

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

City loses 5,000 jobs, sales drop 8 percent

High office vacancy rates may slow recovery

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

There has been little economic recovery for Santa Monica since the economy took a nose dive last year.

Sales citywide dropped 8 percent in the first quarter of this year while nearly 5,000 tech-related jobs were eliminated in fields such as entertainment and health-care, according to a city report.

Businesses that have been most affected are department stores, business-to-business merchants, office equipment dealers, tourism-related industries and small retailers, the report states.

"We're facing the same troubles as the rest of the country, perhaps a little more poignantly with the tech crash and tourism drop-off, but I think we can see recovery coming," said Gwen Pentecost, senior administrative analyst for the city's economic development division.

The city recently cut millions of dollars from its budget as it deals with an \$8 million shortfall last year and is facing another \$8 million in lost sales tax revenue this year.

City officials believe Santa Monica's 18 percent vacancy rate for commercial office space may be slowing down a local

economic recovery. With those spaces empty, there are less workers shopping at local stores and eating in local restaurants.

"We have a very diverse and smart workforce here and we will bounce back. But the key will be getting some of those vacancies filled."

— GWEN PENTECOST
Economic Development Division

"We have a very diverse and smart workforce here and we will bounce back," Pentecost said. "But the key will be getting some of those vacancies filled."

According to the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce more business are leaving the city than moving in.

"These are trends that are likely to continue," said Kathy Dodson, the chamber's executive director. "We need to work harder to attract and retain ... companies."

See ECONOMY, page 5

Look out below



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press
A Santa Monica bicycle officer takes information from Silerio Abrial Daguman III, who found a tree branch had fallen on his car while he was at work this weekend near the corner of Wilshire Blvd. and Third Street.

Judge rules foreclosed company must pay debt

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

It may not be on the scale of an Enron or a Worldcom, but when one of L.A.'s largest color printers went under, a small Santa Monica businessman got caught in the middle.

Brian Goldberg, owner of Beyond Imagination Graphics on 17th Street, said L.A.-based GP Colors purposely placed an expensive order with his company knowing they were about to go under.

Goldberg took both former and current owners of GP Colors to Santa Monica Small Claims Court last week, but he only recouped some of his money.

Judge Pro Tem Jane DuBovy ruled the company owed Goldberg \$2,200 of the \$4,800 order for paper and ink the company had placed with him. Judge DuBovy awarded about half of the claim because only half of the shipment arrived before the company went bankrupt.

"I find it interesting that while they knew they were going downhill, they still made a very large order," said DuBovy,

who is a practicing bankruptcy attorney.

The ruling could cost GP Colors much more if other creditors of the company, such as Xerox and Kodak, decide to go after the new owners as well.

"I find it interesting that while they knew they were going downhill, they still made a very large order."

— JANE DuBOVY
Judge pro tem

GP Colors officials argued they didn't owe Goldberg anything because when their business failed, they liquidated the company's assets and sold the company to new owners. Typically that means all past

See DEBT, page 5

UC-Davis lab tech found with stolen stem cells

By The Associated Press

DAVIS, Calif. — Former University of California eye researcher Bin Han, his wife and their two sons, ages 9 and 14, were home watching "Jurassic Park III" on May 17 when police showed up with a search warrant.

"Bingo," one officer said as he peered into Han's freezer.

The officer found 20 vials of a biological "glue" used in stem cell experiments that belonged to a UC Davis lab. Days before, the lab had fired Han for allegedly mishandling three mice used in experiments.

Han is one of four Asian-born scientists working in U.S. labs who has been jailed in recent weeks, accused of stealing valuable research material.

A fifth admitted in May that he lied to the FBI to cover up for a colleague who allegedly looted \$2 million worth of Alzheimer's disease research.

But most charges against Han and the others have been downgraded or dropped. Han, originally charged with three felonies, now faces only a misdemeanor theft charge.

The arrests have opened a window onto an industry that experts say is plagued by spying and smuggling of American trade secrets, and a new U.S. law that has been able to do little about it.

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ If you can work at home, do so. Your ability to read between the lines with co-workers and associates comes through. Schedule a check-up this month as well. You might be pushing yourself way too hard. Ease up, please. Tonight: Let go of problems.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Fun and games knock on your door unexpectedly. You might not be in a position to deal with all that might happen. Use your creativity to move your work off your desk. Make calls. Brainstorm with others about an idea or two. Tonight: Pretend it is the beginning of the weekend.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Curb worrying by eliminating a problem. Take greater control of your life, and you, as well as others, will be a lot happier. Question less and simply handle a problem. Sometimes you become way too theoretical. Actions count. Tonight: Pay bills first.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Sometimes you undermine yourself, no matter what goes on. Loosen up. Make a resolution this month to express your opinions more often. Others respond in kind, and you feel much better as a result. Start right now. Tonight: Get together with a friend.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Consider financial options. Your intuition works overtime. You understand a lot about your many assets, not just financial ones. Consider mobilizing a talent that has been on the back burner up till now. Tonight: Take a walk.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ What you say does make a difference. Choose to verbalize, and others will brainstorm, sharing more often. Your popularity soars as a result. A meeting proves to be fertile ground to express yourself. Discussions move in new directions. Tonight: What you want.

♏ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Curb a tendency to overworry. Others cluster around you, seeking your help. Recognize what you can and cannot do. Your instincts help you zero in on what you want. Associates easily defer to your judgment. Your sense of responsibility comes through. Tonight: In the limelight.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ If you don't have the right answers, find them. Others defer to you. People see your efforts and ingenuity. Seek out experts, if necessary. Listen well to associates. You will need to break past a pattern. Let go of rigidity. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Pull out of a fiery discussion, if need be. Others hold the cards. The less pushy you are, the less likely there will be a problem. Associates will listen to a well-placed suggestion. Just the same, someone needs to see what will happen if he or she does it his or her way. Tonight: Follow another's lead. You'll like where it will take you.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others run with the ball. A well-placed suggestion has a way of turning a situation around. Your perspective proves to be quite unique. You learn more about those around you through observation. Do needed research while others run the show! Tonight: Join friends for dinner or another fun happening.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Dig into work and clear out as much as possible. You could be on overload. If you ask for help, you will get it. Delegate as much as possible. A partner or associate has many suggestions. Let this person pitch in his or her time more often. Tonight: Put your feet up. You deserve it.

♐ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Do whatever you need to do to handle a personal matter. Your creativity and happiness come out in nearly everything you do right now. Others feel important because of the feedback you give them. Tonight: Pick up where you left off last night.

CORRECTION: Due to an editing error, in the Aug. 5 issue a quote that appeared on page 1 was attributed to the wrong person. Denny Zane, a member of Santa Monica's For Renters' Rights, said "There were lots of good candidates. For every seat, there is somebody that our members would say, 'I wish there was one more seat.'"

In the same story, a fact about the living wage ordinance was omitted. All businesses in the coastal zone that make more than \$5 million annually would have to pay their workers between \$10.50 with health benefits or \$12.25 without benefits.

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LOCAL



Local cable access show awarded public affairs Emmy

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A cable access show that began in Santa Monica over ten years ago beat out some of the region's largest broadcasters to win an Emmy for Informational and Public Affairs programming.

The Emmy was awarded to Santa Monica activist Leslie Dutton at an awards ceremony last week. Dutton founded her cable access show "Full Disclosure" in 1992 to shed light on local issues and spark dialogue between city officials and residents.

Dutton was honored for a series she wrote and produced concerning how cities throughout Los Angeles County were protecting themselves against future terrorist attacks. She was up against programs from NBC and KTLA.

It is the first time a cable access television show has competed and won an Emmy when competing against broadcast television stations.

"It just bowled me over," she said. "Many people submit a lot and they never win anything."

Though Dutton's television show has expanded its audience base considerably and is now seen weekly on over 40 cable channels and one satellite service from Orange County to Sacramento, she credits Santa Monica as spurring her into action.

"I was really concerned about issues such as street crime," Dutton said. "It seemed like the mainstream media wasn't covering the issues and the information wasn't getting out."

So Dutton started a talk show where a panel of local officials would discuss issues of the day. Many Santa Monica officials have appeared on the program, including Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr., Pico Neighborhood activist Peter Tigler, Police Union leader Steven Brackett, former City Attorney Richard Knickerbocker and many others.

