

Santa Monica Daily Press

August 5-6, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 228

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 2 24 31 50 55
Meganumber: 44
Jackpot: \$28M

Super LOTTO 1 2 8 16 32
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$12M

Fantasy 5 1 9 31 34 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 6 4 8
EVENING: 5 0 1

DAILY 4 1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.44.77

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Jay and Laura Flynn of Lilburn, Ga., filed a \$111 million lawsuit in June against Home Depot and the maker of Tile Perfect Stand'N Seal Grout Cleaner, charging that a defect caused toxic fumes that permanently destroyed half of Jay's lung capacity, which, among other effects, according to Laura, ended the couple's "extremely active love life." She added, "I mean every day. But now that is over."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 217th day of 2006.
There are 148 days left in the year.

On Aug. 5, 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut is said to have ordered, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" as he led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Ala. In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

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Finally time to change gears



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Eleven young cyclists, ranging in age from 16 to 22, arrived at Santa Monica Beach on Friday concluding the 'American Challenge,' which began six weeks ago in Savannah, Ga. The bicyclists rode more than 3,000 miles to the Pacific Ocean.

SMRR rally ignites races

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — While the race to fill three seats on the City Council will not be decided until November, there are many who feel the outcome will be determined this Sunday, when Santa Monica's ruling political party makes its highly coveted endorsements.

With a dedicated base of roughly 5,000 supporters and the ability to raise and spend an unlimited amount of money during the campaign season, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR) has the power to make or break a candidate. Granted, there are those who have

See SMRR, page 13



File Photo

NUMBERS GAME Homeless feedings like this one in Palisades Park have been targeted by a local law requiring providers to seek permits if 150 people attend.

What happens in Vegas

By staff and wire reports

LAS VEGAS — City marshals blocked a radio personality from feeding homeless people at a City Hall park last week, and issued summonses to a television news crew covering a publicity protest against a

ban on "mobile soup kitchens."

Three people were arrested and seven were issued summonses at two parks, city officials said, including a reporter and a cameraman ticketed for trespassing while covering the protest

See DOWN AND OUT IN VEGAS, page 12

School board calls for \$268M

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS. — Citing the need to repair leaky roofs, improve computer technology and remove asbestos and mold from classrooms and other facilities, the school board Thursday voted to place a \$268 million bond on the November ballot.

The bond, which is expected to be issued in installments over an eight-to 11-year span, also would fund the construction of more classrooms to ease overcrowding, as well as replace deteriorating, 30-year-old bathrooms at several schools.

None of the bond money would be used to pay salaries or other administrative costs, school district officials said.

The bond must be approved by 55 percent of voters in Santa Monica and Malibu before any money is issued. If approved, property owners can expect to pay an additional \$30 for every \$100,000 of assessed value when their property taxes are due.

The measure comes as the district completes an extensive community outreach process to develop a facilities master plan, which will drive land use within the district for the next 20 years.

During the process, which began in January, residents were asked to identify priorities, which included the construction of new schools to handle an anticipated increase in enrollment. The bond is expected to help fund priorities identified by the community. A final facilities meeting

See BOND, page 14

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Horoscopes

2

WEEKEND EDITION, AUGUST 5-6, 2006

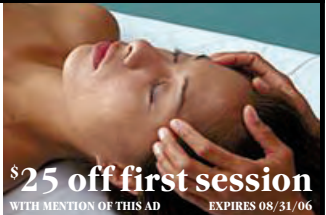
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A newspaper with issues

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Add more mystery, Cap

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 want to try a novel approach to your weekend. You have a tried-and-true routine. Could it be a bit dull? Isn't it time to break it? Rearrange, revamp and change your plans as much as you would like. Think positively. Tonight: Opt for something new.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Though you're an enduring, strong sign, you might get a mini lesson on when to back off and do something differently. You might not always easily relate to a specific partner. He or she is going through changes. Tonight: Flex as much as necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others are full of surprises. Learn to adapt and flow with what is tossed in your path. You will learn that you aren't always in control. Letting go and allowing events to play out is not a bad bet. Do just that. Tonight: Say yes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You could become overly tired and drawn. You don't always need to understand why events happen. Sometimes you are better off flowing with each situation. Be indulgent or nurturing to someone who is having a bad time. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Someone inspires you to be more kidlike and carefree. Others cannot help but join in on your lightness and happy style. Your creativity emerges out of the blue. Many people have a lot to say. Tonight: Ever light and fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Anchor in knowing what is important. Your family and home life need to star in your priorities. You might not always be comfortable with what happens. Know that you cannot change some people and their perspectives. Tonight: Happy at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Take the first step toward someone who might not be feeling up to snuff. This person will respond, especially if you use that Libra charm. New beginnings happen out of the blue. Know what you want. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your finances play a role in many decisions. You might want to add something to your home or buy an item for a family member. You might struggle with your budget, but you will succeed. Trust your ingenuity. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You could reverse gears, leaving many people dumbfounded. Follow your instincts, and you'll find that you are right-on. Your charisma speaks for itself. Make an adjustment if need be. You have what it takes. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Knowing when to back off could be instrumental to your well-being. Understand what is happening with a child or loved one. Take a walk or some private time to work through a problem. Tonight: Add more mystery.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your instincts direct your actions. Friends support your creativity and imagination. Find friends or go where the crowd is if you want to smile the day away. Listen to your sixth sense, and you will be A-OK. Tonight: A friendship could be developing into more. Decide on what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to take a stand. Use your instincts with someone who counts. You'll become a lot more easygoing if you relax and understand your responsibilities. If you want to change gears, do just that. Tonight: In the limelight.

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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PUBLISHED MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

THE PLAY'S THE THING SAMOSHEL managers and residents get theatrical recently at Santa Monica Playhouse.

It's curtains for homeless residents

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica homeless have been given a chance to make their living — on Broadway.

The Santa Monica Playhouse recently treated 27 Santa Monica Shelter (SAMOSHEL) residents and staff to a two-hour matinee performance of "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune."

"Frankie and Johnny" is Terrence McNally's Broadway play about the relationship between a waitress and a short-order cook in a hamburger joint.

The free presentation was part of play producer-actress Nancy Hill's collaboration with several local grassroots homeless organizations to train homeless men and women in theatrical and business skills for employment in the entertainment industry.

"Our taking part in community events like this allows the public to see a different side of homelessness," said Theodore Henderson, SAMOSHEL's resident council president. "We have the same interests as everyone else."

The shelter provides emergency and transitional housing, on-site case management, counseling, 12-Step meetings, housing referrals, and employment assistance for 110 homeless men and women on an ongoing basis.

Tips for the great outdoors

By Daily Press staff

When you're caught up a creek without a paddle, you may wish you went to REI. This month, REI is offering classes on tips for outdoor and adventurous activities: Basic bike maintenance: Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The maintenance class will teach you how to lube a chain, fix a flat tire in record time, and make other minor adjustments to your bicycle.

Backpacking essentials: Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.

The seminar is geared toward those planning to go backpacking in the future, but don't know how to start.

Lincoln has new principal

By Daily Press staff

The local school district has found a new leader for students in the middle of the pack. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) has announced the selection of Tristan Komlos as principal of Lincoln Middle School.

Komlos has been with the district for the past two years, serving as M House Principal at Santa Monica High School. She has more than 12 years of educational experience.



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 72°**

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LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
STILL WAVES FOR THIS WEEKEND BUT...
THEN MORE SOUTHERN HEMI...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

Time	08-04 11:00 AM	08-04 08:28 AM	08-04 08:33 AM	08-04 05:52 PM	08-04 01:49 AM	08-05 08:50 AM	08-05 12:07 PM	08-05 06:46 PM
High Tide	7.5 ft	6.5 ft	5.5 ft	4.5 ft	3.5 ft	2.5 ft	1.5 ft	0.5 ft
Low Tide	-1.5 ft	-2.5 ft	-3.5 ft	-4.5 ft	-5.5 ft	-6.5 ft	-7.5 ft	-8.5 ft

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 7.



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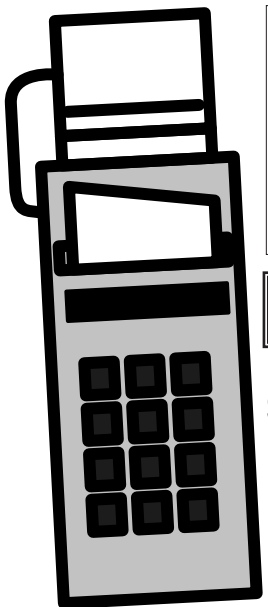
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NOTICE OF COMPLETION & PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR), ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) & SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given on the completion and availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4(f) Evaluation on the following project:

PROJECT LOCATION: SANTA MONICA PIER, SANTA MONICA , CALIFORNIA 90401

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The Draft EIR /EA analyzes five (5) different alternatives and a No Project alternative for improving both pedestrian and vehicle access to the Santa Monica Pier. Each alternative includes seismic strengthening of the Pier.

The alternatives are as follows:

1. **Locally Preferred Project: Parallel Vehicular Ramp with ADA Accessible Sidewalk:** The Pier would be reinforced and widened to include 8 foot sidewalks on both sides of the Pier Bridge with the north side sidewalk being ADA compliant. The Pier Sign would be relocated 5.5 feet to the north but not structurally altered. A one-way vehicular ramp would be constructed at the northern side of the Pier Bridge to feed traffic to the existing City parking lot at 1550 PCH.
2. **Parallel Vehicular Ramp and South Bridge Sidewalk:** The Pier would be reinforced and widened to provide a 16 foot wide sidewalk on the south side of the Pier Bridge only. A one-way vehicular ramp would be constructed at the northern side of the Pier Bridge to feed traf- fic to the existing City parking lot at 1550 PCH. The total width of the Pier would be increased by 11 feet on the north side and the Pier Sign would be relocated 13.5 feet to the north to span the roadway, but not be structurally altered.
3. **Ramp Through the Pier Deck:** This alternative would construct a vehicle access ramp through the Pier Deck to a bay underneath the Pier that feeds into the parking lot at 1550 PCH. The Pier Bridge would be reinforced and widened to include 8 foot wide sidewalks on either side. The Pier Sign would be relocated 5.5 feet to the north but not structurally altered.
4. **Pier Bridge Widening with North and South Bridge Sidewalks:** This alternative would rein- force and widen the pier by 11 feet on the north side and provides 8 foot sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. There would be no construction of a ramp. The Pier Sign would be relo- cated 5.5 feet to the north but not structurally altered.
5. **Pedestrian-Only Bridge with Service/Emergency Vehicle Access Only and Replacement Parking:** This alternative would reinforce and convert the bridge to primarily a pedestrian-only bridge that would allow service and emergency vehicles only. This would result in the loss of 283 parking spaces located on the Pier. This document analyzes the construction of replace- ment parking nearby. The Pier Bridge would not be widened; therefore, the Pier Sign would not be re-located.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) Evaluation on this project is available for your review and comment. This document exam- ines impacts of the proposed project on the City's environment including the historic Pier Sign. Environmental effects of one or more of these options may include: Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Historic Resources, Noise (during construction), and Vehicle Circulation. Impact areas analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report are: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Archaeological Resources, Biological Resources, Hazardous Materials, Historic Resources, Noise, Access, Pedestrian Circulation and Parking, Land Use.

HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR/EA: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. A copy of the document is available for your review in the following locations:

City Planning Counter, Room 111, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401
Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

If you have comments about the DEIR, you should forward them to Sarah Lejeune, AICP, Senior Planner, so that they can be considered.

COMMENT PERIOD: Monday August 7, 2006 through Wednesday, September 20, 2006

DUE DATE FOR COMMENTS: Wednesday, September 20, 2006, (5:00 p.m.)

WHERE TO SEND COMMENTS: City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401-3295; Attention: Sarah Lejeune, AICP, Senior Planner. Telephone: (310) 458-8341. e-mail: sarah.lejeune@SMGOV.net

PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS: During the time that the EIR is circulating for review, there will be two public meetings at which the public may comment.

Monday , August 21, 2006: Santa Monica Pier Restoration Committee Meeting
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Monday, September 11, 2006-7:00PM: Landmarks Commission Meeting
City Council Chambers, Room 213, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: Following the completion of the Final EIR, additional notice will be given upon scheduling a Public Hearing before the City Council to certify the EIR, review the project options and select an option for final design and construction.

STATE BRIEFS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Mayor in the zone about gridlock

The city is using increased fines to battle rush-hour gridlock. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa signed an ordinance Thursday to create 23 “anti-gridlock zones” throughout the city.

Fines for blocking lanes in those zones during rush hours will jump from \$65 to \$140 when the ordinance takes effect in 30 days, officials said.

All anti-gridlock zones will be marked and enforced by mid-September, officials said. Villaraigosa said the measure, like stopping construction during rush hours and post- ing officers at busy corners, is one of the “small things” the city is doing to help improve traffic flow.

GLENDALE

Restaurateur’s death a mystery

The 80-year-old matriarch of a famous family of Los Angeles restaurateurs has died under mysterious circumstances, police said.

Jean Clinton Roeschlaub’s body was found Wednesday in her penthouse condomini- um, Officer John Balian said. Her death was suspicious, officials said, but released few details.

Roeschlaub was the daughter of Clifford and Nelda Clinton, who founded the down- town Los Angeles Clifton’s Cafeteria during the Great Depression.

The restaurant has since become revered for its over-the-top decor of indoor water- falls and gaudy murals. But according to the its Web site, it was known in its early days as a place where customers were called “guests,” and no one ever was turned away hun- gry, including those with no money.

Clinton Roeschlaub was one of three children who grew up working summer vaca- tions at Clifton’s. An autopsy was being conducted.

PICO RIVERA

Grocers not going without a fight

A community group has filed a lawsuit against the city for allowing the Wal-Mart store in the town’s center to become a “Supercenter” that sells groceries.

The expansion now under construction would lead to the closure of smaller grocery stores, according to the suit received by the city this week.

"It seems like the city is shooting itself in the foot on this because it has worked for 30 years to try to improve its blighted condition by bringing in grocery stores,” said attor- ney John McClendon of the group Citizens for Political Responsibility.

City Attorney Jamie Casso said he was reviewing the lawsuit and plans to bring it to the City Council for a response.

BALDWIN PARK

Man arrested after boy in his care dies

Deputies arrested a man after his girlfriend’s 3-year-old son died from injuries sus- tained under his care, officials said.

