the California Commission on Peace Officer

Standards and Training, the University of California, Irvine and the security guard industry. The materials were paid for with a \$200,000 federal grant, and are being distributed free to businesses or security firms nationwide through the federal and state offices of homeland security, Giorgi said.

“There’s no state that does anything like this,” said Steve Reed, security manager at Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento, who helped develop the lesson materials and taught his first class last month. “We’re trying to get them into that mind-set of knowing what to look for and who to call.”

There are about 200,000 licensed guards in California who mainly work through contract security agencies, and another 200,000 who aren’t licensed because they are employees of a business and guard only that facility.

“This is basically 400,000 additional eyes and ears out there to observe suspicious activity,” compared to about 90,000 sworn law enforcement officers in California, Giorgi said. “Cameras and security officers in the right place really can make a difference.”

State lawmakers are considering a bill that would require background checks for the roughly 200,000 unlicensed private guards who are hired directly by businesses, but the measure does not require the same training. However, Giorgi hopes the businesses voluntarily require the training for their guards, using the state materials.

Two previous bills requiring background checks were vetoed or failed to pass the Senate in the last four years, but the bill by Sen. Abel Maldonado, R-Santa Maria, has been amended to avoid objections by the California Retailers Association and Motion Picture Association of America.

Taxing problem for city

By The Associated Press

LA HABRA, Calif. — Continuing budget problems led the City Council to put a measure on November’s special election ballot asking voters to keep the utility tax beyond its current Dec. 31, 2007, expiration date.

The existing tax — the city’s third-largest revenue source bringing in \$4.7 million a year — is 6 percent on most utilities and 4.5 percent on electricity.

City finance director Jim Sadro said

losing the tax, which has been in place since 1992, could force the city to cut 15 jobs.

The council voted Monday to ask voters on Nov. 8 to eliminate the so-called sunset date and keep the utility tax indefinitely, but reduce the tax to 4.5 percent on all utilities in July 2006.

“I hate taxes like most people do, but I’m willing to continue paying this because of what it does for this city,” Councilman Jim Gomez said.

District, teachers vow to play nice

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a move that may avoid usually contentious negotiations, school district and teachers union leaders returned from a two-day summit with a pledge to work together toward common goals during bargaining.

Superintendent Roy Romer called it a “new beginning” in the relationship between the district and United Teachers Los Angeles. Both sides pledged to focus on a better, transparent budget process and improving instruction.

Both sides came together during a two-day retreat at an Oxnard hotel, Romer, teachers union president A.J. Duffy and

school board president Marlene Canter said during a news conference Tuesday at Walter Reed Middle School in suburban North Hollywood.

“I believe we are embarked on something that could very well be historic,” Duffy said. “This was really about ... creating a format that would allow us to work together, not just around negotiations, but all year long on issues that are very important to all of us.”

Romer said he would change the budget-sharing process and would reformat materials to show “district expenses and categories of expenses program-by-program, and central expenses department-by-department.”

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Business

Annuities are crucial for a long retirement



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AUGER

If you retire at age 65, how will you fund the next stage of your life? Annuities offer a flexible way to fund lengthy retirements.

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Issued by a life insurance company, an annuity contract allows you to accumulate money for long-term goals. Unlike IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans, there are no limits on the amount you can contribute to an annuity. However, amounts above a certain threshold will require insurance company approval. It can be an excellent supplemental retirement savings vehicle and offers a range of other benefits, including:

- **Tax deferral.** Instead of paying taxes on your earnings each year, they grow tax-deferred until withdrawal. Ordinary income taxes on accrued earnings are due upon withdrawal. If you make withdrawals before age 59½, you also may incur a 10 percent federal early withdrawal penalty. Many annuities also charge surrender fees for withdrawals during the early years of the contract.

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ability of the issuing company. With a variable annuity, you can seek potential opportunities in the investment markets and obtain professional money management. You choose from a range of portfolios designed specifically for annuities. Typically, the portfolios are comprised of stocks, bonds or money market securities. Your returns are based on the performance of the underlying portfolios.

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(To reach Kirk Auger, contact him at the Santa Monica branch of Morgan Stanley at (310) 319-5220.)



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SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ten Women Venice provides memorable workshop

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica community is once again invited to explore its creativity.

Ten Women Venice will offer the second class in its series of "Art in the Garden" workshops. Fabric Artist Mavis Leahy will guide workshop participants in creating their own "memory collage" using antique fabric trims and personal photos. Space is limited, and the \$60 workshop fee includes all materials.

Ten Women Venice is a co-op and gift gallery, and is located on 1237 Abbot Kinney Blvd. The "Art in the Garden" class will take place on Sunday, Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (818) 366-8637 for more information.

Game on: New Web site aids athletes of all shapes

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica native Anthony Yannatta wanted Internet-junkies hooked on social networking Web sites like MySpace and Friendster to turn off their computers and get up and about.

His solution seemed an unlikely one — starting his own Web site.

