

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

SMRR convention settles endorsements

BY JASON AUSLANDER
Special to the Daily Press

Amid calls for improved public schools, social and economic justice and continued protection from landlords, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights elected its 12th slate of candidates Sunday.

"There was lots of competition this year," said Denny Zane, the party's co-chair. "The only surprise was how well everybody got along."

The powerful, so-called "non-political" party controls a majority of seats on the city council, rent control board, school district board and the Santa Monica College Board.

The group also threw its support behind several ballot measures, including the living wage proposal and a plan to raise the parcel tax \$300 to benefit the school district.

Topping the list of Santa Monica City Council candidates who will be officially endorsed by SMRR on the Nov. 5 general election ballot were incumbents Pam O'Connor and Kevin McKeown. Joining them was activist Abby Arnold, whose endorsement was opposed by Santa Monica Mayor Michael Feinstein and

councilmen Richard Bloom and Ken Genser — all SMRR members.

Pico neighborhood resident Josefina Aranda and physician Matteo Dinolfo did not receive enough votes to get the SMRR endorsement.

"There were lots of good candidates. For every seat, there is somebody that our members would say, 'I wish there was one more seat.'"

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica Councilman

Three seats on the seven-member council will be open in November. SMRR currently controls five of those seven seats.

For the four open seats on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board, the tenants' rights party endorsed incumbent Julia Brownley, as well as

See ENDORSEMENTS, page 5

City undertakes \$200K foreign media blitz

Officials hope the Brits and a handful of folks 'down under' will save the day

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

In the wake of a slumping local economy, Santa Monica is spending \$200,000 on a European, advertising blitz to reinvigorate its tourism trade.

After the city conducted a tourism study in March and found that travelers from Great Britain far exceeded visitors from any other country, city officials have decided to launch one of Santa Monica's most ambitious media campaigns. Almost all of the attention will be aimed at foreign tourists, especially from Britain.

"They tend to stay longer and spend more," said Debbie Lee, communications manager for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. "And

they walk much more."

According to the study, 62 percent of Santa Monica's visitors are coming from international destinations, with British tourists making up the majority of that number.

As strange as it may sound, city officials believe Santa Monica is a British paradise because it already has exceptional pubs and restaurants but none of that notoriously bad English weather.

"We believe they are already coming because of our community's demographics," Lee said. "We have a large British community here."

But don't expect to see high-gloss ads for Santa Monica while traveling abroad.

Santa Monica's Convention and Visitors Bureau is arranging press junkets for foreign journalists to journey to Santa Monica in the hopes they will return home and write about the city's plethora of shopping, sunny weather and stretches of

See TOURISM, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Officials investigate the scene where a pilotless aircraft crashed into an occupied hangar at the Santa Monica Airport.

Pilotless airplane accident at Santa Monica Airport

By Daily Press staff

Aviators witnessed a bizarre accident at the Santa Monica Airport Sunday when a 1973 Skyhawk airplane crashed into a hangar and the plane it housed. The aircraft was pilotless when the incident occurred.

According to Santa Monica Fire Department officials, the owner, who refused to identify himself to a reporter,

hand-cranked the plane's engine when it suddenly started and took off across the airport runway. The unguided aircraft initially missed two planes — one was taxiing on the runway, while the other was landing — but finally crashed through a hangar and into a third plane, which suffered substantial damage to its nose. The Skyhawk narrowly missed a fourth plane worth \$13 million.

Woman busted for stealing neighbors steak off barbeque

By The Associated Press

SAN ANDREAS — It quickly became a case of boosted barbecue when Calaveras County authorities arrested a woman for stealing a tasty hunk of tri-tip steak straight off the outdoor cooker of her neighbor when she wasn't looking.

The call to Calaveras County Sheriff's Department came at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday from a woman who said she only turned away from the grill briefly to return and find her tri-tip gone.

Authorities didn't have to bring in the blood hounds to solve the case of the missing meat.

"It had been stolen and a trail of meat juice was followed up to the next

door apartment," said sheriff's deputy Blain Smith.

The deputies found the partially cooked meat on a bathroom counter in the apartment occupied by Lindsey Blackledge, 19, of San Andreas.

Blackledge was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property and having an outstanding warrant for allegedly stealing stolen property in an unrelated case.

She was being held in Calaveras County jail on \$25,000.

As for the steak, it never made it back to the grill.

"I doubt if it was returned and I don't think they booked it in evidence," Smith said.

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You drive a hard bargain, fully knowing what is acceptable. Review a personal matter, making needed adjustments. Your family appreciates your attention and creative perspective. Don't necessarily negate a younger person's view. Tonight: Be a kid again. Share a favorite pastime.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You have a way of turning difficult situations in your favor. Use your understanding of security and finances to help a close associate make the right decision. Don't cut someone off, even if you feel he or she might be pulling your leg. Tonight: Talk over dinner. Everyone relaxes while eating.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use fiscal responsibility even when those around you don't. You drive a hard bargain once you determine your wishes. Others respond to your suggestion, though you might need to be forceful. Your enthusiasm speaks. Tonight: Let another treat you.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Understand the importance of a money decision. You might be uncomfortable with a work-related matter. Transform what you can through the strength of your personality and positive ways. You might need to spend some money in order to make some. Tonight: Ask and you shall receive.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your unusually strong actions take you in a new direction. Consider opportunities that might be bypassing you because of these strong actions. Slow down and smell the roses. Don't always be a force to reckon with! Tonight: Do something you love. Express your high energy.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Meetings help you focus, although you do need to deal with some pent-up anger. A discussion proves to be helpful. What might be a hunch or a dream paves the way to success. Brainstorm with others. Solve a problem. Tonight: Find your pals. Get into a ballgame.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out for answers or help. The good news is you resolve problems, but you might push others away. You reverse your thinking and approach because of an argument. Information emerges in a heated discussion. Tonight: Work as late as necessary. Count on a late dinner.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your perspective changes because someone might blurt out his or her opinions, especially when it comes to your spending habits. Ouch! Detach and don't take people personally. In the long run, your relationships will flow better. Tonight: Hop on the computer or call a friend at a distance.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You could reverse a stand, throwing others off, especially as you get important information. Explain yourself to those who count. Don't worry about the others. Finances could be involved in discussions. Listen to different perspectives. Tonight: Snuggle in. Who cares about sleep?

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Reach out for others with an openness to new possibilities. Don't simply negate another's ideas without good reason. Understand that this person might be more likely to take risks than you. Your way might not be the only way! Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Pace yourself, as you can get a lot done before a meeting, which might turn into a social occasion. Those you come into contact with could be unusually bellicose or touchy. Remember your friendships and what is important here. Tonight: Where others are.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Use your intuitive nature to feel through a problem that an office rebel could trigger. Take charge in your customary manner. A boss reverses a decision. You understand how to handle this problem. Be diligent yet creative. Tonight: Play away. You've got to release that energy.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Quit worrying about your health. It'll go away."
— Robert Orben

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LOCAL



Relay For Life



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

By Daily Press staff

At the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life's closing ceremonies on Sunday, participants celebrate a successful fundraising effort by forming a snake and dancing to live music. Organizers report that they doubled their fundraising goal, bringing in \$58,521.06. The goal was \$30,000. The Santa Monica Police Department was the largest contributor, raising \$17,500. The single largest individual to raise money was Glenda

Jacobs, bringing in \$5,200.

The event, which lasted 24 hours, involved 30 teams walking around the Santa Monica College Corsair Field Track to raise money to fight cancer, as well as to remember loved ones who lost their battle to the disease and celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

Inset: Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. walks with Cathy Milliken, a cancer survivor and SMPD employee, on Saturday.

The Q-Line

In the past two weeks, the Big Blue Bus has been involved in three fatalities. Two weeks ago, a Big Blue Bus slammed into a car on Sepulveda Way in West LA carrying three people. Two of them died. Last week, an elderly man was struck and killed while he was crossing Ocean Avenue at Broadway in the crosswalk.