Homicide detectives were awaiting results of the autopsy on Xavier Gonzales to deter- mine if Mark Anthony Ortiz will be charged with murder, officials said. The case was to be presented Friday to the district attorney’s office.

Ortiz, 19, of Baldwin Park, was booked for investigation of child abuse Tuesday and held in lieu of \$1 million bail, officials said.

Ortiz told paramedics Monday that the toddler fell and later went into convulsions, coroner’s spokesman Craig Harvey said.

Coroner’s officials initially attributed the toddler’s death to natural causes, but changed that to homicide on Tuesday.

Marks on the child’s body indicated more than a fall or a seizure, sheriff’s Lt. Gil Carrillo said.

WHITTIER

Heavy metal took some heavy moolah

The organizer behind a seven-band heavy metal concert said he was forced to cancel the event after city officials made a last-minute change to his contract.

The concert was to have taken place Aug. 16 at the city’s 450-person-capacity Community Theatre. But after the city produced the new contract Wednesday, its cost tripled, Dave Valles said.

Valles said city officials created unreasonable barriers to block his event because they don’t like heavy metal. Officials portrayed the teenage members of local bands set to play at the concert as “bloodthirsty animals,” said Valles.

Assistant City Manager Nancy Mendez denied the city was biased against heavy metal. She said officials took a “closer look” at the contract after reading disturbing messages about the event on networking Web site MySpace.com.

“There were some references to blood and violence,” she said. “Even though that was just talk, and probably no fault of the promoter, it did stiffen some of our requirements.”

SAN CLEMENTE

Where there’s smoke, there’s ganja

Firefighters discovered an apparent marijuana-growing operation when they responded to reports of smoke coming from a home, officials said.

Crews found some 300 marijuana plants with a street value of about \$100,000, Orange County sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino said.

The house had an elaborate watering system, lights, fertilizers, and other growing aids, but no furniture, officials said.

The smoke came from a smoldering fire in a garage wall, where a power source had been illegally tapped, Amormino said.

“What caused the fire was an illegal electrical hookup to gain more access to electric- ity to make the plants grow better,” Amormino said.

Authorities weren’t sure if the family to whom the home was leased actually lived there, Amormino said.

Border squeeze affects California

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

TECATE — The number of immigrants illegally jumping the California-Mexico border appears to be increasing as enforcement gets tougher in Arizona, Border Patrol arrest statistics suggest.

It's known as the water-balloon effect: Squeeze one spot and illegal immigration will bulge elsewhere along the 1,952-mile frontier.

While overall arrests have fallen a modest 3 percent since October, they are up sharply in some places, including the San Diego area. Thanks to a surge in hiring new agents, the Border Patrol says it's ready for a shift in traffic. Skeptics aren't so sure.

In the early 1990s, San Diego was overrun by border crossers. Hundreds at a time stormed the world's busiest border crossing, paralyzing motorists on Interstate 5. Migrants waltzed freely over to vendors who catered to them in nearby canyons.

A crackdown launched in 1994 and modeled on a similar effort in El Paso, Texas, pushed many migrants away from the border's two largest cities and into Arizona's mountains and deserts. Total arrests ebbed and flowed over the last decade but changed little: 1.3 million in 1995 versus 1.2 million in 2005.

Arrests in the Border Patrol's sector around Tucson, Ariz., are down 9 percent to 345,973 since October compared to the previous year, though it is still the busiest corridor. Meanwhile, arrests rose 19 percent to 175,324 between the two sectors that span all but a few miles of California's border with Mexico.

The recent arrest spike in and around San Diego comes as the Border Patrol grows from 11,800 agents today to 18,000 by the end of 2008. That force will be supported by up to 6,000 National Guard troops.

Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar said last month that San Diego is "very well prepared."

Skeptics say that no matter how many agents there are or where they are positioned, the rush of border crossers would continue as long as jobs were easy to get.

"You can put a million agents along the U.S.-Mexican border and that alone is not going to stop the pressure and flow of migrants," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

The spike in traffic is invisible to most San Diego residents because migrants cross in rugged terrain east of the seaside city of 1.3 million people.

The mountains and canyons are scorching in summer and freezing in winter. Unlike Arizona, tall trees and dense chaparral offer shade and hiding places. It is not an easy place to patrol.

At midnight one muggy July night, Nicholas Coates and other Border Patrol agents converged on an area where sensors

suggested a group of about 10 migrants was walking. He tracked fresh footprints and broken twigs on a dirt path, then wrestled thick brush.

"They could be right here," he said around 2:30 a.m., shortly before giving up. "If they get in the brush, it's very hard to see them."

As an early sun burned, he captured three migrants in another large group after a two-hour chase, mostly on foot and with an assist from a helicopter and other agents.

The mountains surround California's Tecate, about 35 miles east of San Diego, which is home to little more than a small strip mall.

Mexico's Tecate is a pleasant town of about 60,000 people with a shaded central square, a spa that draws American tourists and a hulking brewery that bears its name. It doesn't look like a pit stop for border crossers.

A migrant shelter will grow from 20 beds to 200 when it moves to a new building in a few months, but the bus station is tiny and quiet, and there are few boarding houses. Unlike other border towns, few men with backpacks mill around.

Border crossers hop off a bus or taxi somewhere outside the city on a short trip from Tijuana, a city of 1.2 million people whose airport and bus station teem with smugglers looking for business.

Many migrants rest at Tijuana's red-light district hotels before the trek, which lasts at least two days. Drivers wait for them on the U.S. side to take them to a safe house.

"People come here when they tried elsewhere and failed," said Daniel Rivera, 63, who works for smugglers looking for customers near the 'Aqui Te Espero' ('I'll Wait for You Here') cafe in Tijuana's red-light district.

He said it costs \$1,600 to be guided through the mountains near Tecate, typically in groups of four or five men, up from about \$300 in the early 1990s. That inflation reflects how much harder it has become since the U.S. government tightened the noose in urban areas.

Word that hundreds of migrants have died crossing Arizona's unforgiving deserts may also contribute to the shift to California, said Wayne Cornelius, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego. His interviews this year with 724 people in the Mexican state of Yucatan found San Diego was by far the favored crossing area.

Jose Reyes, 32, had enough of Arizona after he and 16 others were picked up by the Border Patrol three months ago. After crossing near Douglas, they walked five days and drank water from cattle tanks.

"We turned ourselves in (to the Border Patrol); they were our salvation," said Reyes, who spoke at a Tijuana migrant shelter. He planned to attempt another crossing, this time near Tecate, on his way to a dishwasher job in San Francisco.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oh pooh, get serious already

Editor:
I just read your article regarding the removal of Valerie Hiss’ doggie houses (SMDP, Aug. 4, page 1). I keep waiting for the punch line as I assume it had to be a joke. Is it only a matter of time before City Hall workers start removing children’s swings that hang on many of the city’s trees as well? Bird houses — in essence what Ms. Hiss’s boxes are albeit serving a different purpose to nature — and children’s swings have been hung from trees for centuries. What’s the fuss about? Potential pests and disease? Most of the trees that anchor these doggie houses were here before many of us were and I would venture a guess that many of them will be here long after we are gone.
I am disgusted that some corridors of our city reek of human urine and feces, yet my tax dollars are compensating a city worker to remove what I feel is a great service to the community. Ms. Hiss should be commended, not punished, and City Hall should be ashamed.

Molly Scott
Santa Monica

Doo-doo ... Doo don’t

Editor:
It’s official. Now I’m embarrassed to live in this city and you should be too. In regards to the doggie houses article (SMDP, Aug. 4, page 1), why would any city take action against something being done to improve neighborhoods at no cost? Since when does the environmental and public works department step into action for one complaint? I had, and still have, a tree that was planted, then damaged in my front yard. For weeks, I called to have someone come out and fix it. Over a year, later nothing has happened.
How about all the beautiful plants that numerous individuals have planted in the public areas in front of their houses? Technically, that’s illegal. Will it only take one complaint and every single “unauthorized rogue” garden will have to be removed? This town has become a bureaucratic nightmare over the course of the last 20 years. How about we concentrate on a few things that really are a problem here? Doesn’t hundreds of homeless people laying in the same spot in a public park for days at a time kill a grassy area?

Peter Shopay
Santa Monica

Intention is stellar, implementation not so much

Editor:
Let us all chill for a moment, including the city — no more knee-jerk reactions over misguiding headlines and no more armchair quarterbacking. From global to more local issues, society and its special interests has refined the art of grandstanding.
More to the point: The establishment of doggie bag dispensers where needed/requested was an outstanding example of an individual making a difference — remember to vote as well — but anyone with an ounce of “thinking out of the box” would have realized that putting a screw or other invasive fastening system into a tree (think: Living organism) is tantamount to nailing your hand to the keyboard — undue pain and suffering (SMDP, Aug. 4, pages 1 and 4). Please look at it. The city is correct in protecting their “forest” and minimizing contrary precedents to policies protecting city assets.
It is a shame that the city’s efforts to duplicate Ms. Hiss’ intentions in a public park met with greed and failure through the theft of the baggies or vandalism. This is just another small example of society being as good as the worst individual. Where is the dog owner consortium? Let’s be in the solution. No more negativity and finger-pointing. However, I am not inclined to subsidize what I consider someone else’s responsibility by having the city use tax money or council time to solve an issue that pertains to dog owners, even though their behavior may affect the city’s quality of life.

Kevin McNulty
Santa Monica

No light at the end of the tunnel for smokers

Editor:
Your articles on the Santa Monica smoking ban made interesting reading and highlighted many similarities to the time leading up to the smoking ban in the U.K.
The pressure and lobbyists make sure that their voice is heard, and the merchants who have a lot to lose hear little of what is going on. We heard amazing statements of polls suggesting how a massive percentage of people wanted the ban. These polls were commissioned by ASH and Cancer Research U.K., and only after the bill was passed by Parliament did we learn from the government’s own independent Office of National Statistics that this enthusiasm for a ban was only 33 percent, not the claimed 71 percent. What is worse, however, as happened in your article, is that the people, both smokers and tolerant non-smokers, are totally ignored. These people are individuals who play no part in any lobby or trade group. They are not crusaders, but simply citizens whose lives will change forever.
Smoking may not be good, but life, living and simple pleasures are ignored in the fight against tobacco. It is already obvious from Ireland that smoking is increasing. The publicity of smoking bans and their unintended consequences are tobacco’s best advert.
Smoking is a social activity and will continue. Don’t put it out into the streets in full view of children or force it into the home where again children will be exposed. Keep smoking in the adult atmosphere of bars where it belongs out of sight of children.

Chris Broscomb
The United Kingdom

Table for one, Mr. President?



MODERN
TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

Miami Dolphins’ head football coach Nick Saban last week was invited to join President Bush for dinner. The coach turned down the president, saying he was too busy.

You’ve got to be awfully busy to be too busy to eat with the President. And this wasn’t some big fundraising dinner. This was a casual dinner at Joe’s Stone Crabs in Miami Beach. Saban said he was just “too focused” on the team right now. Too focused? The football season hasn’t even started yet. And as my grandmother would have said, “You’ve got to eat.”

I think Saban had every right to say “no.” And I don’t think he was being disrespectful. I’m just surprised that anyone is too busy to have dinner with the president. I mean, how often do you get asked? If he invited me, I’d go — even if there was a big game on TV, and if I didn’t like the restaurant he was choosing. I’d TiVo the game and get a salad.

I’m sure some people think that maybe Saban decided not to go because he disagrees with the president’s politics. I’ve seen no evidence to support this theory. Besides, if you disapproved of the president’s policies, or if you just didn’t like him, wouldn’t you want to have dinner with him to give him a piece of your mind? Wouldn’t you want a chance to tell him how you’d be able to run the country better than he’s doing?

Perhaps Saban didn’t want to join the president because it was one of those nights like we all have when we don’t feel like putting on a clean pair of pants and would just rather stay home. Or maybe we should take Saban’s reason at face value. Maybe he’s a focused workaholic football coach who can’t take a break for anything — even dinner with the president.

But I’m concerned that this rejection is really going to bother the president. To make things worse, other heads of state might tease him about it. And I don’t want our leader distracted and depressed. If you didn’t like “the sneer” how do you think you’re going to feel about “the pout?”
If he’s like the rest of us, he can’t help but

wonder why this guy turned him down. It’s like when the Johnsons keep saying they’re busy when you invite them to dinner. Are they really busy, or is it just an excuse?

At first, Mr. Bush will probably try to rationalize it. He’ll tell himself things like, “I’m not upset. I know what an important job coaching a football team is. I’m lucky he took my call,” or “Maybe he was afraid he’d have to pick up the check,” or “Maybe he doesn’t eat shellfish.”

But then the president is bound to be plagued by questions like, “Was it because I called at the last minute?” “Is he holding out for an invitation from somebody who has a more important job than I do?” “Doesn’t he like my new shirt?”

Obviously, by now he’s consulted with Condi Rice and other advisors, so what’s the president’s next move? He might write Saban a note, saying if the coach’s schedule ever frees up, he should just give the president a call. But that sounds a little desperate. The President of the United States shouldn’t have to beg people to eat with him. Besides, if Saban’s too busy to go to dinner, he might be too busy to read and respond to the president’s note. So, if he writes him and doesn’t get an answer, he’s likely to be plummeted further into despair.

Feeling understandably hurt, the president could go with the “I’ll show him” approach. He could invite all the pro football coaches except Saban to dinner. Then, Saban would certainly regret his decision to snub the president. Of course, if all the other coaches say, “No,” that will only make the situation worse.

My advice to the president is to just move on. Don’t obsess about this. Like the rest of us, you’ll never know for sure why somebody doesn’t want to go to dinner with you. Just accept it.

I have some advice for coach Saban, too: For the rest of your life, don’t ever take a break from work and be seen in public having dinner. Secondly, if I were you, I’d be really careful when you fill out your tax returns.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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The Q Line

THE HEAT IS ON FOR SMOKERS TO SCRAM

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Do you agree with the anti-smoking measure in Santa Monica? Does the pending smoking ban in virtually all outdoor places represent the wants and will of Santa Monica voters?"