Yannatta's site, launched just a few days ago, aims to provide athletes of all walks and skill levels a forum, a cyberspace playground in which to spread word of local pickup games, track down old teammates and share personal tales of sports glory.

"Sports make you take care of yourself. It's real life, not some virtual reality," Yannatta said. "Everything that's positive in my life has happened as a result of sports, and most people who integrate sports in their daily lives would agree."

According to Yannatta, PlayNot Watch.com already has picked up more than 1,000 members from 35 states. The Los Angeles-based service — with just three employees on staff, including Yannatta — accommodates athletes with skill levels ranging from pro to hobbyist.

The site allows members to post a picture, network with friends and outline their athletic interests and experience. A brief look through some member profiles reveals athletes of all levels, from virtually all major sports, looking to get active.

One former collegiate football player, now living in Chicago, hopes to get into shape after three years of grad school vegetation.

Another member, who labels himself as a "just for fun athlete," is out to find volleyball pickup games.

Yet another member, a West Hollywood native, boasts that she played four sports in high school.

Yannatta, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology business grad, was spurred to start the site after noticing scores of ath-

letically minded business associates looking to play sports, but lacking a place to play or teammates to play with.

"In a place like LA, there's so many people who are new to the area," Yannatta said, "and it's not really a community for them."

A click on the site's pickup games link reveals a weekly tennis match in Westwood and an early morning soccer club in Brooklyn.

Yannatta, who played college basketball for the UC Santa Cruz Banana Slugs before moving to Finland for a stint in pro ball, takes sports very seriously. Though the 33-year-old's knees are now shot from years of competing and four subsequent surgeries, Yannatta's piercing blue eyes still exude excitement every time the topic of athletics comes up.

"There's no reason in Santa Monica or anywhere else that you should have seven guys (instead of 10) on a basketball court. Why?," he asked, sitting outside a local cafe.

Yannatta hopes his site will reduce recreational sports absenteeism, a problem that sometimes forces small local club teams to forfeit when a couple members can't make it to a match.

More than anything, Yannatta's respect for athletics seems to stem from his belief that sports spur friendships. He glowingly describes the half hour after a match as the most enjoyable, allowing teammates an opportunity to kick back and get to know each other.

He hopes the Web site will allow former teammates and competitors a chance to catch up.

"Sports is so cultural," Yannatta said. "Sports on a local level is all about the storytellers you've never heard of."

Though his site resembles other online networking sites that have sprouted like weeds in recent years, Yannatta brushes off any comparisons.

"Those sites are geared toward keeping people indoors," he said. "Fundamentally, that's the biggest difference."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Farms get millions in water, crop subsidies

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Some of California's largest farms receive millions of dollars in federal subsidies by "double dipping" — using government-subsidized water to grow subsidized crops such as rice and cotton, according to a watchdog group's analysis.

The study released Tuesday by Environmental Working Group found that the 6,800 farms in the Central Valley Project, the nation's largest federal water supply project, received \$538 million in combined water and crop subsidies in 2002, the last year in which both figures are available.

The analysis found that nearly one fifth — or 1,228 — of Central Valley farms "double-dipped" in 2002, receiving water subsidies worth \$122 million and crop subsidy checks for another \$122 million. Some dairy farmers "triple dipped" — using subsidized water to grow subsidized corn to feed cows that produce subsidized milk or cheese.

"What was intended to be a support program for small family farmers has turned out to be a corporate welfare program for big agribusiness operations," said Bill Walker, vice president for EWG's West Coast office, which conducted the analysis. "When you add all of the other federal water projects around the West, it's clear that the Central Valley Project can only be the tip of the iceberg."

But the state's farming interests disputed the study's findings. They took issue with how the study calculated the value of federal water subsidies, and said the only break farmers get is that they don't have to pay interest on the \$3.6 billion in public money used to build the Central Valley Project in 1936.

"The notion that people are getting rich off subsidized water on the backs of the American taxpayer is just a completely overblown exaggeration," said Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition.

Tupper Hull, a spokesman for the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which oversees 2.1 million acres of irrigated farmland in the San Joaquin Valley, called the study a "completely ridiculous analysis" and said the federal government's investment in the Central Valley Project has generated jobs, economic growth and food for the country.

"There have been enormous benefits to California and the nation by virtue of lands that have been brought into agricultural production," Hull said.

An EWG study released in December found that the Central Valley Project generated up to \$416 million in subsidized water to California agribusiness, with the top 10 percent getting two-thirds of the water in 2002. The value of the water subsidies was based on a 2003 state and federal study that estimated the market price

Raking it in: California farms take advantage

By The Associated Press

DOUBLE-DIPPING FARMS: A new analysis found that nearly one-fifth of farms in the Central Valley Project in California, the nation's largest irrigation system, use government-subsidized water to grow crops eligible for USDA price supports.

THE RESPONSE: Central Valley farming interests dispute how the Environmental Working Group calculated the value of the water subsidies, and argue that crop subsidies are justified because they help rural communities.

