



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

August 6-7, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 229

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 12 31 39 47

Meganumber: 7

Jackpot: \$55 Million

FANTASY 5

14 15 19 23 24

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 3 2

Evening: 1 2 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:45.74

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

Maureen Faibish, the owner of two pit bulls that attacked and killed Faibish's 12-year-old son in June in San Francisco while he was home alone (after Faibish had ordered him to stay away from the dogs and shut him in a room), denied that she was in any way responsible for little Nicholas' death. "It (was) Nicky's time to go," she told the San Francisco Chronicle. "When you're born, you're destined to go, and this was his time."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 218th day of 2005.
There are 147 days left in the year.

On Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, killing an estimated 140,000 people in the first use of a nuclear weapon in warfare.
In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.
In 1986, William J. Schroeder died after living 620 days with the Jarvik Seven artificial heart.

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Sweet caroling



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Electric guitarist Erik Diamond jams along with his group Super Diamond, a Neil Diamond tribute band, on Thursday night at the Santa Monica Pier. The band performed as part of the Twilight Dance Series.

Planners thinking inside the box?

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PLACE — As community members ponder what might replace Robinsons-May and the rest of Santa Monica Place, a recent proposal for a Wal-Mart to be built in Boulder, Colo., is causing local residents to ponder what might be in store.

Federated Department Stores, Inc., which owns Macy's, announced last Thursday it will sell 68 "duplicate" stores in malls occupied by both Macy's and

See SM PLACE, page 16

LOCAL

Diminutive diplomats get their kicks in Japan

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

Nearly 30 local kids will be strapping on their shin guards and lacing up their cleats in Japan this Monday as they kick off a little cross-border soccer competition.

Sponsored by Santa Monica businesses and individuals, a pair of local teams will storm the Japanese city of Fujinomi. The trip also marks the 30th anniversary of Santa Monica and Fujinomi as sister cities.

By all indications, the athletes are stoked about their upcoming travels.

"They're like a bunch of

See GETTING THEIR KICKS, page 13

A clean sweep along the Bluffs

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES BLUFFS — Santa Monica police officers, members of the Veterans Administration and city landscapers spent hours on the Palisades Bluffs last week searching out homeless encampments and removing them.

Starting at the 500 block of the Pacific Coast Highway, Thursday's sweep was part of a bi-monthly detail intended to keep the Bluffs clean and un-populated. The steep, brushy hillside, owned by the city of Santa Monica, is often illegally occupied by the homeless.

Thursday's operation led to the misdemeanor arrests of seven individuals inhabiting the Bluffs,

See BLUFFS, page 14



Ryan Hyatt/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Officer Robert Martinez surveys some of the items found at a homeless encampment along the Palisades Bluffs.

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Music and munchies, Cap

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic H★★★★-Positive H★★★-Average H★-So-so H-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Know when to stop and take some time off for your health. Others might encourage you to do things or not be "lazy." You're not lazy; you are simply recharging your body, mind and soul. Tonight: Don't make plans. Hang out.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Sometimes you cannot help yourself. You are the playful Bull in the field sniffing flowers. You need to simply smell the roses and relax. A romance could be building if you are single. Express your playfulness. Tonight: You are the spice of life.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Hang close to home and relax. Take a tip from Aries' message. You need some downtime, even if you don't realize it. You have been going in third gear for too long. Laugh and relax at home. Avoid an argument. Tonight: Please don't start rearranging the furniture!



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You tell it like you see it. Somehow you inspire others to new levels, especially a close associate or friend. Take time to balance your checkbook to see how much you can spend, because you are going to indulge. Tonight: Express your happiness.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Be careful with how extreme you get. The wild man or woman in you comes out and wants to indulge and frolic. And why not? You might end up picking up the tab, so be ready. Don't hold back any longer; express your feelings. Tonight: As late as you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You are king or queen bee right now. Act like it, and you'll discover how much more attentive and caring others will be. You finally have the control you want. Claim your power. Others seek you out. Tonight: Reveal more of yourself. Yes, be vulnerable.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Pull back, taking a hint from Aries. You, especially, can get frantic if you are tired. Now is the time to recharge your batteries. Watch a movie; get a massage; or do whatever makes you happy and relaxed. Tonight: Quiet works.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Focus on who and what you want. You will not be OK unless you surround yourself with favorite people. Why not have a party? An important discussion with a boss, higher-up, older friend or loved one is key. Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others turn to you to organize them and lead them into some fun happenings. Romance and imagination could merge if you flow with others. You have a lot more say than you have had in a long time. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You have a way of gaining new perspectives, especially if you hop in the car for a drive or do something that will clear your mind. You might feel much better and be ready for a more caring conversation with a key person. Tonight: Music and munchies.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You need to let go and be OK with how others do what they must. By letting go, you demonstrate your trust in yourself as well as in others. You will become much closer if you don't insist on having things your way. Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others approach you with different invitations and happenings. Clearly, everyone wants you. Bend for a special person in your life, favoring his or her choices. Be open to learning a new sport or hobby. Tonight: Follow the leader.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A day for the little ones ... no kidding

By Daily Press staff

Kids now have their own day.

Boys and Girls Clubs of the greater Los Angeles area have joined a national effort to establish national KidsDay as an "official day" on the nation's calendar.

In Los Angeles, National KidsDay will be celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 7— with thousands of parents and kids participating in an event at the Santa Monica Pier with food, games and rides. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The effort is backed by research showing that millions of Americans recognize the link between spending meaningful time with their kids and the tough issues facing youth, but say they don't have the time, skills or resources to do as much for their children as they feel they should, officials say.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America and KidsPeace launched National KidsDay nationally in 2001 to foster stronger relationships between adults and children by educating them on the importance and value of spending such meaningful time together. According to research, families experience the pressures of contemporary life, regardless of their economic status, ethnicity, cultural background or location. Those pressures directly affect the amount of positive, quality time they are able to devote to their children, officials say.

Thousands of parents and kids will gather at the Santa Monica Pier for a full day of family activities that celebrate the holiday. Nationwide, more than 500,000 kids and their families are expected to participate in more than 1,300 events.

Roll up your sleeves, girls

By Daily Press staff

City Hall is building up the community's young girls to be self sufficient and resourceful.

A group of 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls will don hard hats, wield hammers and blowtorches, and learn the basics of what it takes to keep the city running in Rosie's Girls Santa Monica, an award-winning summer camp program offered by the city of Santa Monica. Rosie's Girls is a trades exploration camp for 11- to 13-year-old girls designed to build self-esteem, physical confidence, interpersonal cooperation and leadership skills through learning and applying basic skills in carpentry, and other trades and through a range of physical challenges.

Participants practice their skills in shop-based activities and in "real world" public service work, enabling them to trim trees in local parks, rappel down the three-story fire department training tower and fill pot holes in city streets. In addition, girls have the opportunity to work on community service projects for local social service agencies. In the past, the girls have constructed formal building signage for a youth center, chess boards and coat racks for a local senior center and chairs for a Santa Monica pre-school.

The program also includes a variety of other activities to encourage the girls' self-expression including dance, drumming, mask-making and stand-up comedy. This year the program was the recipient of a \$2,600 grant from the Norton Family Foundation. The grant is being used to develop curriculum and implement a module that will allow girls to curate an exhibition of their own creations at Bergamot Station, a Santa Monica based arts complex.

During the first session of Rosie's Girls, held in Santa Monica from July 11 to 29, the girls produced whimsical working clocks. The functional art was debuted at Bergamot Station on July 29, at the camp's culminating event.

The Women's Foundation of California Los Angeles Donors Circle recently selected Rosie's Girls as one of its \$10,000 grant recipients for 2005. The grant provides scholarship funding for girls who would otherwise not be able to afford the Rosie's Girls program.

Rosie's Girls Santa Monica is open to girls entering the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and is held at the city maintenance yards, 2500 Michigan Ave. The next Rosie's Girls Santa Monica session runs Aug. 8-26. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families. For more information about Rosie's Girls or to receive an application, call (310) 458-8540.



SURF REPORT

Saturday is looking like a very small day for surf along the SoCal coast. No notable SW is due, and only some very minor, weak NW is expected. Overall, it looks like a very calm, peaceful day at the beach, but not one with epic surf by any means. Some waist-high sets can be expected when the tide is right.

Sunday is also likely a small day with possibly some occasional NW set waves coming through around waist high.

Today the water is:

70°

Write us at alex@smdp.com
and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:09	-0.2	4:32	2.1	11:35	4.1	10:35	5.7
SUNDAY	5:33	0.0	5:09	2.1	11:59	4.2	11:07	5.4
MONDAY	5:56	0.3	5:50	2.1	12:24	4.3	11:41	4.9
TUESDAY	6:19	0.7	6:39	2.1	12:51	4.5	12:20	4.3
WEDNESDAY	6:41	1.2	7:40	2.0	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.6

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 6.

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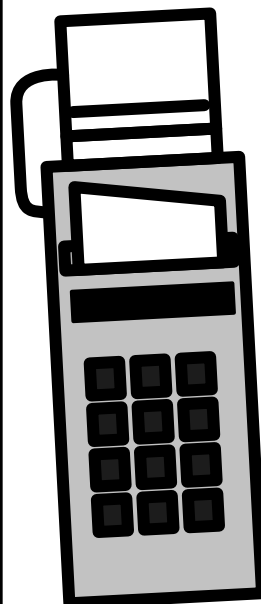


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STATE

Groups on a hot one looking for wildfires

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press Writer

MAGALIA, Calif. — The view from the Sawmill Peak lookout tower includes a panorama of wildfire country, hills of pines and chaparral broken by the rooftops of this Sierra foothills town in Northern California and the single ribbon of road leading in and out.

But no one is there to take it in. The tower intended to keep watch on the community of 10,000 stands empty, making some residents nervous as the long California summer makes brush wilt in the sun and turn from green to brown.

“We’re on a cul-de-sac,” says Gordon Thomas, a Magalia horse rancher who’s trying to raise money to man the lookout this fire season. “If there was a major fire, an evacuation would mean disaster. We want someone up there.”

Budget cuts and new technologies have left the Magalia lookout — like hundreds others across the country — empty. But if the state won’t pay to man the tower, then some of the townspeople will, with Thomas and horse enthusiasts leading the charge.

Along with a group of volunteers from the Butte County Equestrian club, Thomas has helped raised \$8,000 to staff the lookout, joining increasing ranks around the country rallying to save the watchtowers that stand sentinel in the nation’s forests.

“Lookouts are America’s top statement on forestry. Like lighthouses, they are a visual indication that forests are important to Americans,” said Keith Argow, head of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. “We think it’s important to keep those icons of forestry up there.”

Argow said his group works to preserve lookouts for both protection and posterity.

He estimates there were once 8,000 fire lookouts keeping guard in forests in every state but Kansas. Now 2,000 remain, and only 800 are regularly maintained by government agencies or private groups. Nearly 200 of those are staffed by volunteers.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection stopped staffing its last 22 lookouts in 2003 after a round of budget cuts. Now nearly 40 are maintained, but only staffed in high-risk conditions. Idaho staffs five lookouts. Washington state mans about a dozen. Nevada’s two lookouts stand empty. Federal agencies fund others.