Here are your responses:

☎ "I applaud the Santa Monica City Council. Sometimes I think their views are a little bit contentious. But on the smoking I think it's absolutely wonderful and I wish more people would do that. I'm now living in a facility because I'm disabled and I have to smell the smoke on some of our patients and I don't like it. I applaud the efforts of the Santa Monica City Council and maybe they could wash it over to a residential care facility, so maybe we can outlaw all the smoking in this town."

☎ "If you ever stood in line at a theater or a restaurant and had smoke blown at you, you would realize how inconsiderate most smokers are. If it takes laws to make our life safer, then the changes should be made and the laws should finally be passed."

☎ "It's good to have laws banning smoking because it smells and it's messy. But what the people of Santa Monica really want is to do something about the bums. One bum can stink more than a dozen smokers and they leave more of their filth and trash all over the place than any bunch of smokers do. They leave messes all over; they take over the parks. If you try to reason with a smoker, ask them politely, they'll usually be polite and put out the cigarette. Try talking to a bum and they'll start ranting and raving, either that or they're too drunk to even acknowledge that you're there. I think that getting rid of the bums is a more important thing to do than getting rid of the smokers."

☎ "On the smoking ban, I can see that people in restaurants, hotels, bars, instead of simply walking outside, they have their cigarette and they need to walk to the middle of the street to have their cigarette. All these ashtrays outside the doors, gotta put them in the street. The police as they slam on their brakes to cite a pedestrian, who knows what evil lurks."

☎ "I think that the proposed smoking ban is absolutely ridiculous and absurd. It will be very economically damaging for Santa Monica, a city that depends upon tourism from European and Japanese visitors. It will drive business out of the city. It also has a potential to be enforced in a very racist manner because statistics show that minorities smoke more than non-Latino whites. This would be, if enforced, used as a tool to drive minorities and the poor out of Santa Monica, once and for all, and turn the city into a wealthy, white enclave on the order of Thousand Oaks, but with homeless. I think the City Council should seriously reconsider their actions regarding this topic. I also think that the City Council, instead of coming up with new loopy ideas for the sake of seeming 'progressive', should just get down to business and just concentrate on efficiently and effectively running the city. I think this focus on innovation for the sake of innovation has just gone way too far. The smoking ban is just an example of how out of touch most of the City Council is with the average person in Santa Monica."

☎ "I'm grateful for the smoking ban, I wish they would extend it to the park land overlooking the ocean. There's nothing worse than enjoying the beautiful sunset, enjoying the ocean, enjoying the breeze, and then getting hit in the throat and lungs with acrid smoke. Ugh, it's

awful. So, the ban is good, thank you."

☎ "I am not a smoker. While I am glad to see that smoking has been banned inside restaurants, bars, clubs, maybe even shops, etc., banning it outdoors is way over the top. The only real problem with smoking outdoors is the trash generated by smokers just tossing their butts. That problem could be solved simply by banning filter-tip cigarettes. Paper and tobacco remnants biodegrade rapidly, but the filters last forever, creating unsightly junk as well as eventually polluting the ocean and damaging sea life, disrupting the food chain. Instead of banning outdoor smoking, ban filter-tip cigarettes and police your butts. Do voters agree? Undoubtedly, many do, given the makeup of the Commi, Fascist, mini-state of Santa Monica."

☎ "I absolutely support the smoking ban and I think it certainly does reflect the will and the desire of Santa Monica voters. I think everybody knows that they deserve to be free from heart disease and lung cancer, and all of the various health diseases that smoking causes and that exposure to second-hand smoke causes. The employees and establishments and the people who patronize the establishments have a right not to be exposed to second-hand smoke, and I think the voters of Santa Monica will support it. I am very strongly in support of it, and I do think it does represent our will as Santa Monica residents."

☎ "I'm fully in agreement. I wish we could make even more stringent laws about the smoking outdoors. I sit in a particular location at Santa Monica College where cigarette smoke gets trapped, and I can get no satisfaction. People sit in front of no-smoking signs, in front of open doors, in front of open windows, and right in front of them they smoke. I mean, they don't care. They will litter the campus with cigarette butts and birds pick them up and it goes into our bay pollution area. Anything even more stringent than the requirements City Council is requesting, I would wholeheartedly endorse. But as a start, I would wholeheartedly endorse these choices."

☎ "I just want to express my support for the Santa Monica City Council's effort to pass a smoke-free outdoor ordinance for the Promenade. Me and my friends are very, very happy. It's the one thing that really hurts our health and it impedes the environment and I look forward to the courage in promoting this for a healthier Santa Monica."

☎ "I'm here at Santa Monica College, and for 18 years I've been breathing in second-hand smoke from employees and students at work, and it's killing me when you combine it with all the construction that has been going on here since the '94 earthquake and Southern California air quality. So yes, we need to ban smoking for the non-smoker, for our health and our families."

☎ "I agree with and support the anti-smoking measures. The executive director and board of directors of Bayside must be a pro-active rather than a re-active partner, and contribute to the health and well-being of Santa Monica. The Main Street Merchants Association must think and act beyond themselves and contribute to the health and well-being of the

Santa Monica community."

☎ "No, I do not agree with the newest smoking ban. True to form, with an election coming up, the City Council has elected to pass another smoking ban. This is supposed to get them re-elected because we're supposed to believe they're working hard at improving our lives. Well, Pam O'Connor is the only incumbent who will get my vote. All smokers have been banished. Will we be able to feel safe in the Pico neighborhood? Will the traffic problem be solved? Will the homeless stop using my backyard as a bedroom? Smoking is not our worst problem. On Sixth and Lincoln, cars block the intersection and I have to wait for two lights to cross. I'm so sick of all the hypocrisy in City Hall. I thought it was illegal to block the intersections, but they do it all the time."

☎ "I can support financially out-of-work PhDs and MDs to say the exact opposite to the second-hand smoke supposed experts. You are likely to ingest more pollutants from the guy sitting next to you at Starbucks who has had a ham, bacon and cheese sandwich for breakfast. I'm glad the comrades at City Hall take a non-issue and confused the gullible in this town with nonsense while the more important and City Hall-induced problems will remain unsolved: Parking, traffic, bums, low-income housing, bums, City Hall, public employees bums. City government always needs to save the sheep in this town with Big Brother cameras, global warming hysteria, ocean pollution, second amendment hindrances, hate speech like Mel Gibson's. I wonder if Mel was smoking when arrested."

☎ "It is indeed a pleasure to learn that my family and friends will once again be able to enjoy living in and indulging ourselves of all the wonderful joys that Santa Monica has to offer as a result of the hopeful smoking ban expected to begin in the near future. It has been a number of years since we have spent a night on the Promenade, shopping and being entertained by the numerous talented performers scattered between Wilshire Boulevard and Broadway because of the smoke-filled air permeating the entire area. It has also been a long, long time since we have gone to the movies because there has always been one rude and obnoxious smoker standing in line of 10 to 20 or more non-smokers waiting in line outdoors to gain entrance to the movie of their choice. Another one of our delights that we have missed for two years or longer is dining at certain restaurants throughout Santa Monica that have patio dining like Coogies on Santa Monica Boulevard. The food is good, but we are tired of eating inside most of the time because the outside area is, even though it's divided into a smoking and non-smoking area, it is still nauseating when the smoke drifts all over the patio as the breeze flows through the trees. Needless to say, we can't wait until the law goes into effect."

☎ "Second-hand smoke does no one any good. Let the selfish, self-centered smokers smoke in their own enclosures only and please, don't bother the rest of us with the health hazard and discomfort."

☎ "It will be such a relief to once again enjoy my Santa Monica, of which I have been a resident since 1968. I am very allergic to cigarettes, and even before I was aware of the health hazards of second-hand smoke, I would politely ask smokers if they would hold their cigarettes in the other hand so the smoke wouldn't drift into my face because of my allergy, and no matter whether I was in line at a movie or sitting behind a smoker at the Hollywood Bowl, whenever and wherever I politely asked, the smoker was always beligerent, always became very angry, and sometimes very nasty. I was always the one

who had to move out of line or leave the concert. It took a long time for the hazards of second-hand smoke to be known. And at least now I will be able to breathe again in public places without sneezing and having watery eyes and a runny nose."

☎ "I think that anti-smoking laws penalize not only Santa Monica residents, but all our guests and visitors that come here. How restrictive can they get? I'd advise everybody that this is a junk of a council and we need to get them out, smoke them out. It's just unfair, what they've done to the business realm and to our personal lifestyle. You can't even go out and smoke while you're having breakfast in the outside in the fresh air. You can't go to the park because that's reserved for the dogs. It's a horrible situation. I don't know how a council could do something like that. Like all other people that want to restrict their values, they'll say it's better for all people who don't smoke so they won't have to breathe our air and the smoke that we exude from our cigarettes, which is already proven that it doesn't affect other people, not to any degree anyway. People all over the world are much smarter than we are. Next, they're going to restrict our cars and the exhaust from our cars, and everything else. Anyways, I wish you guys luck."

☎ "I do not agree with the city's anti-smoking measures. Why keep on picking on smokers? They're already picked on socially for the nasty habits of a few. They are also taxed to death and those revenues go for social programs not to help those with lung cancer or health problems due to smoking. If all those smokers stop smoking for a few weeks, there would be a panic to get them to start again so jobs could be saved both in the cigarette industry and in all the social programs that are being funded by cigarette taxes. The smoking issue allows the City Council to put important issues on the back burner like homelessness, traffic and parking. Look at the more recent issues before this one: The height of hedges on trees and the squirrels allowing them to take over Palisades Park so it can become a sanctuary for the homeless and the squirrels. What other big issue would they like to tackle next? I say vote them out."

☎ "It would take a well-seasoned psychologist to explain why members of the human race are set out to destroy themselves. It is not just cigarettes, it's also booze and other drugs and reckless driving. Any ban that would contribute to a more healthy community is fine with me."

☎ "I'm happy with the ban. I feel like if you're a person that's addicted to anything, then get help and stop getting us involved with your addictions. Smoke, well, it stinks to be honest."

☎ "I'm calling in to say I completely agree with the City Council and that Third Street Promenade and all other public places in Santa Monica should be smoke-free, especially where I go. I don't smoke. My daughter is highly asthmatic, whenever she gets around tobacco smoke she just starts wheezing and coughing uncontrollably. This has limited our excursions to the Third Street Promenade and now, with the passing of this law, having it smoke-free, we as a family can now go down the street to any shop and eat at any restaurant without the fear that our daughter getting sick and us having to go home again. So I'm completely in support of smoke-free Third Street Promenade."

☎ "I support the City Council's adoption of smoke-free policies. I'm tired of going around smokers and trying to enjoy an outdoor patio when there are smokers nearby. So I think it will be a wonderful thing for all the public places. I'm really looking forward to it."

Riders honor half-myth, half-real Robin Hood

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

MADERA — Hoofbeats pounded the dry dirt into fine powder. Though the sun had just arched over the surrounding orchards, sweat covered the horses and riders and formed muddy rivulets as it mixed with the dust.

In spite of the day's triple-digit heat, dozens of Californians of Mexican descent joined the start of a three-day ride over 70 miles of country roads, their yearly homage to Joaquin Murrieta, Central California's own Gold Rush-era Robin Hood.

"He's a hero to the poor, to the people of these ranches — and the first one around here who stood up for our rights," said Victor Valenzuela, a construction contractor who considers himself a descendent of one of the men who rode with Murrieta.

The legend of Murrieta began with newspaper accounts of the crimes he committed in the 1850s, when he roamed the vast San Joaquin Valley and the gold-bearing foothills of the Sierra Nevada with his band, the Five Joaquins.

Over time, his exploits took on mythic proportions as Mexican-Americans made him a hero of the downtrodden, someone who spoke to their identity and tied them to the landscape. Later versions of the story tell of a Mexican miner who turned avenging bandit after suffering violence at the hands of the ruling Anglos. He robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, adopting one of folklore's oldest themes.

When the annual rides began in the early 1980s, the horseman seized on Murrieta's story to draw attention to the plight of farmworkers being forced from their homes by

Fresno County officials who said the structures weren't up to code, said Tomas Nunez, a lawyer from Fresno who serves as the group's historian.

"He was a symbol of the fight against the injustice these people were suffering," he said.

That legacy is what inspired Valenzuela to leave behind his air-conditioned home near Sacramento and bring his three children along for this year's ride, his 15th, late last month.

"It's a real source of pride," he said in Spanish, tightening the straps on his horse Hosco's saddle.

On the first day of the ride, Valenzuela wore a broad-brimmed sombrero and suede chaps with buttons of bone. He was saving his charro outfit — the typical attire of the Mexican cowboy — for the third day, Sunday, when the riders would attend Mass and a priest would bless their horses.

But some riders couldn't wait for the last day to dress up.

The silver on their saddles and dark sombreros glinted through the clouds of dust as they paraded alongside rows of grapevines and peach trees, following the route they believe to have been the Five Joaquins' final journey.

The group has grown from the original handful to 200 or so participants who ride each year from Madera to the dusty hamlet of Cantua Creek, where Murrieta's band was ambushed by rangers. This year, nearly 300 people joined at least part of the observance.

The commemoration gives riders an opportunity to show off their horsemanship. Evening encampments are filled with couples dancing to the staccato rhythm of accordion music, and exhibitions of horses

trained to prance to the festive beat.

More importantly, participants say, it keeps alive the spirit of Murrieta, who defended Mexicans at a time when few others would.

"A lot of Mexican people were losing land to squatters, losing their rights," Nunez said during a midday stop when the riders grilled meat over an open fire and rested on hay bales in the only shade they would see all day. "Society didn't afford Mexicans a way of making a living. We were discriminated against, couldn't vote, couldn't hold office or testify against a white person."

Little is known about Murrieta the man, as journalists of the time were prone to drama and exaggeration, said Bruce Thornton, a professor at California State University, Fresno, who wrote a book about the bandit.

Many believe he was born to a mining family in Sonora, Mexico, and made his way to California around 1850 — amid the lawlessness that followed the state's hand-over from Mexico to the United States, the discovery of gold in the foothills and the influx of hundreds of thousands of fortune-seekers.

The articles describe a bandit who roamed California committing extraordinary violence, robbing thousands of dollars in gold, stealing horses, and killing more than a dozen people, many of them Chinese laborers. It's unknown whether all the crimes attributed to Murrieta were actually committed by him.

"There was basically no law and order at the time, so you could take your pick of the crime you wanted to commit," Thornton said. "But newspaper articles could be little

morality tales, meant to make a point, and known for inaccuracies."