THE DEBATE: The study comes as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation drafts new water contracts for Central Valley irrigation districts, and Congress prepares to debate subsidies for the next farm bill.

of San Joaquin River water, Walker said.

The latest study matched the farm names from the water subsidy analysis with the U.S. Agriculture Department's database of crop subsidy recipients.

The study found that more than 1,800 farms received water subsidies in 2002 and crop subsidies for at least one year between 1995 and 2004. And the distribution was uneven — the top 5 percent received more than one-third of the crop subsidies. The top 10 "double dippers" received between \$1.5 million and \$2.7 million in combined subsidies, while the average subsidy was about \$200,000 per farm.

The EWG study comes as federal lawmakers prepare to debate the next farm bill that will determine future farm subsidies, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation drafts new water contracts for Central Valley irrigation districts.

"These contracts make it impossible for California to plan sanely and fairly for the water needs of the rest of the state," Walker said.

In recent years, various government agencies, politicians and watchdog groups have criticized federal farm subsidies, but critics believe that international pressure could force change. Earlier this year, the World Trade Organization ruled that the U.S. cotton subsidies were unfair to Brazilian farmers, and Uruguay farmers are considering a similar challenge to American rice subsidies.

Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, an outspoken critic of farm subsidies, said Congress should put a stop to "these unjustifiable giveaways of the public's precious water and hard-earned money."

"It doesn't make any economic sense," Miller said, "and it encourages waste when the rest of us are conserving water."

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LOCAL

Fallen star



Art Hayne/Special to the Daily Press

A starfish recently washed onto the shore at Venice Beach during low tide.

SMC professors still hammering out deal

SMC RAISES, from page 1

raise since at least January of 2002.

Not qualifying for the raise is SMC faculty. Their union officials are still negotiating with college officials for a new agreement.

College officials are optimistic those negotiations will be concluded shortly. Faculty union officials, representing more than 1,200 full- and part-time professors, didn't return calls by press time.

SMC spokesman Bruce Smith said the 2-percent, retroactive portion of the raise would likely be reflected in employee paychecks in coming weeks as one lump sum that dates back to January. After that is disbursed, the 2-percent hike will be spread evenly over the remainder of the year.

The past three years have been tumultuous for SMC administrators, who have made severe budget cutbacks, and as a result have faced criticism from faculty and staff about how they've handled the financial setbacks.

SMC has been put on the state's watch list of colleges with severe fiscal problems. In 2003, SMC's Academic Senate approved a no-confidence motion in Piedad Robertson, then the college's president. The college also cut 26 percent of its classes, which translated into a loss of about 6,000 students, or 17 percent of its student body, Smith said. By cutting a handful of academic programs, some critics suggest SMC prevented many students from returning this year.

College officials found themselves in a difficult position because they were trying to rebound from cuts and grow at the same time.

Carol Currey, chair of SMC's board of trustees, said she was glad a raise was approved for the employees.

"They definitely deserved it," Currey said. "It has helped morale, for them and us, too. It goes both ways."

"I hope we can bring something forward to the faculty, so everyone can enjoy good times again."

Currey warned SMC's difficult financial period is not over. However, she and other college officials agree SMC has

benefited from the state budget approved last month.

The total salary increase will cost the college \$5.16 million. To cover the raises, Smith said, SMC received \$3.6 million in equalization funding last year, plus another \$4.6 million this year. The state budget added a 4.2-percent cost-of-living adjustment for community colleges, which also helped, Smith said.

The California School Employees Association Chapter 36, representing SMC's support staff, voted unanimously in favor of the new contract (239-0) on July 20. With a total of 360 members, 67 percent participated in the vote.

Under the agreement, CSEA officials agree to continue to explore health plans that will provide high-quality care to SMC's support staff, while looking at ways that might cut costs for the college.

Bernie Rosenloecher, a SMC carpenter, vice president of the CSEA, and chair of the contract negotiating committee, said he was pleased with the agreement, noting its unanimous approval by trustees and union members.

"I'm positive about it," Rosenloecher said. "It shows the relationship is moving in the right direction."

Quality health care, which he said is the primary concern of CSEA members, has been maintained with the new contract. Language which was vague in the old contract also has been clarified in the new pact.

Rosenloecher was part of a five-person panel of fellow support staff who met with college attorneys on more than 80 occasions in efforts to settle the contract.

"Sometimes we met for three hours, sometimes we met for eight hours, sometimes we met on weekends," Rosenloecher said.

New leadership among the CSEA also helped to rebuild relationships with the district, helping to expedite the agreement.

In addition to the raise, SMC support staff receive another paid holiday, Cesar Chavez Day, in honor of the labor rights' advocate, which will be celebrated the first Monday of spring break.

"I'm glad they are recognizing it as a holiday," Rosenloecher said.

LOCAL



The writing's off the wall



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Painters on Wednesday cover the mural 'Para Los Ninos,' which means 'for the children.' The long-standing mural, which was on the Police Activities League building at 14th Street and Olympic Boulevard, got covered up due to irreparable damages.