The fatalities have been ruled as accidents. And while the Big Blue Bus hadn't been involved in a fatality since 1998, some people question if its drivers are being as safe as possible on the roadways.

Residents have reported that buses,

including the Metro, are seen speeding, running yellow lights and using their horns way too frequently on the streets of Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-Line question wants to know:

"Do think the buses are being driven safely? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

Pedestrian struck crossing Montana dies

By Daily Press staff

An 83-year-old Santa Monica man who was hit by a car while crossing Montana Avenue last month died from his injuries, according to the Los Angeles County Coroners office.

Harry Houston was struck by a Cadillac DeVille that was traveling east on Montana Avenue on July 19 at 3:09 p.m. when he attempted to cross Montana Avenue to the north at the intersection with 16th Street, police officials said.

Houston was walking outside a crosswalk, police said.

Paramedics with the Santa Monica Fire Department brought Houston to the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center where doctors pronounced him dead.

Officials with the Los Angeles County Coroners office said an autopsy is pend-

ing for Houston, who they believe died from "blunt trauma and head injuries."

The name of the driver was not released.

SMPD conducts about two to three pedestrian sting operations a month. The stings not only are conducted to enforce the law, but to educate the public about pedestrian safety. There were 130 pedestrian collisions last year, an eight percent increase over 2000.

Many of those incidents were motorists not paying attention to people walking in crosswalks or not being familiar with the law, police officials said.

Houston's death marks the second pedestrian death this month. An unidentified pedestrian crossing Ocean Avenue at the intersection of Broadway was killed last week when he was struck by a Big Blue Bus.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Sunday's peaking southwest swell holds into today, keeping waves around waist to chest high at northern beach breaks. Northwest wind swell should gain some strength, helping south bay spots reach the two- to three-foot mark, though conditions look choppy.

Forecasts show fading swell Tuesday, so expect smaller, inconsistent sets, mostly one- to three-foot surf.

Slightly cooler water temps today, averaging in the mid sixties.



Today's Tides:

Low-	2:28a.m.	0.01'
High-	8:58a.m.	3.54'
Low-	1:19p.m.	2.55'
High-	7:32p.m.	5.87'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	2-4'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	A

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OPINION

The reason women love Xena, the warrior princess



The FunHog By Dan Dunn

"So I think we need to do something to kick start the column," said my editor, Nancy, at Women's World Monthly.

"You mean, the women aren't digging it?" I asked sheepishly.

"No, no, no, no, no, no, nooooo ... everybody LOVES it," she lied. "It's just, um, maybe you need to get out and write about something ... you know, get 'into the field,' as they used to say in Vietnam."

"You were in Vietnam, Nancy?"

"No," she said, "but you see my point, right?"

"No."

"I want to send you on a journey, Hog. Give you an assignment you can really sink your teeth into."

"Like, football, or something?" I asked.

"Close," she said. "Xena."

"Xena?"

"Yes ... Xena."

"You want me to sink my teeth into Xena?"

"So to speak. Women love her."

"They do?"

"Yes."

"Really?"

"Absolutely!"

"But isn't Xena, like, sooo 1999?" I asked.

"She's only in syndication at this point, but the Movement is stronger than ever."

"The Movement?"

"Yep. The Xena Movement!"

And so on, and so on...

I didn't know a damn thing about Xena, the man-whomping heroine of a syndicated TV show, but I am, after all, a PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST. And an assignment is an assignment. So it was time for me to "get into the field," and tap the keg that is Xena-mania. To that end, I dusted off years of investigative reporting experience, whipped out my trusty notepad and pen, and resolutely set out in search of The Story ... well, actually, I just logged on to the Internet.

Judging from the excessive number of labyrinthine Web sites produced by women and chock full of scantily clad female warriors photographed together in provocative positions, one might conclude that the majority of "Xena: Warrior Princess" fanatics are lesbian computer geeks.

I, for one, would have truly loved to have concluded that and drifted into cyber-fantasyland. However, my keen journalistic instincts told me there was more to this story than meets the eye. After all, men love lesbians, too.

I've never actually watched the show, although I've passed it in progress countless times while machine-gunning through the channels in search of more educational programming, like "Sportscenter." The Bottomfeeder, however, is a HUGE fan ... even went so far as to have Xena's name tattooed on his forearm. Unfortunately, the tattoo artist was hard of hearing. Ever since then, Bottomfeeder's had one hell of a time explaining to the guys down at the docks -- yes, he hangs at the docks ... don't ask! -- why in the hell he became such a fan of "Zima."

During my initial foray into Xena-ville, I counted no fewer than 127 Xena-related home pages. What I discovered while submerged in the depths of this peculiar subculture was both shocking and, quite frankly, arousing.

For instance, check out the site "Angie's Cure For Xena Withdrawal Syndrome." On the very first page you'll find not one, not two, but five photos of Xena (Lucy Lawless) playing rub-a-dub-dub in the medieval tub with her devoted valet, Gabrielle (Renee O'Connor). According to Angie, the characters met when Xena saved Gabrielle and her sister from the men of the warlord Draco. Gabrielle became "enthralled with the excitement of Xena's life" and left home to follow Xena and "see the mighty deeds for herself."

I can't tell you a whole hell of a lot about Xena's lifestyle -- be it alternative, regular or unleaded -- but, oh, what mighty "deeds" she's got! Perhaps the most enchanting pair on television.

"My Humble Xena Page," which isn't mine at all, offers two racy images of Xena set to disarm a band of scalawags, presumably using nothing more than her Herculean breasts. Now, any red-blooded male or flannel-shirted lesbian will attest that women using their breasts as weapons certainly makes for good television -- note the former popularity of shows such as "Wonder Woman" and (hee, hee) "Twin

Peaks" -- but that still doesn't explain Xena's enormous popularity with the heterosexual female audience.

On a site called "Whoosh!" I came across an essay by Melissa Meister titled "Xena: Warrior Princess Through the Lenses of Feminism," that argues Xena is one of the world's preeminent feminist role models -- the boob tube's answer to Gloria Steinem.

Meister opines that modern television revolves around the man: "No matter how many leading female characters might be on television, their show or the culture that grows up around the show is male-centered." Obviously, this chick's never seen "The Gilmore Girls."

Meister cites programs such as "Friends," in which damn near every episode deals with one of the three female characters' interactions with men, and "Ellen" (hello, LAST century!), who once had the entire country obsessed with why she did not need a man. Not to mention, why she had a need for Anne Heche.

"Xena," Meister writes, is a woman without male signifiers. "The text of the show does not revolve in any way around Xena's interpersonal interactions with men. In fact ... it is Xena and Gabrielle who have become each other's signifiers (read: playthings)."

Meister concludes her essay mulling over "how the heck such a show was ever allowed into television programming, because a deep examination of its inner workings provides society with some very incredible, novel, and spectacular ways of portraying women." I can think of at least two very big, partially exposed reasons why the show's got play, but that's another matter ...

The women of "Xena: Warrior Princess" are spectacular, all right, but I'm not buying any of Meister's "signifier" mumbo-jumbo. I'm still pretty sure it's a lesbian thing, but the only way to really determine the driving force behind Xena-mania is to walk among the show's faithful and see what makes them tick.

That said, I'm off to the convention!

(NEXT WEEK: Me and Bottomfeeder check out chain mail and mullets at the Xena convention.)

(Dan Dunn is a Santa Monica resident and writes for Warner Bros. Online For more FunHog fun, check out the-funhog.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 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!

LOCAL



Woman allegedly stabs self



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica Fire Department transports an elderly woman from her Montana Avenue home to the hospital on Saturday after repeatedly stabbing herself. According to officials at the scene, the woman thought terrorists were attacking her. She has been placed under psychiatric evaluation.

All candidates pledge to uphold group's tenets

ENDORSEMENTS, from page 1

Emily Bloomfield, Ana Maria Jara and Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center.

Missing out on an SMRR endorsement were Shane McCloud, Ann Cochran and Brenda Gottfried. SMRR currently controls five of the seven seats on the school district board.