But Murrieta's gang caused enough trouble that on May 11, 1853, the California Legislature signed an act establishing the California Rangers, led by Capt. Harry Love, who were to be paid \$150 a month until they captured the Five Joaquins.

They caught up to Murrieta's gang on July 25, 1853, in Cantua Creek, where they killed Murrieta and several of his cohorts. Accounts say the bandit's head was taken around the state in a jar, along with the severed hand of Three Fingers, one of his men.

But there are others who believe Murrieta escaped the massacre that claimed many in his band. And thus the legend was born.

A year after the ambush at Cantua Creek, the first dramatized account of Murrieta's life — "The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murrieta, the Celebrated California Bandit" — was published by journalist John Rollin Ridge.

The novel describes three blows said to have turned the peaceful miner into an avenging outlaw — being driven from the claim he'd staked, seeing his brother lynched, and finally, seeing his home destroyed and his wife raped.

The romantic image mirrors pictures published in books and newspapers at the time. Produced by painter Charles Nahl, they depict a dashing, swarthy Murrieta with his long tresses blowing in the wind.

Like most details surrounding Murrieta, his defense of the poor is disputed. Thornton pointed out that he was said to have killed a number of Chinese workers, who were more discriminated against than the Mexicans.

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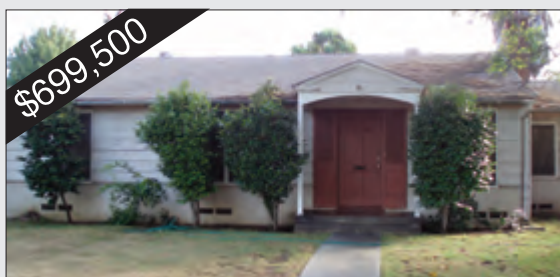
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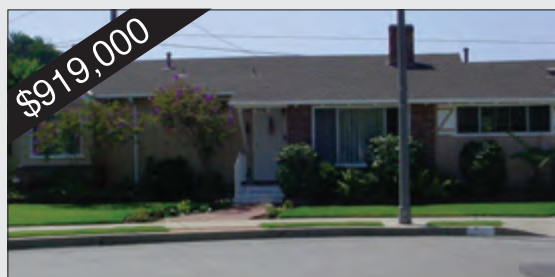
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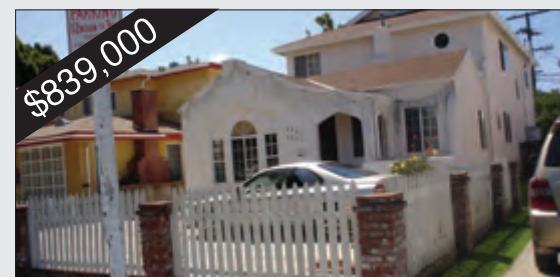
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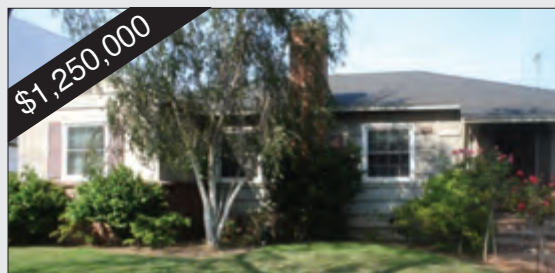
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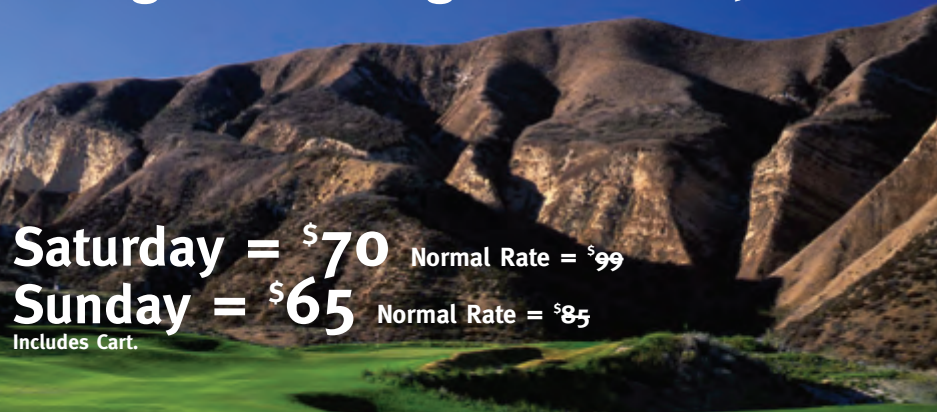
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Pet insurance gaining a paw-hold in America

BY JAYMES SONG

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Teddy and Rosie are inseparable. They run around together. They eat together. They snore together. They drool together.

Earlier this year, the stocky 2-year-old pugs both became ill after munching on some plants in the yard. Rosie needed extensive treatment, racking up a veterinary bill of \$1,200. Teddy's bill was about \$200.

"I was so worried because the doctor said it was serious," said Claire Higashi, the dogs' owner. "It was very scary."

One worry she didn't have was the vet bills. Teddy and Rosie had their own insurance.

Higashi, 46, a Honolulu businesswoman, is among 700 pet owners in Hawaii and about 400,000 nationwide covered by Veterinary Pet Insurance Co., the nation's oldest and largest pet insurance provider with nearly 80 percent of the market.

Other smaller companies include PetCare, Petshealth Care Plan and Pets Best.

While insuring pets is common in Sweden and the United Kingdom, fewer than 1 percent of U.S. pet owners have coverage from a handful of companies. But it is quickly growing in popularity as more animal lovers are making sure they are never faced with choosing between money and veterinary care.

Being a worrier and hearing stories from friends about their pets' monster medical bills, Higashi insured Teddy and Rosie as soon as she bought them and named them after President Theodore Roosevelt. Her monthly premium is \$28 per dog, or \$336 a year.

"I didn't think twice about it," Higashi said. "Obviously, you want medical insurance for your children. They're also part of my family. They just happen to be dogs."

The policies have already paid off. Rosie had a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting last year. She required hospitalization and medication, costing more than \$1,000. About \$600 was covered by VPI.

"I would've paid for it anyway (without coverage), but it would have been a big financial burden on me," Higashi said.

Founded in 1980, Brea, Calif.-based VPI said the number of its policies is growing about 25 percent annually, with 40,000 new customers so far this year alone. The company insures everything from snakes to pet chickens.

"What they are buying is peace of mind," said Dr. Kent Kruse, a veterinarian and a VPI director.

Premiums range from about \$25 to \$64 a

month for dogs and \$21 to \$52 for cats, based on their age, Kruse said.

Dr. Bonnie Beaver of the American Veterinary Medical Association said medical care costs are rarely considered by new pet owners. She recommends pet insurance or a savings account to set aside money every month for emergencies.

Beaver said preventive health care, including routine visits to the vet, can also save money in the long run.

"You love this animal. You're attached to it. You don't want to have to make the decision to euthanize it because you can't afford it," she said.

Many times, however, owners choose to put their pets to sleep because they cannot pay or are unwilling to do so. It's referred to as "economic euthanasia," which Beaver said is common in the United States.

Kruse said it's a heart-wrenching moment that he has experienced many times.

"It's the worst for the pet owner. Obviously, it doesn't do the pet any good and it's terrible for the veterinarian," he said. "The worst thing that we have to face is to know we've got a medical solution but we can't use our knowledge and skills to help this pet because the client can't afford it."

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, dog owners spend an average of \$211 annually on routine medical care, while cat owners spend about \$179. But accidental injuries and diseases such as cancer can cost thousands of dollars.

The average amount pet owners are willing to pay before they choose not to treat their pets has been steadily rising and is expected to reach \$1,243 this year, according to VPI.

Some pet owners are willing to spend any amount. Others opt for cheaper, less-than-ideal treatments, such as a splint for a pet's broken leg instead of surgical repair.

Kruse said when he finished veterinarian school, he considered himself an "animal mechanic."

"I was in practice probably six or eight months before it actually dawned on me that really who I was administering to were the pet owners through their pets," he said.

Higashi said she hopes her playful pugs will never need the insurance coverage again, but she's glad it is there.

"It's just like medical insurance for your family. It's just in case. It's a security blanket," she said.

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BY TRACY SAWYER

Associated Press Writer

ELLENBURG, Wash. — It's Woodstock without the music.

About 700 gatherers set up a makeshift village at 6,300 feet in the thin mountain air of the Washington Cascades, where they live for three days.

Instead of rock 'n' roll, it's about constellations, supernovas and all that glitters in the night. The annual Table Mountain Star Party, which was held in late July, is now in its 26th year and brings together astronomers of all levels of expertise, from the professional to those who've never looked into a telescope. And just like the flower children of the 1960s, these star children are willing to share, especially a view from their telescope.

Ajai Sehgal, 43, of Woodinville, Wash., has come to the party for several years.

The software engineer says he's a semi-professional astronomer who's been a stargazer since he was 6, when he watched the Apollo 11 moon landing on television.

"I wanted to be an astronaut ever since then," he says. Only problem is, he's Canadian and, unbeknownst to him, not eligible. Instead, he opted for the next best thing: He became a fighter pilot who dabbled in astronomy.

That's if you consider about \$20,000 worth of equipment dabbling.

Sehgal and three of his co-workers set up their own version of a space station — a row of portable observatories that also include a sleeping bunk.

Inside each tentlike structure sat an elaborate telescope that was controlled by solar panels. A camera was attached as well in case a photo op presented itself.

Sehgal shares his views willingly, offering up a look at the burning sun. But first, he makes sure the proper filters are in place. Through the telescope, the sun is bright red.

The cost of admittance to the view is to share with as many people as possible that

it's true — you can really fry your eyeballs if you look at the sun without protection.

You've been warned.

Sehgal also wants everyone to know that all of the ingredients of life are found in stardust that is dispersed when a supernova explodes.

"People think it's wild when we say we are made of stardust," he says. "It sounds so far-fetched until you realize we really are stardust."

Don't be fooled, though, Sehgal and his pals, Glenn Wallace and Jason Carlson, aren't exactly roughing it in the wild and they aren't exactly new-agers.

During the day, when the party's on downtime, the friends kick back with steaks, brie, fine wine, scotch and microbrews.

Organizer Frank Gilliland of Issaquah is quick to point out to the foursome that members of another group spend their days dining on caviar.

Beside the bring-your-own fine dining, various presentations on stargazing are held throughout the day with a keynote speaker wrapping up the day's activities.

But, it's really the nighttime everyone is waiting for.

The kids have their own area where, beside learning about the cosmos, they can play alien laser tag, take a geological walk or play astro bingo.

The event is very kid-friendly, Gilliland points out.

"The kids take off and do their own thing," Gilliland says, "and sometimes parents don't see them until it's time to go home."

Gilliland and the event's founder, Thom Jenkins, are especially proud of the educational opportunities the party offers kids.

"Otherwise it's just big boys with their toys," Gilliland says jokingly.

Jenkins, of Spokane, says he started the event 26 years ago and never expected it to become as popular as it is today.

The event has been held at the Table Mountain location since its inception.



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Getting to second bass



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Left) Jesse Wagner, lead guitarist and vocalist for the Aggrolites, performs at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday as part of the summer-long Twilight Dance Series. On bass is J. Bonner. (Top) Joey Altruda, of Joey Altruda's Classic Riddims, plucks his bass at Thursday's concert on the Pier while David Ralickie accompanies him on trombone.

Homeless providers take gamble

DOWN AND OUT IN VEGAS, from page 1

for KLAS-TV, the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas.

Beth Monk, a KKLZ-FM radio morning show personality, became the first person to receive a summons under a new city law that makes feeding the homeless a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 and six months in jail.

"The idea was to go out there and show the mayor this ordinance makes no sense whatsoever," said Monk, 24, a traffic reporter and radio comedy team sidekick who has engaged in publicity stunts including mud wrestling on the job.

Monk said city marshals confiscated food and water she set on a cement wall at Frank Wright Park — a patch of green wedged between a downtown bus terminal, a historic post office building and Las Vegas City Hall. She was threatened with arrest if she did not leave.

"I think right now everyone's realizing how outrageous this is," Monk said in a telephone interview.

The city of Santa Monica passed a similar law in 2002, but did it under the auspices of a "Community Events and Food Distribution Ordinance," which requires

groups of 150 people or more who gather in public places, including parks, streets and sidewalks, to obtain an event permit from City Hall, and if food is served, a permit from Los Angeles County health officials. The move came amid pressure from the business community, who argued that the majority of the homeless population congregate in downtown Santa Monica because free food is readily available.

The ACLU and a civil rights group called "Food Not Bombs" sued City Hall over the law. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the city's ordinance, but groups still hold regular food lines sometimes referred to as "family picnics" at Palisades Park and on the lawn in front of City Hall — serving a maximum of 149 people.

The ruling was seen as a major victory for municipalities, which have long struggled with how to better regulate and protect the public during demonstrations, or in Santa Monica's case, the public feeding of the homeless. There has been some concern from city officials that public health standards are not being enforced during the feedings, and that the law should be a way to force food providers indoors, specifically at

social service centers that can offer counseling and other support services.

On Monday in Las Vegas, two people also were arrested for trespassing before 7 a.m. at Huntridge Circle Park, city spokesman Jace Radke said. Huntridge is an urban park several blocks east of downtown where city officials first acted against so-called soup kitchen meals for homeless people.

"The ordinance makes it illegal to run mobile soup kitchens or feed the homeless in city parks," Radke said. "Marshals are going to enforce the law."

Bob Stoldal, vice president of news for KLAS, said he had not decided whether to fight trespassing summonses issued to reporter Kyla Grogan and photojournalist Jorge Montez.

"We're going to continue to cover the story very aggressively at all public parks," Stoldal said.

The staged protest came less than two weeks after the Las Vegas City Council passed a law criminalizing charity in parks, and a month after the city began rounding up homeless people for 72-hour mental health evaluations.

Officials, led by Mayor Oscar Goodman, say they want a long-term solution to homeless-

ness rather than stopgap measures in a city with limited resources for those living on the streets.

"Rather than giving someone a sandwich once a day, the city supports efforts to end the cycle of homelessness and address the issues that keep these individuals on the streets," the mayor's office said in a statement Monday. It calls for the homeless to seek aid at social service agencies.