"There seemed to be a lot of need to provide a platform for those in government and residents to discuss issues and find solutions," she said.

Dutton said she got the idea for the television show after a close friend, Francis Finnen, was stabbed in the ribs with a pair of scissors by an intoxicated transient trying to steal the 89-year-old woman's purse. The incident sparked Dutton to concentrate heavily on the city's homeless problem and why Santa Monica officials were not enforcing the city's laws.

"When you have someone that helpless being victimized, well something had to be done," Dutton said. "That sparked the whole thing. We had to send a message to our leaders and that's how 'Full Disclosure' started."

Tigler said he enjoyed appearing on Dutton's show, which concentrated on issues of the Pico neighborhood.

"She presented a forum and we talked like any other talk show I suppose," he said. "Leslie runs a good show and I was glad to be on it and I would do it again."

"I'm glad to see that she is still doing it," he added. "It's good to see that she's getting awards."



Photo courtesy of Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
Activist Leslie Dutton with the Emmy presented to her at an awards ceremony last week. Dutton founded the cable access show 'Full Disclosure' in 1992.

The Q-Line

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

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

Residents have reported that buses,

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

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

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

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

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The Surf will be pretty flat today. Remnant swell activity is on the decline. Some south bay spots will see wind swell waves in the two- to three-foot range, but sets will be inconsistent.

Expect waist level surf and below for all but the very best combination exposures. County line should be decent.

No new swell activity is predicted for Wednesday, so surf should continue to suffer.

A small southwest swell is expected Thursday, but it's too early to say yet what it will do.

Today's Tides:

Low-	2:59a.m.	-0.47'
High-	9:31a.m.	3.83'
Low-	2:01p.m.	2.46'
High-	8:14p.m.	6.40'

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

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OPINION

'Luxury hotel mantra and the ripple effect'

(Editor's note: This is one of a series of weekly columns editorializing on the hotly contested living wage ordinance. The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees \$12.25 an hour. Those businesses and their supporters have asked for the ordinance to be rescinded, which is before voters this November.)

Monday's article in this paper regarding the results of the Santa Monica Renters' Rights endorsing convention contained an obvious and important error when it described the city's minimum wage ordinance by saying that it would "raise the minimum wage for low-income workers at coastal Santa Monica luxury hotels ..."

Of course, this is the mantra being chanted by the law's proponents and the article's author fell right into the trap. However, it is a complete mischaracteri-

zation of the law for several reasons.

First, as I explained in last week's column, the luxury beach hotels are already paying wages equal to or greater than the law requires except for tipped employees, such as bellmen and wait staff in the hotel restaurants. It is obvious, therefore, that the bulk of the wage increases which the law would impose on these hotels will go to workers already receiving substantial incomes from gratuities.

Second, the law covers all coastal area employers having gross receipts in excess of \$5 million — not just "luxury hotels." This list includes several non-hotel restaurants, medium and lower price hotels, retailers, senior citizen residential facilities, the Rand Corp. and Pacific Park.

Third, as I explained in an earlier article, the largest employer to be affected by

the law is the city itself which will incur significant cost increases and suffer declines in tax revenue, all to the detriment of local residents.

Fourth, businesses which are not directly subject to the law will also feel its impact. A recent article in the Los

Angeles Business Journal focusing on the impact of the law on restaurants quoted the owner of a popular Montana Avenue restaurant on the law's ripple effects: "If I have a

good employee and he or she can go down to the coastal zone and earn more money, I'll have to pay the piper to keep that employee." In a business with profit margins around 5-7 percent and labor costs of around 30-35 percent of sales, increases like these cannot be simply absorbed, particularly by these smaller local businesses.

The reality of this "ripple effect" is demonstrated in an article appearing on the front page of the Aug. 5 Los Angeles Times regarding problems the Immigration and Naturalization Service is having retaining border patrol agents. At a time when the INS is attempting to expand, it has lost approximately 1,500 experienced agents, largely due to salary issues. Many of these agents have found jobs with the new Homeland Security Agency which is paying higher salaries for sky marshals. As a result, the INS is having to increase wage levels in an effort to keep experienced agents. This is the "ripple effect" in action.

As I said last week, when you hear or read an argument supporting the ordinance which focuses on Santa Monica's luxury hotels, please recognize it for the political propaganda which it is.

(Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a property rights attorney.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



Automobile dealerships increase sales 13 percent

ECONOMY, from page 1

We need them because they provide high skilled, high paying jobs."

Small businesses and at least two corporations are in the process of leaving Santa Monica, Dodson said. MGM's corporate headquarters and BAE Systems are reportedly leaving. Officials say cities like Culver City and West Hollywood are luring regional businesses away, Dodson said. "We've had employers say they have put employees in other cities rather than expand in Santa Monica," she said.

Business owners who are chamber members have been complaining that the local recovery has been excessively slow, Dodson said.

"It's not really a surprise," she said. "It really just confirms what we are hearing from our membership all along."

Additionally, officials said there has been an 11 percent decrease in tourism-related sales compared to the same January-to-March business quarter last year. The city has recently launched a \$200,000 foreign media campaign to drum up more visitors.

Department stores located in Santa Monica Place Mall had a nearly 20 percent drop-off in business, the largest loss among the city's retailers, according to the city's report. However, almost every retail sector throughout the city posted at least single-digit losses.

"Though consumers are still spending, there has been a substantial drop-off in income for people," Pentecost said. "It's all catching up with them now."

The only winners were the city's automobile dealerships, which continue to

lead local businesses in sales. Dealerships made up 15 of the city's "Top 25 producers." The industry posted a 13 percent increase in sales compared to the same business quarter last year.

"Automobiles have held well, though they are not doing as well as their counterparts in other cities."

— GWEN PENTECOST
Economic Development Division

"Automobiles have held well, though they are not doing as well as their counterparts in other cities," Pentecost said. "But they have held up the most because of their intelligent, aggressive financing."

However, not all of the prosperity from the nation's decade-long economic expansion starting in the early 1990s has been lost. Sales and jobs are still higher than they were reported in 1999, both locally and nationally.

And Pentecost said some early economic reports tentatively paint a stronger economic picture for Santa Monica and the Los Angeles region next quarter.

"Remember this is just the first quarter and we're comparing it to the first quarter of 2001 (before the recession was in full swing)," Pentecost said. "The rest of the year may tell a completely different story."

Owners of failed business say they tried to make it work

DEBT, from page 1

debts are forgiven.

"We paid for what we owed (Goldberg)," said Tom Wilhelm, the new president of GP Colors. "The rest of the costs are from the previous company which no longer exists."

Goldberg — who used to work for GP Colors before opening his own shop 10 years ago — went to great pains to make sure the old and new owners of the company were present in the courtroom. He believes the former owners, John Petaro and his mother Jannette Petaro, made an arrangement with the new owner, Bill Gordon, who is the former president, to avoid paying creditors.

"The old GP Colors players are the same as the players in the new GP Colors," Goldberg said. "There is no new company."

Gordon admitted to owning the majority of the company but said the Petaro Family Trust owns 20 percent. John Petaro — whose father, Salvatore, began the business decades ago — said he still works for the company. But he said he only receives straight commission and dividends he gets

through his family's trust.

By setting up the business venture in such a way, the previous owners and the new owners can avert paying back old debts — like Goldberg's company — and avoid being held liable in court, according to DuBovy. She said it's a common practice for companies that try to unload their debt to attract new investors.

But John Petaro said he wasn't trying to out-scheme anyone.

"We were trying everything to save the business," he said. "We were constantly looking for new capital and investors."

But Goldberg successfully argued that the shop got his shipment days before the company filed its foreclosure papers, making him able to recoup some of the bill. His claim was backed up by a former GP Colors purchasing agent who'd placed the order and checked it in.

"Assuming everyone has been honest with me under oath and not lied about any collusion, you still owe (Goldberg) some money," DuBovy said. "I have before me evidence and all I can rule on is the evidence."

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STATE

Oil companies settle in Lake Tahoe MTBE case

BY ANGELA WATERCUTTER
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco court approved a settlement Monday under which oil companies will pay \$28 million to end a case involving pollution of Lake Tahoe groundwater with the gasoline additive MTBE.