Missing man has Alzheimer's

MISSING, from page 1

"We're all worried sick and I think his life may be in danger at this point. It's been very hot recently."

Baker, a short black man with graying hair and a white beard and mustache, was last seen wearing dark pants, a dark-striped shirt and black shoes. Along with a "Safe Return" bracelet on Baker's wrist that lists a 24-hour hot-line used to reunite Alzheimer's patients with caregivers, white name labels have been stuck onto Baker's clothes and shoes.

He stands five feet, three inches tall and weighs 160 pounds, according to a flier distributed by police.

Anyone who spots Baker is asked to call the number on Baker's bracelet or the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491.

"(Seniors) get lost and they get disoriented. There can be all kinds of dangers," said Donald Doss, a SMPD reserve officer who investigates elder abuse crimes and tracks down missing seniors in Santa Monica.

A nurse at Holiday Villa — the retirement home Baker moved into three years ago — checked on the former social worker shortly after 5 a.m. on July 28. When a nurse came back an hour later to accompany Baker to breakfast, he was gone — prompting Holiday Villa employees to search the area before calling the police, said Sam Rosenberg, an administrator at Holiday Villa.

Though Holiday Villa — located on 17th Street in Santa Monica — operates as an assisted living facility, the retirement home's employees are responsible only for housekeeping, meals and social events, not supervision.

"It's like a senior apartment building so (employees) don't have the duty of providing care," Rosenberg said, brushing off any suggestion of employee negligence.

Though Baker's son doesn't blame Holiday Villa for his father's disappearance, he said he plans on moving Baker — if located — to a care center more equipped to accommodate his father's worsening dementia.

"We really don't have major problems in facilities whose patrons have Alzheimer's because those are lock-down facilities," Doss said. "But this is a place for people who can mostly take care of themselves."

Holiday Villa employees, the SMPD, Baker's son and four hired private investigators have spent the past week combing homeless shelters, walking up and down the Third Street Promenade and Palisades Park, and posting fliers around town to no avail. Because Baker rarely carries cash, police doubt he's taken a bus anywhere.

"He loves to walk," Rosenberg said.

Baker also went missing earlier this year, but only for a couple hours, Doss said.

Doss, a volunteer officer for nearly 30 years, is in charge of tracking down missing seniors in Santa Monica. Though Doss gets about five missing people cases a month, it usually takes him no longer than a few hours to round up lost seniors.

"This is a rare incidence when it's taken so long to find an individual," Doss said, adding that his longest search rounded out to 10 days.

Baker's relatively lengthy disappearance has forced Doss to search all over the city, from nearby hospitals on Friday to a drive on Saturday through Brentwood — one of Baker's favorite visiting spots. Doss stopped by the food line in Palisades Park ON Tuesday afternoon with no success.

All Los Angeles County hospitals have been alerted, though police doubt they'll find Baker at either of Santa Monica's two hospitals since they don't accept mentally ill patients.

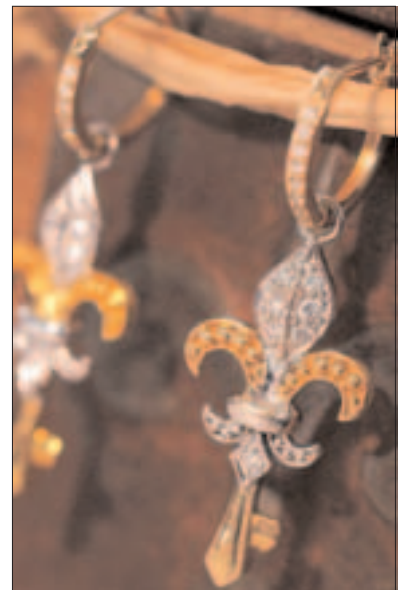
Though Baker takes daily medication for his Alzheimer's, his son said his biggest worry isn't a few days without meds, but hunger and dehydration, especially in light of the recent summer warm-up.

"He doesn't have the capacity or means to take care of himself," John Baker said. "He might not be in the best of health at this point."

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LOCAL

A 'Beautiful' evening for music on the Pier

TWILIGHT CONCERT, from page 1

cials.

Currently, LaFlamme and his wife, Linda, tour with bass player Toby Gray, Rob Espinosa on guitar, keyboard-player Gary Thomas and drummer Val Fuentes.

Bringing in the nostalgia will be Super Diamond, a tribute band dedicated to spreading the "good word of Neil" with their own interpretations of Neil Diamond music. Each August, Super Diamond performs songs from what is said to be Neil Diamond's most popular album, "Hot August Nights," which was recorded live at the Greek Theater in 1972.

Super Diamond frontman Randy Cordeiro, otherwise known as "The Surreal Neil," has stunned audiences with his impersonation of the famed singer, according to officials. Cordeiro created the character in 1989 when he discovered that he could imitate not only Diamond's voice, but also his mannerisms and performance style.

Accompanied by keyboard-player James Diamond, guitarist Erik Diamond, bassist Matt Diamond and drummer Vince Diamond, the group will re-create the Neil Diamond experience on the pier tonight.