Activists and civil libertarians called the crackdown unfair and unconstitutional.

"They are treating people in public spaces in a way that is inconsistent with the First Amendment and our nation's history," said Lee Rowland, American Civil Liberties of Nevada public advocate in Las Vegas. She promised a lawsuit challenging the city law.

Linda Lera-Randel El, longtime executive director of Straight from the Streets, a Las Vegas area homeless advocacy group, said she distributed water, sandwiches and bus tokens at the City Hall park Monday, but was not issued a summons.

"I'm not saying feeding people in the park is the answer," she said. "But I don't think people in power can just pass an ordinance every time they don't like something or they're frustrated by the inability to fix it."

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SMRR convention kickstarts '06 races

SMRR, from page 1

been opposed by SMRR and won, but not without having to shell out a considerable amount of time and money, according to interviews with elected officials and community members steeped in local politics.

"SMRR? Who's SMRR?" joked City Councilman Herb Katz, who has long been at odds with the group over development issues. "Obviously, they're a political powerhouse. Make no mistake about it, they're a (political action committee), around solely to raise money to retain their political power. They do it all year long, and if you look at candidates like myself who are not supported by SMRR, the money we can raise is peanuts compared to what SMRR can raise."

Under campaign contribution laws, candidates can only accept \$250 per person, whereas a political action committee like SMRR has no limits. In a city where campaigns for City Council can cost as much as \$100,000, having SMRR in a candidate's corner is a significant advantage.

"When you limit campaign contributions, particularly as drastic as we do here, then independent expenditure committees, which I believe SMRR really is, play a significant role in deciding the outcome," said real estate attorney Tom Larmore, who has fought SMRR on a host of issues over the years, including an attempt by the group to pass a living wage ordinance in Santa Monica. "However, with that money comes

an expectation and some candidates can lose control of their own election and become beholden to SMRR.

"If they don't do their bidding, they're booted out at the next convention."

The SMRR convention will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at Olympic High School, at which members will cast secret ballots for the candidates of their choice. There will be endorsements made for City Council, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and the city's Rent Control Board. Candidates must receive 55 percent of the vote to secure an endorsement, said Denny Zane, a co-founder of SMRR and former City Councilman and mayor, serving from 1981 to 1992.

The seats occupied by City Councilman Kevin McKeown, City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor and Mayor Bob Holbrook will become vacant this fall. Each of the incumbents have announced they will run for re-election — McKeown and O'Connor are both seeking the SMRR endorsement, as is education advocate Gleam Davis, a newcomer to mainstream politics.

PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE

In what may be a symbol of the power and importance of a SMRR endorsement, Santa Monicans for a Livable City (SMCLC) — a governmental watchdog group — issued a press release calling on SMRR mem-

See SMRR, page 15

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School board opts not to seek larger bond

BOND, from page 1

will be held in the fall.

"This bond fits pretty seamlessly with the facilities master plan process, which is really the first time that I am aware of when the district has been proactive about ... systematically looking at all of the campuses and really identifying which ones do not come up to what we would think to be basic standards for good schools," said school board member Emily Bloomfield.

Some board members, including Bloomfield, called for a \$298 million bond, however, the majority decided to go for the lower amount recommended by district staff. Those school board members felt that amount would more likely be spent in the time frame identified. If there is a surplus in bond money issued, the district could be exposed to a higher tax burden, district advisors said.

The board's approval ends months of speculation as to whether or not a bond measure would be placed on the ballot given the departure of former schools superintendent John Deasy and other key members of the district's leadership.

There were those who felt the issue should be placed on hold until a new superintendent arrived. Some also feared a bond would be hard to pass in light of a Nov. 7 ballot that is already bursting at the seams with more than 13 statewide and local bond proposals and initiatives, including City Hall's request for \$40 million over the next 10 years to fund a watershed management plan that will protect the Santa Monica Bay from urban runoff.

But school board members felt momen-

tum created by the facilities master plan process could be lost if a bond was not put before voters in November.

There also was concern that if a bond was not proposed this year, it would be hard to pass later on, particularly if the board seeks the renewal of two parcel taxes, Measures S and Y, which contribute roughly \$10 million a year to help support services for students in the wake of budget uncertainty in Sacramento, said Winston Braham, the district's chief financial officer.

Measures S and Y expire at the end of June in 2009 and 2011, respectively. The district can ask voters to renew them both in June 2008.

THINK QUICK

To place the bond on the ballot, the board had to act quickly. In less than two months, the board formed a committee to study the feasibility of placing a bond measure before voters.

In addition to the committee, which is comprised of residents, the board hired the firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin and Associates (FMMA) to conduct an in-depth, 25-minute telephone survey of 500 likely voters, which resulted in a most favorable rating, according to a district staff report. The survey also found residents would support a \$400 million bond if the tax level stayed at or below \$30.

The survey results, along with recommendations from the committee, were presented to the school board on June 29. The committee met on July 20 and recommended authorizing the ballot measure.

Gleam Davis, co-chair of the committee, said she was "very happy" to see the board

move forward with the recommendation, however, an aggressive construction and renovation schedule must be implemented to show residents their money is being spent wisely and in a timely manner.

"People want to see real changes, not just a fresh coat of paint and new doors (if the board expects to issue more bonds in the future)," said Davis, who is running for City Council this election. "We have to make meaningful changes."

Committee co-chair Craig Hamilton said an extensive education campaign also must be waged to get voters to support the bond, particularly since there is a perception in the community that the district is suffering from a "crisis of confidence." Hamilton pointed to the departure of Deasy, racial tension at Santa Monica High School and the departure of three principals throughout the district. He also added the residents perceive the school board as lacking leadership and action. There's also been many changes in the school district's office, with a few senior administrators quitting.

"While we may only need 55 percent of voters to support this, it is important that we have the entire community on board," Hamilton said. "With all the other bond measures on the ballot, we can't afford to lose (support from) anyone."

"We need to see implicit leadership on behalf of the board," Hamilton added. "I fear the lack of support will hurt us."

School board members said they will rise to the challenge posed by Hamilton, directing district staff to immediately meet with committee members to identify those willing to sign arguments in support of the

bond that will appear on the ballot, as well as join

a committee to campaign for its passage.

Board members also asked staff to come back with suggestions on how the board can fund impartial conferences with the community to educate them about the facts of the bond.

"We are really excited about the collaboration," said school board vice president Kathy Wisnicki.

Braham said he would deposit money with a treasurer as soon as Friday to "get the campaign rolling."

ASSUMING THE POSITION

The resolution creating the bond must be submitted by Aug. 11. Arguments in support of the bond are due Aug. 21, with rebuttals due by Aug. 31. All official documents need to be completed by Sept. 11.

The board can take a one-time formal position to support the bond and publicize that decision, said election law advisor Philip Recht, an attorney with Mayer, Brown, Rowe and Maw.

As a unit, the board can then engage only in a neutral education campaign, but can't advocate for the bond's passage. Only individual board members can do that. They also can raise money and serve on campaign committees.

"But be careful," Recht said. "You have to make it clear that you are doing it as a private individual and not as a member of the board."

ON THE NET

<http://www.ourschoolplan.com>

See BOND, page 17

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR 525 BROADWAY MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

DATE: August 7, 2006

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Santa Monica, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Contact: Jing Yeo, Senior Planner. Phone: (310) 458-8341

The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the 525 Broadway Mixed-Use Development. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by the project are: Transportation/Circulation, Aesthetics (Shadows), Air Quality, Noise, Construction Effects, and Neighborhood Effects.

PROJECT APPLICANT: PRU/JSM Trino, LLC

PROJECT LOCATION: 525 Broadway

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is located on 37,450 square feet (0.86 acres) at the northwest corner of 6th Street and Broadway. The site consists of one parcel and is currently occupied by an existing 35,290 square foot, 3-story office building and two-level parking structure. The proposed project involves demolition of all existing structures on the site and construction of a new 6-story mixed use development consisting of 65 two-bedroom units, 56 one-bedroom units, and 4 studios for a total of 125 residential condominiums and approximately 7592 square feet of ground floor commercial space. A total of 337 parking spaces will be provided in a 4-level subterranean parking garage. The applicant has applied for the following discretionary permits: a Development Review permit (DR 06-003) for a project exceeding 30,000 square feet of floor area, a Design Compatibility Permit (DCP 06-002) for a condominium project in a commercial zone, and a Vesting Tentative Tract Map (TM 06-005) for a one-lot subdivision for condominium purposes.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on September 6, 2006 and addressed to: Jing Yeo, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90407. Telephone: (310) 458-8341. Fax: (310) 458-3380. E-mail: jing.yeo@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de la preparación de un reporte sobre los posibles efectos ambientales referente a la construcción propuesta de un edificio de 125 unidades residenciales y 7,592 pies cuadrados de espacio comercial, lo cual puede ser de interés a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al número (310) 458-8341.



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Conventional thoughts to be determined

SMRR, from page 13

bers to think twice before endorsing O'Connor.

SMCLC pointed out that O'Connor accepted 13 donations from Macerich Co. executives in March of 2005, totaling nearly \$3,000. The donations were accepted during a time when Macerich, which owns and operates Santa Monica Place, was going before the City Council to discuss overhauling the aging shopping center, with plans that included three 21-story high-rise buildings in downtown Santa Monica.

"SMCLC believes that in accepting over 86 percent of the funds to retire a long-standing campaign debt from a single developer, and by accepting those contributions during the period when she would be voting on a proposal from the developer, Ms. O'Connor has shown a lack of judgment and raised serious questions about her independence," a statement from SMCLC read. "She has also cast doubt on her ability to make prudent, autonomous decisions on similar projects in the future."

"SMCLC urges SMRR members to 'follow the money,' and this Sunday ask hard questions of Ms. O'Connor about her funding from a developer which had proposed the largest real estate project in Santa Monica's history, a traffic-clogging behemoth at the heart of our already congested downtown."

In her defense, O'Connor said she voted "no" on the project, which helped contribute to the proposal being denied. She said her vote proves she is not beholden to those who contribute to her campaign, including

SMRR. The timing of the contributions was the result of O'Connor fundraising for prior campaign debt after her mother's death a few months earlier, she said. It had nothing to do with Macerich's proposal coming before the council.

"(SMCLC) says 'why didn't I yell at Macerich,'" O'Connor said. "Why didn't I ask the hard questions? Well, there were no hard questions to ask. The project was D.O.A. as far as I was concerned. There was no reason to beat up on Macerich because they are still a productive member of the business community. Bottom line, I don't demonize businesses."

While a member of SMRR, O'Connor is not assuming she will receive the group's endorsement. She said she realizes anything can happen at the convention. If she misses out on SMRR's support, O'Connor said she will continue to campaign, regardless. O'Connor, who has held a City Council seat since 1994, enjoyed the SMRR endorsement last election.

"I run a pretty lean campaign because I want to make sure I'm spending people's money wisely," O'Connor said. "I don't need all the bells and whistles."

Part of SMRR's powerful political influence is in its campaigning for ballot initiatives and candidates. The organization spends tens of thousands of dollars on glossy campaign literature that is peppered in registered voters' mailboxes for months leading up to the election. SMRR also sends its members out in full force, knocking on doors and stumping for their causes and their slate of candidates.

BUILDING A FORCE

SMRR's influence can be traced back to 1978, when five community groups joined forces to support the first rent control law. Those five organizations included Campaign for Economic Democracy, led by former state Senator Tom Hayden; Santa Monica Democratic Club; a large tenant organization in the Pico neighborhood known as the Santa Monica Tenants Alliance; the Ocean Park Electoral Network; and the group which founded the rent control initiative, Santa Monica Fair Rent Alliance, comprised mostly of senior citizens.

"We became a membership organization rather than remain a coalition because, frankly, there were too many meetings," Zane said. "We were having five meetings for every decision, which was cumbersome."

Since then, SMRR has maintained a membership of about 5,000, comprised mostly of renters. Members pay an annual fee of \$25 and are recruited by other members to pound the pavement and campaign. Zane said the average campaign contribution is \$35.

"We represent the little guys," Zane said. "And while our platform was originally rent control, renters rights and affordable housing, it has expanded considerably over the years, as we went from becoming a single-issue organization to a multi-issue organization with the same name."

There have been attempts to change SMRR's name to something that would better represent the direction the group has taken over the years, however, Zane said SMRR was kept to "make sure it was clear our strong commitment to renters rights."

That said, SMRR is deeply committed to slowing commercial development, protecting the environment and increasing funding for public schools, according to SMRR's platform, outlined on the group's Web site, www.smrr.org.

"This is a group that really supports public education and strongly supports the values that I think our district shares in terms of equity and access to higher achievement for all students," said Emily Bloomfield, a school board member seeking SMRR's endorsement for her re-election campaign, her first as a board member. "The convention is really grassroots politics in action, where people work very hard to secure endorsements to gain credibility. (Members) are people who are engaged and I don't think you see anything like this in many communities, that's for sure."

To vote for an endorsement, one has to be a member of SMRR for at least 90 days before the convention. The bylaw was created to prevent certain segments of SMRR from bombarding the convention with supporters who may not be dedicated to the organization's goals, Zane said.

CRACKS IN THE ARMOR

Even so, there are members who believe SMRR is controlled by a select few, who lobby behind the scenes to pick candidates of their liking, preventing a true democratic process. There also have been complaints that the voting system used to make endorsements is flawed since a member is allowed to vote for more than one candidate,

See SMRR, page 16

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SMRR endorsements sought

SMRR, from page 15

with each vote being given equal weight instead of being ranked by preference. That reportedly allows for two candidates to trade votes, pushing other candidates out of the running.

"In '96, '98, and 2000, SMRR had relatively uncontested conventions and the organization felt relatively whole," said former Mayor Mike Feinstein, who failed to secure the SMRR endorsement in 2004 and subsequently lost his re-election bid. "In 2002 and 2004 — because the process places deal-making, vote buying and vote swapping above the issues — the individuals who failed to get the nomination, as well as their supporters, didn't feel buy-in and didn't necessarily feel the process was fair."

Feinstein said that process, along with more renters paying fair-market rent, and therefore, eroding SMRR's base, undermines the long-term health of SMRR, which could make it vulnerable in future elections as other groups, most notably the Chamber of Commerce and the hospitality industry gain strength.

"SMRR historically had been an electoral expression of grassroots energy in the community," Feinstein said. "But without (ranked-choice voting,) it is simply a vehicle that is subject to ownership to the highest bidder."