Towers are often among the first to go when budget choices have to be made.

“When it comes down to hiring a firefighter or a lookout, you’re going to take the firefighter, because they’re the ones that can respond,” said CDF spokesman Michael Jarvis. He said cell phones, airplanes and more hikers make lookouts less essential as the sole fire-spotters in remote areas.

But Magalia real estate agent Les Olinger and others working to keep the watchtowers active argue that cell phones rarely work in deep forests, and airplanes scanning for smoke fly over only a few

times a day, giving a fire time to spread.

Olinger, a former fire commissioner, insists that a trained lookout is the best to keep watch. The funds his group is raising will pay CDF to staff the post.

Other lookout enthusiasts and forestry buffs have taken on the job themselves. As a volunteer in the San Bernardino and Angeles forests, retired truck driver George Morey has organized nearly 400 volunteers to restore and then staff nine lookouts.

Volunteers with the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Associations do eight hours of operations training. Even with the training, he jokes, the adrenaline can take over.

“Most people’s first reaction is to just grab the radio and holler, ‘Fire!’” Morey said.

The volunteers are also schooled in the region’s wildlife and natural history. Lookout towers with high traffic from hikers often double as interpretive centers for the public.

Many of the structures simply look like porches on stilts overlooking the mountains, and some are now rented to adventurous campers.

Near Index, Wash., lookout enthusiasts are wrapping up work on the Heybrook lookout, a 14-by-14 foot cabin on a 67-foot-high platform, or “the Hilton in the sky,” as lookout restoration expert Forrest Clark calls it. It will soon be available to rent.

These alternative uses still serve to protect the forests.

In 2000, four watchtowers in Montana that had been transformed into high-in-the-sky rental cabins were used by the U.S. Forest Service during a particularly hot fire season.

“We try to do anything that keeps them going,” said Dave Bula, an amateur lookout historian and volunteer in Washington state. Bula said a number of scout and school groups in his area have helped maintain lookouts.

But for folks here in Magalia, keeping someone in the Sawmill Peak watchtower is less about history than future safety. The town has a large population of senior citizens, and medical and fire services are busy much of the time. If a wildfire forced an evacuation it could cause panic, Thomas said, so better to spot and extinguish wildfires while they are small.

Walt Pennington spent five fire seasons as a lookout on Sawmill Peak, where he could rise on a clear morning and trace the California coastline to the West and the Sacramento skyline to the Southeast.

He says he knows firsthand that a lookout’s job can’t be replaced by technology or responsible hikers. He has eight fires “under his belt” and would be happy to get the opportunity to keep a watch over town to spare it from disasters that have doomed other hillside hamlets.

If Olinger raises enough money, and the CDF needs him, Pennington will be there.

“I would never miss an opportunity to staff a tower,” he said. “There’s nothing else like it. You’re on top of the world.”

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

STATE



Rumsfeld: 'Nonsense' attacks were for Iraq

BY RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Thursday rejected as "nonsense" the notion that recent terrorist attacks in London were retaliation for the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"Some people seem confused about the motivations and intentions of terrorists and about our coalition's defense of the still young democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq," Rumsfeld said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

"They seem to cling to the discredited theory that the recent attacks in London and elsewhere, for example, are really in retaliation for the war in Iraq or for the so-called occupation of Afghanistan," he added. "That is nonsense."

In a videotape broadcast earlier Thursday, the second-in-command for the al-Qaida terrorist network, Ayman al-Zawahri, threatened more destruction in London, saying that British Prime Minister Tony Blair would be to blame.

Al-Zawahri also threatened the United States with tens of thousands of military dead if it does not withdraw its troops from Iraq immediately.

In his speech, Rumsfeld reiterated his oft-stated assertion that Syria is helping the insurgency in Iraq. He said it is acting as a haven for Baathist former members of the Saddam Hussein regime who fled Baghdad after the U.S. invasion, and allowing insurgents to cross its border with Iraq. He said the Syrians are making a mistake.

"What they're doing is harmful ultimately to themselves," he said. "They're going to have to live in that neighborhood, and Iraq doesn't like what Syria is doing. And Iraq is going to be in that neighborhood for a very long time and it's a bigger country and it will be a more powerful country."

Rumsfeld, meanwhile, paid tribute to the 21 Marines killed this week in Iraq, including the 14 killed Wednesday by a single roadside bomb near the city of Haditha in western Iraq.

"Patriots, they were determined to stop the terrorists from reclaiming Iraq and from launching more attacks on our people," he said. "Our nation needed them, called on them in battle, and mourns them now in death."

Rumsfeld spoke broadly about President Bush's rationale for fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan — "the only way to defeat terrorism is to go after them where they are" — but said little about the administration's plan for turning over the security mission in Iraq to the Iraqis. He did suggest that the goal is within reach.

"Once Iraq is safely in the hands of the Iraqi people, and a government that they elected under a new constitution ... , our troops will be able to ... come home with the honor they will have earned," he said, without elaborating.

In response to a question from his audience about the U.S. military strategy in Iraq, Rumsfeld said that a key to getting U.S. forces out of Iraq is getting enough Iraqi government forces trained to take over.

"We're passing off pieces of real estate to the Iraqis as fast as they are capable of taking it over," he said.

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OPINION

The QLine

SHELL GAME WAS END GAME FOR SQUIRRELS

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Do you feel the city was correct in setting out poison traps to reduce the number of local squirrels in the name of public health? Why or why not?”
Here are your responses:

- ① “I certainly do not agree with the city, setting up these traps for the poor ground squirrels. This practice endangers other wildlife, and is a cruel and unnecessary way of controlling the ground squirrel population. If the city is so concerned about the health of the citizens of the city, let’s first clean up the city. I am sickened and nauseated walking around the city and stepping over filthy vagrants on the sidewalk, and the human waste and vomit all over the sidewalk. The sights and smells are nauseating and breed more disease than the poor ground squirrels. These lice-ridden individuals use our public restrooms. Think what points of infection and disease spread they create.”
- ② “I do not feel that the city of Santa Monica is justified using any sort of poison to kill any animal. The reason being is that animals feel pain, and poison is a slow form of death. The only justification for taking any animal’s life in my mind is when the animal is in horrible pain and is a danger to itself and other animals around it, and only then with a painless form of euthanasia. In my mind, only the lowest form of human being is harsh with animals. It’s as simple as that.”
- ③ “Of course the city was correct in setting out poison in the name of public health. It’s just silly to suggest otherwise. Squirrels that carry a disease could easily spread it to citizens, tourists, and the homeless at Palisades Park. Think of the potential of bioterrorism. Animal rights activists think it’s OK to kill the fleas, but not the squirrels. Aren’t fleas animals too? Boo-hoo. It seems to me that it’s only a matter of time before the swiss cheese bluffs collapse with all the rodent boroughs. Why did the trappings stop in June? Why doesn’t it continue year-round since the squirrels keep reproducing?”
- ④ “We do have an infestation in Santa Monica. They’re filthy, they carry disease, and they cause a lot of damage and their dangerous. They should be eradicated. Traps or shoot them, whatever. I’m talking about the squirrels.”
- ⑤ “I think it would be a better idea to set those traps for a few of our so-called City Council members because most of them are fleas.”
- ⑥ “I am a member of PETA — which is People Eating Tasty Animals. What’s next, save the cockroaches? Squirrels are cute in limited numbers, like babies, but too many of them is a plague.”
- ⑦ “Little kids play in the park, and people always walk their dogs, who can get in the poison feeders and die — cats, coyotes and falcons can eat the dead squirrels and die. Can’t the squirrels be trapped and relocated somewhere else, like Santa Monicans For Renters’ Rights fancy homes.”
- ⑧ “I agree completely with the policy of

- setting out poisoned traps for the squirrels. I feel that the better good for the community is to have a safe environment where animals don’t get out of control. I think it’s idealistic to think you can take care of animals and humans, and humans have top priority in the environment. I think the policy is good and should continue.”
- ⑨ “Not counting the professional hysterics of non-paying environmental groups, dealing with cigarette butts, the greatest challenge the City Council has confronted in years is the squirrel removal problem. If you don’t want to poison them, capture them, or relocate them, sterilization is an option. Hey, wait a minute I have a better idea. Why don’t we give each of the City Council members a flute and they can parade around Palisades Park playing a tune? And mark my words, every squirrel will come rushing out of the trees and follow them through the park to the Santa Monica Canyon and into the Pacific Ocean. I would even accept another regressive tax to pay for costumes and musical instruments to accomplish this. Just the image of our City Council members dancing and twirling as they play their flutes and leading thousands of squirrels Pied Piper-like along the park. It would be worth every cent. You know our squirrels work very hard to find and store their nuts. We Santa Monicans are very fortunate — our nuts are stored all in one place: City Hall.”
- ⑩ “Public health is the last concern on the list of this city’s concerns. It is not all right that they went ahead and poisoned defenseless little animals yet the city idiots let the bums piss and defecate wherever they please. The whole squirrel problem is exaggerated. Let the cute little rodents live. If the squirrels have to go, then so do the bums. The bums have fleas, ticks, crabs, and worse and yet nobody is poisoning them. The bums are being fed while the squirrels are being murdered. Typical lunacy of Santa Monica officials. Get your priorities straight.”
- ⑪ “The only humane way to make ground squirrels move on is to stop feeding them. i.e. pet food left outside, etc. There would never work in Palisades Park for two reasons. They have no where else to go and people will always feed the squirrels and the feral cats. They undermine the bluffs and may cause plague and the city is mandated by the county do something about them. I find it interesting that PETA recommends killing the fleas instead. Aren’t fleas animals too? Or does PETA only care about cute furry animals? Unfortunately, the city is up against the wall and must poison the ground squirrels.”
- ⑫ “I think that something should be done about the squirrels. They are absolutely nothing but rodents with furry tails. They are dangerous, they are rabid and believe me, they’re in no danger at this point at least of becoming endangered species. I say keep them under control and I bet they can transfer diseases to other animals.”

Daylight no-savings:
Plan not a bright idea



MODERN
TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Talk about bad timing, psychologically. Much of the country has been suffering from a heat wave this summer. We’ve witnessed triple digit temperatures, melting parking lots, and record air conditioner use. So, what does Congress do to cool us off? They pass a bill that would add four additional weeks per year of extra sunshine. Couldn’t they have passed this act during the dark and cold winter?

What they’re doing as part of the new Energy Bill is extending daylight savings time. Instead of starting it on the first Sunday in April and ending it on the last Sunday in October, from now on it will begin on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday of November. Why? On the surface, it looks like a Band-Aid and a public relations move. Below the surface, same thing. Since so many experts say this won’t really save any significant energy or money, proponents are talking about other reasons we should be excited about the daylight saving change. One of the sponsors, Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), said: “The beauty of the bill is that it just makes everyone feel sunnier.” I have the feeling that a lot of people this summer feel sunny enough without it.