Super Diamond has performed at many venues across the United States including the House of Blues in Los Angeles, the 4th and B in San Diego, the Fillmore and Bimbo's 365 in San Francisco, and the



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Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday on the Santa Monica Pier's west parking deck. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org, or www.santamonicapier.org. You also can call the pier information line at (310) 458-8900. For bus information, visit bigbluebus.com or call (310) 451-5444, or visit www.mta.net.

Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking and using mass transit to get to the concerts, as parking is limited. Parking is available in beach parking lots located at 2330 Barnard Way, located south of the pier, and 1550 PCH, just north of the pier.

Ocean Avenue closed to traffic following man's suicidal jump

SUICIDE, from page 1

the scene.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said officers responded at 6:05 p.m. to the 1000 block of 20th Street on Wednesday regarding a domestic violence call. When officers arrived, they spoke to the victim, who said her ex-husband, Shaffer, stabbed her several times in the upper body and fled.

The victim, who is not being identified, was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. She told officers her ex-husband had psychological problems and was suicidal.

Fabrega said officers went to see Shaffer at the Plaza apartment at about 6:30 p.m. For nearly an hour and a half, officers spoke with Shaffer before he finally ran to nearby open window and jumped. Officers tried to grab him before he leaped, Fabrega said.

"They were talking to him about bringing it to a peaceful resolution," Fabrega said, noting the officers were aware of Shaffer's mental state.

Gerado Stawsky, who had been driving southbound on Ocean Avenue when he saw dozens of police cars parked in the area, stopped and watched the events unfold.

"I saw the guy going out the window and two officers grabbing him, but he was so determined ... he was struggling (to break free from officers). It was impossible to control him," Stawsky said. "I saw

him falling and I turned away.

"I heard people screaming and I covered my ears."

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office responded and removed the body, which landed on the roof of a street-level garage. The investigation is being handled by SMPD's robbery homicide unit.

"You never imagine that this will happen — you are used to those situations being solved," Stawsky reflected. "Then you ask yourself why did this happen? Why am I here watching this?"

Harvey Craig, a spokesperson with the Los Angeles County Coroner's office, said Shaffer's body will likely be examined today to verify the cause of death.

Craig said it would be up to the coroner to decide whether a toxicology examination would be necessary to determine if there were drugs in Shaffer's body. However, Craig added circumstances indicate Shaffer may have been under the influence at the time of his death, and a drug test would be likely. It will take weeks to complete.

Residents at the Plaza said the apartment Shaffer jumped from is occupied by his grandfather, who was present during the suicide.

At least a dozen police vehicles were seen in front of the Plaza prior to the tragedy. By 7 p.m., vehicular and pedestrian traffic was blocked off between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway on Ocean Avenue.

Traffic was cleared by 9 p.m., an hour after Shaffer's death.

NATIONAL



New Hurban legend: Radio plays to Latinos

BY P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — As he waited for the bus on a searingly hot day in Denver, Chaz Aguinaldo leaned back and listened to the syncopated beat and Spanish lyrics coming through his headphones.

No Beck for Aguinaldo, no Black Eyed Peas — he was tuned in to KMGG-FM and a new format the radio chain giant Clear Channel Communications Inc. calls Hurban, for Hispanic urban. The playlist includes everyone from crossover stars like Shakira to Daddy Yankee, the Puerto Rican artist who mixes hip hop and Latin beats in a musical fusion called reggaeton.

The DJs, like the songs, mix English and Spanish freely, sometimes in mid-sentence. Clear Channel's slogan for its new Hurban stations is "Latino and Proud," something that resonates with Aguinaldo.

"It's in both English and Spanish, the way it should be," he said.

English is still the language of choice for most of the nation's nearly 14,000 radio stations, but a booming Hispanic population is pushing dramatic change: Spanish-language radio is at an all-time high, with more than 678 stations across the country, according to Arbitron Inc.

"That number could double in two years," said Mike Henry, a Denver-based radio consultant.

In 2000, the U.S. census counted 35.6 million Hispanics and that number has grown to 41.3 million. Estimates of Hispanic purchasing power now top \$630 billion, up nearly threefold from \$233 billion in 1990, and it's expected to reach \$926 billion in 2007, according to Denver marketing firm Heinrich Hispanidad.

"When the population is over 40 million, people take notice, including advertisers and broadcasters," said Alfredo Alonso, a Clear Channel official hired to convert 20 to 25 of its 1,200 English-language radio stations to Spanish formats.

Spanish-language radio is no longer about mom-and-pop stations that operated for years on the fringes of the AM dial. Hurban has a growing appeal for broadcasters and syndicated shows dominate mornings and afternoon drives in certain markets, many of them drawing the 18- to 34-year-old crowd coveted by advertisers.

While Hispanics account for nearly 14 percent of the U.S. population, expenditures by companies trying to reach this market account for only 3.2 percent of total advertising dollars, according to the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies. Broadcasters are hoping to close the gap.