Hammering out the endorsements for the Santa Monica College Board was perhaps the most complicated and oddest portion of the afternoon.

First, while there will be four seats open on the board in November, Zane told members that SMRR will only endorse two candidates. He later explained that because three SMRR incumbents will be returning to the board, it would be "unhealthy" for the party to win every spot on the seven-seat board. The group currently controls four of the seven seats.

Second, during the course of making their three-minute presentation to the party faithful, two candidates for the SMC board — Patrick McGuire and Ryan Flegel — withdrew from the race. Both threw their support behind Nancy Greenstein, who served as moderator for most of the day's business.

Greenstein and incumbent Dorothy Ehrhart-Morrison eventually garnered the endorsements. Nancy Cattell and Joe Weichman were not endorsed.

Betty Mueller, Alan Toy and Jennifer Kennedy received endorsements for the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, whose five seats are currently controlled by SMRR.

All candidates pledged to uphold the group's tenets, including protecting tenants' rights, resisting large and inappropriate development, allocating more funds for public education and continuing to stand up for social and economic justice.

Many of those themes were highlight-

ed during explanations of six November ballot measures the party feels strongly about. Two of these — the Santa Monica Living Wage Law and a \$300 increase in the parcel tax — were cited and endorsed by nearly every candidate who spoke.

The living wage law would raise the minimum wage for low-income workers at coastal Santa Monica luxury hotels that earn more than \$5 million a year from \$6.75 to \$10.50 with health benefits or \$12.25 without benefits.

SMRR officials also urged party members to vote yes on a measure that makes it illegal to evict renters if the person whose name is on the lease dies or is incapacitated, and another to double the pay for rent control board members from \$75 a meeting to \$150 a meeting, plus health benefits.

SMRR officials recommended to vote "no" for the so-called Veritas measure, which would create a more powerful mayor and allow residents to vote for only the councilmember in their district, instead of all seven. They also urged a "no" vote against a condominium-conversion measure, which SMRR says will result in tenants being kicked out of their apartments.

Approximately 250 people attended the annual meeting, held at Olympic High School, 721 Ocean Park Blvd.

"This is the largest Santa Monica Renters' Rights Convention I've ever seen," said Councilman Kevin McKeown, a veteran of six such conventions.

Denny Zane, who has been involved with SMRR since it began in 1976, said it wasn't the largest SMRR convention he'd seen, but the "competition was stronger than normal."

"There were lots of good candidates," he said. "For every seat, there is somebody that our members would say, 'I wish there was one more seat.'"

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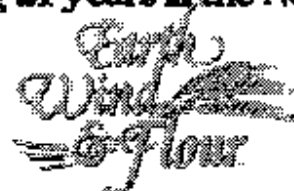
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STATE

Protest at conference



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

At Second Street and Wilshire Boulevard, protesters chant "Shame on you Miramar Hotel, Miramar Hotel supports terrorists" to passersby and hotel guests on Saturday, where the American Iranian Conference was held. Among the guests were Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J. and Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif. Santa Monica Police monitored the situation with the help of Hawthorne Police, who patrolled overhead by helicopter.

Summer tourism season a mixed bag for city

TOURISM, from page 1

warm, sandy beaches.

They are scouting high profile, high circulation publications with travel sections, trade magazines with a focus on tourism and guide books.

"The hope is to bring as many journalists to Santa Monica as possible so they can see Santa Monica with their own eyes," Lee said.

Already the public relations tactic is working at home.

Recent pieces about Santa Monica have appeared in domestic news publications, and there may be at least two more journalists with the national press snooping around the city for travel pieces of their own.

"We're constantly pitching the benefits of Santa Monica," Lee said. "For the last year we have been focusing on the walkability of Santa Monica, especially with the completion of the transit mall."

To make the media campaign a success — and affordable — Santa Monica has teamed up with Palm Spring's tourism bureau and developed special business arrangements with airlines and travel companies to mitigate the extensive costs.

"We're able to basically double the impact and coverage by partnering with Palm Springs," Lee said.

The city council gave \$200,000 to the convention and visitors bureau in one-time funding for the media campaign, and an additional \$50,000 to help open the new visitor's center in the Santa Monica Place Mall.

Santa Monica went through a tough

budget process this year because of a steep drop-off in tax revenues from tourism-dependent industries. Both sales taxes — which are collected on everything from souvenirs and restaurant meals — and taxes collected on occupied hotel rooms have declined as much as 20 percent since last year.

"(International tourists) tend to stay longer and spend more. And they walk much more."

— DEBBIE LEE

Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau

And this summer is proving to be a mixed bag instead of the rebound officials were hoping for. While the summer months are typically the city's busiest time for tourists, hotels are booking for much shorter time periods, officials said.

"Occupancy has increased but the length of stay as well as a shorter time frame in booking has offset those gains," Lee said. "Now they are booking two weeks or a week out from when the visitors arrive here."

Lee said that is important because it gives hotels an unsure footing on how to price their rooms and prepare for the number of tourists to expect.

STATE



State and its chickens on lookout for virus

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

WEST COVINA — The state is playing an enormous game of chicken with the West Nile virus, betting hundreds of fowls will be the first to signal its inevitable, and perhaps imminent, arrival.

About 2,000 chickens in a county- and state-run program stand guard against the virus around California, armed with no more than the warm blood mosquitoes love.

Experts like Amanda Colombo, a 24-year-old summer employee of the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, regularly draw that blood test it for antibodies indicating the chickens have been bitten by virus-carrying mosquitoes.

On a recent morning in this suburban city east of Los Angeles, Colombo took samples from six Rhode Island red hens. Drawing them one by one from their coop, she gripped them between her legs unceremoniously but firmly, then pricked their combs with a needle.

So far, no trace of the virus has been found in California or other western states, but its arrival appears guaranteed.

"It's no longer if it's going to come, it's when," said Stan Husted, supervising public health biologist for the California Department of Health Services.

Since West Nile was first detected in New York in 1999, it steadily has spread to 33 other states and the District of Columbia — virtually every state east of the Rocky Mountains, save Kansas and South Carolina. There have been 185 confirmed human cases of the virus, including 20 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The virus is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis, which is already present in California. Both viruses typically cause flu-like symptoms in humans, but can lead to deadly inflammation of the brain.

Infected mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus in their saliva and pass it on when they bite. Several mosquito species of the genus *Culex* act as vectors for the

virus and more than 110 North American bird species can serve as hosts, according to the CDC.

Mammals, including humans and horses, can catch the virus when they get bitten by an infected mosquito, but do not serve as hosts like birds do.

Once susceptible birds are infected, the virus can rapidly multiply in their bloodstream, and they can pass it back to uninfected mosquitoes that bite them, continuing the cycle.

Chickens, among other bird species, are immune to the virus, making them valuable sentinels. Other species, most notably crows, jays, magpies and ravens, die from the virus within two weeks of infection. During that period, they remain infectious for up to five days.

California officials ask residents to call a toll-free number — (877) WNV-BIRD — to report bodies of birds of those species that have been dead for less than a day. The bodies will be tested for the virus, supplementing the ongoing testing of both chickens and mosquitoes.

Scientists believe migrating birds play a role in dispersing the virus, but cannot be certain.

The major flyways followed by migratory birds frequently intersect, often in places where *Culex* mosquitoes live, making that method of transmission plausible. Limited efforts to look for the virus are underway in Central and South America, where many North American birds winter.

The virus could be dispersed by mosquito stowaways on trucks and airplanes or through the commercial transport of infected birds, Komar cautioned. Indeed, the migratory hypothesis may be wrong, said John Rappole, a research scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Va.

Migratory birds may stay infectious for too short a time and get too sick to spread the virus with any speed, Rappole said.

Once West Nile does arrive, it probably will be for good.

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SoCal volunteers shovel tons of trash out of home

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — Volunteers on Saturday began to shovel six tons of trash from a 67-year-old woman's home while she was evaluated at a hospital.