I’ve always believed that we do daylight savings time backwards. When do we wish we had more sunshine, in the summer or in the winter? When do we come home from work or school in the dark, in the summer or the winter? Winter is when we could use a little more sunshine, not summer. Why isn’t anyone talking about sticking those weeks in the winter, when we have those cold, depressing sunsets at 4:30 in the afternoon?

One positive thing about the change is that daylight savings time used to foolishly end right before Halloween, forcing kids to trick-or-treat in the dark. Now, it will happen after they get dressed up and ring neighbors’ doorbells. I’m all for that. But this could have been accomplished just by moving the date a few days, not by adding two weeks.

Speaking of children, guess who’s

against adding these weeks? The National PTA and other educational groups fear that the additional darkness in the mornings created by the extra-sunny afternoons will force kids to wait for buses or walk to school in the dark. These groups fear that kids and darkness are a bad combination.

The airline industry objected to the additional weeks, saying it would disrupt schedules and cost millions of dollars. I hope this won’t cause the airlines to cut back on still more frills. What are they going to get rid of next? The rough Kleenex in the bathroom?

Since it’s not certain at all that the extra daylight weeks will save much energy, and since so many people are against it, who is behind this movement? Is it the Short Sleeve Shirtmakers Union or the sunglasses lobby? Is it the powerful sunscreen cartel?

One view is that by throwing in the daylight savings time clause and making folks smile at the idea of more sunshine, the lawmakers are distracting us from the more important aspects of the bill. This is the height of cynicism, like believing that President Bush announced his choice for the Supreme Court just to push all the Karl Rove investigation stories off the front page.

So, let’s take a little look at it. The Energy Bill is 1,724 pages long, which seems like a huge waste of energy — how many lawmakers do you think read every page? It does not require automakers to improve the fuel efficiency of cars, so the gas-guzzler will remain the single biggest oil user. Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM.), who championed the bill, acknowledged that it will not lower gas prices or affect oil imports in the short term, but feels we’ll see the benefits in five or 10 years. Ten years? And while it authorizes \$10 million to encourage people to ride bikes to work, it provides \$12 billion in tax breaks for energy companies. The good news is, with all the extra sunshine, maybe it will throw some light on the kinds of bills Congress passes.

(Lloyd Garver has written for television shows ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Frasier.” He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Elderly must learn to ‘throw in the keys’

Editor:

I just finished reading the “e” edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press for Aug. 5. I was saddened to read about yet another “elderly driving mishap.” Luckily, this time no human being was hurt. However, a building and car were damaged. I remember hearing about Mr. Weller’s mishap on the radio and CNN two years ago and worrying that my daughter was probably shopping at the Farmers’ Market that day as she usually does. Instead, she was part of the rescue efforts. Today, I wonder about the person who happened to have left his/her desk just before this driver crashed his car into the office. He or she must feel grateful to be alive, unlike the other 10 people who lost their lives two years ago.

Ironically, Hannah Levinson’s letter to the editor was printed (SMDP, Aug. 5, page 4) about giving compassion to Mr. Weller and his family and the city of Santa Monica having “heart” on the day of the report of another elderly driving mishap. The newspaper article indicated that there have been several other instances of elderly driver misbehavior in the last two years.

Having just celebrated my 72nd birthday, I am aware that there will come a time when I will have to “throw in the keys.” Either I will know “when,” or my family, or the state of Minnesota will make me aware. It is not easy to give up independence. I understand that fully. As we age, we can adapt to change because that’s life — it changes like the wind. Denial is always the blind spot in the human condition.

Compassion is shown when family members of the elderly driver care about them enough to talk lovingly to them about this issue, and the city and state governments make licensing requirements more stringent in order to protect not only the elderly driver but also the rest of his/her community. Yes, it may be termed “tough love.” Yet, this is “where the heart” is.

Marilyn Sackariason
Minneapolis, Minn.

Everyone should be held to same driving standards

Editor:

I am flabbergasted that anyone would casually dismiss felony hit-and-run and manslaughter charges against a driver who killed 10 people (SMDP Letters, Aug. 5, page 4). It was no “accident” that (Russell Weller) was fleeing the scene of a car accident and it was definitely not an accident that this elderly driver chose to drive

when he clearly should not have been. If Mr. Weller had maimed or killed your mother, brother or child, would you want compassion or justice? The question we must ask is “Are 86-year-olds entitled to break federal and state laws that younger citizens must adhere to?” Your reader wants compassion. I want irresponsible drivers to be brought to justice, regardless of age. Our compassion should be directed to those poor families that will live with the pain and loss forever. There should be no age discrimination for criminals like Mr. Weller.

Dr. Lisette Bauersachs
Santa Monica

Tactics to squash squirrel problem were nuts

Editor:

I couldn’t have been more pleased to see the letter from Mary Cummins from the California Department of Fish and Game published (SMDP, Aug. 5, page 4).

It’s always a great thing to see when someone has the guts and good sense to call out the ignorance and stupidity of the Mayor and the City Council of Santa Monica.

How wasteful and embarrassing that our city representatives didn’t have the professional courtesy to return a call, responding to the offer of a no-cost plan that could have prevented the squirrel poisonings altogether. The city leaders could have actually resolved the issue to everyone’s satisfaction, had they cared to.

True to form, the morons sitting on our City Council refuse to be bothered with the facts. They continually run this city making decisions based purely on personal agendas, rather than, in this case, on no cost expert assistance and constituent pleas for humane solutions.

They all ought to be ashamed of themselves. How do they sleep at night, knowing that they are personally responsible for the killing of innocent animals? They should look at resolving some of that guilt by writing a bunch of nice, fat personal checks to PETA or some other animal rights organization. They have proven to be nothing but a bunch of self-absorbed animal murderers on this issue.

As a resident, taxpayer, voter and animal lover, I formally request that the City Council get off of their lazy, disinterested, incompetent, and ineffective butts and contact Mary Cummins to take her up on her offer to help.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY DAVID KRIEGER

Oh, the humanity: U.S. needs to lead way

The first test of a nuclear weapon occurred on July 16, 1945. The test took place in the New Mexico desert at a place called Jornada del Muerto, the “Journey of Death.” The head of the scientific research effort for the Manhattan Project, Robert Oppenheimer, quoted these lines from the Hindu text, the Bhagavad-Gita, when he saw that first nuclear explosion turn the sky white: “Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.”

Within a month, two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, first at Hiroshima and then at Nagasaki, on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9 respectively. While there was general elation in the U.S. at the subsequent ending of the war, some American leaders expressed misgivings about the necessity and morality of the use of nuclear weapons.

General Dwight Eisenhower was critical of the use of the bomb and voiced his concerns to Secretary of War Stimson. Eisenhower later wrote, “Japan was at that very moment seeking some way to surrender with minimum loss of ‘face.’ It wasn’t necessary to hit them with that awful thing.”

Admiral William Leahy, President Truman’s Chief of Staff, was even stronger in his condemnation of the use of atomic weapons on Japan.

“My own feeling,” he said, “was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying

women and children ...”

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first use of atomic weapons. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the aging hibakusha, survivors of the bombings, will gather to again make their plea that nuclear weapons be abolished. Many of these survivors have made it their life work to assure that their past is not humanity’s future. They are convinced that nuclear weapons and human beings cannot co-exist, and that we must eliminate these weapons before they eliminate us.

Sixty years after Hiroshima and nearly 15 years after the end of the Cold War, there are still some 20,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The U.S. and Russia have more than 95 percent of these weapons, and each still maintain some 2,000 nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, ready to be fired in moments. In all, nine countries are believed to have nuclear weapons: the U.S., Russia, UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Japan is a virtual nuclear weapons state, having both the plutonium and the technology to become a major nuclear power in a matter of weeks. There is much concern that Iran is on its way to also becoming a nuclear weapons state.

Nuclear proliferation is a serious problem, but so is the failure to achieve nuclear disarmament. In the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, the non-nuclear weapons states agreed not to develop or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear weapons states agreed to assist them with developing peaceful nuclear

technology and to engage in good faith negotiations for nuclear disarmament.

Most of the parties to the treaty, nearly all countries in the world, believe that the nuclear weapons states have not fulfilled their obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament. At the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2000, the nuclear weapons states agreed to move toward fulfilling their part of the bargain by adopting 13 Practical Steps for Nuclear Disarmament. The Bush administration has since disavowed these obligations.

In 2005, at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Bush administration’s policies of non-cooperation were made clear to the world, although not necessarily to the American people, when the U.S. put up obstacles to even creating an agenda for the conference. The administration doesn’t seem to understand that nuclear proliferation and nuclear disarmament are inextricably interlinked: without nuclear disarmament, nuclear proliferation is virtually assured.

Nor is there a clear understanding of the ineffectiveness of a nuclear arsenal in defending against a terrorist nuclear threat. If terrorists succeed in obtaining nuclear weapons, they will not hesitate to use them. They will not be deterred by the thousands of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the nuclear weapons states because it is impossible to deter a group you can’t locate. Thus, nuclear weapons provide no defense against extremist nuclear threats or attacks. Additionally, a costly missile defense system offers no

protection against a terrorist nuclear attack that is more likely to be delivered by a suitcase or van than by an intercontinental ballistic missile.

George Bush has pointed out that “free societies don’t develop weapons of mass terror and don’t blackmail the world.” This suggests that either he does not think the U.S. is a free society, which is unlikely, or he doesn’t understand that nuclear weapons are weapons of mass terror. On the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, it would be valuable for someone on his staff to explain to him that the U.S. was the first country to develop such weapons of mass terror and the only country to have used them.

The American people need to wake up to the jeopardy we face due to the lack of U.S. leadership toward nuclear disarmament. So long as the U.S. holds onto these weapons, others will be encouraged and inspired to develop them. By taking seriously its legal and moral obligations to achieve the elimination of all nuclear weapons in the world, the U.S. will be improving its own security, protecting its cities, and leaving behind the Journey of Death — the all too apt name of the birthplace of nuclear weapons — in favor of the path of peace.

(David Krieger is the president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (www.wagingpeace.org). He is the author of many studies of peace in the nuclear age. His latest books are “Today Is Not a Good Day for War” and “Einstein – Peace Now!”)

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NATIONAL

Military urged to put halt to jet malfunctions

BY TED BRIDIS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The front-line fighter jet of the Navy and Marines has suffered a series of recent accidents blamed on brake failure, exposing a problem that has spurred urgent warnings from commanders, military documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Brake problems affecting the F/A-18 Hornet pose “a severe hazard to Naval aviation” that could kill pilots and ruin valuable aircraft, a Navy air wing commander wrote last year after one of his jets roared off a runway and splashed into San Diego Bay, destroying the \$30 million plane.

Many of the brake failures have been traced to a \$535 electrical cable — about as thin as a drinking straw — that controls the jet’s antiskid brakes, the equivalent of antilock brakes on a passenger car. Investigators say the cable can chafe or break, since it runs close to where heavy tie-down chains secure the jets to a carrier deck.