There is some talk that O'Connor will not be endorsed by SMRR because of her support for Holbrook in his quest to be re-elected. Holbrook is oftentimes an opponent of SMRR because his philosophies reflect the interests of the business community. Feinstein believes that by not supporting O'Connor, SMRR will take one more step down a slippery slope.

"By chasing Pam away, SMRR is really losing its ability to keep people in office who support their platform," Feinstein said.

Zane said roughly 150 to 300 people attend the SMRR convention and that each person has the right to vote for the candidates they believe in. There is no pressure to support one over the other.

"I think our turnouts are quite impressive for a grassroots organization," said Zane, who admitted that anything can happen at a convention because it is based on the will of the people, not a select few.

That said, there are those who will be monitoring the convention closely to see if O'Connor is bumped from the ticket. They include Seth Jacobson and members of Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities — SMRR's nemesis in this

year's election. SMSP is funded primarily by the hospitality industry, which has long been at odds with SMRR.

SMSP has recently attempted to build credibility by launching its own grassroots campaign, signing on what they claim to be 5,000 members. The organization is focused heavily on quality-of-life issues, most notably the increasing homeless population and government bureaucracy. SMSP has in the past few months sent out numerous mailers that have criticized SMRR elected leaders, their social agenda and their policies.

For most of the past three decades, SMRR has been able to maintain a majority of seats on the City Council. There was a short period in the 1980s and in the mid-1990s that the business community was able to level the playing field. During that time, large developments like the Water Gardens commercial complex and luxury hotels were approved and built.

"The big issue for SMRR this time is how do you sell to the people of Santa Monica three candidates that are for change when they have been the agents of change for 25 years and things have changed very much?" Jacobson asked.

Jacobson said SMRR has had many successes over the years, improving the quality of life in Santa Monica to some degree, however, he said their record in the last decade is questionable and something SMSP is prepared to highlight in mailers. SMSP is believed to be SMRR's strongest competition, with the ability to raise more money.

"There seems to be some division in their leadership and some question as to whether or not they have a solid platform," Jacobson said. "They'll rally their troops like they always do and attack the business community, using them as their dark angel, but I think residents and voters believe that Santa Monica cannot really thrive without a strong, healthy business environment. Their policies haven't worked and I think residents will ask tough questions."

In defense of SMRR, Zane pointed to a host of initiatives SMRR has endorsed that have made Santa Monica a premier tourist destination and a leader in protecting the environment, including creating the nation's first citywide recycling program.

"Thanks to SMRR, we have the best rent control in America," Zane said. "We have the most highly honored environmental programs in America. We have one of the most progressive and successful affordable housing programs and we have a AAA-bond rating and a downtown that has been revitalized by using existing buildings instead of stripping down everything and turning it into one big shopping center."

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Defending Nance

Prominent Cleveland attorney a top candidate for NFL post

BY TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — He fought to keep the Cleveland Browns in town and kept LeBron James on the basketball court. Fred Nance is now preparing an argument that could make history — for him and the NFL.

Nance, a prominent Cleveland attorney known for being tough and fair, is one of five finalists to succeed Paul Tagliabue as the league’s commissioner, arguably the world’s most high-profile executive position in sports.

Nance is also black, making his inclusion among the finalists an important moment for the NFL, which has been criticized in the past for its lack of diversity among coaches and other prominent front-office positions.

“He would make a fabulous commissioner,” Browns owner Randy Lerner said. “He is totally qualified and demonstrated his qualifications when he played such a huge role in bringing the Browns back.

“He’s got leadership, tenacity. He’s got a love for the kind of impact teams have on the community. He gets it. I think he’s a world-class guy.”

Nance was picked as a finalist following an extensive search by a committee of eight owners headed by Pittsburgh’s Dan Rooney and Carolina’s Jerry Richardson.

“It’s a landmark, and even if he (Nance) is not chosen, it’s a good day for sports,” said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. “It shows we have gotten to the point where the best possible candidates, and in this case an African-American, are being considered.”

There has never been a black commissioner in any of the major pro sports leagues. The NFL, NBA and Major League Baseball have all made strides in hiring practices, but none so far has

made a minority its top decision maker. Though Nance may be a long shot to lead the NFL, those who know the managing partner of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey best feel he would be the perfect choice.

“Every night I cross my fingers and pray the NFL makes the right decision and makes Fred Nance its commissioner,” said former Cleveland Mayor Michael White, who worked with Nance on several major projects. “He is the total package. He is extremely bright. He has got vision and he has the unique ability to be able to turn extremely difficult situations into a win, win.”

Kansas City Chiefs coach Herman Edwards doesn’t believe Nance’s candidacy should be viewed as anything but a qualified person getting an opportunity to advance. Edwards, who is black, looks forward to the day when race is not part of the equation.

“The first thing we have to realize is get the right guy,” Edwards said. “If he happens to be a minority, that’s great. But I think we always get on that platform of ‘minority guy, minority guy.’ We need to just say we got the best guy. And whatever nationality he is, he is.

“If he happens to be a minority, that’s great. But the less we talk about it, the better it is when the guy gets the job, because then he’s not looked upon as, well, ‘The league is trying to be the first to do something.’”

Nance, 52, and the other four finalists — favorite Roger Goodell, the league’s chief operating officer; Gregg Levy, the league’s outside counsel; Robert L. Reynolds, vice chairman and chief operating officer of Fidelity Investments; and Mayo A. Shattuck III, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Constellation Energy — will each make presentations Aug. 7 in Chicago and be interviewed by owners and club executives.

The next commissioner must be approved by 22 of the league’s 32 teams.

Nance said he was honored to be a finalist, but deferred further comment until after next week’s meetings.

READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Sunday’s games
Oakland vs. Philadelphia at Canton, Ohio, 5 p.m.

Thursday’s games
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.
Indianapolis at St. Louis, 5 p.m.

Friday’s games
Denver at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
New England at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 5 p.m.
Chicago at San Francisco, 7 p.m.

Saturday’s games
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 1:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Carolina, 4:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Tennessee, 5 p.m.
Kansas City at Houston, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 7 p.m.
Green Bay at San Diego, 7 p.m.

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Voters’ reaction unknown

BOND, from page 14

While support for the bond is high, according to the district’s telephone survey, there are certain to be voters who will question the need for \$268 million, given the district just completed roughly \$100 million worth of renovations and construction of 160 classrooms in 2003.

That money, which paid for a performing arts theater at Samohi and a pool at Lincoln Middle School, came from Proposition X, a school bond passed by voters in 1998. About \$45 million of the construction costs were funded by Prop. X, with the remainder coming from state funding dedicated to school facility modernization projects.

Controversy surrounded that effort as the

general contractor in charge of the projects, Jacobs International, cost the district millions in overruns and delays.

Bloomfield said Prop. X funds helped restore the district’s aging facilities, but they weren’t nearly enough to fully address the neglect brought on by Proposition 13, which capped property tax increases, draining state funding for schools.

“Prop. X helped us prepare facilities for class-size reduction because with that, we needed new classrooms to accommodate smaller class sizes,” Bloomfield said. “There are still a lot of projects that were left undone ... The daily wear-and-tear on all of our schools, many of which are overcrowded, puts additional stress on the district’s infrastructure.”

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — AT A GLANCE										ASSOCIATED PRESS
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East Division					East Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	64	43	.598	—	New York	64	41	.610	—	
Philadelphia	52	55	.486	12	Boston	64	43	.598	1	
Florida	51	57	.472	13 1/2	Toronto	57	51	.528	8 1/2	
Atlanta	50	57	.467	14	Baltimore	49	60	.450	17	
Washington	48	60	.444	16 1/2	Tampa Bay	45	64	.413	21	
Central Division					Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	58	49	.542	—	Detroit	72	36	.667	—	
Cincinnati	55	53	.509	3 1/2	Chicago	63	43	.594	8	
Houston	51	57	.472	7 1/2	Minnesota	62	45	.579	9 1/2	
Milwaukee	51	57	.472	7 1/2	Cleveland	47	60	.439	24 1/2	
Chicago	45	64	.413	14	Kansas City	38	70	.352	34	
Pittsburgh	42	68	.382	17 1/2						
West Division					West Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego	56	52	.519	—	Oakland	57	51	.528	—	
Arizona	55	53	.509	1	Angels	55	53	.509	2	
Dodgers	53	55	.491	3	Texas	55	54	.505	2 1/2	
Colorado	52	55	.486	3 1/2	Seattle	53	54	.495	3 1/2	
San Fran	52	56	.481	4						
Saturday's Games										
Philadelphia (Lieber 4-8) at N.Y. Mets (Glavine 11-4), 10:20 a.m.					Oakland (Haren 8-9) at Seattle (Pineiro 7-8), 1:05 p.m.					
Atlanta (Shiell 0-2) at Cincinnati (Arroyo 9-7), 10:20 a.m.					Texas (Koronka 7-6) at Angels (E.Santana 11-5), 1:05 p.m.					
Pittsburgh (Duke 7-9) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 0-5), 1:05 p.m.					Chicago White Sox (Vazquez 9-6) at Toronto (McGowan 1-1), 1:07 p.m.					
Dodgers (Billingsley 2-3) at Florida (J.Johnson 9-5), 3:05 p.m.					N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 13-3) at Baltimore (Loewen 1-3), 1:35 p.m.					
Milwaukee (Sheets 2-3) at St. Louis (Reyes 2-5), 4:15 p.m.					Cleveland (Byrd 7-6) at Detroit (Rogers 11-5), 4:05 p.m.					
Colorado (Jennings 7-9) at San Francisco (Lowry 5-7), 6:05 p.m.					Minnesota (Silva 7-9) at Kansas City (Hernandez 2-6), 4:10 p.m.					
Houston (Clemens 2-4) at Arizona (Webb 12-4), 6:40 p.m.					Boston (Wells 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Fossum 5-4), 4:15 p.m.					
Washington (Astacio 2-1) at San Diego (Thompson 3-3), 7:05 p.m.										
Sunday's Games										
Dodgers at Florida, 10:05 a.m.					Sunday's Games					
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 10:15 a.m.					Cleveland at Detroit, 10:05 a.m.					
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.					Chicago White Sox at Toronto, 10:07 a.m.					
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.					Boston at Tampa Bay, 10:15 a.m.					
Washington at San Diego, 1:05 p.m.					N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 10:35 a.m.					
Colorado at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.					Minnesota at Kansas City, 11:10 a.m.					
Houston at Arizona, 1:40 p.m.					Texas at Angels , 12:35 p.m.					
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 5:05 p.m.					Oakland at Seattle, 1:05 p.m.					

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Bridges falling down

BY SAM F. GHATTAS

Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israeli warplanes destroyed four key bridges on Lebanon's last untouched highway, severing the country's final major connection to Syria and deepening its isolation.

Aircraft hunting weapons caches also hit dozens of farm workers loading vegetables near the Lebanon-Syria border, killing 28 as Hezbollah launched a fresh barrage of rockets at northern Israel.

In Israel, the militant attack rained 140 rockets on northern Israeli towns, killing four civilians, three of them Arabs, as Israeli pressed its ground offensive in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli attacks on the main north-south coastal highway linking Beirut to Syria cut the only remaining major road link between the two countries. The drive to the Syrian border takes twice the time on the small coastal road that remains open.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, a staunch pro-Syrian and close ally of Hezbollah, charged that Israel is trying to pressure Lebanon to accept its conditions for a cease-fire, which include Hezbollah's disarmament and ouster from a swath of south Lebanon.

"The Israeli enemy's bombing of bridges and roads is aimed at tightening the blockade on the Lebanese, cutting communications between them and starving them," Lahoud said.

He linked the new raids to Israel's failure to win quick victory in the south, where Israeli soldiers have been mired in ground battles with Hezbollah guerrillas for several days.

An Israeli army spokesman, Capt. Jacob Dallal, said Israel targeted the bridges to stop the flow of weapons from Syria.

Five Lebanese civilians were killed and 19 wounded in the Israeli airstrikes north of the capital, in Christian areas where Hezbollah has little support or presence, including the picturesque coastal resort of Jounieh.

In separate air raids near Beirut's airport and southern suburbs, a Lebanese soldier was killed and two soldiers and four civilians were wounded, security officials and witnesses said. The predominantly Shiite Muslim sector is largely controlled by Hezbollah guerrillas. Israel said Hezbollah facilities and a Hamas office were targeted.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed by a Hezbollah anti-tank missile during heavy fighting in a southern Lebanese village where the militant group had been launching rockets, the army said. It later said another soldier had died.

International aid agencies said Friday said the road bombing would slow down aid shipments to needy civilians in central Lebanon and the coastline around the capital, Beirut, where the bulk of the population lives.

Border crossings in the east have been shut by airstrikes. Israel has imposed a naval blockade and has hit the international airport to seal off Lebanon's sea and airspace.

"This is Lebanon's umbilical cord," Christiane Berthiaume of the World Food Program told The Associated Press. "This (road) has been the only way for us to bring in aid. We really need to find other ways to bring relief in."

The European Union said Israel and Hezbollah must guarantee the safety of aid workers if it is to continue helping people made homeless by the fighting.

In the farm attack near al-Qaa, a town about six miles from a Hezbollah stronghold, Lebanese civil defense official Ali Yaghi said at least 28 people were killed.

Yaghi said at least 12 workers were wounded and some were likely buried under rubble. A bulldozer was brought to the site to try to uncover survivors, he said. The Israeli army said it had attacked two buildings where it suspected weapons were being stored, and it was checking reports that it had hit a vegetable storehouse and civilians.

In Israel, police said some 140 rockets had fallen. In addition to the deaths, at least four people were wounded.

Police commander Dan Ronen said 45 rockets had fallen within one half-hour period.

Some rockets overshot their targets in northern Israel and landed in Syrian territory, the Israeli military said.

More than three weeks into the fighting, six Israeli brigades were locked in battle with hundreds of Hezbollah guerrillas in about 20 towns and villages in south Lebanon.

Israeli artillery intensified bombing there overnight, sending as many as 15 shells per minute against suspected Hezbollah strongholds.

Defense Minister Amir Peretz has told top army officers to begin preparing for a push to the Litani River, about 20 miles north of the border. That would require further approval by Israel's Security Cabinet and could lead to far more casualties.