Shell Oil Co., Shell Products Co., Equilon Enterprises LLC and Texaco Inc. agreed to settle with the South Tahoe Public Utilities District and formalized their deal Monday in San Francisco Superior Court.

In April, a jury found the companies liable for pollution with MTBE, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has said may cause cancer.

The companies maintain they aren't liable, despite the settlement.

"We felt that settling now was the best thing to do to no longer deal with protracted litigation costs," said Shell spokesman Cameron Smyth.

The utilities district sued the companies in 1998 after MTBE pollution forced it to close a third of its drinking-water wells. The south Tahoe area has shallow wells, many near gas station storage tanks, and surface runoff helped the chemical reach drinking water.

Dennis Cocking, spokesman for the district, said that the total \$69 million from both Monday's settlement and prior settlements in the case should cover the cost of cleanup as well as legal fees.

"We're very gratified," Cocking said. "We achieved what we set out to achieve."

It likely will cost \$35 million to \$40 million to clean the wells, Cocking said, though some estimates have ranged as high as \$45 million.

Despite being a potential carcinogen, MTBE has been used as an oxygenate in gasoline to help some regions reach federal clean air standards.

During trial, water district lawyers produced documents they said showed the companies knew MTBE could move through groundwater.

A spokesman for the Oxygenated Fuels Association said the problem stemmed from faulty underground tanks, not the additive.

"There's very few new MTBE detections in California right now," said Frank Maisano, of the Washington D.C.-based trade group. "The storage tank issue is where the real problem is. MTBE has been very valuable to the air quality of California."

Monday's deal, approved by Judge Carlos Bea, also included a separate \$300,000 settlement between the utilities district and a Tahoe gas station. Two weeks ago, Lyondell Chemical Co., once a leading producer of MTBE, agreed to pay \$4 million to settle the case.

Shell Oil Products US announced in June that it would join other suppliers and stop using MTBE in gasoline sold in California by the end of 2002.

SoCal border smugglers raise alarm over wrong-way driving

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Smugglers have skirted security at the U.S.-Mexico border more than a dozen times in recent months by sending cars with reinforced tires and bumpers hurtling north in the southbound lanes of the freeway that connects the two countries, officials said Monday.

The smugglers, carrying drugs or illegal immigrants, fill their tires with silicone, to withstand road spikes meant to thwart wrong-way drivers, and add extra steel to their bumpers to knock oncoming cars out of the way, said William Veal, chief of the Border Patrol's San Diego sector.

The Border Patrol is working with local police and Mexican authorities to halt the incidents, which authorities believe are the work of a single smuggling organization, Veal said.

"They've been successful so they're doing it again and again," he said. "It's a trend you definitely want to stop before it gets out of hand."

Five times in the last two weeks, smugglers have successfully used this method, either late at night or in the pre-dawn hours. Since March, it's been done at least 16 times, authorities said.

The San Diego border crossing appears to be the only one in the Southwest where this type of smuggling is occurring, Veal said.

Authorities have caught several of the incidents on videotape, showing how smugglers shut off their headlights as they cross into the United States. In one tape, a smuggler can be seen knocking an oncoming car out of its path.

Southbound traffic slows as it passes into Mexico so cars can pass over steel spikes that are angled to shred tires if a vehicle backs up or goes the wrong way. Despite the slower speeds at that section of freeway, authorities fear the smugglers will cause severe traffic collisions.

The Border Patrol believes the smugglers travel north for a short distance, getting off at one of the first exits from Interstate 5 or Interstate 805.

Just two smugglers have been caught: one whose car broke down on the freeway and another whose load of marijuana, which was stowed near the engine, caught fire, said Bruce Ward, the director of the San Ysidro Port of Entry, which links San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.

"It scares me," Ward said. "You don't know who's coming through or what's in their vehicles."

The same smuggling ring was also allegedly behind a June 24 wrong-way crash on Interstate 8 in the mountains east of San Diego, Veal said. In that incident, six people died when a smuggler carrying 27 illegal immigrants in a van crashed into oncoming traffic.

Illegal immigrants and smugglers have long tried to force their way over the border, but traditionally it was by speeding with traffic through the northbound lanes to bypass the checkpoint.

But that became difficult after the United States adopted improved security measures such as angled concrete barriers that force cars to drive slowly or the automatic spike strips that pop up and shred a vehicle's tires, allowing authorities to quickly apprehend them.

STATE



Death penalty sought in Samantha Runnion murder

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA — Prosecutors will seek the death penalty against the man accused of kidnapping 5-year-old Samantha Runnion from in front of her home and then killing her, the district attorney announced Monday.

Alejandro Avila, 27, of Lake Elsinore was charged with murder, kidnapping and two counts of forcible lewd acts on a child. Prosecutors can seek the death penalty under special circumstances included with the charges; that the murder occurred after a kidnapping and the crime involved lewd acts with a child.

"There is no question in my mind that the person who kidnapped, molested and murdered 5-year-old Samantha should face the death penalty," Orange County District Attorney Anthony Rackauckas told a press conference.

"This crime has shocked and outraged our community, our nation, even other nations. If there was ever a case where justice would be served by seeking the death penalty, this is the case," he said.

The district attorney, in response to a question, said he would not consider a plea bargain under any circumstances. Samantha's mother, reached by telephone, had no comment.

Avila, held without bail at Men's Central Jail in Santa Ana, has denied the charges, saying he was at a mall when the girl was snatched. He was scheduled to be arraigned Friday.

Samantha was abducted July 15 as she played with a 5-year-old friend. A man who said he was looking for a lost puppy carried her away kicking and screaming.

Her nude body was found the next day alongside a mountain highway between

Orange County and the Riverside County community of Lake Elsinore. Investigators said she had been sexually assaulted and asphyxiated.

A description of the suspect from the playmate and tips from the public led Orange County sheriff's officials to Avila.

Orange County sheriff's officials have said they are certain Avila, who worked at a plant that makes pacemakers and other medical devices, is the man who abducted the girl. A source close to the investigation confirmed that DNA evidence found on the girl's body matches that of Avila.

"This crime has shocked and outraged our community, our nation, even other nations."

— ANTHONY RACKAUCKAS
Orange County district attorney

Meanwhile, the reward offered for the capture and conviction of the man who killed Samantha appears to have dwindled.

Published reports put the reward figure as high as \$250,000, and the sheriff had officially reported that it was at least \$160,000. It now stands at \$100,000, with any additional money contingent on whether pledges made in the heat of the manhunt are fulfilled, Sheriff's Department spokesman Jim Amormino said.

Rewards of \$50,000 offered by Gov. Gray Davis and by BP, the petroleum company that employs Samantha's mother, Erin Runnion, still stand. The money will be distributed only after a court conviction.

Both sides victorious in state supreme court tobacco rulings

BY PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Rulings by the California Supreme Court on Monday blocked some ailing smokers from suing tobacco companies, depending on what evidence of industry wrongdoing they show to a court.

The tobacco industry said three California awards totaling \$148.2 million will have to be retried because jurors considered evidence about industry wrongdoing between 1988 and 1998.

During that 10-year period, California law protected tobacco companies from lawsuits. Most evidence of company wrongdoing during those 10 years can't be used in court, the Supreme Court said Monday.

Tobacco companies and their investors cheered the rulings.

Shares in two of the tobacco companies involved in the rulings closed higher Monday in trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Shares of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. rose \$1.54, or 3 percent, to \$56.14. Philip Morris Cos. stock closed up \$2.29, or 5 percent, to \$47.50.

But smokers' attorneys and anti-tobacco activists said the rulings clear the way for more lawsuits to be filed. Many lawyers were awaiting the Supreme Court's rulings before deciding to file suits.

In many cases, lawyers say they have

enough evidence of corporate wrongdoing before 1988 and after 1998 to proceed. The court refused companies' request to bar all evidence generated before 1998.

"The problem for the companies is that their wrongdoing spans many decades and the ruling applies to only one decade," said Edward Sweda, a lawyer with the Tobacco Products Liability Project at Northeastern University in Boston. "There is still plenty of evidence available that will be very damning to the companies."