In the San Diego crash, Navy investigators cited “a trend of similar, if not identical, emergencies” that date to 1990 but went unnoticed until a series of failures last year, according to records the AP obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

One Navy pilot aborted a landing last fall when his brakes failed after a combat mission over Iraq. He took off again, circled the runway in Kuwait for a second landing attempt, then lowered his tailhook and caught the emergency arresting cable on the ground. He was not hurt and there was no damage to the jet.

A month earlier, a Marine commander was seriously injured when he ejected after he lost his brakes landing on a short runway at Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, Va. Other failures have occurred as recently as February.

Making matters worse, some pilots did not know the proper procedures for brake emergencies and took actions that contributed to crashes, the records show.

The Navy ordered fleetwide inspections last fall and is continuing to investigate whether it needs to redesign the Hornet’s brakes, as some commanders have urged. “This matter is by no means closed,” said Navy spokesman James Darcy.

The maker of the jet, Boeing Co., deferred comment to the Navy.

The U.S. military owns 561 Hornets, including those flown by the elite Blue Angels aerobatic team. Collectively, they represent a mainstay of Navy and Marine aviation, operating from both aircraft carriers and runways. They drop bombs and dogfight, and flew more than 50,000 sorties during the height of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Investigators have concluded that cockpit procedures were confusing for Hornet pilots landing with brake failures.

Lt. Jason Walker, low on fuel, was landing in San Diego at night after two unsuccessful landing attempts aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. The jet’s brakes failed one second after touchdown, and, among other problems, Walker couldn’t find the cockpit controls to engage emergency backup brakes. He ejected as the jet sped off the runway and into the bay at 60 mph. The Navy determined Walker shouldn’t be disciplined.

“He stood on the brakes as much as

possible but the aircraft was still not slowing,” investigators wrote, concluding his brake cable severed.

The Navy last fall ordered fleetwide inspections of brake components, instructed mechanics to immediately replace any cables they previously had repaired and reminded pilots about procedures to help land safely even when antiskid brakes fail.

But fresh problems have surfaced. At AP’s request, the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, Va., located about two-dozen formal reports describing failures of the Hornet’s antiskid brakes since 1990.

The incidents caused the loss of one jet, damage of at least \$1 million to another, damage of up to \$200,000 on three additional jets, one serious injury and one other overnight hospital stay.

Officials acknowledge that their tally of formal reports probably understates the number of brake failures. One report filed in January referred to 14 Hornet brake failures and tire blowouts in a single squadron during 2004 alone.

“This trend of brake failures and blown tires cannot be ignored,” Marine Col. Earl S. Wederbrook wrote to senior Navy and Marine officials after one of his jets spun backward on a runway from a blown tire in California. “Short of an aircraft system fix ... the pilot is the only control measure that can mitigate this hazard.”

The Navy told the AP the antiskid brakes are safe and reliable, and that pilots should be able to land safely despite problems if they follow proper emergency procedures. It also said the sporadic brake failures must be viewed in light of the jets’ roughly 6 million landings since the 1980s.

“There has never been a landing mishap to date where procedures were followed correctly,” said Capt. Jeffrey Penfield, a Navy pilot for 17 years who is deputy program manager for F/A-18 system development in Patuxent River, Md.

The Navy also told the AP that based on its investigation so far, redesigning the brake system is unwarranted and would require lengthy and costly new safety reviews.

“It’s been highly reliable,” said Capt. Tom Huff, the executive officer at the Navy’s Test Pilot School. “We don’t want to venture too far from what we know works. We just know that wire is vulnerable in that location, and we’ve done some engineering changes to preclude damage to that wire.”

Some commanders urged the Navy to do more.

“Ultimately, the wiring harness needs to be protected or redesigned,” Cmdr. John R. “J.D.” Dixon wrote to senior Navy officials after brakes failed in February on a Hornet speeding 115 mph down a runway at Lemoore Naval Air Station in California’s San Joaquin Valley.

The jet blew two tires when the pilot activated emergency backup brakes. The incident happened months after the Navy’s new mandatory inspections and training, and mechanics traced the problem to the same brake cable. The same problem was discovered later on another jet in the same squadron.

After last year’s accident in San Diego, Naval air-wing commander M.C. Geron also wrote to the chief of naval operations to urge the service to improve the brake system.

NATIONAL



Snoop Dodge: Iacocca teams up with rapper

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

Former Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca and Snoop Dogg appear together in Chrysler Group's latest ads for its employee-pricing program, a duo guaranteed to raise some eyebrows.

The 80-year-old Iacocca and Snoop Dogg, who made his name rapping about sex and marijuana, appear as golf buddies in the ad, scheduled to begin airing Saturday. Snoop Dogg wears an argyle sweater vest, while Iacocca dons a pastel plaid hat.

At the end of the TV spot, Snoop Dogg says: "If the ride is more fly, then you must buy." Iacocca responds: "That's what I hear."

Chrysler spokeswoman Suraya DaSante said the pairing isn't as odd as it seems. Snoop Dogg is a bona fide Chrysler fan who called company President and CEO Dieter Zetsche last year asking for a Chrysler 300C sedan.

"They're both total car guys," DaSante said.

Iacocca has filmed three other ads as part of the \$75 million campaign, including one ad featuring former "Seinfeld" co-star Jason Alexander.

Iacocca is donating his fee to the Iacocca Foundation, which fights diabetes. Chrysler also agreed to become a sponsor of JoinLeeNow, a diabetes fundraising effort.

Snoop Dogg also has a charity, the Snoop Youth Football League, but DaSante said she didn't know if he was donating his fee. A message was left with a spokeswoman for the rapper.

Chrysler said this week that it is indefinitely extending its incentive program, which lets consumers pay the employee price for most 2005 vehicles. The program, which began last month, had been scheduled to end Monday, but Chrysler extended it after seeing its sales jump 32 percent in July.

Storied motorcycle rally has a wide, lasting appeal

BY JOE KAFKA

Associated Press Writer

STURGIS, S.D. — Dusting off a hefty Harley-Davidson perched on a carrier at the rear of his upscale motor home, retired sales executive Jerry Boen said he is drawn to the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally by the thrill of riding through the Black Hills.

Bikers of all kinds — from motorcycle gang members to doctors and lawyers — trek from every corner of the nation for the rally. Many are lured by the stark beauty of Badlands National Park, the patriotic aura of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the simple serenity of the Black Hills.

For Boen, of Livingston, Texas, the 65th anniversary of the Sturgis rally is all about driving along twisting highways skirted by pines. It's prime territory for nimble motorcycling.

"It's the riding, 100 percent," Boen said. "When you've been to one motorcycle rally, you've been to them all. None have riding like this."

Boen and his companion, Janet Prokisch, arrived in Sturgis a week ahead of the official rally start. It's their third year in a row.

The one-week rally begins on Monday and runs through Aug. 14. Unofficially, it has grown in recent years to include the week before and week after.

It began in 1938 as a small gathering of motorcycle enthusiasts and has grown in the last decade or so to estimates of hundreds of thousands each year.

Traffic counters installed by the state Department of Transportation logged 547,370 vehicles coming into Sturgis during the seven days of the 2004 rally. That was up 2.1 percent from 2003 but short of the 604,000 vehicles counted during the 2000 rally.

The vehicle count doesn't mean that many bikers attended because some travel into town several times during the week. The count also includes local traffic and delivery people.

The rally director has said she thinks more than 500,000 people attended the 2004 event.

The droning rumble of motorcycles is nearly constant at all hours and becomes deafening at times when crowds reach their peak during the rally. Thousands of motorcycles are parked, row after row, in the center of Main Street and on both sides.

The rally is well-policed, but the atmosphere is occasionally bawdy. Major problems are few. Most arrests are for drinking and driving. Sprinkle in drug arrests and an occasional fist fight, and that sums up typical unruly behavior at the rally.

Still, the hard-core, tattooed bikers are vastly outnumbered by motorcyclists from all walks of life.

Sitting with his dog on the steps of a building at a busy intersection, Eugene Cady, 84, said he enjoys looking at all the different brands and styles of motorcycles. Although his eyesight is failing, Cady said he'd love to ride one of them.

"I rode bikes for 30-some years," he said. "I just wish to hell I could ride again."

William H. Hixon Jr. of Madison, Ohio, stopped here the week before the rally while returning with his travel trailer from several weeks in Alaska.

Sturgis, with a population of about 6,400 people, rates above other popular motorcycle rallies, such as Bike Week in Daytona, Fla., because of its small-town nature and excellent riding opportunities in the surrounding Black Hills, Hixon said.

"For most of the people at other rallies, all they do is ride from bar to bar," he said.

Not that Sturgis doesn't have plenty of bars. New ones spring up every year, and the beer flows freely.

Jack Johnson, a motorcycle mechanic, came here from Daytona Beach to work at the Dungeon Bar. He has been to 26 consecutive Sturgis rallies.

"I come here to drink, too," he said.

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Governor wants kids to help stem the tide

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano is pledging to defend Arizona's share of Colorado River water and asking state residents to use the resource wisely.

Speaking Thursday night at the Arizona Water Summit in Flagstaff, Napolitano said she would take the conservation measure to the youngest citizens, distributing booklets this fall to every fourth-grader.

"We have to make conservation a part of our daily routine," the governor said. "It can be done, and it can be done without any real loss in quality of life."

Napolitano pledged to help rural Arizona find ways to meet its growing demand for water, saying communities' shortages need immediate attention.

She also challenged the Legislature to make the issue a priority next year.

Rural Arizona needs immediate help in finding and securing long-term water supplies, according to Napolitano.

Those communities rely almost exclusively on groundwater and will face shortages long before the state's cities, which can draw on renewable sources such as the Colorado River.

The state will restart a rural water study program with some of the extra funding lawmakers gave the Department of Water Resources this year, but Napolitano said that money is just a beginning.

"I believe the Legislature will need to take water up again this session and if they don't do enough, the session after that, and the session after that and the session after that," Napolitano said.

In the last session, lawmakers rejected a

"I hope we can avoid litigation and find harmony with the upper basin states. But the truth is, with the growth in Arizona, Nevada and California, the Colorado River is under tremendous strain."

— JANET NAPOLITANO
Arizona Gov.

proposal that would have helped counties and cities stop development in areas without adequate water supplies. The Legislature also failed to address illegal subdivisions, which drain water resources and strain local governments that must provide services.

"We cannot provide quality development without quality planning," Napolitano said.

Meanwhile, Colorado and other states on the upper river are discussing legal action to force changes in the way Arizona and lower river states manage water.

Arizona's water bank stores some of the state's river allocation for future use.

"I hope we can avoid litigation and find harmony with the upper basin states," Napolitano said. "But the plain truth is, with the growth in Arizona, Nevada and California, the Colorado River is under tremendous strain."

Activists indicted for allegedly transporting illegal immigrants

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Two border activists arrested last month with three illegal immigrants in their vehicle have been indicted by a federal grand jury.

