

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Idea of union leader on tourism board irks hotels

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica hotel managers are enraged at the possible appointment of a local union organizer to the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau board.

Kurt Petersen, organizing director for the Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union in Santa Monica, has been nominated to fill one of two vacancies on the board, which the Santa Monica City Council is scheduled to vote on this Tuesday.

The union is actively trying to organize the Loews

Santa Monica Beach Hotel and the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, and it currently represents workers at the Fairmont Miramar and at the newly opened Viceroy Hotel.

Petersen said organized labor needs a voice in the city's tourism industry because of its large stake in having a healthy local economy.

"As much as anyone else, I am for a healthy, vibrant tourism industry," Petersen said. "The people I work with need that business to be healthy because that is how they feed their families."

Hotel managers believe Petersen brings nothing to the tourism industry that isn't already represented.

"I can't see any benefit or good coming from his appointment," said Klaus Mennekes, general manager of Casa Del Mar. "It is quite ironic in a way that someone whose actions in the past have cost us business ... and caused great inconveniences to visitors to Santa Monica would be promoting its tourism."

Some hotel managers went as far to say that Petersen's interests run contrary to the goal of promoting tourism.

"Let's look at the role of the unions. They do have a vested interest in two hotels only. All the rest of the city can count on the unions to (do is) destroy our business,"

See TOURISM, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
From left to right: Aureus Humboldt, Rik Humboldt and Jessica Jackson come to the end of the line in their journey across the United States on rollerblades at the pier Thursday. The threesome spent months on the open road skating for a cause.

Team skates for 'liberty'

Rollerbladers skate across country, end in Santa Monica

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Three East coasters ended their four-month, 3,500-mile long journey across the country on rollerblades at the Santa Monica Pier Thursday.

Rik Humboldt, 53, Aureus Humboldt, 26, and Jessica Jackson, 25, quit their jobs after the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks and began their trek from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The trip was part of an effort to create a continuous line of people from Boston to Los Angeles on the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Dubbed "Libertystand," the three hope to muster up enough participation across the country that there will be line of people from Boston to LA on Sept. 11 from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (EST), standing united along the route they skated.

The idea was born from Rik Humboldt, who was supposed to be at the World Trade Center on Sept. 15. Humboldt was in Edison,

N.J., looking at the smoke from the towers.

"I had this vision of people standing alongside of each other," he said, adding he chose the route in part because the four planes that crashed were bound for California. "The whole thing is about 'Let's roll' and create a ground swell of human beings for peace."

Rik Humboldt skated from Boston to New York City alone in 10 days carrying a 30-pound pack. After his son, Aureus Humboldt, expressed concern for his safety, Rik Humboldt returned to New Hampshire to regroup and get a support vehicle. Aureus Humboldt and his girlfriend, Jessica, quit their jobs and joined him on the adventure. Rik Humboldt purchased a motorhome by taking a loan on his house and financed the trip from his life savings.

The mobile team worked long hours to promote their efforts with the communities they passed through while trying to get as much media attention as possible.

From Boston, Rik Humboldt skated down historic Route 1 to New York City and Ground Zero. The team covered New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore and the Pentagon.

See ROLLERBLADERS, page 6

Woman forced to drink her own breast milk

BY LARRY McSHANE

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A woman said a security guard at Kennedy Airport forced her to drink from three bottles of her own breast milk to demonstrate the liquid posed no threat to other passengers.

Elizabeth McGarry, 40, said the incident occurred April 2 as she was boarding a Delta flight for Miami with

her infant daughter. She called it "embarrassing and disgusting."

The federal agency in charge of post-Sept. 11 airline security said it is investigating. But the security guard's demand would have been within federal guidelines at the time. The policy has since been changed.

Civil rights attorney Ronald Kuby, who fielded a call Wednesday from

See BREAST MILK, page 6

Big Blue Bus has new director

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Big Blue Bus, the only city-run transit system in Los Angeles County, has officially appointed a new leader.

After an extensive search, Big Blue Bus has named Stephanie Negriff as director of transit services for the City of Santa Monica, which pays \$114,756 a year as starting salary.

Negriff will manage the operations of the transit system, which encompasses 183 vehicles transporting more than 75,000 passengers a day across 51 square miles.

Negriff has been serving as the interim director since October when former director John Catoe left to take the No. 2 position at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan

Transportation Authority.

Upcoming issues Negriff will face as Big Blue Bus' leader will be getting the planned facility expansion complete, finding funding for the system and bringing new transportation alternatives to Santa Monica.

"She'll play an important role if light rail comes to Santa Monica," said Big Blue Bus spokesman Dan Dawson.

Negriff has served in various capacities at the Big Blue Bus, including assistant director for operations, manager of transit development and intergovernmental relations, and assistant director of operations-administration.

She has 24 years of experience in rapid transit, including stints with transit agencies in Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma City before joining the Big Blue Bus in 1986.