On Monday, city code enforcement officers and fire officials condemned Dorothy Westfall's home and gave her 30 days to clear out 4-foot high collections of newspapers, letters and food boxes that filled four bedrooms, the bathroom and kitchen.

"There's so much trash inside the house that she slept on a chair in the back yard under a tree," said police Sgt. Rick Martinez.

Wearing face masks and rubber gloves, about 30 neighbors, off-duty police officers and Junior Ranger volunteers braved the stench, stale air and cockroaches to help Westfall avoid eviction.

"We just want her to live the rest of her life happy in her home," said police Officer Kasey Geary. "Living in the conditions she

did, she would have been dead soon."

Westfall was at a hospital being evaluated, police said.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder prevents pack rats from tossing belongings and hampers their ability to decide what's worth keeping and what should be thrown away, said clinical social worker Jonnae Ostrom in Orange.

Westfall is thin and walks or takes the bus, residents said. She normally wears the same clothes: an old beanie, plaid jacket and sweat pants. Constantly gripped in her hands are bags full of cereal boxes, pieces of mail and newspapers she collected.

Neighbors who mow Westfall's lawn and open their homes to her when she's lonely said they never realized the extent of the problem.

"No one has ever gotten close to her house; she won't let anyone near, not even her kids," neighbor Donna Box said.

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STATE

Senate committee to confront charter school bill proposals

BY JESSICA BRICE
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — In response to a spate of problems with far-flung charter schools, a Senate committee will confront proposed charter school legislation this week that could change how and where charters are run in California.

At least two of the state's largest charter schools have made headlines this year for alleged problems. The Gateway Academy, a Fresno-based charter that operated 14 sites around the state, was revoked in January after it hired convicted felons, charged tuition and taught religion.

And a report last week by The Associated Press outlined problems with the California Charter Academy, which is based in the high desert town of Victorville and serves more than 6,000 students at roughly 60 sites.

Independent auditors have been unable to verify attendance reports, and state officials are looking into the possibility the academy absorbed former private schools, some with religious affiliations, documents show.

Records also show the California Charter Academy's top executives started a private management company and an instructional supply company, which took \$5.7 million and nearly \$700,000 respectively, during the 2000-2001 school year. Financial records for the private companies, including some charter school executive salaries, are not open for public scrutiny.

Sue Bragato, executive director of the California Network of Educational Charters, called the situation "concerning."

"We think charter schools should be held far more responsible than traditional schools," she said. "If a school is not disclosing how it spends \$5.7 million, there's a problem."

Assemblyman Manny Diaz, D-San Jose, is pushing a bill that would restrict charter schools from opening up satellite campuses far away from the school district that is responsible for overseeing it. Charter schools would also be required to get separate charters for each of their campuses.

"It's very disturbing when you see these schools establishing sites outside their authorizing school districts," Diaz said.

The California Charter Academy doesn't actually operate programs in any of the districts it is chartered in. But the tiny school districts, one of which has only 100 students of its own, are still responsible for watching over sites from Butte County to San Diego.

"This would limit someone's ability to shop around and find a district that lacks oversight," said Gary Larson, charter network spokesman.

Joe Lucente, who runs Fenton Avenue Charter School in Los Angeles, said the problems of a few charters prompt restrictive bills that hurt everyone.

"My initial reaction was: here we go

again," Lucente said. "It appears to me that the state has quite a bit of knowledge about (the California Charter Academy). Why isn't somebody investigating this and taking action?"

"Most of the problems we read about revolve around granting and oversight," said Lucente, adding that he would rather support a law requiring districts to prove they could handle oversight responsibilities. "What in the world is a district of 100 doing granting a charter of thousands?"

Senator-turned-teacher Gary K. Hart, who authored the 1992 California legislation that paved the way for charter schools, says he never expected to see a rise in charters that spanned the state.

"It was always my intention that in order to maintain accountability, a charter school would be operating under local control," he said.

The majority of California charter schools are community-based, and many are single-site schools, Larson said.

Parent Tony Penas, whose two daughters attended the Fenton Avenue Charter School, said charters work best when the community can actively participate in how they are run.

"We think charter schools should be held far more responsible than traditional schools."

— SUE BRAGATO
 California Network of Educational Charters
 executive director

"The whole purpose of a charter is to create a school that works for the community," Penas said. "The school has to know what the community is looking for, so it has to be part of that community."

The Senate Education Committee delayed voting on three charter school bills last month, and instead urged the authors to merge them into one.

Diaz's bill calls for stopping charters from operating outside the district they're chartered in, but allows current charters with multiple sites to be "grandfathered in."

A bill by Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno, would limit the charter to one county and would allow no exemption for existing charters. It also would add financial reporting requirements.

Another bill by Assemblywoman Lynne Leach, R-Walnut Creek, would give oversight authority to county superintendents.

The Senate Education Committee will take up the bills on Wednesday.

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STATE



Navy SEALs launch effort to diversify the force

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

CORONADO — It's one of the most elite units in the U.S. military, but the Navy SEALs are finding one of their toughest battles is on the home front.

The Navy's special warfare branch, historically one of the whitest segments of the U.S. military, is making an ambitious effort to increase the number of blacks, Hispanics and Asians in its ranks. And the campaign, now in its third year, is beginning to show results.

Between 1997 and this year, the percentage of minorities among the 1,600 enlisted SEALs has risen from 9 percent to 13 percent, and from 6 percent to nearly 10 percent for the 600 SEAL officers, according to figures compiled by the RAND Institute and Naval Special Warfare Command.

Last month, the SEALs' recruiting effort was honored by the NAACP for its success in increasing diversity as well as changing mindsets within the tight-knit organization.

Rear Adm. Eric Olson, the Navy's top SEAL, said the problem of minority underrepresentation has been one of perception, not qualification.

Minority applicants have graduated from the punishing six-month screening process, which eliminates seven out of every 10 who attempt it, at the same rate as whites, he said.

"The problem has been getting them to show up in numbers," said Olson. Many minorities either never considered the SEALs, he said, or believed they had no chance of making it. "The sense that we are an elite force prevented some who had the ability, the potential to serve as SEALs from starting that journey."

A 1999 RAND study, commissioned by Congress, found that blacks were underrepresented in the SEALs and other U.S. military special operations units and noted that the SEALs were widely perceived as a "white" organization.

In comparison to the diversity rate of the SEALs, minorities make up 17 percent of the Navy's 400,000 sailors and 20 percent of its more than 76,000 officers. Of the military branches, only the Army is more diverse with minorities accounting for 40 percent of the force.

Olson assumed command of Naval Special Warfare in Coronado in 1999, the same year the RAND study was issued, and decided to use it as a springboard for change.

Olson said he believes a diverse force is both "simply right" and a practical matter. SEAL teams routinely operate, often in secret, around the globe.

"The more diverse we are, the more we are in some way like the people in the places we go, the more quickly and successfully we can do what we went there to do," Olson said.

In 1999, just 18 minority candidates signed up for SEAL training and seven graduated. Olson decided to expand the size of training classes to broaden the applicant pool without lowering the rigorous entry standards. In February of this year, there were 57 minority candidates with 18 of them graduating.

A 1999 RAND study, commissioned by Congress, found that blacks were underrepresented in the SEALs and other U.S. military special operations units and noted that the SEALs were widely perceived as a "white" organization.

While diversity numbers have improved in the last five years, the SEALs concede greater change in the ranks will take longer, due in large part to the 2 1/2-year training process it takes to become a full-fledged member of a SEAL team.

The Navy special operations force has gone outside its ranks to find someone to lead its diversity effort — Dr. Warren Lockette, the SEALs' 47-year-old civilian medical officer.

Lockette, who led integration efforts at two Michigan medical schools, has brought an outsider's perspective to the sometimes insular culture of the SEALs.

He has sent white SEAL operators to recruit at predominantly black high schools, hoping that both the recruiter and his audience learn from the experience. He set up mentoring opportunities for minority SEALs.

As a member of the selection board for SEAL officers, he has challenged candidates — and fellow board members — to bring something unique to the organization, be

it fluency in the Indonesian language or a graduate degree in oceanology.