Daniel Strauss and Shanti Sellz and the three men were stopped by U.S. Border Patrol agents 25 miles from the Mexican border on July 9. Strauss and Sellz, volunteers with the No More Deaths group, were arrested under a federal statute making it a crime to transport illegal entrants.

The two activists told the agents they were taking the men to Tucson's Southside Presbyterian Church because

they were vomiting and suffering from bloody diarrhea.

Border Patrol officials have said the men were not ill and refused medical aid once in custody.

Federal prosecutors said Strauss and Sellz were indicted Wednesday on one count each of conspiracy to transport an illegal immigrant and transporting an illegal immigrant.

They are scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 11.

Prosecutors said the conspiracy charge carries a 10-year maximum sentence and the transporting charge carries a five-year maximum sentence.

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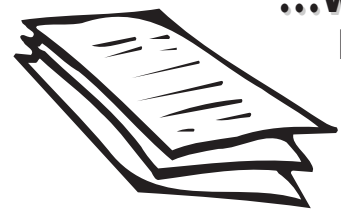
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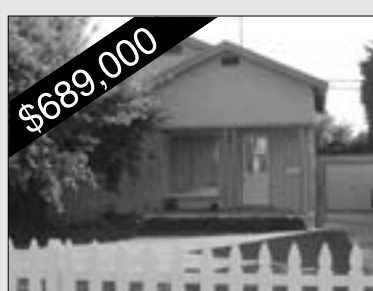
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NATIONAL

BLM gets up the ire of environmentalists

BY JUDITH KOHLER
Associated Press Writer

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — With drilling rigs sprouting across the Rockies, federal land managers have quietly instituted a policy that environmentalists fear will let companies off the hook when it comes to restoring land damaged by oil and gas development.

The Bureau of Land Management in February decided offsite improvements meant to compensate for well-site damage are optional. BLM officials say they can still withhold drilling permits if companies balk at mitigation work, but critics say the change symbolizes the Bush administration's push for more and faster domestic energy production.

"There's no excuse to so completely destroy a site that you need offsite mitigation," said Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with Biodiversity Conservation Alliance in Laramie, Wyo. "If offsite mitigation is going to be an outcome, then it should be required. But in our view, they should be doing oil and gas projects right so we don't need offsite mitigation."

The Rockies have become ground zero in the rush to find new domestic sources of natural gas, oil and coal-bed methane. Industry experts say Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico have vast stores of energy waiting to be tapped and the BLM has been swamped for several years now with permits to drill.

The BLM's decision doesn't apply when endangered species or national historic sites are part of a potential drilling site.

Jamie Connell, manager of the BLM field office in Glenwood Springs, said the agency can negotiate with companies and require follow-through if mitigation work is part of the project.

"I have the carrot and the stick," Connell said.

EnCana Oil and Gas USA, one of the largest natural gas producers in Wyoming and Colorado, will consider offsite mitigation even though it is voluntary, said Eric Marsh, a vice president and the company's business unit leader in the southern Rockies.

"We think it's a win-win," Marsh said.

Others believe the BLM's decision formalizes a strategy used by companies to avoid strict environmental standards at the well site.

"It's just one more thing to streamline gas production and remove any roadblocks and reduce costs," said Bob Elderkin, a retired BLM employee in western Colorado.

While with BLM, Elderkin said, he proposed requiring offsite improvements to make up for roads, traffic and other developments tied to new wells. One idea was burning pinon and juniper trees, and planting sagebrush and native grasses to open up more wildlife habitat.

"I sold it to my boss and they said, 'Go,'" he said.

Drill bits

By The Associated Press

DRILLING DILEMMA: The Bureau of Land Management says it's simply clarifying policies with interim guidelines that make it optional rather than mandatory for companies to do offsite improvements to offset the effects of oil and gas drilling.

SKEPTICS: Critics question whether companies will take part if the work is voluntary and others worry the guidelines issued in February amount to a get-out-of-jail-free card.

BIG IMPACT: The Rockies are experiencing a boom in natural gas production and likely will see oil shale development gearing up again.

BALANCING ACT: Federal land managers are weighing how to answer the Bush administration's call for more domestic energy production while protecting wildlife, air and water quality and maintaining the region's tourism.

Now, however, the BLM can impose onsite restrictions but can make offsite improvements part of the drilling permit only if the company offers.

The guidelines will be reviewed before becoming permanent. Offsite improvements were never mandatory, although a few BLM offices were starting to require them, said Kermit Witherbee, deputy chief of the BLM's mineral fluids division in Washington.

"There was a little bit of interpretation about what we can and can't do," Witherbee said.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has asked what the new policy means for the Roan Plateau, a mineral-rich landmark in western Colorado the BLM plans to start leasing for oil and gas drilling. Last spring, the division said making offsite mitigation optional appeared to conflict with the BLM's plans for minimizing the effects of development.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office found the BLM's environmental inspections dropped as oil and gas drilling permits more than tripled from 1999 to 2004. About 97 percent of those permits were issued in the Rockies.

Offsite mitigation is one option for protecting the environment and losing it would further tip the scale in the industry's favor, said Steve Smith of the regional office of The Wilderness Society. He questioned whether companies will voluntarily make offsite improvements and whether BLM will use its broad discretion to ensure companies protect the environment.

Elderkin, who worked on offsite mitigation while with BLM, is having second thoughts about its effectiveness.

"I had no idea how widespread this drilling would be," he said.

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LOCAL



Eastern exposure

GETTING THEIR KICKS, from page 1

kids who just had cake and soda,” said Maryanne Laguardia, regional commissioner at the Santa Monica branch of the American Youth Soccer Organization. “They’re off the wall.”

The kiddy kickers, boys and girls affiliated with AYSO — a national youth soccer organization akin to baseball’s Little League — will take on their Japanese counterparts at the annual 60-team Fujisan International Cup, a competition one AYSO girls team won five years ago.

“They’re aware that the competition is going to be very stiff,” Laguardia said.

Two veterans from that championship team will head to Japan with the new generation of Santa Monica athletes to root them on and serve as assistant coaches. Parents, siblings and others affiliated with AYSO also will be making the trip.

Though they’re going to play soccer, the kids may face their biggest challenge off the field, as the trip abroad will force them into a dual role — athletes and diminutive diplomats.

“They are aware that they’re representing Santa Monica and, basically, the United States,” Laguardia said. “They all seem to understand that the main point of going isn’t to play in this soccer tournament, it’s to take part in this cultural exchange.”

During the last few weeks, players from the two teams — comprised mostly from the season’s all-star squads — have spent almost as much time immersing themselves in Japanese culture as they have honing their soccer skills.

In addition to practicing on the field twice a week, the kids were obligated to attend a seminar led by two Santa Monica High School teachers focusing on Japanese culture and language, skills the soccer players may find handy during their stays with Japanese families.

Many of the local girls who competed at the same tournament five years ago went on to study Japanese in school and returned to the island nation as seasoned tourists, Laguardia said.

Fujinomi is not Santa Monica’s only sister. Along with this paper-pulp and dairy producing Japanese town, Santa Monica reaches out for some sisterly love in Mazatlan, Mexico, and Hamm, Germany.

The International Association of Sister Cities cast this global web of city siblings to promote cultural awareness and friendly relations, Laguardia said.

But before the kids had a chance to get their hands on some cultural wealth, they had to muster up some funding, which they gathered from local businesses and individuals — along with Xbox, which provided a \$17,500 donation.

Seeing the upside



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo
Kevin Robinson of State College, Penn., goes inverted during the X Games 11 BMX Freestyle Vert competition on Thursday afternoon at the Staples Center. The X Games, a made-for-TV event put on by ESPN, continues through the weekend at both Staples and the Home Depot Center in Carson City. Robinson finished third and received a bronze medal for his efforts.

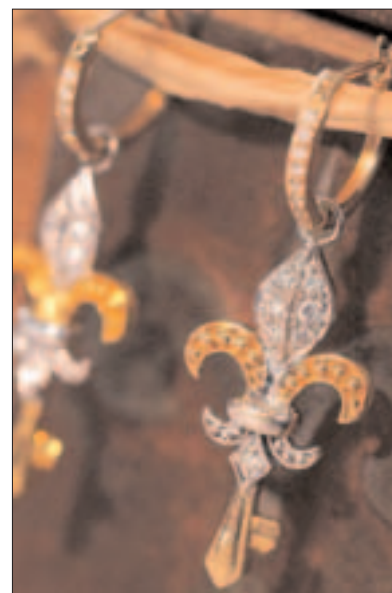
Though the groups covered most of the costs, players were stuck with a share of the estimated \$2,000-per-traveler tab, a cost Laguardia said some families wouldn’t have been able to afford without community fundraising.

“In AYSO tradition we do not leave anyone behind,” Laguardia said. “If one goes, all go.”

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Seven arrested amid sweep of Bluffs

BLUFFS, from page 1

according to Lt. Frank Fabrega of the Santa Monica police. In addition, used bottles and cans, newspapers, tents and other confiscated garbage were loaded up into a pick-up truck and hauled off to the dump.

Fabrega said posted signs indicate the Bluffs are dangerous and prohibited from use. Still, the Bluffs continue to be a regular stomping ground for Santa Monica's down and out.

Nine men and women — including four Santa Monica police officers, three landscape workers contracted by City Hall, and two V.A. homeless liaisons — coned off the right shoulder of the PCH, from which some said they could spot the colorful tarps and other signs of makeshift dwellings along the highway.

The V.A. representatives were on hand to offer services for any homeless individuals found in the hillsides that may have been veterans. Fabrega said it is common to bring the V.A. representatives during the Bluffs' detail.

The clean-up crew proceeded to scale the cliffside, forcing their way through narrow trails over-grown with thickets to access, and assess, the scattered encampments.

The Bluffs continue to be a regular stomping ground for Santa Monica's down and out.

Many were abandoned by the time the detail arrived. Strewn with water bottles, newspapers, pornographic magazines, discarded food cans, backpacks and blankets, the clean-up crew gathered these miscellaneous belongings and lugged them down to the truck for disposal.

At one point, while heading north along the Bluffs, tree branches could be seen rustling in the distance.

Officers split up, combing the Bluffs on their way toward another possible encampment. Upon arrival, a pair of binoculars lay on the dirt, a clearing which may have served as a vantage point of the hillside and highway.

"He went that way," Santa Monica Officer Robert Martinez said, pointing north.

"We would have caught him if he tried to pass us (heading south)."



Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

(Left) Landscapers contracted with the city help load up a tent removed from the Palisades Bluffs on Thursday. (Right) An abandoned hillside encampment on the Bluffs is taken down and packed for disposal.

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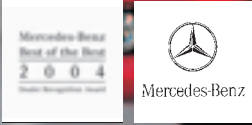
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LOCAL

SM could take a page from Boulder's book

SM PLACE, from page 1

Robinsons-May as the result of a merger. Federated representatives said the Robinsons-May store at Santa Monica Place will likely be sold off in 2006.