"We're not even close to that," said Jeff Liberman, president of Entravision Communication Corp.'s radio division, which owns stations in 20 of the top 50 Hispanic markets.

The 2000 census figures were "a kick in the shins," said Ellen Neuborne, editor of the trade publication Marketing To The Emerging Majorities. Before that, she said, many companies had overlooked the Hispanic market.

"Now, they have the numbers to make the business sense clear. It's not just a theory. You can count them and there they are," she said.

The trend has attracted heavy hitters.

Spanish radio markets

By The Associated Press

A sampling of the top 50 Hispanic radio markets, according to Arbitron. Ranking, city and estimated population of listeners 12 and older:

Top five markets:

- 1) Los Angeles 4,422,000
- 2) New York 3,212,500
- 3) Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood 1,578,700
- 4) Chicago 1,323,200
- 5) Houston-Galveston 1,276,200

Other cities in the top 50:

- 15) Denver-Boulder 396,900
- 18) Atlanta 318,500
- 22) Nassau-Suffolk 279,400
- 24) Boston 264,800
- 28) Middlesex-Somerset-Union 226,400
- 30) Philadelphia 216,900
- 33) Portland, OR 187,500
- 44) Hartford-New Britain-Middletown 102,300
- 45) Providence-Warwick-Pawtucket 98,400
- 46) Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill 94,500
- 47) Milwaukee-Racine 92,900
- 50) Kansas City 86,400

Source: Arbitron Inc. "Hispanic Radio Today 2005 Edition"

Los Angeles-based Univision Communications Inc., already the country's No. 1 Spanish-language television broadcaster, in 2003 became the top Spanish-language radio broadcaster with its acquisition of Dallas-based Hispanic Broadcasting Co.'s 65 stations.

ABC Radio Networks recently announced plans for the Hispanic Advantage Network, which will distribute syndicated shows, professional baseball coverage and ESPN Deportes — ESPN's sports in Spanish.

San Antonio-based Clear Channel, meanwhile, recently converted English-language radio stations to the Hurban format in Albuquerque, N.M., Denver, Houston and Miami. In other cities, it has switched to more traditional formats playing Mexican regional music — a combination of mariachi and other traditional styles — or contemporary Spanish-language hits.

Clear Channel with its Hurban format is aiming at a bilingual crowd, hoping its programs will have crossover appeal. In other markets, an increase in first-generation Spanish speakers is enough to support a format switch.

While Los Angeles, New York and Miami have long had large Hispanic populations and Spanish radio stations to reach them, areas like Charlotte, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo. and Providence, R.I., are now among the top 50 Hispanic radio markets.

And in some markets, Spanish-language radio beat out all other radio stations for listeners during the key morning drive time.

Spanish-language stations have survived for years by offering content listeners can't get from other media.



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Discovery astronaut fixes shuttle's belly

BY PAM EASTON

Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — A spacewalking astronaut gently pulled two potentially dangerous strips of protruding filler from Discovery's tile belly with his gloved hand Wednesday, successfully completing an unprecedented emergency repair.

Astronaut Stephen Robinson said both pieces came out easily during the spacewalk, which lasted six hours. He did not have to use a makeshift hacksaw put together in orbit that he brought along just in case.

"That came out very easily, probably even less force," Robinson said of the second piece. "I don't see any more gap filler. ... I'm doing my own inspection here. It is a very nice orbital belly."

NASA officials had determined that the exposed ceramic-fiber fillers could lead to overheating and a possible repeat of Columbia's disastrous re-entry.

Robinson attached a special foot restraint to the international space station's 58-foot robotic arm and fellow astronauts aboard the station maneuvered the arm so Robinson could reach the shuttle's belly. They were careful to make sure Robinson's helmet and feet did not contact the fragile ship.

It was the first time an astronaut has ventured beneath a shuttle.

Robinson took only the essential tools for the repair. He also secured his safety tethers between his legs and behind him to avoid accidentally striking the vehicle.

Once under Discovery's belly, Robinson expected to spend about an hour removing or trimming the fillers from two locations near the shuttle's nose. It took mere seconds for him to pull each strip.

His spacewalking partner, Soichi Noguchi, watched from 75 feet away, from a perch on the space station.

"Steve, we trained for four years; you're going to spend the next four years signing autographs," Noguchi told Robinson once the repairs were complete.

Those who watched from space and on the ground were fascinated by the never-before-seen views.

"Steve, could you move your hand out of the field of view," astronaut Andrew Thomas radioed Robinson, who had a camera attached to his helmet. "We were enjoying the view as much as you were."

NASA thought the first gap filler was the trickier of the two. They believed it

remained glued to a shim that was bonded to a thermal tile.

There are 24,300 glass coated tiles on the shuttle, a majority of them on its belly. The tiles protect the shuttle from the extreme temperatures in orbit and, more importantly, insulate the ship during launch and re-entry.

The filler material protects the tiles from bumping against one another during launch, but isn't needed for landing because of the difference in the airflow.