Sweda said he expects the three jury awards to be upheld and expects an increase in judgments against the industry.

"It's not a clean win for either side," said Martin Feldman, a tobacco analyst with Merrill Lynch.

The Supreme Court's action Monday stemmed from two cases brought by sick smokers against R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris. Lower courts had thrown out both cases, citing the state immunity law. The high court returned both cases to appeals courts for further consideration.

The state Supreme Court did make an exception to the 10-year evidence ban — smokers can use evidence that chemicals added by the companies between 1988 and 1998 contributed directly to their illnesses. But this exception does not apply to one key chemical — nicotine, the court ruled.

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NATIONAL

Oregon company spreads cremated remains from air

By The Associated Press

ROSEBURG, Ore. — They arrive in mahogany boxes, shoeboxes and even the occasional cookie jar. They are put aboard a small aircraft in Roseburg and whisked aloft to be cast to the wind, falling on the rivers, waves or green valleys of Oregon.

They are the cremated remains of people who wished to have their ashes spread over the countryside they loved.

One Roseburg woman loved Western Oregon's Willamette Valley.

"Her request was to be spread through the valley, from Portland all the way down to Roseburg," said Rosemarie Rokus, who co-owns Ashes Over Oregon with her husband, Pat. "We did it in the evening, which I thought was beautiful."

While some may consider it a bit morbid, the Roseburg couple view their year-old business as a service.

When Pat retired last year from his 30-year-old family business, Rokus Plumbing and Heating, he wanted to spend more time flying and determined that some supplemental income would help cover the costs.

For years friends had occasionally asked Rokus to scatter the ashes of their loved ones from the air. The couple found there were many nautical services for scatterings at sea, but only a few dispersal-by-aircraft services, mostly in California. Ashes Over Oregon was born.

The couple distributed brochures at mortuaries across Oregon and into California.

Their Web site explains the business's flat fee \$250 for the flight and a certificate printed on fine parchment which lists, among other things, the exact time and the latitude and longitude of the dispersal.

There is an extra fuel fee for trips beyond a 30-mile radius of Roseburg.

The dispersal device is a 7-foot rubber hose with a flared mouth on either end. One end is inside the cockpit, situated near the ashes, and the other end is mounted outside the plane.

Air rushing over the wing and under the exposed end of pipe creates a suction, pulling ashes out.

A family member or friend of the deceased sometimes asks to be aboard when the ashes are dispatched.

Ashes Over Oregon is averaging two or three dispersals a month so far, Pat said. Most of the remains come from area mortuaries, but the Rokuses have scattered ashes that came from as far as Texas and Arizona. Many of the deceased are people who grew up in Oregon but moved away.

"In their will they say they want to go back to where they were born," Pat said.

When people ask that their ashes be scattered on a ranch or farm in Oregon, he first clears it with the landowners.

"A lot of them go over the ocean," Pat said. "And the Umpqua River," Rosemarie added. Rosemarie, who typically handles the vacuum and is taking flying lessons, begins sending ashes skyward at about 6,000 feet.

NYC plans ceremony to mark one-year anniversary of 9-11

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The city is planning a solemn ceremony at ground zero and tribute concerts in all five boroughs to mark the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Plans call for a non-denominational service the morning of the event, and organizers are considering a 102-minute ceremony to mirror the time between the attack on the trade center's north tower and its collapse.

Plans were to be announced Tuesday by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki, but people familiar with the details spoke to The Associated Press

on condition of anonymity. The plans were still being completed Monday, the sources said, and were subject to change.

Bloomberg and Pataki are expected to attend the ceremony with former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and relatives of the more than 2,800 people killed.

The White House has already announced that President Bush plans to also travel here, but speeches from public officials are not expected to be the focal point of the ceremony.

The Sept. 11 anniversary events are expected to include concerts at parks in all five boroughs, including musical tributes in Manhattan's Central Park and Union Square Park.

Fourteen arrested at nuclear plant protest in Tennessee

By The Associated Press

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — Fourteen protesters were arrested at an annual demonstration outside the Y-12 nuclear plant to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, during World War II.

One person was charged with federal trespassing and the other 13 with state misdemeanor charges of blocking a road and refusing police commands to move.

An estimated 550 demonstrators participated in the protest Sunday, organized by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance.

Y-12 is a semiannual protest target for groups commemorating the Hiroshima bombing because the plant produces uranium used to fuel nuclear bombs such as the one dropped on Hiroshima.

Demonstrators protest at the plant each April and August. They have said in the past one of their goals is to be arrested.

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NATIONAL

Billions in federal aid shifted to GOP districts

BY DAVID PACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The 1994 revolution that gave Republicans control of the House of Representatives produced a seismic shift in federal spending, moving tens of billions of dollars from Democratic to GOP districts, an Associated Press analysis shows.

Rather than pork barrel projects for new GOP districts, the change was driven mostly by Republican policies that moved spending from poor rural and urban areas to the more affluent suburbs and GOP-leaning farm country, the computer analysis showed.

The result was an average of \$612 million more in federal spending last year for congressional districts represented by Republicans than for those represented by Democrats, the analysis found.

In terms of services, for example, that translates into more business loans and farm subsidies, and fewer public housing grants and food stamps.

"There is an old adage," said House Majority Leader Dick Army, R-Texas. "To the victor goes the spoils."

House Democratic Conference Chairman Martin Frost said the spending shift demonstrates that "who's in the majority does make a difference."

The analysis highlights the huge stakes for voters in the November midterm elections, when Republicans will try to hold onto their narrow six-seat majority in the House. The Senate, which the Republicans also won in 1994, switched

to Democratic control in June 2001 when Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont left the Republican Party and became an independent.

Republican House districts that received an average of \$3.9 billion in 1995 ballooned to \$5.8 billion in 2001, a 52 percent increase, the analysis found. Over the same period, spending in Democratic districts on average increased only 34 percent, from \$3.9 billion to \$5.2 billion.

When Democrats last controlled the House and wrote the 1995 budget, the average Democratic district got \$35 million more than the average GOP district. By 2001, average federal spending in Republican districts was \$612 million more than in Democratic districts.

Army and other GOP leaders say the spending shift wasn't part of a premeditated strategy, although they acknowledge directing federal spending toward districts where Republican representatives are politically vulnerable.

"Clearly that happens, whether you're Republican or Democrat," said former Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., who oversaw the House Appropriations Committee for three years after the GOP takeover.

The biggest spending increases came in districts that stayed Republican since before 1995. Those that switched from Democratic to Republican in the 1994 election also benefited more than Democratic districts.

GOP leaders say the spending shift mostly was a byproduct of their efforts to change the direction of government and to ensure GOP areas received fairer treatment

after four decades of being in the minority.

Between 1995 and 2001, AP's analysis found that 20 of the 30 fastest growing federal programs already had disproportionately benefited constituents in GOP districts Republicans took over in 1995.

Similarly, 20 of the 30 programs that were cut the most had disproportionately benefited Democratic districts before the takeover.

Army said the programs cut by the GOP Congress were "institutional pork," designed to help Democrats build a loyal constituency.

By cutting those programs, Army said, Republicans reduced the amount of money going to Democratic districts.

But Congress under GOP rule also directed more money to programs that disproportionately benefit GOP districts. Direct payments to farmers increased sevenfold during the six years of GOP rule; business and industrial loans quadrupled; home mortgage insurance went up 150 percent; and crop insurance assistance jumped by two-thirds.

Mississippi farmer David Waide got about \$40,000 in federal crop subsidies during 2001, covered more than a fifth of his costs. Without that money, he said, "I couldn't operate the row crop part of it."

Federal spending records analyzed by AP are maintained by the Census Bureau and reflect both direct spending and government loans and insurance. In almost all cases, they also provide the location where the money was spent, making it possible to compare spending on a dis-

trict-by-district basis.

Programs like flood insurance are reported in terms of the government's total liability, should it have to pay insurance claims. While that inflates the overall spending numbers, the trend of bigger spending increases in Republican districts remained whether government insurance programs were counted or not.

From 1995 to 2001, average federal spending without insurance in Republican districts increased 41 percent, compared with 27 percent in Democratic districts.