Hezbollah said in a statement broadcast by the group's Al-Manar TV station that guerrillas had killed six Israeli soldiers near the villages of Aita al-Shaab and Markaba.

The Israeli army said two soldiers were killed and two wounded by a Hezbollah anti-tank missile during heavy fighting in a village where the militant group had been launching rockets.

Despite Israel's efforts, Hezbollah launched at least 200 rockets into northern Israel on Thursday, in a new tactic of simultaneously firing a large number of rockets.

Hezbollah's leader offered to stop attacking if Israel ends its airstrikes.

Israel's United Nations ambassador, Dan Gillerman, said that Sheik Hassan Nasrallah's offer of a truce was "a sign of weakness ... and he may be looking for a way out."

Gillerman warned against a threat by Nasrallah to launch rockets on Israel's commercial center, Tel Aviv.

"We are ready for it, and I am sure that he (Nasrallah), as well as his sponsors, realize the consequences of doing something as unimaginable and crazy as that," the Israeli ambassador told CNN.

On the second front of its offensive against Islamic militants, Israel began pulling tanks out of southern Gaza after a two-day incursion that killed eleven Palestinians, including an 8-year-old boy.

The fighting in Gaza, which began June 25 after Hamas-linked militants captured an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid, has killed a total of 175 Palestinians, the U.N. reported, adding that it was concerned that "with international attention focusing on Lebanon, the tragedy in Gaza is being forgotten."

The offensive in Lebanon began after another cross-border raid by Hezbollah guerrillas who captured two Israeli soldiers.

According to an Associated Press count, at least 530 Lebanese have been killed, including 454 civilians confirmed dead by the Health Ministry; 26 Lebanese soldiers; and at least 50 Hezbollah guerrillas. That figure does not include the farm attack.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said that 1 million people had fled the fighting. Seventy-five Israelis have been killed. More than 300,000 Israelis have fled their homes in the north, Israeli officials said.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton said the United States and France have "come a long way" in negotiating a Security Council resolution that calls for an immediate end to Middle East hostilities, said.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed support Thursday for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon as the first phase in ending the conflict. It was the most concrete signal yet that the U.S. may be willing to compromise on the stalemate over how to end the fighting.

Fed is urged to slow down amid the chill

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Grippled by caution, employers slowed hiring in July, pushing the nation's unemployment rate to a five-month high and putting pressure on the Federal Reserve to take its foot off the economic brakes.

The Labor Department reported Friday that employers added just 113,000 new jobs in July, down from 124,000 in June — the latest in a string of mediocre job gains in recent months.

With companies wary of increasing work forces in a slowing economy, the civilian unemployment rate jumped from 4.6 percent in June to 4.8 percent, matching the rate of last February. The last time the jobless rate was higher was in December, at 4.9 percent.

"Companies are feeling the strain of rising costs for energy and raw materials as well as higher interest rates. They also remain uncertain about the economy's prospects for the balance of the year. Therefore, they are reluctant to aggressively bulk up their payrolls," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Bank of America's Investment Strategies Group.

For blacks, the unemployment rate rose from 9 percent in June to 9.5 percent in July, the highest in eight months. The jobless rate for Hispanics, however, held steady at 5.3 percent.

It's a challenging time for certain jobseekers.

Job cuts were reported at factories, department stores and telecommunications firms. Real-estate companies and specialty home-building contractors also shed jobs, reflecting the cooling in the once-hot housing market. Those employment losses tempered overall job growth.

Health care firms, computer designers, hotels and motels and foodservice companies were among those boosting employment.

The overall picture, though, was of a job market losing more momentum than many analysts had anticipated.

The Federal Reserve is meeting on Tuesday, and some economists believe the central bank will leave interest rates alone, taking its first break after tightening credit for more than two years.

Friday's weaker job growth would justify such a breather, offering more evidence of slowing economic activity. "This pushes Fed policymakers toward a pause," predicted Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

Other Fed-watchers who are worried about inflation, however, think policymakers have another interest-rate jump in store.

On Wall Street, jittery investors sent stocks slightly lower. The Dow Jones industrials, which were up in the morning, finished the day down 2.24 points at 11,240.35.

The Fed has raised rates steadily 17 times since June 2004 in increments of one-quarter of a percentage point. The Fed's goal is to slow the economy enough to prevent inflation from taking off while not crimping economic activity so much that it throws the economy into a recession.

Even if the Fed were to take a breather on Tuesday, some economists believe rates probably will need to go up in September or some other time later this year to fend off inflation. "All the inflation indicators are flashing yellow and may soon be flashing red," warned Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at Global Insight.

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Ray of light

Singer helping Dark Continent

MADONNA



MADONNA has announced plans to raise at least \$3 million for programs to support the nearly 1 million children in Malawi who have lost parents to AIDS. Mphandula's headman, who bears the same name as his village, said Thursday he had been contacted last month by organizers and told some of the money will build a feeding and education center for orphans in this village, 30 miles from the capital.

"The orphanage project is about serving humanity. It will mean so much to us. We can only ask God to bless this person for her kindness," he said.

Malawi is among the poor-

est countries in the world, hit by years of drought and an AIDS epidemic. According to the National AIDS Commission, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has left close to 1 million orphans in this southern African country. AIDS mainly affects the economically active age group of 15-49.

In most villages, many orphaned children are cared for by their slightly older siblings or grandparents.

"We have too many child-headed households here. We also have very old people looking after very young orphans. In both scenarios, food becomes a nightmare since the young ones

cannot find enough to feed themselves and their siblings while the old ones do not have the power to look for food," Mphandula said.

A piece of land for the project has been identified but work has yet to begin.

Madonna joins a growing list of entertainer-activists who have focused their attention on Africa, including Bono, Angelina Jolie and George Clooney. The 47-year-old singer outlined her plans in an interview with Time magazine to be published next week.

She was quoted as saying she plans to raise at least \$3 million for programs to support

orphans in Malawi, and is giving \$1 million to fund a documentary about the plight of children here. She is expected to visit in October.

Madonna has also teamed up with developing-world economic expert Jeffrey Sachs on programs to improve the health, agriculture and economy of a village in Malawi, and she's met with former President Clinton about bringing low-cost medicines to the area.

Sachs has launched a series of comprehensive projects to transform villages in Africa, and Clinton last month announced a campaign against rural poverty in Malawi that will focus in

part on combating AIDS.

Most of the farmers of Mphandula, where Madonna's orphan center is planned, live in mud-and-thatch huts, wear shoes only on special occasions and rarely can afford to eat meat.

The village has no electricity and only a few households have radios. No wonder few had heard of Madonna.

"I hear Madonna is coming here," said Michael Soko. The excited 24-year-old was the only one among 30 people interviewed in Mphandula who had heard of the Material Girl as an entertainer.

Associated Press



SHAKIRA

Shaking hand that feeds her

SHAKIRA dedicated her seven MTV Video Music Awards nominations to the Latino community in the United States.

"I too am one of them," the 29-year-old singer said Thursday as part of her "Oral Fixation" world tour.

Shakira is up for seven awards for the video of her

smash single "Hips Don't Lie," tying the Red Hot Chili Peppers for the most nominations. She is the first Latina to be nominated for seven awards.

The 2006 MTV Video Music Awards, scheduled to air live on MTV (8 p.m. EDT), will take place Aug. 31 at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Shakira has been singing

mostly in Spanish while touring Latin America but will switch largely to English when the U.S. leg of the tour opens Aug. 9 in El Paso, Texas. She also plans performances in New York, Miami and Los Angeles.

The Colombian singer won six Billboard Latin Music Awards this year.

Associated Press

Soprano fighting way back

SYLVIA MCNAIR, who performed for Pope John Paul II and has sung at the U.S. Supreme Court, is recovering from breast cancer surgery.

The 50-year-old soprano underwent a radical mastectomy July 7 following two months of chemotherapy. She told The Indianapolis Star she was diagnosed after a "crystal clear" mammogram in October.

McNair said she'll undergo another round of chemotherapy next week in Bloomington, where she's joined the staff at Indiana University for as a voice

instructor.

"If cancer has taught me one thing, it's that life is a puzzle with many pieces, and cancer is one of the pieces of life, just as moving to Bloomington is," she said Wednesday from her hometown of Mansfield, Ohio.

McNair, who received her master's degree from IU in 1983, will move back to Bloomington next week to prepare for classes that start Aug. 28.

"My future is going to be a hybrid — a combination of teaching and continuing to sing concerts and productions of



MCNAIR

musical theater pieces," she said. "But obviously, my near future is going to involve winning over cancer, which will happen."

Associated Press

HE 'HATES' IT



A piece of Rock for Alexander

JASON ALEXANDER plans to drop in on "Everybody Hates Chris" next season.

Alexander ("Seinfeld," "Listen Up") is set to play the principal of Corleone Junior High on two episodes of the sitcom and will direct a third, series producer CBS Paramount Network Television said Thursday. Air dates have yet to be announced.

Chris Rock's UPN sitcom, based on the comedian's childhood in Brooklyn, survived the merger of that network with WB. It is now on new network CW's debut schedule and is set for an Oct. 1 premiere.

CW is a joint venture between CBS Corp. and Warner Bros. Entertainment.

Associated Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

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Friday
Close Encounters of the Third Kind (PG) / THX-1138 (R) 7:30
Saturday
Robocop (Unrated) / Starship Troopers (R) 7:30
Sunday
The War of the Worlds (1953) 7:30

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TALLADEGA NIGHTS

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)
10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 7:20, 8:35, 9:50, 11:10, 12:00
John Tucker Must Die (PG-13)
11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
Miami Vice (R)
10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:50, 8:50, 10:45, 11:45
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)
10:20, 1:25, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15
Superman Returns (PG-13)
11:30, 5:20, 11:00

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THE NIGHT LISTENER

The Night Listener (R)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45
Scoop (PG-13)
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00
The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)
11:55, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

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Changing Times
11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

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AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Quinceanera (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Little Miss Sunshine (R)
12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street (310) 395-1599

The Descent (R)
11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
The Ant Bully (PG)
12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Clerks II (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10
Lady in the Water (PG-13)
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
Monster House (PG, No Passes)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
You, Me and Dupree (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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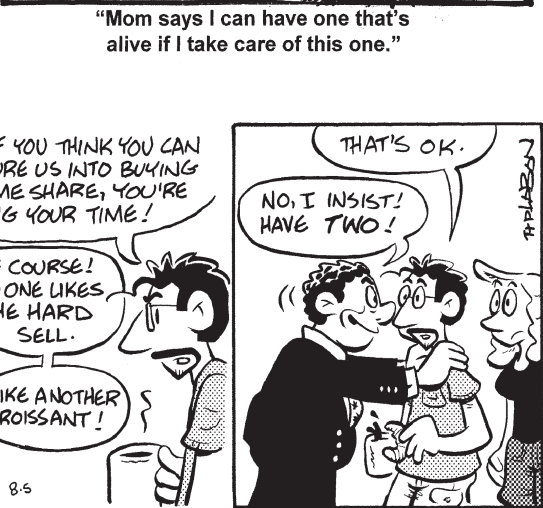
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



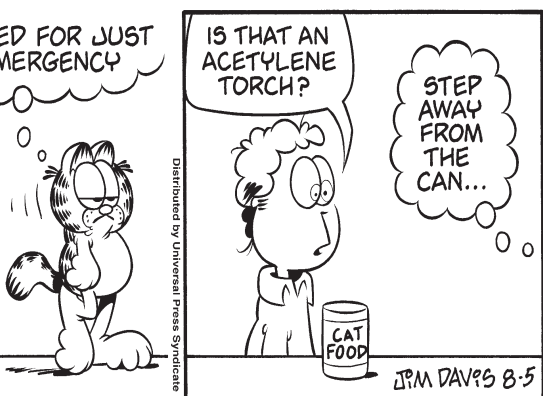
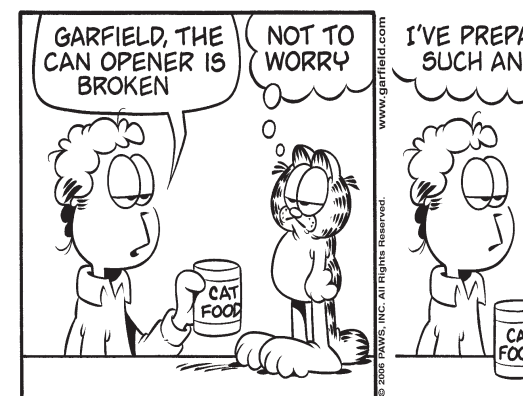
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Is looking for an independent contractor to sell High Quality books/bath & beauty products in coporations & hospitals. Can you work on your own? Do you want an income tied directly to your efforts? We will help you get started with training, inventory & guaranteed commissions for the first 3 months for qualifying reps. For further details please visit:

www.booksarefunltd.com
Req#1373BR/1523BR
Tel: 800-966-8301 Ext 2405
Fax: 888-56-4217
Jason_vorhies@booksarefun.com

SANTA MONICA Downtown hair station rental, facial/massage room rental. Manicurist wanted. (310) 260-3906

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

SECURITY JOBS. Great Pay! All beach areas! Contact us
www.lantzsecurity.com or call
(800) 870-4357

SEEKING STYLIST for Santa Monica salon. Great environment. Reasonable rent. Call Don (310) 315-1098.

STAFFING COMPANY Seeking SERVERS, BARTENDERS and KITCHEN STAFF- One year experience needed. Call (310) 391-7700

WANTED EXPERIENCE tire installer /oil changer f/t start asap. (310) 391-5333

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2006 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5750, sell for \$1750 (310) 479-3054

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

Pets

ADORABLE MALTESE pups, boys & girls, will 3-5 lb, have shots & dewormed, CKC registered, around 8 to 10 weeks, home raised, loving & sweet, \$800-\$1500, for more info ask Brandon to 323-819-0113



TINY YORKIE puppies, male & female, toy/t-cup size available, shots & dewormed, registered with CKC or AKC,

Pets

health guarantee, home raised and very loving & sweet, for more info please click on www.worldkennelusa.com or call Kelly at (323) 823-1803/ (661) 675-6371

Wanted

ADULT MAN, retired, regular income, clean, neat, quiet, seeks single or one bedroom apartment, guest house or private suite in huge house on Westside, close to Ocean if possible. Up to \$1000/mo. Tranquil, quiet environment desired. Please call Robert. 310-450-9397. Cell 310-433-1725.