Santa Monica Place, the indoor shopping mall located between Second and Fourth streets and Broadway and Colorado Avenue, is anchored by dual department stores Macy's and Robinsons-May — the latter occupying 137,000 square feet of retail space.

The news comes on the heels of re-

development plans still underway at Santa Monica Place. Meanwhile, Colorado news articles are reporting Wal-Mart may serve as the anchor for Boulder's 60-acre Crossroads Mall, a struggling shopping center owned by Macerich, the same company which owns Santa Monica Place.

Some Boulder residents contend the big box store may "Wal-Martize" their city, while store owners claim the new retail location would be "the most unique in the world," a "Boulderized" version of Wal-Mart.

Both Boulder and Santa Monica are

affluent and pedestrian-oriented, with similar populations. They are municipal islands surrounded by larger metropolitan areas — Denver and Los Angeles, respectively — and like Santa Monica Place, Boulder's mall is intended to be a big draw for regional shoppers.

Macerich, a Santa-Monica based company, is one of the largest owners and operators of retail malls from coast to coast. In a recent earning report issued by Bloomberg financial news, Macerich was listed as having a one-year return of 46.9 percent on its stock.

Macerich continues to be a voracious competitor in its market. In May, it bought an ownership stake in Westcor, an Arizona-based shopping mall chain with facilities throughout the Grand Canyon State, Nevada and California, Bloomfield News recently reported.

Randy Brant, senior vice president of development leasing for Macerich, said the loss of Robinsons-May could play a pivotal role in re-development plans for Santa Monica's indoor shopping mall.

Rob York, a financial analyst familiar with downtown business issues, said it would be in Macerich's best interest if it could purchase Robinsons-May from Federated, to have more control over what might be placed there.

Although York said it might work well locally for Macerich if it were able to buy Robinsons-May from Federated, he also noted that both companies were so big that such a purchase may not work in their overall picture.

Brant said what's at issue for re-development scenarios at Santa Monica Place was whether Macerich could keep or remove the two above-ground parking garages currently in place. If it were possible to put the parking structures underground, Macerich would have more options in how it is able to use the site.

"If we are not successful in negotiating the tear-down/underground parking concept, Macerich would prefer to see a fashion department store, like Nordstroms, replace Rob-May," Brant said.

If the parking were put underground, Brant said there may be room for a big box store, such as Wal-Mart.

"I don't believe a Wal-Mart would work in the (Rob-May) location and am not sure Wal-Mart makes sense in downtown Santa Monica in a remodel situation," Brant said. "In a complete overhaul, a large box-format retailer could work, but not if you are forced to work within the parameters of the footprint of the Rob-May building."

Brant said the ability for Macerich to move forward with a larger overhaul would depend largely on support from the City Council and the local community.

According to Brant, the indoor shopping mall needs to be re-developed because it was based on an old, outdated suburban model that does not compete well with shops on the Third Street Promenade.

The question of what kind of develop-

See SM PLACE, page 17

Goodwin & Thyne

Properties

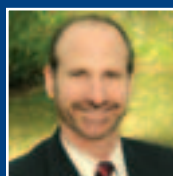
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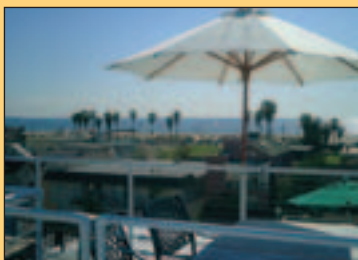


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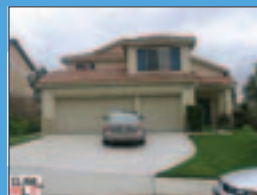


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Astronauts preparing to leave station behind

BY PAM EASTON
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Discovery's astronauts were packing up Friday as they prepared to undock from the international space station now that NASA has cleared the shuttle to return to Earth next week.

The astronauts gathered batteries, laptops and the tethers that secured them during spacewalks.

But the biggest task before leaving the station was to maneuver a huge cargo container filled with 2 1/2-years worth of trash and other items from the station into the shuttle's payload bay — essentially the spacecraft's trunk. Once back on Earth, the items would either be disposed of or returned to researchers.

Much of Friday's work was tedious and time-consuming. At one point, astronauts asked Mission Control what they should do with a piece of white foam that wouldn't fit into a bag.

"We see it well, and we concur. It is not tiny," Mission Control's Steve Frick said after looking at the material over a video link. He later told the crew they could cut the foam to make it fit.

Another call from Mission Control went unanswered for a few minutes as the astronauts worked. "Sorry to ignore you," astronaut Stephen Robinson radioed as the crew secured items in large white bags. "We all have our heads down in bags."

Friday's activity came a day after NASA gave the all-clear for Discovery to return to Earth, concluding that there was no need to send the astronauts out on another spacewalk to repair a torn thermal blanket near a cockpit window.

Mission managers could not guarantee that a piece of the blanket wouldn't rip and slam into the spacecraft during re-entry, but said the chances were remote.

"We have assessed the risk to the very best of our engineering knowledge and we believe that it is remote, small, whatever adjective you want to put with that," deputy shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said. "And the remedy that might be called for to try to make this better would be worse."

Had the astronauts been asked to repair the blanket, it would have been the fourth spacewalk of the 13-day mission. It also would have been the second time during the flight that the astronauts had to step outside to repair the shuttle's thermal protection system.

During unprecedented repairs to the spacecraft earlier this week, astronaut Stephen Robinson went beneath Discovery's belly to remove two protruding strips of tile filler that engineers thought could lead to dangerous overheating during the trip home.

They feared leaving the strips could cause a repeat of Columbia's disastrous re-entry in 2003 when that spacecraft broke apart over Texas as it headed to Florida.

Columbia was doomed by a 1.67-pound piece of insulating foam that fell from its external tank during launch. The foam pierced a hole in the spacecraft's left wing and as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, searing gases melted the wing from the inside out causing the ship to break apart. The seven astronauts on board were killed.

Discovery is the first shuttle to return to orbit since the tragedy.

Among its crew's goals were the resupply of the space station, bringing home the station's trash and intense inspections of Discovery for damage. The astronauts also tested repair techniques on orbit that were developed after Columbia.

"We put the orbiter under a microscope," Hale said of Discovery. "We are out there with every little spot, scuff, ding, you name it. It's not ignored."

Macerich had 46.9-percent return on one-year stock

SM PLACE, from page 16

ment should replace Santa Monica Place is one the city has been grappling with in recent years.

The City Council scrapped a proposed development to replace Santa Monica Place last year due to controversy about the height of high-rise buildings that were slated for the site. If implemented, the project would have demolished the existing mall and erected three 21-story residential towers, an eight-story office building and an eight-story apartment building. Those buildings were to be built on top of a new outdoor mall, which developers described as a natural extension of the Third Street Promenade, to include underground parking.

Macerich has called public comment from workshops, surveys and other outreach in order for consultants to come up with proposals to help "re-imagine" Santa Monica Place.

Alternative proposals were supposed to be presented publicly this summer, followed up by presentations to City Hall this fall with the hopes of approval. So far,

there have been no proposals presented.

Brant did not comment on why re-development proposals are not yet coming forward. He did say Macerich still lacked an economic model by which it would base its re-development plans.

City Councilman Bobby Shriver said the city of Santa Monica might also look into buying the Robinsons-May building from Federated.

Shriver, who said he "gaped" when he saw the size of the towers slated for the original proposal, said that if City Hall purchased the Federated building, it may provide the community with more leverage in dealing with re-development outcomes.

"It would change the economics of the development," Shriver said. "We could reduce the size of the project, or trade the building with Sears."

"It's just an idea."

Shriver said he has not discussed this idea with the council or Macerich and was merely trying to approach the issue from an entrepreneurial perspective, having noted any project that does move forward he would like to be built at a reasonable scale.



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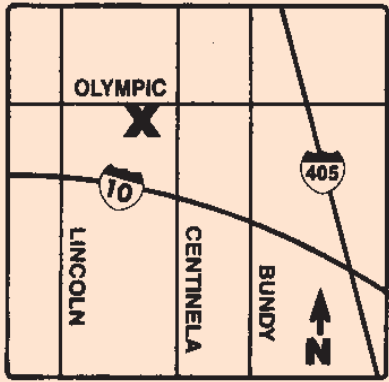
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NATIONAL

Gas not: Exploratory well comes up empty

BY SUSAN GALLAGHER

Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — A \$10 million exploratory well near the Rocky Mountain Front north of here found no natural gas, and Canada's Suncor Energy Inc. says it is preparing to remove equipment from the site.

An environmental group said the news strengthens the case against petroleum exploration in Montana's environmentally sensitive Front, where the mountains meet the plains. The petroleum industry said that assertion is not supported by facts.

Drilling of the 16,000-foot well at Flesher Pass north of Helena began in March and ended last month. The Helena area's last gas well, drilled by Unocal in 1988, also was dry.

"We are plugging the well and will be removing the drilling rig and other equipment over the next few weeks," Darcie Park, a spokeswoman at Suncor's office in Calgary, Alberta, said Friday. "After that we will be working with the landowners and the regulators to reclaim the surface of the site."

The Wilderness Society maintains Flesher Pass is part of the Rocky Mountain Front, where potential drilling has been disputed for years. Others say the pass is south of the Front. The U.S. Forest Service said the Front's boundaries are a matter of interpretation.

Peter Aengst, a Wilderness Society regional associate, said Suncor's dry well reinforces that "there is little potential for significant natural gas elsewhere on the Front."

But Gail Abercrombie, executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association, said that "because of the complexity of the geology, the fact that that was not a producing well is not indicative of the whole Front." Natural gas is known to exist in the Front's Blackleaf area, Abercrombie said.

Suncor drilled the well under an agreement with Sieben Ranch Co., owned by the family of Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. His spokesman has said Montana's senior U.S. senator holds no decision-making authority in the business, but stood to make money if natural gas was produced at the Flesher Pass site.

Last spring, Baucus sent letters to owners of Rocky Mountain Front petroleum leases, stating he would seek ways to compensate them if they gave up the leases and ended the possibility of drilling the area's federal lands.

The Interior Department announced last year that Bureau of Land Management lands on the Front would be closed to oil and gas development for at least four years, and the lands would be studied. The department said owners of leases would get the chance to consider selling or swapping them with the government.

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NATIONAL



Park Service objects to drillers' viewpoints

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The National Park Service has filed objections with the Bureau of Land Management over plans for oil and gas drilling in eastern Utah, saying the rigs would spoil the expansive, lonely view from Canyonlands National Park.

The BLM plans to lease two parcels outside the 527-square-mile park, where drill rigs would compete with a landscape of towering buttes and mesa tops against the 12,000-foot La Sal mountains.

The bureau dropped two other nearby parcels over Park Service objections, and BLM officials say they'll reconsider objections a week before the Aug. 16 auction to other leasing tracts. The auction is set to offer 198,000 acres of BLM and national forest lands for oil and gas drilling.