Robert M. Stein, a Rice University political scientist and co-author of a book on federal spending after the GOP takeover of Congress, said Republicans "love contingent liabilities, guaranteed loans, subsidies, and insurance payments because they really don't break the budget."

Army agreed.

"That is possible because of the way (budget) scorekeeping is set up," he said. "Our intuitive first reaction is what does it cost? And if the scorekeeper comes back and says it costs less, we have more of an inclination to leave it alone."

Ironically, House leaders proved less adept at directing money toward their own districts, further showing that policy changes — not pork politics — were the driving force behind the spending shift.

Army's Texas district, for instance, ranked 211th when the GOP took control, and slipped to 213th by 2001. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt's Missouri district fell from 36th in 1995 to 77th six years later.

Gun turret of Civil War shipwreck raised after 140 years

BY SONJA BARISIC
Associated Press Writer

HATTERAS, N.C. — The coral-encrusted gun turret of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor was raised Monday from the floor of the Atlantic, nearly 140 years after the historic warship sank during a storm.

As salvage crews cheered, the 120-ton turret was pulled out of the depths by a huge crane on a 300-foot barge. A Civil War-era American flag fluttered from the salvage apparatus and silt-colored water poured out of the turret into the whitecapped sea before the wreckage was swung aboard the barge.

The turret is the biggest piece of wreckage recovered during a salvage operation run by the Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which controls the underwater sanctuary 16 miles off Cape Hatteras.

"It's fantastic," said John Broadwater, NOAA's director of the Monitor sanctuary. "It's sitting on the barge and we're looking at dents that the Virginia put on it March 9, 1862."

On that date, the Union ship and the Confederate vessel CSS Virginia revolutionized naval warfare when they fought to a draw near Newport News, Va.

The Monitor's revolving cylindrical turret was an innovation: It allowed the crew to maneuver the ship out of harm's way while maintaining accurate fire simply by adjusting the turret. The Virginia had to be steered into position for its guns to take accurate aim.

On Saturday, divers removed most of a human skeleton found inside the turret. The remains are believed to be those of one of the 16 sailors who died when the ship



Martin Maddock/Associated Press

The derrick barge Wotan, top, which is moored above the USS Monitor, and the tugboat "Delta Force" stand-by to hoist the gun turret of the Civil War ironclad, off Cape Hatteras, N.C., this past Sunday. Underwater currents and shifting seas delayed efforts Sunday to put in place a heavy cable sling to lift the 120-ton turret. A Navy diver worked Monday to position the cables needed to haul up the turret, after nearly 140 years on the ocean floor.

sank in a storm on Dec. 31, 1862, and landed upside down in 240 feet of water. The lower part of the skeleton is pinned beneath one of the two huge cannons inside the turret.

The remains will be analyzed, then buried with military honors.

The wreckage was discovered in 1973, but only bits and pieces had been recovered until recently. Researchers

said the wreck was disintegrating and in the last several years have made an effort to save some of the vessel's unique features. The entire vessel is too fragile to be raised.

The turret will be taken to a museum in Newport News, Va., to be preserved and displayed along with hundreds of other Monitor artifacts.

Crews expected to recover the turret Saturday but were foiled by bad weather. On Monday, divers were able to attach 100-pound shackles to a claw-like lifting device that had been bolted to the turret and the recovery began.

The turret was lifted slightly and positioned on a platform designed to support the aging, 20-foot structure as it was lifted out.

This year's expedition cost \$6.5 million. Last year, the Navy and NOAA spent \$4.3 million to raise the ship's steam engine. In the past, pieces of the hull have been recovered.

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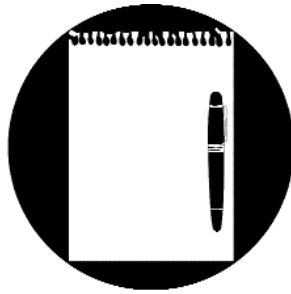
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NATIONAL

Woman who suspected husband of an affair allegedly runs him over

BY PAM EASTON
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Suspecting her husband of having an affair, Clara Harris did what wealthy wives can afford to do: She hired an investigator. But what the private eye saw could become Exhibit A against Harris herself.

As the investigator's video camera rolled, an enraged Harris allegedly killed her husband in a parking lot by running him over three times with her silver Mercedes-Benz and leaving the car parked on top of him. The victim's 16-year-old daughter was in the passenger seat.

"It was an accident," Harris, a 44-year-old dentist, told reporters after her arrest on murder charges.

The episode happened July 24 outside a hotel after Harris confronted her orthodontist husband, David, and got into a screaming fight with the alleged other woman.

Bobbi Bacha of Blue Moon Investigations said the detective agency turned over to police a videotape that contains "all of the activities and movements of the subject to the very end."

Harris' attorney, George Parnham, said last week that she will plead innocent at her Aug. 23 arraignment. She remains free on \$30,000 bail.

Parnham, who unsuccessfully defended Andrea Yates, the Houston mother who claimed insanity after drowning her five children in the bathtub, suggested that this case, too, would hinge on the defendant's state of mind.

"Obviously, something triggered what happened," Parnham said. "This was not an act that was anyway akin to the mentality of Clara Harris. We have a professional person who is very intelligent. When you see the man that you love in the arms of someone else — that has to have such a deep emotional impact on you."

Harris had hired Blue Moon Investigations on the very day her 44-year-old husband was killed. But before the investigator could confirm her suspicions, she showed up unexpectedly at the suburban hotel where her husband of 10

years had gone with one of his employees, Gail Bridges. The investigator had David Harris under surveillance at the time.

Witnesses said Clara Harris got into a fight with Bridges in the lobby, ripping the woman's shirt off, and announced that her husband was having an affair with Bridges. David Harris and about 10 hotel employees tried to pull the two women apart.

Security guards escorted David Harris and Bridges outside. Clara Harris, meanwhile, got into her 2001 four-door Mercedes S-Class 430. With tires squealing, she headed toward a crowd in the parking lot as alarmed hotel employees banged on the hood and tried to get her to stop, witnesses said.

"She jumped the median and ran over him three times," Nassau Bay police Lt. Joe M. Cashiola told the Houston Chronicle. "I saw the daughter lying on the ground, crying uncontrollably and sobbing. She had to watch her dad 5 feet from her, underneath the car, while they're putting her mom in handcuffs."

A witness, Angela Reyes, told the Chronicle that David Harris' teenage daughter from a previous marriage jumped out of the car and punched Clara Harris in the face. Clara Harris yelled toward her husband: "I'm so sorry! I love you! Keep breathing!"

Last week, the teenager's mother went to court to ask that David Harris' estate be placed in a trust for his children so it cannot be used by Clara Harris to defend herself or to profit from her husband's death.

Bridges' lawyer had no comment last week. At Bridges' two-story brown brick home, the shades were drawn and signs were posted along its walkway and driveway warning against trespassing.

The Harrises lived with their 3-year-old twin sons in a \$560,000 white stone and brick mansion with a long, winding driveway on nearly four acres in the suburb of Friendswood. A woman who answered the door last week said Clara Harris had no comment.

Her dental office has reopened, but another dentist is seeing patients in her place.

Vessel rescues humpback whale from fishing gear

By The Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — A humpback whale got a helping hand from the crew of the whale-watching vessel Nautilus over the weekend after she got tangled up in some fishing gear.

Skipper James Harkin said the crew knew something was wrong after they saw that the 65-foot humpback and her calf were not diving Sunday.

As the boat drew near, both whales swam alongside and the crew began removing 300 feet of rope and netting. Passengers cheered when crew members snipped away material that had been attached to the whale's dorsal fin.

Afterward, the whales stayed with the boat for an hour-and-a-half before the Nautilus returned to dock, Harkin said.

"It was really sad when we had to leave them, but at least we left them in good health," he said Monday.

The whale was familiar to the crew, which had been watching the mother and calf this summer. Harkin said he had no doubt that the whale came alongside the vessel because it needed help.

"After observing whales for 20 years, it doesn't surprise me. Whales are amazing," he said.

INTERNATIONAL



Israel clamps down on Palestinian movement

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israel struck back at the Palestinians on Monday following a day of deadly attacks, firing missiles at a suspected weapons factory in the Gaza Strip and announcing a ban on Palestinian travel in the northern West Bank.