Once the work was complete, Thomas requested the spacewalkers return to the shuttle and cut short the expected 7-hour orbital outing. He said it had been a long day.

Robinson, however, urged Mission Control to let him take a picture from beneath the shuttle before the station's arm brought him back up.

"You guys are going to be happy I had a camera," Robinson said. "It is so beautiful to see the orbiter against the Earth at these angles."

As the spacewalkers returned to the airlock, the rest of the shuttle crew used Discovery's robotic arm and connected boom to inspect a thermal blanket below the commander's window that was ripped during launch, most likely by debris.

Mission Control told the astronauts that there was a "remote" possibility that the blanket might require a fourth spacewalk, and asked for their input.

There is some concern that the blanket might come off during re-entry and smack into the shuttle, flight director Paul Hill said. The blanket was ripped open most likely by launch debris and puffed up with air.

A spacewalk to cut away part of the blanket would be on Friday.

Before Robinson began the filler repair Wednesday, he and Noguchi spent two hours installing an external tool and parts platform on the international space station, where Discovery has been docked since Thursday.

The platform's installation was the key task of the mission's third spacewalk until NASA officials determined the exposed fillers could threaten Discovery's re-entry.

Columbia broke apart over Texas in 2003 as its crew returned to Earth from a 16-day mission. The disaster was blamed on a chunk of foam that fell from the external tank during liftoff and tore a hole in one of spacecraft's wings. All seven astronauts died.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



High Court nominee Roberts vows to abide by precedents

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — John Roberts says he will honor established Supreme Court rulings, telling a Senate committee that legal precedents are important to “promoting the stability of the legal system.”

At least one Democratic member of the panel said Wednesday the response “raises many questions,” while liberal groups criticized the high court nominee for failing to state whether he would uphold the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion decision.

“As with so many of Roberts’ recent statements, this holds some hope and promise, but it also raises many questions,” said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-New York. “That’s why the hearings will be so crucial to determining whether Judge Roberts will rule from the bench in a careful and non-ideological way, or will instead choose to make law or impose his will.”

In responses to a Senate Judiciary Committee questionnaire, the 50-year-old federal appeals court judge addressed a wide array of questions, from his financial holdings and work history to political ties and judicial philosophy. In particular, the survey offered Roberts’ most current views on “judicial activism,” an area critical to gauging his stance on the 1973 Roe decision.

“It is difficult to comment on either ‘judicial activism’ or ‘judicial restraint’ in the abstract, without reference to the particular facts and applicable law of a specific case,” Roberts writes in the 84-page disclosure, which the committee released late Tuesday.

“Precedent plays an important role in promoting the stability of the legal system,” he added. “A sound judicial philosophy should reflect recognition of the fact that the judge operates within a system of rules developed over the years by other judges equally striving to live up to the judicial oath.”

At the same time, Roberts said that “judges must be constantly aware that their role, while important, is limited.”

“They do not have a commission to solve society’s problems, as they see them, but simply to decide cases before them according to the rule of law,” he wrote to the committee, which will begin considering Roberts’ nomination on Sept. 6.

The Supreme Court is closely divided on the issue of abortion rights and other social issues, with retiring Sandra Day O’Connor, the justice whom President Bush selected Roberts to replace, often providing the swing vote. While previous court nominees have typically refrained from commenting specifically on Roe, liberal groups say the stakes are now too high to ignore.

“John Roberts’ lawyerly answers fall far short of the candor the American people expect,” said Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America,

which opposes Roberts’ nomination. “Even anti-choice Justices Antonin Scalia and William Rehnquist respect precedent, but that hasn’t stopped them from explicitly saying they want to overturn Roe v. Wade.”

In the questionnaire, Roberts said he would be “fully open” to the views of the other eight justices on the court, and approach cases as a “thoughtful skeptic,” avoiding a firm stance without first fully reading the briefs, questioning the lawyers and paying attention to precedent.

Although their role in deciding major social issues of the day should be “limited,” justices are fully within their power to overturn acts of Congress and the president if those branches overstep their authority. “It is not judicial activism when the courts carry out their constitutionally-assigned function,” Roberts wrote.

Some legal experts said Roberts’ statements were noteworthy for striking a careful balance.

“There’s something for both camps,” said David Garrow, a Supreme Court historian at Emory University. “He is repeatedly pledging personal modesty and humility with regard to believing he has the right answer, but at the same time expressing a firm and forceful view of an independent judiciary.”

As to Roe, Roberts’ disclosure offers “no clear signal,” Garrow said.

Roberts worked in the administrations of President Reagan and the first President Bush, during which time he co-wrote a legal brief for the administration arguing that Roe should be overruled. He then entered private practice before becoming an appellate judge in 2003.

In response to a question about his memberships, Roberts said he does not recall ever being a member of the conservative Federalist Society, although he participated in events including a 1993 panel and gave a luncheon speech to the legal group in 2003.

“According to recent press reports, in 1997 I was listed in brochures as a member of the Washington Lawyers Steering Committee,” Roberts wrote. “I have no recollection of serving on that committee, or being a member of the society.”