"What I want people to do is not feel they have limitations," Lockette said.

Last month, Lockette was chosen from among the entire roster of Navy personnel to receive an NAACP award honoring an individual's efforts to strengthen racial equality in each service branch.

The SEALs "recognize the value of diversity," said Lockette, who is black. "I have seen institutions that wouldn't care."

Rick May, commanding officer of SEAL Team Five, has known Lockette since 1987 and lauded the doctor's diversity work.

"He is all about sensitizing people to the plight of those less fortunate and encouraging people to give back, to help wherever they can," said May, who hosted junior Navy ROTC students from Detroit during a visit to San Diego.

Lockette also has helped bring students from the University of Michigan into the SEALs — a handful of men affectionately dubbed the "Wolverine platoon." Richard Witt, a Hispanic graduate student at Michigan started doing research with Lockette on the physical stresses affecting SEAL trainees, and then decided to enlist.

"Dr. Lockette is definitely influencing changes in the Naval Special Warfare community," Witt, a junior-grade lieutenant in the SEALs, said via e-mail from an undisclosed location overseas, where he is part of the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

Witt has helped spread the word about the SEALs to Navy ROTC students in black colleges and high schools, many of whom hadn't considered a career in special warfare.

"The word is getting out and now there is a system in place that continues to help others in the future as well," Witt wrote. "I am an example of this system."

The RAND study found that minorities were discouraged from considering a special forces career when they didn't see anyone like themselves. And researchers found that minorities in special operations were often uncomfortable as the only nonwhite member of a unit.

Out in the field, Witt said he has no problem being an officer and one of two Hispanics in his unit.

"I feel comfortable in the role of an officer given the opportunity to lead. I also feel comfortable in the role of helping to promote diversity within Naval Special Warfare," he wrote. "If I don't do both of these well, I don't belong in this community."

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NATIONAL

Administration defends review of al-Qaida threat

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Sunday it moved as swiftly as possible to develop a plan on how to eliminate al-Qaida — a process that took eight months and wasn't complete until one week before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Clinton administration had handed off to the incoming Bush team detailed assessments of the threat, and offered ideas on how to counter al-Qaida.

But Bush officials took issue Sunday with a report in the Aug. 12 issue of Time magazine that said the current administration's review of its predecessor's briefings became bogged down in bureaucracy.

The current White House denied receiving any firm plans for dealing with al-Qaida.

"The Clinton administration did not present an aggressive new plan to topple al-Qaida during the transition," said White House spokesman Sean McCormack.

"We were briefed on the al-Qaida threat and what the Clinton administration was doing about it. These efforts against al-Qaida were continued in the Bush administration."

According to Time, Clinton's anti-terror czar, Richard Clark, offered detailed proposals: arresting al-Qaida personnel, choking off the group's financing, aiding nations fighting the organization and beefing up covert action in Afghanistan to deny al-Qaida sanctuary.

Clarke, who stayed on in the Bush administration, also called for a substantial increase in support for the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan and for planning of air strikes on Afghan terror camps.

But a senior Bush administration official said Sunday the Clinton White House offered the incoming Bush team only ideas on how to "roll back" the threat over a three- to five-year period.

Soon after it began studying the issue, the Bush administration decided a "roll-back" was inadequate, and began planning for eliminating al-Qaida altogether, said the official, speaking on condition of

anonymity.

Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, attended a meeting during the transition at which the Clinton and Bush teams discussed counterterrorism issues.

Berger did not return calls to his office on Sunday.

"We were briefed on the al-Qaida threat and what the Clinton administration was doing about it. These efforts against al-Qaida were continued in the Bush administration."

— SEAN MCCORMACK
White House spokesman

In the first few days of the Bush White House, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice asked for proposals for major presidential policy review and, based on a response from Clarke, ordered a review of policy toward al-Qaida, the senior official said.

Top Bush administration officials approved what McCormack called the "comprehensive strategy to eliminate al-Qaida" exactly one week before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Questions about the Bush administration's planning against al-Qaida come on top of disclosures that American intelligence officials intercepted communications in Arabic that made vague references to an impending attack on the United States. They contained the phrases, "Tomorrow is zero hour" and "The match is about to begin."

The intercepts weren't translated until Sept. 12. Their relevance is uncertain.

Teen arrested for lighting shoe on fire aboard plane

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A 17-year-old Canadian passenger on a US Airways flight from Toronto was arrested for using a lighter on his shoe, authorities said.

The teen told police he was burning loose material off his tennis shoes as the plane taxied into Pittsburgh International Airport Saturday. The boy's father was seated next to him.

Authorities said the teen would not be identified because of his age. He was cited for disorderly conduct and released into the custody of his father, said Allegheny County Police Sgt. Robert Clark.

Federal authorities interviewed the boy and his father after a flight attendant smelled found the boy flicking a butane lighter and took it away from him, Clark said.

Police met the plane at the terminal around 8 p.m. and checked the roughly 40

passengers on board, according to KDKA-TV.

"There is no such thing as a joke at an airport anymore," Clark said.

Police said the boy and his father were connecting in Pittsburgh on a flight to California, but US Airways asked them to make other travel arrangements.

In another incident, FBI agents arrested a man early Sunday for allegedly trying to pass through a security checkpoint at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport with razor blades in his shoes.

The man had set off a metal detector Saturday night and when asked to remove his shoes at least two razor blades fell out, said airport spokeswoman Clare Impett.

Impett had no information on the man's identity or which airline he was planning to board. He was in jail Sunday.

An FBI agent in Seattle said no one was available to comment.

INTERNATIONAL



A new found freedom



Khalil Senosi/Associated Press

German aid worker Ekkehard Forberg, 31, is greeted by friends as he arrives in Nairobi, Kenya, Saturday after he and a Kenyan aid worker were released from captivity in the Sudan. Forberg, the Kenyan aid worker and another German were abducted on Monday. All three aid workers, as well as another Kenyan killed in Monday's attack, worked for World Vision, an international Christian aid organization. The other abductee, Steffen Horstmeier, 31, was released and arrived in Kenya on Thursday.

Uruguay senate approves emergency banking legislation

BY RAUL GARCES

Associated Press Writer

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — Congress approved emergency legislation shoring up Uruguay's battered financial system Sunday, voting to block access to some long-term deposits in the country's two state banks.

"This will be difficult medicine, but it's the only possible solution," Economy Minister Alejandro Atechugarry told lawmakers.

The government blocked access to long-term deposits at the two state banks for three years. The accounts — similar to certificates of deposit in the United States — require depositors not to withdraw funds for an extended period in exchange for higher rates of interest. They would continue to earn interest during the freeze.

Checking and savings accounts would not be affected by the measure, and neither will deposits at private banks.

After passing the Senate and the House, the package was sent to President Jorge Batlle to be signed into law.

Analysts estimate that the move will lock up approximately \$2.2 billion in the finan-

cial system until confidence can be restored.

Uruguay closed all private and state banks last Tuesday after weeks of panicked withdrawals by depositors. The country is in a four-year recession exacerbated by the unraveling of the Argentine economy next door, and reserves have plunged from \$3 billion a year ago to \$655 million.

The adoption of the emergency banking laws, coupled with a promise of emergency aid from Washington this weekend, raised hopes that the government would reopen the banks as early as Monday.

Leftist lawmakers opposed the legislation, but did not have the votes to block approval.

Sources in the Bush administration disclosed Sunday that the United States would extend a \$1.5 billion emergency loan to Uruguay.

The U.S. assistance will be repaid in a matter of days once the South American nation receives a new loan package from the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. officials said on condition of anonymity.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill left Sunday for Brazil, and was expected to visit Uruguay and Argentina later in the week.

Suicide bomber kills nine bus passengers in Israel

BY GREG MYRE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus in northern Israel during the morning rush hour Sunday, killing himself and nine passengers on a day punctuated by violence from the rolling hills of the Galilee to Jerusalem's Old City to the Mediterranean beach front.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the bus bombing, which left charred remains — including a child's drawing of two hearts in crayon — across a highway. The attack, at the Meron Junction near the town of Tsfat, was the militant group's second deadly bombing in five days.