At the same time, however, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met with the Palestinian interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, to discuss plans for a cease-fire that would allow for Israeli troops to leave Palestinian areas, Palestinian officials and Israel Army Radio said.

In the missile strike late Monday, four people were lightly injured when Israeli helicopters fired three missiles at a spare car parts factory in Gaza City's Zeitouni neighborhood, which is known as a hub for the militant group Hamas, witnesses said.

Israel Army Radio said the building targeted was a suspected weapons factory.

Three buildings, located near a mosque, were damaged, and one of the missiles didn't explode, witnesses said. Firefighters doused a small blaze that ignited at the scene.

Salim Bahtiti, 25, son of the factory owner, angrily denied the shop was used to make weapons.

"I challenge all the experts of this world to come and to see if our metal work shop can be used to produce any kind of weapons," he said, pointing to the charred remains of his spare car parts machines.

"This is a war against the Palestinian economy. The Israelis are now targeting the national industry," he said. "It's another part of the brutal war."

The strike was the first on Gaza since an Israeli F-16 dropped a one-ton bomb

on a Gaza City block July 22, killing the military leader of the militant group Hamas, Salah Shehadeh, and 14 other people, nine of them children.

The bombing prompted international condemnation — as well as a rare rebuke from the White House — because of the high civilian toll. It also prompted Hamas to vow revenge.

Hamas has since claimed responsibility for two deadly attacks: a bombing at Jerusalem's Hebrew University that killed seven people, five of them Americans, and a suicide bombing on a bus Sunday that killed nine passengers.

In all, Sunday's toll reached 13, with shooting attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Three assailants were also killed.

Following the attacks, Israel on Monday said it would bar Palestinian travel in much of the northern West Bank and it sent tanks to seal off the Rafah refugee camp and a nearby one in southern Gaza.

The measures broaden the already tight restrictions Israel has imposed on seven major West Bank cities and towns in a bid to stop terror attacks, including rolling curfews that keep Palestinians at home for days on end.

Under the new travel ban, Palestinians will not be able to drive in the northern half of the West Bank, between the towns of Nablus, Jenin, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem and Ramallah, the army said. Some movement will be permitted in the southern West Bank, including the towns of Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho.

"We are in a situation of total closure in the area of Samaria," Ben-Eliezer said, using the biblical name for the northern West Bank. "Nobody enters and nobody leaves. There is no movement between the towns and villages."

Palestinians trying to get to jobs and



Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pauses during a meeting at his Jerusalem office Monday. Israel on Monday announced a "total ban" on Palestinian travel in much of the West Bank and sealed off a chunk of the Gaza Strip with tanks in response to Palestinian attacks on Israelis that killed 13 people over 24 hours.

schools often use dirt roads to get around military checkpoints. The military said Monday's announcement of a "total ban" on Palestinian traffic meant that existing blockades would be strictly enforced, with more checkpoints and more troops stationed at them. Exemptions would be made in humanitarian cases, the military said.

In Gaza, about 25 tanks took up positions on the main north-south road, cutting off the southern town of Rafah and an adjacent refugee camp from the rest of the strip.

Hours after the clampdown was announced, a car exploded in northern Israel, killing one person and injuring

another. Police and rescue officials said it appeared the slain passenger was a Palestinian militant en route to carrying out an attack.

Israeli media said the Palestinian had forced his way into the car of an Arab Israeli hotel guard who tried to flee as soon as he learned the man was planning an attack. The Palestinian apparently detonated his explosives belt prematurely, killing himself and injuring the driver.

The area of the blast, on the edge of the West Bank, is not far from where Sunday's bus bombing occurred and has been the site of several other recent attacks.

Gunmen storm Christian school in Pakistan, killing six

BY LISA J. ADAMS
Associated Press Writer

MURREE, Pakistan — Masked gunmen firing Kalashnikov rifles burst through the front gates of a Christian school Monday, killing six people and wounding three in the latest attack against Western interests since Pakistan joined the war against terrorism.

None of the 150 students, including 30 Americans, or the mostly British staff was hurt in the attack against the Murree Christian School in this resort town in the Himalayan foothills about 35 miles northeast of the capital, Islamabad.

All the dead were Pakistanis, including two security

guards, a receptionist, a cook, a carpenter and a bystander, police said. A Filipino woman, two of whose children attend the school, was shot in the hand. The hospital said two other people were wounded but gave no details.

"Their goal was to hit foreigners," police district commander Moravet Shah said of the attackers, who escaped. "What we know is that they were terrorists. Whether they were religious terrorists, we have to determine."

It was the sixth attack against Westerners or Western interests in Pakistan this year, most of which have been blamed on Islamic militant groups angered by President Pervez Musharraf's backing of the U.S. war on terrorism. Since October, two churches have been attacked, leaving 20 dead, including two Americans.

"There certainly seems to be an indication that there is a certain element in our society who feel aggrieved by the foreigners generally," Interior Secretary Tasneem Noorani said on Pakistan state television.

In Monday's attack, up to four clean-shaven men believed in their mid-20s approached a guard post erected just three months ago at the entrance to the school, police and school officials said.

The men pulled weapons out of duffel bags and opened fire, killing a security guard and a Pakistani man who happened to be nearby.

The gunmen then stormed through the gates, shooting and killing a second guard and a school receptionist and blasting the windows of a dormitory. Another security guard returned fire, forcing the attackers to race across the school grounds, hop over a back fence and disappear into the woods.

On their way out, the gunmen shot dead the cook and the carpenter, who was hiding near the opposite end of the grounds from where the attack began.

"We heard the shots so we all hid under tables and in cupboards and things until we got the all-clear," said an Englishman who would not give his name. "All of the parents then came and got their kids."

About two hours after the shooting, shaken parents and students emerged from behind the school's green metal gates. Their eyes were wide with fear as they wandered past the front guard shack, its floor splattered with blood.

Shah said police believe that at least one suspect was injured because a trail of blood was found near the fence. Investigators recovered three duffel bags and spent Kalashnikov cartridges.

Police found a note at the scene expressing "resentment against world powers," Shah said. He refused to elaborate. Another policeman, who did not identify himself, said the note referred to the "unjust" killings of Muslims, Palestinians and Kashmir fighters.

Legionnaires' disease infects dozens in England; Scotland water contaminated

BY EMMA ROSS
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — Ninety-four people were hospitalized Monday after the worst Legionnaires' disease outbreak in nearly a decade — an outbreak that already has killed one elderly man in northwest Britain.

Sixty-four of those patients were confirmed to have the illness while the remaining 30 were suspected of having it, health officials said. Eighteen people were in intensive care units at five hospitals.

At the start of the outbreak, officials said they expected nearly 100 more cases to emerge in the next

week or so.

The 89-year-old man who died Friday was identified Monday as Richard Macaulay.

Public health officials investigating the outbreak said they believed its source was the air conditioning system at a community center in the town of Barrow-in-Furness.

Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria in water droplets. The legionella bacteria are found in water, and the source of infection in most major outbreaks has been water in the heating or air conditioning systems of public buildings.

Some people can be infected with the bug and have mild symptoms or

no illness at all, but between 5 percent and 30 percent of the infected die.

Tests conducted on the water plant at the community center revealed legionella bacteria.

The local council that runs the community center has turned over all documents to police. A council officer responsible for maintenance of the center's air conditioning system was suspended Sunday pending the results of a police and Health and Safety Executive investigation.

Also Monday, authorities were investigating contamination of the water in Glasgow, Scotland, after high levels of the intestinal parasite cryptosporidium were detected.



SPORTS

Dodgers suffer 'bruising' loss to Philadelphia

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Talk about a bruising loss for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Giovanni Carrara hit Todd Pratt and Jimmy Rollins with pitches with the bases loaded as the Philadelphia Phillies scored three runs in the eighth inning Monday to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-5.

"We got lucky," Philadelphia manager Larry Bowa said. "We get two guys hurt, we're out of players and score two runs on two batters getting hit."

With Los Angeles leading 5-4 in the eighth, Paul Shuey (0-1) walked Placido Polanco, gave up a single to Bobby Abreu and a two-out RBI single to Travis Lee.