About 3,200 acres proposed for leasing "contribute to the exceptional landscape as viewed and experienced from the rims on BLM lands and as viewed from scenic overlooks within Canyonlands National Park," Tony Schetzle, the agency's southeast Utah group superintendent, objected in a letter.

The contested parcels are four miles east of Canyonlands' Needles district.

BLM officials didn't have an immediate response Friday, but they've pulled parcels before based on their proximity to national parks or monuments. Last December, the agency dropped plans to lease lands within view of Hovenweep National Monument on the Utah-Colorado border. The possibility of drilling on those tracts drew protests from archeologists, conservation groups and a

former park ranger.

"If Utah wants to be a world-class adventure destination, we must protect our public lands. This means we're going to have to make choices," said Ashley Kornblat, president of Moab outfitter Western Spirit Cycling and a member of Gov. Jon Huntsman's outdoor-industry task force.

Utah has a surplus of unused BLM lands under lease for oil and gas development, said Stephen Bloch, a staff lawyer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. He said BLM figures have fewer than 1 million of 3.3 million leased acres under production.

"When it comes to developing our public lands, the BLM won't listen to reason, not even when the National Park Service warns about impacts to one of America's most breathtaking parks," he said.

Conservation groups are protesting the leasing of another 29 parcels they've earmarked for wilderness protection in eastern Utah's Book Cliffs region and western Utah's basin and range mountains.

The energy reserves are needed, said Lee Peacock, president of the Utah Petroleum Association, who offered a standing statement to environmental objections.

"Everyone wishes we could find oil and gas in nice, easy places, but those places are gone, used up. The oil and gas potential is evolving into more sensitive areas. We have to make a decision as a society to allow the responsible development of oil and gas leases on public lands," he said.

BLM's last Utah auction leased 232,257 acres in May and raised \$13.4 million, with half going to the state.



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**NATIONAL**

Man mourns murdered wife, stands by accused daughter

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

CRAIG, Alaska — Doc Waterman still heads for the garage when he wants a smoke.

It's been nine months since his wife Lauri's death, but it's one of the little rules he abides by. Sort of tribute to her as he tamps down his grief and stands by their teenage daughter — who is accused of plotting to kill her.

Carl "Doc" Waterman has done his best to get on with life since 16-year-old Rachelle Waterman was arrested last November with Brian Radel and Jason Arrant, both 25. He closely tracks his daughter's case as it moves to trial.

He has buried himself in his real estate business, and continues serving as president of the school board and on the local Girl Scout council. Sometimes he goes fishing to take his mind off things. Other times he just sits in silence.

"I tell myself I'm doing well and sometimes I'm just, you know ...," he said in a recent interview in his office, speaking with a easygoing, friendly drawl.

Waterman, 61, describes himself as pragmatic, with little use for emotional displays. But he acknowledged that inside, the memories and feelings are roiling. He said he tries to amplify the emotions that will benefit his life, and suppress the others.

"One of the things you do is you try to remember and dwell on and focus on the good parts," he said. "I've lost something, but I had 25 or 30 years that were fantastic."

In the early morning of Nov. 14, 48-year-old Lauri Waterman was abducted from her home in Craig, a tiny lumber and fishing village of 1,100 in the rainforest of Southeast Alaska. Her husband was in Juneau attending a Girl Scout leadership meeting. Rachelle was competing in a volleyball tournament in Anchorage. Son Geoffrey was at college in Washington state.

Lauri Waterman had gone to bed after an evening of volunteering for the Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner. Police say Radel broke in, bound her and drove her in the Waterman's minivan to a remote stretch of road north of town, where he met with Arrant. One or both beat her with a flashlight, suffocated her to death, then doused the van and body with five gallons of gasoline and set it on fire, according to police accounts.

Police questioned Arrant, Rachelle Waterman's boyfriend, and he broke quickly, telling police on Nov. 18 that Radel had killed Lauri Waterman. He agreed to wear a wire and talk to Radel about the killing. Police arrested both men. They confessed to the killing and told investigators that Rachelle was in on the plot.

Rachelle had been dating Arrant, despite her mother's disapproval, and had a brief relationship with his friend Radel, according to prosecutors. She told Arrant that her mother abused and threatened her and that she feared for her life, and from there, police say, the scheme was hatched.

Police questioned Rachelle three times, the last time on Nov. 19 during which she admitted knowing about the plot and not telling anyone. Defense attorney Steven

Wells is trying to get that statement thrown out; the judge is to hear arguments on that motion Aug. 22.

In the Nov. 19 statement, she told police she had said she wanted her mother killed, but was not serious when she said it. She had told Arrant in passing that she and her father would be out of town that weekend and was "pretty sure" that they would go ahead with the killing then, she told investigators. She phoned Arrant from Anchorage and thought she had called it off, but when she called him again after returning to Craig, he told her they had gone through with it.

Radel and Arrant have pleaded guilty to murder and agreed to testify in Rachelle's trial, which is scheduled for Jan. 17. Along with their testimony, the 16-year-old's confession is a key piece of evidence in the prosecution's case.

Doc Waterman calls the confession "empty," bullied out of her in an interview that happened without his permission and without an attorney present. However, what came out in that interrogation sticks with him.

"She may have known something was happening and not done enough to stop it," he said. "If that were the case I don't think she was really aware — a 16-year-old kid doesn't really recognize the impact of everything that is happening."

The Watermans, Craig residents for nearly 20 years, were well-liked and active in the small town. Lauri and Doc sat on community boards, volunteered for Little League and participated in just about every fund-raiser or potluck dinner held in town, friends say.

Their children were also active. Besides volleyball, Rachelle was on the academic decathlon team, in the pep band, in the choir and played softball.

Rachelle had a rebellious streak, wearing clothes intended to shock, and she was often at odds with her mother. She told Arrant, and later police, that her mother had threatened or abused her on three separate occasions. She kept an Internet blog titled "My Crappy Life" that talked about problems with her mother.

That blog is now infamous among Internet users for the last entry, now deleted, that read: "Just to let everyone know, my mother was murdered."

Jed Smith, a friend from Whale Pass on northern Prince of Wales Island, said Rachelle, or "Rocky" as her friends call her, is caring, sensitive and self-deprecating. In an e-mailed response to a query from The Associated Press about whether Rachelle accurately depicted her life and relationships in her blog, Smith said no.

"It was a journal, nothing more, nothing less," Smith wrote. "It was a place to vent and ramble and spew, not an austere logical glimpse into her life."

"I don't believe she would have intentionally instigated the death of her mother; she would not have been capable."

Don Pierce, the Watermans' neighbor and Rachelle's godfather, described Rachelle as a good kid in typical teenage rebellion. He said her life resembled nothing of the misery she depicted in her blog.



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NATIONAL



Signs of the times: Dwellers still ignoring fire precautions

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — The assessment John Novotny's team wanted to do wouldn't have cost the homeowner near Big Timber a dime. It would be a quick run-through of the fire hazards on his forested property, detailing what could be done — with financial help from the federal government — to help survive a wildfire that Novotny saw as all but inevitable.

But the homeowner declined, leery of having a bunch of his trees in the narrow canyon in southern Montana marked for removal.

It's a response Novotny has run into more than once in the last year, as the veteran firefighter has knocked on doors, preaching the gospel of defensible space to any homeowner willing to listen. And even trees in the near-by forest — ignitable, "like the white tip of match" — couldn't help him change some minds, he said.

"It's hit and miss," Novotny added. "Some people want to participate, some don't. You have to chip away at it."

Since the severe Western fire season of 2000, government and fire officials have placed a renewed emphasis on educating homeowners about the risks and responsibilities that come with living in the trees and in some of the nation's most fire-prone areas.

There have been roadside signs and radio ads, home visits and town meetings with fire experts and government incentives to help build the kind of buffers officials say could make all the difference between homes with-standing fires and going up in flames.

Still, a report released earlier this year by Congress' investigative arm said that many homeowners aren't taking measures to protect their homes against the threat, even though federal agencies offered financial assistance.

The Government Accountability Office said homeowners' reasons ranged from the time and money required of them to thin trees or replace wood-shingled roofs, to fears of changing the land's aesthetics. The GAO said some homeowners don't understand how fires could ignite homes, or even their own role in fire protection, and it cited difficulty in identifying funding sources.

With 8.4 million new homes built near fire-prone federal lands in the past 20 years, there is a growing urgency to get that message out, said Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who oversees Forest Service policy.

The federal government helps fund a number of programs to not only educate homeowners and communities about wildfire dangers on their own property and in their neighborhoods, but also help pay to clean up the fire fuels and help pay for other preventative measures.

The GAO said state and local governments can also do things, such as requiring defensible space or flame-resistant roofs in some rural developments, to help make communities safer. Some counties already do.

But the GAO report said much of the responsibility for protecting property falls directly on communities and homeowners — and more can be done.

"The buy-in of the landowner is essential," Rey said. "You can't go onto their land to create defensible space over their objection."

Often, it takes what fire officials call a "teachable moment" to spur homeowners to action. That was the case in Wilson, Wyo., near Jackson, where many residents of the more affluent Crescent H Ranch area had no defensible space around their homes before the Green Knoll fire forced them to flee in 2001. Now, said

Reynolds Pomeroy, general manager of Crescent H, most do to some degree, though it's a struggle to get some to keep up with maintenance.

"One of the things hardest to hit home with this is, you can't do this and forget about it," he said.

Since fiscal year 2001, the Forest Service made available about \$270 million in grants to help homeowners in communities in the so-called "wildland-urban interface" reduce the risks of wildfire. Neither the GAO report or Forest Service had exact numbers on how many homeowners were participating.

The Wilderness Society's Lisa Gregory said the process is so complicated that it's difficult for individual homeowners to participate. If the government's goal is to reach as many homeowners as possible with funds, and it should be, the program has broken-down, she said.

"There's still a big gap in what is being done and what needs to be done," she said.

Still, communities aren't assured of federal cost-share grants. In any year, the federal funds states get for projects can vary widely. And not all proposals made come from areas that would be considered among a state's most vulnerable, said Paula Rosenthal, National Fire Plan coordinator for Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, which administers Forest Service grant dollars in the state.

"We would like to focus our efforts toward those," she said. "The bigger challenge for us is making sure everybody is aware of the assistance available."

Sandi Crawford is glad money was available to help remove risks like downed trees and unwieldy brush in part of her gated community near Nye, in southern Montana, despite the hours of hard labor she, her husband and other residents put in toward their match.

The obvious result of the work is the massive pile of forest debris, isolated from homes until it can be burned safely. But Crawford says there also have been subtle changes in the attitudes of some neighbors. This was evident at a recent homeowners' meeting, where, she says, the prevailing sentiment was that the place looked great, and that the work hadn't changed its character.

"I think it was just apathy in the past," she said. "Now, everybody's aware."

Yet, when talk turned to seeking another grant to carry on the work, volunteers were scarce. "Because this is their vacation homes, and they didn't want to work — and it is work," said Crawford, who, after overseeing the last grant, says she's not interested in taking on that role again.