Altogether, two bombings and three shootings Sunday left 14 people dead and dozens wounded. Among the dead were three Palestinian militants who died carrying out — or preparing to carry out — the violence, Israeli officials said.

The bloodshed continued after midnight. Palestinians opened fire on a car in the West Bank, killing an Israeli couple and wounding two of their children, the military said. The ambush took place on the main road through the West Bank, between Ramallah and Nablus.

Israel's military clamped down on the West Bank has kept many Palestinians confined to their homes for most of the past six weeks, but militants continue to elude the troops to carry out attacks.

The Israeli government said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who turned 73 on Sunday, bore ultimate responsibility for not reining in militants during the 22 months of Mideast fighting.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the bombing, but also accused Sharon of "war crimes" for the Israeli army's mass detentions, home demolitions and curfews imposed on Palestinians.

Israeli officials had said high-level talks between Sharon and Palestinian Cabinet ministers could be expected later this week, but it was unclear whether the meetings would go ahead as planned after Sunday's attacks.

Hamas said the bus bombing was the second retaliatory strike for Israel's July 22 air strike that killed a senior Hamas leader, Salah Shehadeh, and 14 others in Gaza City. Hamas also carried out a Wednesday bombing at Jerusalem's Hebrew University that killed seven, including five Americans.

About 1,500 people celebrated the bus bombing in Gaza City late Sunday, pass-

ing out sweets and praying near Shehadeh's destroyed house, where militants shouting over loudspeakers vowed to "avenge every drop of his blood."

Three hours after Sunday's bus bombing, a Palestinian attacker opened fire just outside the stone walls of Jerusalem's Old City, sparking a gun battle with police that left three dead.

The Palestinian gunman used a pistol to fire at close range on a truck belonging to Israel's main phone company, Bezeq. A security guard was killed and the driver was injured, police said.

Seconds later, Israeli police began firing. The gunman was killed by police, and an Arab bystander was hit and killed by cross fire, Israeli officials said. More than a dozen people were hurt, most of them Palestinians, in the shooting near the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, whose members are loyal to Arafat, claimed responsibility.

The stepped-up Israeli military effort has included house-to-house searches for the past three days in Nablus, the West Bank city Israel now describes as the main center for Palestinian suicide bombers.

Israel also blew up nine Palestinian homes Sunday in the West Bank, all of them belonging to militants who carried out or orchestrated previous attacks. Israel is hoping the practice will discourage would-be assailants who want to spare their families from harm.

However, the only tangible result to date is that militant groups have stopped announcing the names of attackers and releasing their homemade videos, making it a bit more difficult for Israel to track down the families.

The bombing at Meron Junction in the Galilee region of northern Israel turned the packed green bus into a fireball, charring the insides and ripping the metal panels as if they were ribbons.

The bus was filled with both civilians and soldiers heading back to their bases Sunday, the beginning of the Israeli work week. The nine passengers killed included three Israeli soldiers, two women from the Philippines and four Israeli civilians — including one Arab Israeli woman, authorities said. Thirty-seven people were injured, two critically, rescue workers said.

The bomber apparently warned two Arab students of the impending attack, and they got off the bus shortly before it blew up, a police source said. The two students have been detained, the source added.

Protestants appeal for no vengeance for North Ireland victim

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Mourners burying the latest victim of Northern Ireland's conflict appealed Sunday for Protestant extremists not to retaliate against Catholics in revenge.

Several hundred people crowded into a rural Presbyterian church outside Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, for the funeral of David Caldwell.

The 51-year-old construction worker was killed Thursday when a booby-trap bomb attributed to Irish Republican Army dissidents blew up in his face as he worked on renovations at an unoccupied, unguarded British army facility. Protestant extremists immediately vowed to kill a Catholic in retaliation, although no attack

has happened.

"As the family has repeatedly said in recent days, no one should strike against anyone in revenge, which would only cause suffering to many others," the Rev. James Gray told the mourners.

Gray said it was "tragically ironic" that Caldwell served until the mid-1980s in the British army's locally recruited unit, the defunct Ulster Defense Regiment, whose members the IRA singled out for assassination while off-duty.

"He came through that danger safely, only to be killed during a greater peace," the minister said.

No group has claimed responsibility for Caldwell's killing, which came 10 days after 19-year-old Gerard Lawlor, a Catholic, was gunned down by Protestant extremists while walking home from a pub.

Earlier, the victim's partner, Mavis McFaul, led a slow

procession on foot from the couple's home on the predominantly Protestant east side of Londonderry, about 70 miles northwest of Belfast. At times she appeared close to collapse, and leaned for support on her four daughters, ages 14 to 28.

Peace campaigners planned to march Monday from the scene of Caldwell's killing to central Londonderry. The city's Catholic letter carriers also planned an emergency meeting to discuss whether to resume work in Protestant parts of Londonderry after one of them received a death threat Friday.

The 1998 peace accord for this British territory sought to promote a lasting compromise between its British Protestant majority and Irish Catholic minority. Although it forged a joint Catholic-Protestant government, the deal is being assaulted by outlaws from both extremes of society.



SPORTS

Chick Hearn still critical as doctors monitor progress

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Chick Hearn, the longtime "Voice of the Lakers," remained in critical condition Sunday, a day after two surgeries for a head injury that likely ended his broadcasting career.

"There's no change. Chick is still in critical condition, recovering from two craniotomies," said Kate Preston, spokeswoman for Northridge Hospital Medical Center, where the 85-year-old Hearn was taken Friday night after falling in his backyard.

Hearn remained sedated and doctors were monitoring his condition. They didn't anticipate the need to perform any further surgeries, but planned to test his neurological condition Monday, Preston said.

Lakers owner Jerry Buss said in a statement that "the hopes and prayers of the Buss family and the entire Laker family are for Chick and Marge and (granddaughter) Shannon. We know that we are only a few among the countless who love Chick and are praying for him now."

Hearn, the only play-by-play announcer the Lakers have had since moving from Minneapolis to Los Angeles for the 1960-61 season, fell on his Encino patio Friday and hit the back of his head.

Doctors found hemorrhaging

in his skull and operated to drain it, but Saturday morning Hearn's condition began to deteriorate and another blood clot was found, this one inside the brain. A second surgery was performed, ending Saturday afternoon.

Afterward Hearn's neurosurgeon, Dr. Asher Taban, said the broadcaster's prognosis was "not good," and said it was "probable" that he had called his last Lakers game.

"If he has a full recovery in terms of his motor functions he will very likely have speech difficulty," Taban said.

The news was a blow to Lakers players and Southern California fans for whom Hearn's "words-eye view" has been the soundtrack for 42 Los Angeles Lakers seasons, including nine NBA championships.

"The guy is one of the most remarkable men that I've ever known," said Stu Lantz, Hearn's longtime broadcast partner, who was at the hospital. "He's like a father to me...He needs all the prayers right now."

Hearn is credited with adding the such signature phrases as "slam dunk" and "air ball" to the NBA lexicon. When a Lakers victory is imminent, he says, "You can put this one in the refrigerator. The door's closed, the light's out, the eggs are cooling, the butter's getting hard and

the Jell-O is jiggling."

Colorful terms pepper his rapid-fire delivery: "no harm, no foul," "the mustard's off the hot dog," and "faked him into the popcorn machine."

Hearn called a record 3,338 consecutive Lakers games over 36 years until his streak was ended last season by a blocked aortic valve that required heart surgery. While recovering he fell and broke his hip.

Still, Hearn returned to the Lakers to broadcast the team's playoffs run and its third consecutive NBA championship, and had planned to continue to broadcast through next season. He and his wife, Marge, expected to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary Aug. 13.

Hearn is honored in the basketball Hall of Fame and has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. In June he received a Los Angeles Area Emmy Award for lifetime achievement. He told the audience that he didn't consider himself a cheerleader for the Lakers.