Shuey walked Jason Michaels, loading the bases. Carrara relieved and hit Pratt on the left shoulder with his first pitch, forcing in Abreu with the go-ahead run. Two pitches later, Carrara hit Rollins in the right elbow with a pitch.

"It hurt, but it felt great at the same time," said Rollins, in a 3-for-26 slump. "I'd seen where one batter gets hit to force in the winning run but never two in a row."

Rollins sustained a bruised elbow. The injury was significant enough for Bowa to move Rollins to second base in the ninth inning and Tomas Perez to shortstop.

"Jimmy couldn't make the long throw," Bowa said.

Rollins moved back to shortstop later in the inning, when the force play at second was available, and Perez went back to second base.

Pratt had strained his left elbow in the seventh inning while catching a Mike Timlin pitch, an injury considered to be minor.

It was a strange afternoon, one that included the second batter's interference call in the series against the Phillies.

"I have seen stuff this year that I've never seen before," Bowa said. "Two batter interference calls in the same series.

(Crew chief umpire) Joe West and his crew seem to invent stuff out there."

Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said he had a simple reason for using Carrara instead of closer Eric Gagne (36 saves).

"The bullpen has really been overworked," Tracy said. "We wanted to get the ball to Gagne in the ninth inning and not before. We were one out away from him."

Timlin (3-3) allowed one hit in two innings, and Jose Mesa got three outs for his 32 save in 39 chances. With the bases loaded and two outs, Dave Roberts hit a game-ending flyout to shallow center.

Los Angeles had taken a 5-4 lead in the seventh inning as Adrian Beltre and Mark Grudzielanek homered on consecutive pitches by Brandon Duckworth and Timlin. Beltre hit a two-run homer for the second straight day.

The Dodgers wasted a strong effort from Hideo Nomo, who tied a season-high by striking out 10 in seven innings.

After a shaky start, Nomo retired 14 of his final 15 batters, striking out eight.

Nomo gave up five hits, four for extras, in the first three innings, but didn't allow any after Abreu homered in the third.

"After seven, he said he couldn't go any further and who could blame him?" Tracy said. "It was hot out there."

Duckworth, winless in six starts since July 1, struck out his first six batters before Mark Grudzielanek lined a single to left on the first pitch of the third inning.

"Brandon is on his way," Pratt said. "In his last three starts, he's really improved."

Philadelphia took a 2-0 lead in the first when Lee lined a two-out, two-run double high off the right-field wall, and Pratt added a solo homer in the second.

Roberts had an RBI single in the third, but Abreu homered for a 4-1 lead in the bottom half.

Los Angeles closed in the fifth on doubles by Eric Karos and Alex Cora.

L.A. Lakers announcer Chick Hearn dead at 85

BY PAUL WILBORN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Chick Hearn, who made phrases like "slam dunk" and "air ball" common basketball expressions during his 42-year broadcasting career with the Los Angeles Lakers, died Monday night. He was 85.

Hearn, the only play-by-play announcer the Los Angeles Lakers ever had, died at 6:30 p.m. at Northridge Medical Center Hospital, team spokesman Bob Steiner told a grim-faced news conference outside the hospital.

Hearn was taken to the hospital Friday night after falling and striking his head in the back yard of the Encino home he shared with his wife, Marge. The two would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on Aug. 13.

Surgeons operated twice on Saturday to relieve swelling in his brain, but he never regained consciousness.

"Chick, we'll miss you dearly. Quite simply, you're the best," said Mitch Kupchak, the team's general manager and a former player, his voice breaking.

About 100 fans gathered outside the hospital, and many broke into tears when they heard Hearn had died.

Hearn called a record 3,338 consecutive Lakers games starting in 1965 before missing a game because he had to have an operation in December 2001 for a

blocked aortic valve.

While recovering, he fell and broke his hip.

Despite that setback, he returned to work April 9 and broadcast the Lakers' playoff run to their third consecutive NBA championship.

He became the Lakers' announcer when the team moved from Minneapolis for Los Angeles at the beginning of the 1960-61 season.

Hearn's career with the Lakers was far longer than such standouts as Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Wilt Chamberlain, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Jamaal Wilkes, James Worthy and Michael Cooper.

And he was calling games long before current stars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant were born.

"There's never going to be another Chick Hearn," Johnson said Monday. "He's a man who will be remembered long after. Some people grow bigger than their sport, bigger than their job."

Johnson said he will remember Hearn for more than what he did in the broadcast booth.

Hearn called his first Lakers game in March 1961. His last game was June 12 when the Lakers beat the New Jersey Nets 113-107 in East Rutherford, N.J., to complete a sweep of the NBA Finals and earn their ninth title since moving from Minneapolis in 1960.

Born Francis Dayle Hearn on Nov. 27, 1916, in Aurora, Ill., Hearn peppered his rapid-fire delivery with terms like "no harm, no foul," "the mustard's off the hot dog," "ticky-tack foul," and "faked him into the popcorn machine."

Whenever he believed a Lakers victory was clinched, Hearn would say: "You can put this one in the refrigerator. The door's closed, the light's out, the eggs are cooling, the butter's getting hard and the Jell-O is jiggling."

Hearn's unique "words-eye view" provided the soundtrack for nine NBA championships — one with West and Chamberlain, five with Johnson and Abdul-Jabbar, and the last three with O'Neal and Bryant.

Hearn's death leaves Los Angeles with two Hall of Fame broadcasters — Vin Scully of the Dodgers and Bob Miller of the Kings.

Kevin Brown to make second rehabilitation

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kevin Brown is scheduled to make his second rehabilitation start Friday night and barring complications could pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers next week.

The 37-year-old right-hander threw a 70-pitch bullpen Monday at Dodger Stadium, team spokesman John Olguin said.

"Everything appeared great, there was no pain or complications," Olguin said.

Olguin would not speculate when Brown will pitch for the Dodgers. He could make his return at Montreal or New York, where Los Angeles plays next week.

Brown, who has exceeded expectations in recovering from surgery for a herniated disk in his lower back June 11, worked 3 2-3 innings for the Las Vegas 51s against the Memphis Redbirds on Saturday night in his first rehabilitation outing.

He threw 50 pitches — 32 for strikes — while allowing one run and one hit while walking two and striking out three.

Brown is to again pitch for the Triple-A 51s of the Pacific Coast League on Friday night at the Edmonton Trappers.

In the fourth year of a \$105 million, seven-year contract, Brown went on the disabled list May 27 with a sprained right elbow and had surgery for the herniated disk two weeks later.

Brown is 2-3 with a 4.06 ERA in nine starts for the Dodgers this season. He went 10-4 with a 2.65 ERA in 20 appearances last season before surgery on his pitching elbow.

Agassi advances in Masters Series

By The Associated Press

MASON, Ohio — Andre Agassi was pushed to three sets in the first round of the Masters Series Cincinnati on Monday, beating Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in 90-degree heat.

Fifth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov and 10th-seeded Roger Federer were eliminated. Germany's Rainer Schuettler beat Kafelnikov 6-3, 6-2, and Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic edged Federer 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

El Aynaoui hit a backhand drop shot in the third game, but Agassi got to it with a lunge and hit a crosscourt return for a service break. Agassi pumped his fist after the shot, while El Aynaoui tumbled on the court after the ball shot past.

"I still had two more break points to go, but the momentum certainly was in my favor at that point," said Agassi, seeded sixth. "I felt pretty good. I was able to get here a few days early, which gave me a chance to get ready."

Kafelnikov has failed to make it past the first round of three Masters tournaments this year — Monte Carlo, Hamburg and Cincinnati.

Schuettler lost in the first round in Toronto last week and spent the last few days working out in Cincinnati.

"It wasn't easy," he said. "It was tough out there. I think being able to practice in the heat was the difference."

Schuettler fought off a break point early in the second set, then won the last 10 points in the match as Kafelnikov faded.

"I'm not going to blame weather conditions,"



Tom Uhlman/Associated Press

Ivan Ljubicic, from Croatia, returns a serve in a first-round match against Roger Federer, from Switzerland, at the Tennis Masters Series Cincinnati tournament Monday.

Kafelnikov said. "It was just my general performance."