There have been successes. For example, since 2002, the awareness group Firewise has recognized 115 communities for their efforts to guard against the wildfire threat, and that number is likely to approach 200 by year's end, Firewise community support specialist Michele Steinberg said. (Firewise is funded in part with federal funds.)

Steinberg believes much of the success is due to the way in which the message is delivered: it's about the "language of persuasion, rather than demand."

"Trying to beat them over the head with, they need to do something because it's a risk, isn't effective," she said. But she said it helps to hone in on their concerns — if it's wildlife, talk up the benefits for habitat, for example.

Jeff Essmann's primary concern, when he agreed to have fire hazards on his property minimized, was losing the cabin he and his dad built near the Boulder River, in southern Montana.

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INTERNATIONAL

Mourners grieving as police brace for more potential riots

BY KRISTEN STEVENS

Associated Press Writer

SHFARAM, Israel — This northern Arab town on Friday buried four townspeople gunned down by a Jewish soldier opposed to Israel's impending pullout from the Gaza Strip.

Mourners heaped flowers and lit candles on a makeshift altar fashioned from window frames ripped from the bus where 19-year-old Eden Natan-Zada opened fire Thursday, killing the driver and three passengers and wounding more than 20.

An enraged mob beat Natan-Zada to death and prevented police from removing his body from the bus for hours.

Thousands of police fanned out across northern Israel and Jerusalem on Friday to guard against rioting. Hamas militants in Gaza ratcheted up the potential for violence by threatening retaliation for the attack.

Natan-Zada's body was being held at a morgue after the military, his hometown of Rishon Lezion and the extremist settlement where he recently moved refused to bury him.

For months, Israeli security has been warning that extremists might try to sabotage the mid-August pullout from Gaza and four small northern West Bank settlements by attacking Arabs and diverting security forces.

Natan-Zada's father said that his son deserted his army unit after he was ordered to help prepare for the pullout and that he moved to the West Bank settlement of Tapuah.

In Shfaram, thousands of Muslims, Christians and a small group of Jews turned out for a quiet funeral procession from the home of two sisters killed in the attack to the cemetery where they were buried.

Dozens of women in the march chanted mournfully, "Some day we hope to die this way as martyrs, as martyrs," and flashed victory signs.

Townspeople lit hundreds of candles and placed hundreds of flowers on the impromptu altar at the site of the attack. Melted candle wax seeped onto high-heeled shoes, flip-flops, door handles, seat frames and other objects taken from the bus where the victims met their death.

A fire burning in a small drum stood at the head of the altar. Behind it, children and adults held up banners in Hebrew and Arabic reading, "We are fed up with racism," "Search me, I'm an Arab" and "Bring those who allow racism to justice."

At a protest against the killings in Gaza City, Hamas leader Nizar Rayan served notice to "wait for our response."

Wearing the skullcap, beard and sidelocks of an ultra-Orthodox Jew, Natan-Zada boarded a bus bound for Shfaram, a city of 35,000 Muslims, Christians and Druze.

When the bus entered a Shfaram neighborhood, he fired at the driver, killing him instantly, witnesses said. The bus rolled on for 50 yards, until it hit a parked car and stopped in front of a grocery store. Natan-Zada continued shooting inside the bus, emptying a magazine. When he tried reloading, he was tackled and disarmed.

Husam Elian, a former soldier from Shfaram who was driving in a car directly behind the bus, was one of several people who helped stop the attack.

"I was driving when I heard rapid gunfire," Elian said. "I pulled out my gun, because I am a security guard, and went toward the bus. Someone told me there was a man, an Israeli soldier, with a gun, and then I saw him, and he started shooting at me and my neighbors. I saw some friends, and they ran with me onto the bus. And just as he was changing magazines, that's when we grabbed him."

Elian said his friend shouted at Natan-Zada, "Do you know Israeli soldiers could be on this bus?" Natan-Zada replied, "There are Arabs on this bus."

Elian said he and his friends tried to shield Natan-Zada, but there weren't enough police officers to keep hordes from boarding the bus.

"Getting him out was impossible," Elian said.

The gunman's body lay on the bus floor, his head covered with a black plastic bag, for hours Thursday night until the crowd was subdued. His shirtless upper torso was heavily bruised and bloodied.

The windows of the bus were shattered by bullets and by rocks the mob threw at him. Blood stained bus seats, and rocks covered the vehicle's floor.

Three juveniles from Tapuah, ages 15 to 17, were arrested in connection with the shooting, Channel 2 TV reported. The settlement is dominated by followers of U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, who advocated expelling Arabs from Israel and the West Bank. Kahane was assassinated in New York in 1990.

Israel's military chief, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, said he was "definitely worried that people on the fringes are going too far."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon issued a statement condemning the attack as "a despicable act by a bloodthirsty terrorist."

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called on Israel to prevent Jewish settlers from carrying weapons, "because they are dangerous to the security and peace between the two people." Many Jewish settlers have army-issue guns to protect them from Palestinians.

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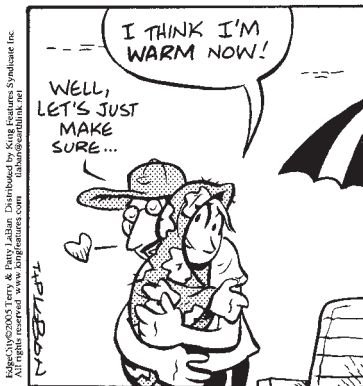
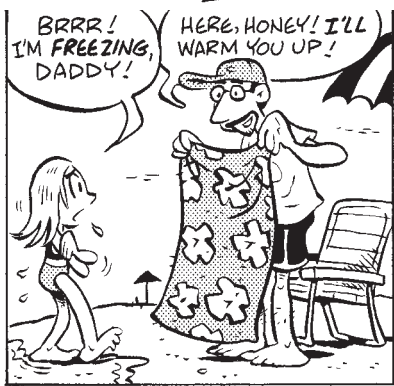
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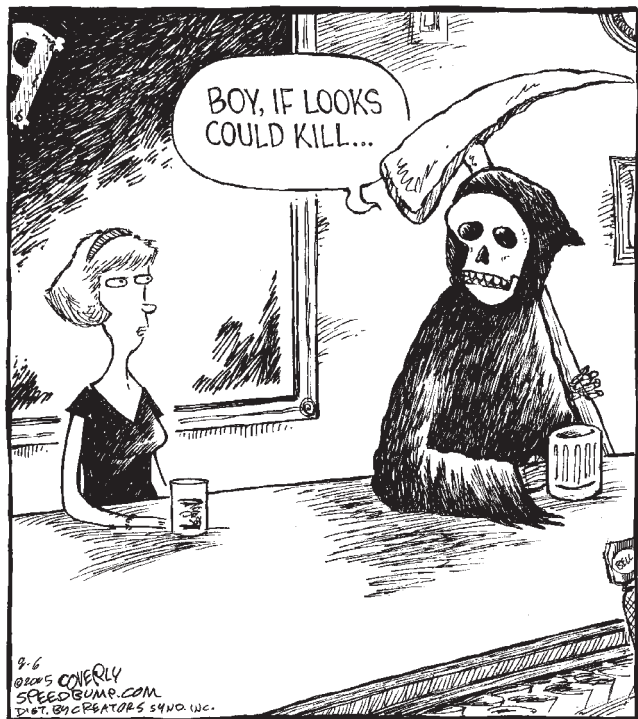
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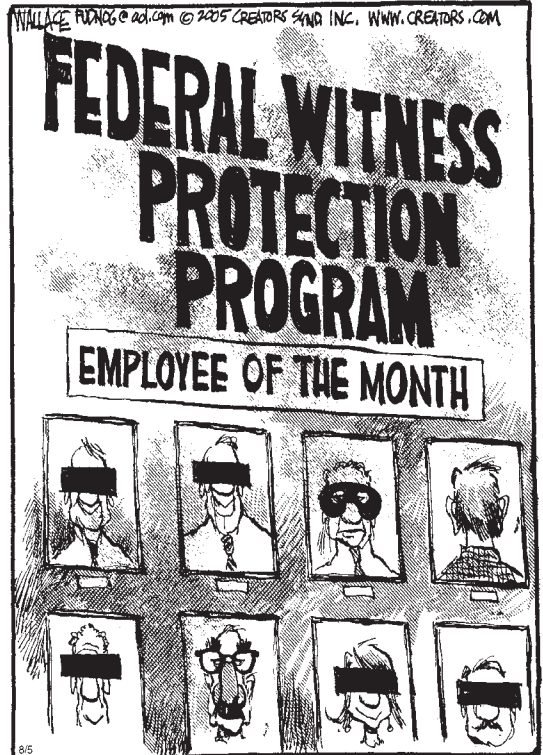


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- 1 Began
- 7 Put away
- 11 Wise one
- 12 Carry
- 13 Lifeguard feature
- 14 Hammett pooch
- 15 Disney World part
- 16 Try to pick up
- 17 Flight unit
- 18 Holiday event
- 19 Manipulative sort
- 21 Pulled off
- 22 "Take it easy!"
- 25 Sandwich choice
- 26 "Woe —!"
- 27 Dominion
- 29 Fictional plantation
- 33 Invasions
- 34 Sent in a 1040
- 35 Bog
- 36 Like some prunes
- 37 Best pair
- 38 Ready to come home
- 39 Cartoonist Thomas
- 40 Ogled

DOWN

- 1 Places last
- 2 Hit the ceiling
- 3 Ball
- 4 Army animal?
- 5 No longer fizzy
- 6 Bog
- 7 Flight unit
- 8 Fried tortilla
- 9 German expressionist
- 10 Made independent
- 16 Female following
- 18 Intrinsical-ly
- 20 Mixes up
- 22 Kingston setting
- 23 Diamond experts
- 24 Beatles classic
- 25 Lily's husband
- 28 Namely
- 30 Apse sight
- 31 One of Malcolm's TV brothers
- 32 Threw in
- 34 Good
- 36 Campaign pro

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1302 PACIFIC Ave., Unit 04. Venice Beach, large single available in charming building. 1 block to the beach. 1 year lease, no pets. Paid parking available. \$995 (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

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2724 ABBOT Kinney Blvd., Unit 103. MDR Adjacent. 2+2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint & carpet in newer gated building with gated, subterranean parking, AC, quiet neighborhood, laundry rm., 1 year lease, no pets. \$1395 (310) 578-9729.

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605 SANTA Clara Ave. Quiet unit on quiet street. Great location close to Abbot Kinney and just six blocks to the beach. Available mid-August, 1 year lease, no pets. \$745. Open house Thursday, August 11, 12:00-1:00pm. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1482460 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as URLEAD, CYPRIX, KALIGMA, Shervan. 3921 E. Livingston Dr., #13, Long Beach, CA 90803. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Shervan Haji Firouzabadi, 3921 E. Livingston Dr., #13, Long Beach, CA 90803 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/: Shervan Firouzabadi
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/23/05. 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 7/23/2005, 7/30/2005, 8/6/2005, 8/13/2005



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