"My main objective when I get behind a microphone is to entertain, yes, but to be honest," he said. "If (former Lakers star and general manager) Jerry West threw the ball up in the second row and hit some old lady drinking a beer, that's tough. You got to report it."

Brickyard track record



Darron Cummings/Associated Press

NASCAR driver Tony Stewart pumps his fist after qualifying on the pole for the Brickyard 400 and setting a new track record with a lap of 182.960 mph at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Saturday.

Houston Texans set for prime time debut

BY TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CANTON, Ohio — OK, Houston Texans. Let's see if you're ready for some NFL football.

The league's newest expansion team will take another historic step on Monday night, when the Texans make their preseason debut against the New York Giants in the Hall of Fame game.

"It will be the first time anyone has seen the Texans," coach Dom Capers said. "Right now, nobody knows a thing about the Houston Texans."

We're about to learn. On prime time national TV. In broadcaster John Madden's debut with partner Al Michaels in ABC's Monday night booth. And against the Giants, a veteran team eager to put a 7-9 season behind.

It would be understandable if the Texans were feeling a little pressure.

No time for that, though.

"You never know how fast you're going to progress, but the most important thing is you continue to progress," Capers said. "These guys have been working hard, and now they've got to get ready for the Giants."

It's been nearly three years since the league awarded Houston an expansion franchise, and now the Texans will get a chance to showcase what they've been up to.

Rookie quarterback David

Carr, the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft, is expected to play the first few series, but Capers said Houston will keep its game plan "fairly simple."

The Texans have been pleased with Carr's progress, and their young quarterback won over a few more teammates by jumping into the middle of a fight with the Dallas Cowboys in Friday's scrimmage.

"You see your center on the ground and somebody on top of him and you step in to help," Carr said. "It just shows you how far we've come as a team."

When the Texans' \$60 million investment wasn't mixing it up, Carr, whose first attempt was batted down, went 2-of-4 for 36 yards. He made a nice throw over the middle for a 35-yard gain to tight end Billy Miller.

"We're trying to build on the good things and get through the mistakes," Carr said. "There were some ugly things out there in the scrimmage. We have to eliminate some of those."

Still, Capers called Carr's debut "a good start."

Houston's defense is eager to get off on the right foot, too.

"It's time to see where we are," linebacker Kevin Mitchell said. "It's time to stop talking and take this chance to see how far along we are as a defense. We've got a lot of young guys who are going to have to learn to be aggressive."

Is Venus bored with tennis?

By The Associated Press

CARLSBAD — Is Venus Williams bored with tennis?

Throughout the week during press conferences at the Acura Classic at La Costa Resort and Spa, Williams spoke of her favorite popcorn, jewelry, television shows, internet shopping, her dog and speeding tickets. Tennis was talked about as well.

On the court at least, top-seeded Venus Williams seemed anything but bored. On Sunday in the final of the Acura Classic, Williams relied on her power game and outstanding court coverage to win her third-consecutive Acura Classic by defeating sixth-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-2, 6-2.

Williams, a resident of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has now won 27 WTA tournaments in her career. She is the only player to win three La Costa tournaments in a row in its 19-year history.

Williams, ranked second in the world, had no trouble in defeating Dokic in a tidy 55 minutes.

Dokic, ranked fifth in the world, had a 2-1 lead in the first set before Williams rattled off five games in a row to win the set.

Dokic held her serve to win the first game of the second set, but Williams came back to win four consecutive games to take a

4-1 lead and cruise to the win.

"It is really nice to keep coming back to a tour that is so familiar and where winning is so familiar," Williams said. "I just had a great day."

Williams won \$115,000 in prize money and an Acura 3.2 CLS. Dokic won \$60,000 in prize money. Williams is now 3-1 in her career against Dokic.

In the doubles final, fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia and Janette Husarova of Slovakia defeated third-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia and Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-2, 6-4.

Dokic, who consulted a physician before the match, played with what she said was a stomach virus, which she said weakened her before and during the match.

"Just generally, physically, I wasn't feeling well. I was very tired from the last two days," Dokic said. "I think that I was run down and tired and it came down all at once. It was a lot tennis and not much recovery time."

The statistics tell the story: Williams had 23 winners and 24 unforced errors, while Dokic had only five winners and 26 unforced errors. Williams won 72 percent of her first serves and 60 percent of her second serves. Meanwhile, Dokic won 52 percent of her first serves and only

35 percent of her second serves.

Williams converted on 90 percent (9-10) of her net approaches while Dokic converted on only 42 percent (5-12).

"I hit two or three unbelievable drop shots and in two steps Venus was there to hit winners," Dokic said. "I am happy that I got to the final. I'm a little disappointed today, but compared to last year I am playing a lot better on the hard court."

On Saturday in the semifinals, Williams defeated third-seeded Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 6-1 at night while Dokic defeated Anna Kournikova of Russia 6-7 (6), 7-6 (2), 6-0 during the day.

Williams now has six tournaments in 2002 and has won two tournaments in a row after winning the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford last week.

Regarding the subject of boredom with tennis, Williams emphatically said that the game is still a challenge to her.

"I am not getting bored with tennis, because mentally I am mainly the whole time (on the court) fighting with myself to keep the ball in play and not make errors," she said.

"I am not tired of tennis," Williams stressed. "I feel that I have quite a few years left to do quite well in this sport."

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Venomous snake
 - 6 Price
 - 10 UFO flier
 - 11 Verbal creation
 - 13 Incline
 - 14 Out of bed
 - 15 Male cat
 - 16 Road curve
 - 18 Biol. or chem.
 - 19 Meat-and-vegetable entree
 - 22 Chiding sound
 - 25 Despicable
 - 26 Available
 - 27 Haque
 - 28 Emile's pal
 - 29 Poker prize
 - 30 Prize contest
 - 35 Gaffer Emile
 - 36 — Grande
 - 37 "... man
 - "mouse?"
 - 39 Britovl
 - 40 Fable end
 - 42 Light lunch
 - 43 Sailor's cry
 - 44 G-men
- DOWN**
- 45 Walking aids
 - 1 Ship poles
 - 2 Permit
 - 3 Heart's home
 - 4 Actor Affleck
 - 5 Pays for a hand
 - 6 Ride a toboggan
 - 7 Harvest golden
 - 8 Leave port
 - 9 Minimal flow
 - 12 Stands
 - 17 Fast plane
 - 21 Madonna film
 - 24 Be fooled
 - 25 Something to turn over
 - 28 Bridge support
 - 27 D.C. river
 - 29 Greek letter
 - 31 Grade book
 - 33 Clear
 - 34 Sea dogs
 - 36 Smidgen
 - 41 Fertility clinic topic



Saturday's Answer

edge city

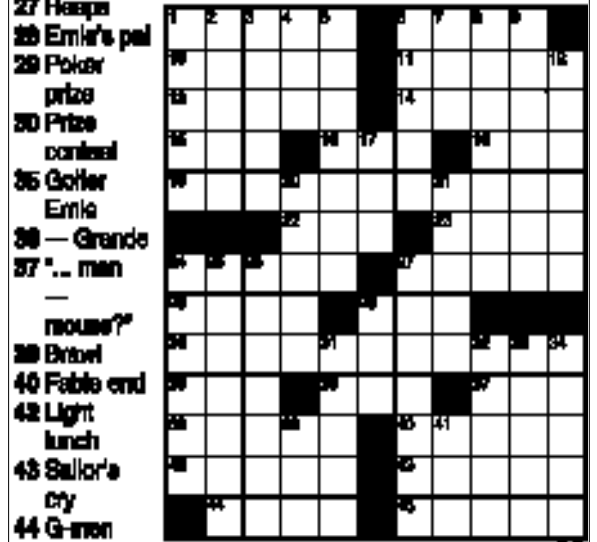
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

'Wayne' and murder go hand in hand

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APT. to share. \$575 Fully Furnished/ Pvt. room. Month to month. Share utilities. Close to UCLA+SM College. Sam (310) 453-6649

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Commercial Lease

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

VENICE \$695.00 250 sq. ft. office space with bathroom. High ceiling, large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443

ELLY NESIS

VENICE BEACH \$1750.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one big room with high ceilings, skylights and rollup door. (310)396-4443

ELLY NESIS

Storage Space

GARAGE STORAGE only. Very central, Santa Monica location. \$125/month. (310)828-6621

WE ARE THE CLASSIEST GIG IN TOWN!
Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.101

CLASSIFIEDS



Storage Space

STORAGE UNIT 1105 18th Street. No pets. Good size storage space. (310)394-8121.