In other matches, Nicolas Kiefer beat Max Mirnyi 6-3, 7-6 (6), and Wayne Ferreira defeated Mariano Zabaleta 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).

COMICS



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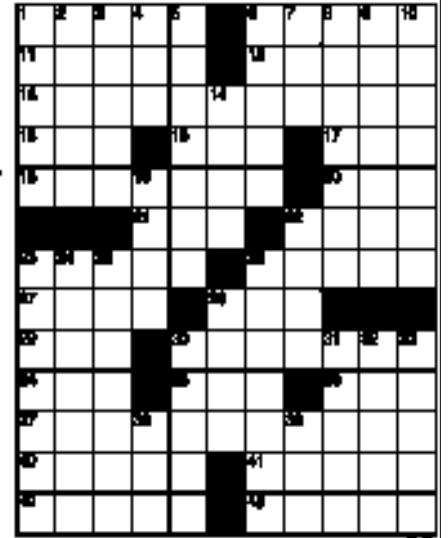
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 24 Golfer's club
 26 Make a name
 10 Thimble



Yesterday's answer

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 16 Copied
 22 Color
 23 Royal homes
 24 Folding art
 25 Bomb unit
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Boy stuck in sewer water for five hours

• Christopher Watt, 15, who it is believed entered a 9-foot-diameter pipe in the Ottawa, Ontario, sewer system on a dare, was swept deep into the foul waters for five hours on June 10 before rescue crews got to him on an inflatable raft.

• A 12-year-old boy, helping his father clean the family's backyard sewer in Chicago on June 6, got stuck in the muck for several hours until 28 firefighters and 10 paramedics freed him.





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VENICE BEACH \$2100.00 Craftsman duplex 1/2 block from the beach, 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper, hardwood floors. Top floor, fireplace. Beautiful building. Has been totally upgraded, 2 car gated parking. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443.

ELLY NESIS

VENICE BEACH \$2500.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Open house Sat 10am to 2pm. (310)396-4443

ELLY NESIS

For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$795.00 Sunny studio 1 block from beach. Hardwood floors and full kitchens. Nery clean, security building. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443.

ELLY NESIS

VENICE BEACH front 1930's bath house. \$995.00 Completely renovated 4-story brick building with lots of charm and unbeatable views of the ocean, mountains and sunsets. Single w/full kitchen and bathroom, w/exposed brick. Laundry room, water and gas paid. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)450-1934

ELLY NESIS

Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Huge Twnhse, r/s, crpts, patio, lrg clsts, w/d hkups, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Bungalow, CAT OK, r/s, hrdwd flrs, Indry, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1500.00 Charming Cottage, PET OK, r/s, hrdwd flrs, Indry, yard, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1795.00 Hse, PET OK, r/s, hrdwd flrs, w/d hkups, lrg yard, garage, ocean breezes. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Cute and Charming Hse, PET OK, r/s, pkgng, a must see! Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA House \$3500.00/month. North Wilshire, close to beach. 3bdrm/2.5 bath. Front & back yard. Hardwood floors. Central air conditioning. W/D hook-ups. Secure area. (661)822-6644, (661)330-0836 cell.

Roommates

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W. LA \$500.00 per month. Pool house, share bath, partial utilities. Refrigerator, microwave, oven, toasteroven. Available now! Elaine (310)391-2718

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

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

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Storage Space

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

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

Vehicles for sale

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

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Massage

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

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

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

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Announcements

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

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

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

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

License number 701350

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Services

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QUICK AND Dirty (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

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

Services

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

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

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

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Classified Advertising Conditions :**DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL**: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE**: \$2.50 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**: 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 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 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES**: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, *Stuart Little 2* (PG) 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00, *Martin Lawrence Live* 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, *Full Frontal* 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 10:30

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

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Signs (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 2:35, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45, 10:30 *Eight Legged Freaks* (PG-13) 9:35, *The Country Bears* (G) 12:10, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, *Mr. Deeds* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, *Road to Perdition* (R) 12:45, 4:15, 7:10, 9:20, 10:05, *Reign of Fire* (PG-13) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:20.

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

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

Calendar

Tuesday, August 6, 2002

Today

Community

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

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

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable

environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

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

Entertainment

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

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

Wednesday

Community

Overeaters Anonymous, newcomers Meeting. Is food a problem for you? Introductory meeting for those who have failed at diets and can't control their eating. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. No dues or fees. Every Wednesday, 6:30-7 p.m., followed by a regular OA meeting, 7-8 p.m. Reed Park auditorium, 7th Street, half-block north of Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica. (310)392-1130.

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

Classes

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13

years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

Music/ Entertainment

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382.

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

Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE



Carnegie robots need bad terrain

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Real estate agents say location is everything, but these tenants don't care about the neighborhood — the worse, the better.

Carnegie Mellon University is looking for property — two or more sites of 300 acres apiece — on which to test robots developed by its National Robotics Engineering Consortium. And when it comes to running robots through their paces, a house in the suburbs just won't do.

John Bares, director of the consortium, has been checking out old strip mines, quarries and waste dumps around the Pittsburgh region, hoping to come across suitably challenging terrain for the robots.

"Land that is pretty undesirable for others is perfect for us," he told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette last week.

One robot's wasteland is a developer's gold.

What forced Carnegie Mellon officials to hunt for new land was the loss of several robot testing sites in and around Pittsburgh, including a slag heap and a 14-acre industrial site near the consortium's headquarters.

Developers have snatched up the slag heap site for new housing; a parcel near the consortium's home, in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, is going to be used for a new warehouse.

Both sites had been perfect for testing CMU-designed combat vehicles and robots because of their wide variety of challenging terrain, from dirt roads and impassable slopes to vegetation, industrial waste, mud puddles and rubble.

Odorific flower ready for full bloom

By The Associated Press

SAN MARINO — In this wealthy town of trim lawns and rose-filled gardens, the world's largest and stinkiest plant is ready to bloom.

The *Amorphophallus titanum*, known to Indonesians as the "corpse flower," exudes an odor that some have compared to garbage or rotting flesh.

The exotic, 4 1/2-foot-tall plant is expected to bloom by Tuesday at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

Its unusual scent attracts pollinating, carrion-eating beetles in its native Sumatra.

The plant has been seen in bloom only about 15 times since its first U.S. display in New York in 1937. About 76,000 people flocked to the Huntington when the flower bloomed there in 1999.

While normally closed Mondays, the museum will remain open in case the flower should bloom.

San Marino is 17 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Shark swims across Pacific Ocean

By The Associated Press

MONTEREY — A blue shark tagged two years ago off the coast of Monterey is believed to have set a distance record for the species after being captured near Japan.

The 4 1/2-foot shark was recently caught 560 nauti-

cal miles east of Japan after being tagged by Santa Cruz-based Pelagic Shark Research Foundation in 2000.

"We've had five tags returned from (the mid-Pacific) since tagging started in the late 1980s," said Valerie Taylor, a California Department of Fish and Game biologist. "I don't know of any tagged fish that was caught farther west than this one."

Some researchers are using the distance traveled by the shark to call for more international protection of the animals from long-line and drift-net fisheries.

"We showed that some segments of the Northwest Atlantic population of blues declined 80 percent from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s," said Robert Hueter, director of the Center for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory at Sarasota, Fla. "These fish are relatively prolific as sharks go, but they are not immune to overfishing."

Other researchers say the sharks, which reach lengths of 13 feet and can weigh more than 500 pounds, may not be migratory and that a decline in numbers has not been detected in Pacific populations.

Turtle mating halts bridge work

By The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Work on a bridge will be delayed because it is not allowed during turtle mating season.

County officials planned to replace the Cherry Hill Bridge in the fall, but state law prevents them from disturbing the area during mating season. They have not decided when the work will begin at the Montgomery Township site.

While it was not immediately known what species was found in the area, environmentalists say they likely are wood turtles, which are protected by the state. They say the work could stir up silt, which could kill the turtles.



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

National Night Out

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

Free
flashlights
for the first
750
participants
who sign in!

Tuesday, August 6, 2002, 6:30 p.m. - ?

Join Spider-Man in the parade!

Meet him at 3rd Street & Wilshire Boulevard
and walk down the Promenade to Palisades Park!



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

What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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