**WANTED
Teen-Age/Children
Clothing**
Name Brand, Good Condition
WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR
Call Mr. Olmstead
(310) 395-9490 mgcmirror@aol.com

WANT TO rent store front for two months 9/12-11/11 Santa Monica or Pacific Palisades (310) 454-0174

Employment Wanted

"BOOKKEEPER'S R Us" Personal Book-keeping Service
Bill paying, bank/credit card rec's, bank deposits etc for your personal bills.
Quicken/Quickbooks \$25 per hr
(310) 849-5472

NURSE ASSISTANT or companion to the elderly to start immediately, 20 years exp, 8 yrs in SM, Very good references. Monica (323) 295-2191

For Rent

\$2250-\$2350 UNOBSTRUCTED OCEAN VIEW AND SUNSETS. Penthouse-like large 2+2 two sun decks. Top of hill. Redecorated. (310) 390-4610

**SHERMAN OAKS
HALEAKALA APARTMENT
HOMES**
THE NEW WING OF
THE HORACE HEIDT ESTATES
Luxury 1,2 Bdm, Apts.
Located on 10 acres of park
like property. Exec. Golf course,
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Near Sherman Oaks shopping.
"Ask about our move in special"
(818) 784-8212
www.haleakalapartments.com

MAR VISTA: 12450 Culver Blvd. unit 323, \$995/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities included, intercom entry, laundry, gated parking, no pets. (888) 414-7778

For Rent

**ROQUE &
MARK Co.**

2802 Santa Monica Blvd.

310-828-7525

**SALES • RENTALS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

**Rentals available
No Pets Allowed**

SANTA MONICA

845 20th St. \$2500

Lower 2 bed, 1¾ baths, patio,
Pergo floors, near Montana

WESTSIDE

620 Acanto, Bel Air, \$795

Lower bachelor, hot plate,
Fridge, laundry room

**10900 S.M. Blvd., West LA
\$950**

Upper single, new carpet,
Fridge & stove, near UCLA

**3502 Vinton, Palms,
\$1150**

Lower 1 bed, parking, Gas
stove, fresh paint, laundry
room

**1129 ½ Cardiff, BH Adj,
\$1850**

Upper 2 bed, new fridge &
stove, Laundry hookups,
garage for storage

**FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO
WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM**

**FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee
Rentals.** Sullivan-Dituri Company.
2111 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA
90403.

SANTA MONICA \$1695/mo
2bdms/1bath garden setting,
hardwood floors, laundry, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator,
stove(310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

There is no more convincing medium than a **DAILY** local newspaper.

Prepay your ad today!



(310) 458-7737

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90405

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Classifieds

GET RID OF YOUR ROLLERBLADES. Sell your sports equipment to someone who will actually use it.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

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\$5⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

For Rent

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310) 869-7901

1214 Idaho 2+1.5
Townhouse \$2500/mo,
3bdrm/2bath \$2900/mo 1 block
South of Montana.
Laundry on property.
All buildings are pet friendly.

PLEASE Visit our website
for complete
listings at:
www.howardmanagement.com

LARGE 3+2, \$2470. Three patios, private backyard, gated, like a house. Top of hill. Redecorated. (310) 390-4610

SANTA MONICA \$2550/mo
3bdrms/2Baths, Cat ok, Hardwood Floors, garage, laundry, quiet neighborhood, dishwasher (310) 395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1000/mo
1bdrm/1Bath, Month-to-month lease, hardwood floors, laundry, refrigerator, stove, walk-in-closet (310) 395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1150/mo 1bdrm/1bath, new carpets, pool, laundry, quiet neighborhood, stove, Paid water/trash (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1195/mo 1bdrm/1bath, hardwood floors, charming craftsman style building, separate balcony, stove (310) 395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1700/mo 2bdrms/1bath, Carpet Floors, laundry, refrigerator, stove, close to SMC (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T
www.westsiderentals.com

Santa Monica \$1795/mo 2bdrms/2Baths, Carport parking, laundry, no pets, refrigerator, stove, one-year-lease (310)395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2200/mo 3bdrms/2Baths, Carpet Floors, 2-car Parking, refrigerator, stove (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2350/mo 12th St. near Colorado, 3bdrm, 1.5 baths townhouse. Spacious, ample closets, private patio, large closed garage.Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, attractive garden courtyard property, no pets (310) 828-4481

SANTA MONICA \$2700/mo 3bdrms/2baths, 2-car Gated parking, laundry, dishwasher, balcony, central air/heat, fireplace (310) 395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$975/mo single/1bath, garden style building, Cat ok, laundry, new carpets (310) 395-RENT
www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA Upper Craftsman House 4bdrm/2.5bath \$5500/mo. Ocean Park walk to Main St. Remodeled, hardwood floors. (310)396-1439 xt 234

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

SENIORS- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Live in a BEAUTIFUL apt/suite in Beverly/Fairfax or Santa Monica: Starting at \$430/month (323) 650-7988

SINGLE 4820 Slauson Ave unit 5, stove, fridge, blinds, carpets, parking, no pets \$675/mo (323) 290-1699
jkwproperties.com

VENICE 25 19th Ave Unit D 2+1+den stove, fridge, carpet, free-standing fireplace, one space garage parking, patio deck \$2295 (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Roommates

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⇒ Need a little *extra income*?

⇒ Need *help around the house*?

We help match seniors with other seniors or mid-age/younger people.

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Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Alternative Living for the Aging
A Non-Profit of 27 years

Commercial Lease

1617 Broadway

Executive Suites Available
Furnished, phones, fax, xerox, conference room, receptionist, parking

Whole Floor Available
Approx. 2800 sq ft

One BD/2 BTH Apartment Available
Zoned for live/work.
Spacious, all the amenities.

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Call us today at (310) 458-7737

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RATES AS LOW AS 6%

30 YEAR FIXED 6.5%
10 YEAR/1 ARM 6.375%
7 YEAR/1 ARM 6.25%
5 YEAR/1 ARM 6.0%
3 YEAR/1 ARM 5.875%
1 YEAR/1 ARM 5.625%
6 MO./6 MO. ARM 5.375%
1 MO./1 MO. ARM 1.0%

*Rates subject to change
* As of August 2, 2006
** Denotes an interest only loan

NEW CONFORMING LOAN AMOUNTS

1 Unit \$417,000
2 Units \$533,850
3 Units \$645,300
3 Units \$645,300
4 Units \$801,950



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Real Estate

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From \$899,000

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LUXE FOR LESS. WLA near Santa Monica/Brentwood 2+2. High ceilings, marble entry, laundry, central air. Monthly hoa only \$365. Priced to sell at \$639,000. Agent (310) 866-9306

MULTI-LEVEL TOWN house, Brentwood adj. 3 bed, 2.5 ba. Corner, tons of light, wood floors, 2 story ceilings, \$699,000. Agent 310.420.7861 Portnoy Properties

Real Estate Wanted

WE BUY HOUSES, APTS, & LAND!
ALL CASH, AS-IS, FAST CLOSE
David (310) 308-7887

Vehicles for sale



1997 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Loaded, dual air, quad seating
VIN 465049
\$3,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
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1997 FORD F250 PICK UP
Clean, low miles
VIN C05788
\$5,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
(310) 395-3712

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT



1998 BUICK REGAL GS SEDAN
Loaded, leather, one owner
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\$4,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
(310) 395-3712



2000 DODGE DURANGO 4 X 4 SLT
Rear air, leather, loaded
VIN YF131261
\$7,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
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Vehicles for sale



2001 DODGE 15 PASSENGER VAN
Dual air, many extras
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\$8,750
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2004 DODGE 1500 4 X 4 QUAD CAB
Hemi 4 x 4, leather, loaded, low miles. VIN 229561
\$22,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
(310) 395-3712



2006 LINCOLN TOWN CAR
Signature limited edition, loaded
VIN 610 802
\$29,995
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
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BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. BodyWave, Sports. Strictly non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$60.00/1hr. Lynda, L.M.T. (310) 749-0621

BODYWORK BY fitness trainer: hands & feet, arms & calves. Deeply relaxing. Nonsexual. \$45/65min. Paul: (310) 741-1901.

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature European. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

Yard Sales

SAT. AUG 5 8am-4pm. 2621 33rd St. Santa Monica.

WLA FRIDAY and Sat. Aug 4th and 5th 8am-4pm. 2619 Greenfield Ave, Furniture, Machinist tools, antiques, collectibles, 60 year accumulation, lots of free stuff!

YOUR AD COULD RUN HERE! CALL US TODAY AT (310) 458-7737

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 1330837 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE PARTS SHOP, 23709 SUNSET CROSSING RD, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : POCHOLO RIVERA, 23709 SUNSET CROSSING RD, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein../s/: POCHOLO RIVERA
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/16/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/15/2006, 7/22/2006, 7/29/2006, 8/5/2006

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L.A.'s hottest resale store!

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HERMES
ST. JOHN
PRADA
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(310) 451-2277
www.greatlabels.com

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SELL YOUR CAR FAST!

Advertise your used car for sale in the only LOCAL DAILY newspaper in town.

FOR ONLY \$45

Run it until it sells!*

SAMPLE AD!



1964 Pontiac Catalina
New Transmission, new paint job. 150K original miles. Immaculate condition inside. Kept in garage for many years. Must see!
\$3,000 (310) 458-7737

Ad shown actual size

Package includes:
■ Ad runs until your car sells. Period.*
■ Large format photograph.
■ 20 word description.
■ FREE online placement!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press



*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition, 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

ServiceDirectory

Promote your business in the only **DAILY** local newspaper in town.

YOUR AD COULD RUN TOMORROW!*

Some restrictions may apply.

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Prepay your ad today!



*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not guaranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements.

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out www.smdp.com for more info.

Services

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 ESTABLISHED 1991

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 For More Information
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 SMOKING?**
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Fitness

**Lose 10lbs every 2 weeks
 START TODAY!**

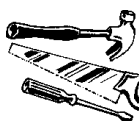
 Time to get your Six-packs back
**Training with weights
 Fun Cardio-Boxing for
 Beginners and Advanced
 Private Sessions or
 Team up to save MONEY!**

 Gym or House Call
 Call (310) 866-3336

 Your ad could run here!
 Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Handyman

**—ALL AROUND—
 HANDYMAN**

 All aspects of
 construction from
 small repairs to
 complete remodels
REFERRALS AVAILABLE

 Call Tony
 (310) 449-5555
 (310) 447-3333

Services

Handyman Service

**HANDYMAN
 EXPRESS**

 Specializing in bathroom
 remodeling and repairs.
 Plumbing, drywall, paint,
 tile and framing.

NO JOB TOO SMALL
 Satisfaction Guaranteed

 Call Nick
 310/651-0052

WESTSIDE GUYS
 Full Service Handymen

 CARPENTRY, ELEC. PAINT, ETC...
 TERMITE AND DRY ROT REPAIR
 ROOF REPAIR AND WATER DAMAGE

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 CALEB 25-35/HR (310) 409-3244

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 Efficient and Swift.
BOOKKEEPER FOR HIRE
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 \$25/HR
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 SERVICE & REPAIRS**

 -Weekly service
 -Drain & Cleans
 -Spa Covers
 -Electric spa repair

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 CLEAN UP your credit. It's not hopeless.
 Conquer Credit provides real, local people
 to help you devise the best plan to
 legitimately raise your FICO score. Free
 confidential consultation. Call
 818-530-0200.

 Your ad could run here!
 Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Mail. Fax. Call. Email. Running your classified ad is easy!

 \$5⁰⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Classification (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

Ad Copy (attach copy if necessary)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____

13 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____

Requested Start Date: / / Requested End Date: / /

Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):

☐ ALL CAPS ☐ bold ☐ italics
☐ Box (.50/day) ☐ Reverse(\$1/day)

Payment:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Check

Exp: _____ I 20 _____ Check #: _____

Make checks payable: Santa Monica Daily Press

NO CASH PLEASE

Signature: _____

Mail.

 Fill out this form and mail to:
 1427 Third Street Promenade
 Suite 202
 Santa Monica, CA 90401

Fax.

 Fill out this form and fax to:
 (310) 576-9913
 ATTN: Classifieds

Call.

 Call Annie Kotok!
 (310) 458-7737 Ext. 114

Email.

 Email your ad to:
anniek@smdp.com

PREPAY YOUR AD TODAY!


 Call us with questions
 (310) 458-7737

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at smdp.com

W.I. SIMONSON SANTA MONICA

1.9% APR
LIMITED TERM FINANCING
ON SELECT 2006 MODELS
ON APPROVED CREDIT

W.I. SIMONSON SUMMER EVENT!

Mercedes-Benz
Best of the Best
2004
Reader's Digest Award



NEW 2006
C230 SPORTS SEDAN
LOADED!

\$299 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

\$299.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$3204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$3999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$33,635. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



NEW 2006
ML350
NICELY EQUIPPED!

\$359 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

\$359.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$40,525. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



NEW 2007
E350 SEDAN
SPORT PACKAGE

\$399 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

\$399.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$51,325. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



NEW 2007
GL450
NICELY EQUIPPED!

\$599 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 39 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

5 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

\$599.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$67,175. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



NEW 2006
CLS500
LOADED!

\$749 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 39 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

2 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

VIN5A067514/4A072040
\$749.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$70,205. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



NEW 2006
CLK500 CONVERTIBLE
LOADED!

\$799 • 88¢ TAX PER MONTH FOR 27 MONTHS FULLY EQUIPPED

2 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT

VIN5A061325/4A04336
\$799.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$50 security deposit). MSRP \$65,795. Tier 1 Credit. 7.5K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.



RED TAG PRE-OWNED INVENTORY SALE EVENT!

RED TAG MERCEDES-BENZ CERTIFIED

'01 E430 BLACK/BLACK, CD, NAVIGATION, CERTIFIED, 1X061487	RED TAG PRICE	\$25,981
'00 S430 NEW CAR TRADE, VALUE PRICED, CERTIFIED, YA004614	ASKING PRICE ~~\$39,981~~	\$25,984
'04 C240 NEW CAR TRADE, CD CHANGER, CERTIFIED, 4E0149871	RED TAG PRICE	\$26,981
'04 ML350 DESERT SILVER/JAVA, CD, CHROMES, CERTIFIED, 4A470461	ASKING PRICE ~~\$29,981~~	\$26,982
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