Vehicles for sale

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

91' OLDS Trofeo. 38,000 miles. Excellent condition. Perfect second car. \$ 3200.00 (310)470-9070.

94 FORD Escort Wagon. Blue, great condition. Brand new brakes, new tires, clean title. Runs like a top. Sport racks, A/C, seats 5. CD player, 5 speed manual. Blue Book 3,360. Will sacrifice for \$3,100. 310-922-4060.

Massage

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

Massage

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

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

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

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

Massage

PROFESSIONAL Deep Tissue bodywork by fit therapist. Introductory offer: \$35/hr or \$65/2 hrs. Women: first hour free. Non-sexual. Paul: 310.741.1901.

SUMMERTIME SOOTHER! Shiatsu, Lymphatic, Deep Tissue, Sports, with handsome masseur. For women/men/couples. In/out. Angelo. (818)503-1408.

Announcements

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

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

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

Services

ZyLink
Web Hosting E-commerce
As low as \$1.25 per month
The largest selection of
domains, SSL, DNS, FTP, SFTP,
Shopping Carts, and more
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QUICK AND Dirty (if the newsprint rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

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

HELP
BETTER than small claims;
\$10
Pick your new job; \$25
(310)398-4130

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

Services

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

LEARN TO DANCE Tango, Swing or Salsa. Private lessons, low rates. Wedding prep and vacation prep for couples. (310)828-7326.

MIKE'S PLUMBING
The solution to all your plumbing & heating needs. New remodel, re-pipe. LIC.#605819
(323)874-8399
(323)356-7711

REMEDIES BY ROTH Carpentry, Handyman Services. Reasonable rates. Contact Michael: (310)829-1316 MSG. (323)610-1217 Cell.

Services

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

Business Opps

ESTABLISHED FILM Production company seeks financial partner for features and rentals. (310)822-7891

Health/Beauty

OJAI'S BEST Kept Secret Monte Verde Garden & Spa Massage, Sauna, Spa & more! Located on a beautiful secluded 21/2-acre setting. Call: (805)649-6899

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**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
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(310) 458-PRESS (7737)**

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movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40,
3:15, 7:10, 10:30. Men in Black II (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:45,
7:40, 10:10. Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13) 11:00,
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15,
7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20,
2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50. K-11: The Widowmaker (PG-13) 12:30,
4:00, 7:30, 10:45.

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

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Sex and Lucia (NR) 1:30, 4:15,
7:00, 9:45. Lovely and Amazing (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 5:10, 10:15. Read My Lips (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.
Me Without You (R) 2:35, 7:45.
Tadpole (PG-13) 1:30, 3:35,
5:40, 7:45, 9:55. Who is Cletis Tout? (R) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20.

Calendar

Monday, August 5, 2002

Today

Community

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full

veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Entertainment

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

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

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

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

Patrick Ney makes with the ha-has, at Flint's. 3321 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. FREE! 9 p.m.

(310)453-1331.

Open Discussion/ Political Debate. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Tuesday

Community

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program spon-

sored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

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

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE



Sunken junk

By The Associated Press

MILFORD, Iowa — If one person's junk is another person's treasure, then there is a lot of treasure to be found at the bottom of the Iowa Great Lakes.

A deck chair, shoes, beach towels, jewelry, watches and even a cell phones were brought to the surface last month by divers scouring the lakes' floors.

Scott Fintel, owner of Okoboji Scuba, conducts an annual Ecology Drive to clean up the bottoms of the lakes, in northwest Iowa.

He's found some pretty surprising things.

"We found a full toilet at the bottom of West Lake one year," Fintel said.

Two years ago divers hauled up a tractor cab from the lake's bottom. One year a diver found a Model T ice truck. The truck was on the lake removing ice when it fell through 50 years ago.

Heavier items are floated to the surface using lift bags, which are tied to the objects and then inflated, Fintel said.

This year's event attracted about 50 scuba divers.

Ex-stripper candidate

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Congressional candidate Chuck Kalogianis says he wants affordable prescription drugs and social security to be the main focus of his campaign.

His past as a stripper in Massachusetts may get in the way.

Kalogianis, 39, acknowledges his two-year stint with "Men in Motion" more than a decade ago when he was a law student in Boston.

In his act, Kalogianis wore a bird costume that masked his face but exposed his legs. It ended with him doing a chicken dance and tearing off the bright yellow costume to show his French bikini thong to crowds of women throwing money.

Today Kalogianis is a successful attorney in New Port Richey, a family man and an unopposed candidate for a Democratic nomination to the U.S. House of Representatives.

He hopes to unseat Republican incumbent Mike Bilirakis in Florida's 9th congressional district, representing parts of three counties north of the Tampa Bay area.

The dancer label keeps popping up.

Kalogianis said he's tired of the attention it gets. When he qualified to run, a one-sentence blurb in a local paper about his campaign mentioned his "former job as a male stripper."

He said his performances were tasteful.

Pooch enhancements

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One city official says local pooches need to dress for success.

Not enough needy animals are being adopted from Animal Services Department shelters, so a city controller suggested shelters "investigate the feasibility of developing special programs to enhance the presentation of impounded animals."

Among the suggestions for dogs and cats: sweaters, bows, collars and bandannas.

The suggestions were part of a report on the Department of Animal Services issued Tuesday by City Controller Laura Chick, who periodically audits city departments in search of inefficiencies.

Department general manager Jerry Greenwalt said Tuesday that a cash-strapped agency housing about 1,000 orphaned dogs, cats, birds, turtles, horses and other animals each day may not be able to dress up the animals for adoption.

"There are so many greater needs than putting neckerchiefs on dogs," Greenwalt said. Besides, he said, many of the dogs that animal control officers bring in wouldn't take kindly to being gussied up. Pit bulls in bow ties and Rottweilers in ribbons?

"Good luck," Greenwalt said.

Police pay back

By The Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — City officials said they would reimburse a man whose credit card was used to charge \$90 worth of gas for two Jonesboro police officers.

Assistant Chief Rusty Grigsby said a card owned by Bill Ebbert Jr. was mysteriously placed among a collection of city-owned cards, then used by the two policemen in May and June.

Purchasing agent Steve Kent, who maintains the file of cards, said he doesn't know how Ebbert's card got there.

Ebbert, a frequent visitor to Jonesboro City Hall, said he may have accidentally dropped the card sometime last year. Kent said someone may have placed the card on his desk, and from there it could have made it into the file.

Ebbert's name had been partially worn off the fuel card, and no one at the city noticed whose card it was until June.

Ebbert, a frequent critic of city policies, joked that he was the victim of a conspiracy. It fell to Grigsby to explain to Ebbert what happened.

"Rusty called me and I thought he was going to tell me they caught the guy with my credit card," Ebbert said Wednesday. "And he said, 'We were the ones who used your card' — on police business!"



The Santa Monica Police Department invites you to meet **Marvel Comics Spider-Man**, world famous crime-fighter, at

National Night Out

Free food, music, give-aways, crime prevention info and entertainment!

Free flashlights for the first 750 participants who sign in!

Tuesday, August 6, 2002, 6:30 p.m. - ?
Join Spider-Man in the parade!
Meet him at 3rd Street & Wilshire Boulevard and walk down the Promenade to Palisades Park!

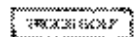


For more info: SMPD Community Relations, 310-458-8474
www.santamonica.org

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