Detailing his political ties, Roberts said he spent about a week assisting Florida Gov. Jeb Bush during the disputed presidential election count in 2000.

He said he went to Florida at the request of GOP lawyers, assisting an attorney who was preparing arguments for the Florida Supreme Court and at one point meeting the governor, President Bush’s younger brother, to discuss the legal issues “in a general way.”

“My recollection is that I stayed less than one week,” Roberts wrote.

Other political affiliations Roberts listed were the executive committee of the D.C. Lawyers for Bush-Quayle in 1988, Lawyers for Bush-Cheney and the Republican National Lawyers Association.

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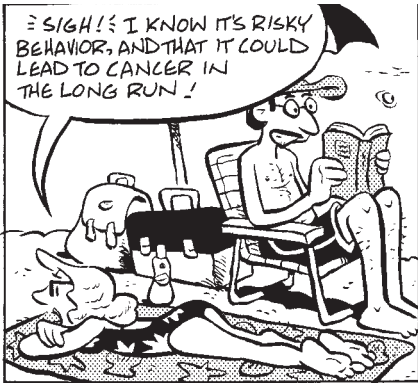


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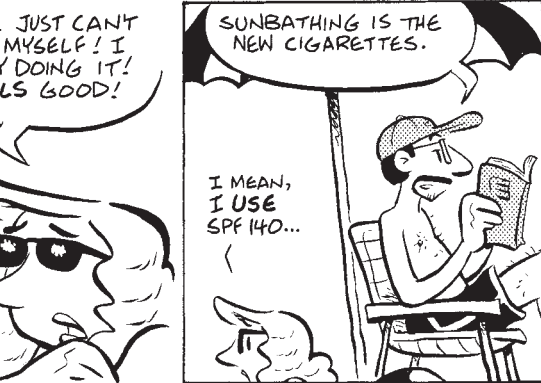
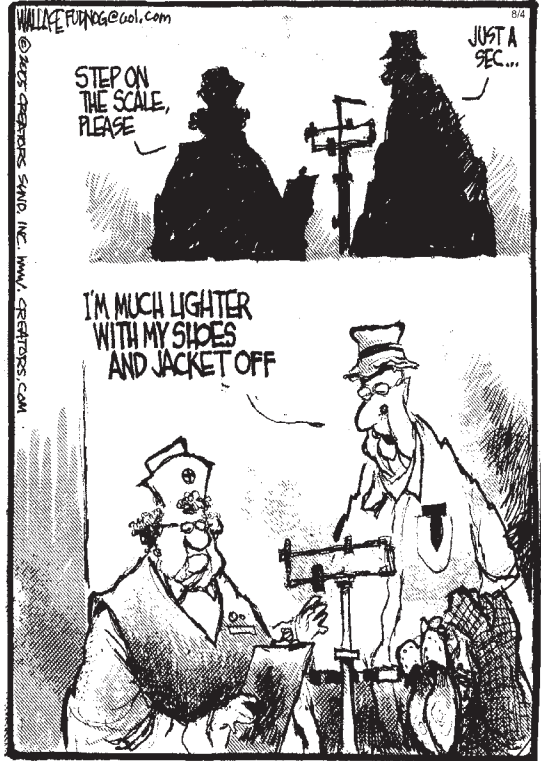


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ACROSS

- 1 Monks' hoods
- 6 Court sport
- 11 Anticipate
- 12 Classic song
- 13 Prokofiev hero
- 14 Cheese chunk
- 15 Decrees
- 17 Polite address
- 19 Twosome
- 20 Take the title
- 23 Come back
- 25 Store cargo
- 26 Cyclist's accessory
- 28 Adam's grandson
- 29 Verily
- 30 Home in the woods
- 31 Hosp. workers
- 32 Reading and others: Abbr.
- 33 Army ID
- 35 Math comparison
- 38 Mindful
- 41 Actor's aide
- 42 Are friends
- 43 Colors
- 44 Perfect places

DOWN

- 1 Topper
- 2 Have debts
- 3 Sam of "Law & Order"
- 4 Told tales
- 5 Alias of Tolkien's Aragorn
- 6 Instructional
- 7 Flamenco cries
- 8 Unmatched
- 9 Greedy one
- 10 Take in
- 16 Restraining
- 17 Cut, in a way

G	O	O	D	S				H	O	G	S
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L	I	N	D	A				O	C	T	E
O	N	E	S					T	O	A	D

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Laughable
- 20 1970s scandal
- 21 Lazy one
- 22 Is lacking
- 24 Bentley of "American Beauty"
- 25 Brit. co. abbr.
- 27 In front of the audience
- 31 Historic miniseries
- 33 Feast
- 34 Filled with wonder
- 35 Nogoodnik
- 36 Hitherto
- 37 Finger count
- 39 Friend of Harry and Hermione
- 40 USN rank

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8-4

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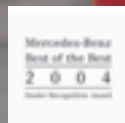
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