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Look at what you've done this week. Uh-oh, look at what still needs to be done. Unexpected developments toss rocks in your path on the way out the door. Be a sport and clear out work. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take a hint from Aries. Your creativity peaks later, helping you nudge your way out the door. You also might decide to ask for help. Curb your playfulness until you can leave work, which might be earlier than you think. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Reach out for associates at a distance. Others respond to your inquiries, though perhaps not in the manner you visualized. Flex. If you can, bring extra work home and leave the office early. You need a break. Tonight: Stay close to home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Deal with finances directly. Something just might not be the way you see it. You're best off confirming your checkbook balance, payments, etc. Later, return a call and answer e-mail. Schedule a meeting, if need be. Tonight: At your haunt.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your impact soars in the morning, though someone might buck your ideas or authority. Oh well, you can be happy that it's Friday. Work on finances and perhaps completing a job. Catch up on news from an associate over lunch. Tonight: Treat someone to munchies.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Lay back when certain matters feel out of control this morning. When you sense a change in the wind around lunchtime, take action. The Moon enters your sign, showcasing you. What is it that you want? Now go for it. Tonight: Remember that you're top dog.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ If you can, start your day early. Others might be contrary, but you feel the best in the a.m. By afternoon, you'll want to toss in the towel and leave work. Calm down. Take a walk. Rethink your plans. Know that this too will pass. Tonight: Vanish.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Stay on top of work and others' suggestions this morning. Do not allow your personal life to infiltrate your work. Your effectiveness peaks as a result. An afternoon meeting could develop into a fun happening. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to those at a distance. Though you might not be thrilled with your morning news, use it to empower yourself. Take charge and assume responsibility. If you want something done your way, you might have to do it yourself. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You could be rather upset by what you hear. Talk to a trusted partner or associate who comes through for you. Reach out to others at a distance this afternoon. Discussions give you new insight, at least about this weekend, if not more. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You send lightening bolts down a close associate's path. Clearly this person might have had enough, as you gather from his or her response. Stop. Make a point of scheduling a one-on-one talk before it's too late. Tonight: Show your feelings rather than acting on them.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ What hits you as a jolt this morning could impact you for a good part of the day. Slow down and take your time with others. A lengthy discussion over lunch helps you clear your mind and renew your perspective. Let others carry the weight right now. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

QUOTE of the DAY

"All of us learn to write in the second grade. Most of us go on to greater things."
— Basketball coach Bobby Knight

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LOCAL

The Q-Line

The big bus blues

Last week, Q-Line asked, "Do you think Big Blue Buses are being driven safely? Why or why not?"

Here are the readers' responses:

■ "A lot of drivers do not pay attention. They talk on their cell phones and take care of personal matters without watching the road. The bus driver on route number 47 refuses to pick up people in wheelchairs. He just passes them up. I see it all the time."

■ "The buses are not being driven safely. They go too fast. It is a very stressful experience to ride the bus not to mention downright scary. This is true of all the buses, not just the Blue Bus. I used to take the bus to Malibu on weekends but stopped going because of the speed at which the drivers would take the curves on PCH. Everyone would hang on for dear life. It felt like the bus would tip over. Another bad place to be on a bus is descending the hill into the Santa Monica Canyon on 7th Street. The bus goes so fast it could not possibly stop in the event of an emergency. I've been a bus passenger when the driver has honked her horn at a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The drivers also tailgate cars at high speeds. The police seem unconcerned over the speeding buses. I wish I could ride the bus. It's ridiculous that this situation is allowed to continue. An additional comment is that I have called and spoken to the bus company, and they tell me that there are bus supervisors that pose as passengers. I seriously doubt that."

■ "I ride a bicycle, and I have almost been side-swiped so many times by buses. I'm always in the safe zone, you know, the bike path lane. It's really scary. They go so fast. I think that they should have more training."

■ "I do think the bus drivers are going too fast. Some of them go so fast they pass up people on bus benches!"

■ "I think the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus is generally a safe bus. I have not heard of any deaths until very recently. However, I do think that when the bus is crowded, and you have to stand and the bus stops abruptly, that is unsafe. You get thrown! It is very likely to happen. It happens a lot."

■ "There are a couple of things I notice that make the drive somewhat risky over there in Santa Monica. I've noticed a number of times the personal use of cell phones by the drivers. They also seemed to be overworked. People have told me that they have to reach a certain number of hours to receive certain retirement benefits. They seem stressed out, and I think these circumstances may contribute to the related accidents."

■ "I think the bus drivers are not driving as safe as they used to. I could have easily been that senior who was killed by that bus turning the corner off Ocean Avenue. Often I've stood there and waited for the signal to turn green and the bus has been waiting to turn right. They just turn! They don't wait for the pedestrians. They can't even see the pedestrians in most cases. I always wait for them to go first, and by that time the red hand is blinking and I have to wait another cycle to get across the street."

■ "I do think the bus drivers drive pretty safely. I think the real culprits in this city are the speeders who drive their SUVs and talk on their cell phones and passing you on the right hand side, which is illegal. It's not the buses, it's the young maniacs!"

■ "Sometimes it appears the buses are not being driven safely. I've seen them

See Q-LINE, page 5

Finger food?



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Dozens of people take advantage of free food being handed out at Palisades Park on Wednesday. City officials and business owners would like the practice to cease because it attracts transients and vagrants downtown, who don't always act in a socially acceptable manner, they say. Church groups from outside the city offer dozens of 'public feedings' each week in parks and in front of City Hall.



A combination of south and southwest ground and moderate northwest wind swell puts surf in the two- to three-foot range at best breaks today. Most spots see inconsistent, waist-level waves and below.

Saturday, the minor southwest swell should build.

A more satisfactory swell is due Sunday, late afternoon/early evening, a stronger southwest that should give waves an additional foot on top of Saturday's height.

Spot to avoid, Leo Carrillo, which still has "C" advisory, and flat anyway.

Today's Tides:		
Low-	4:42 a.m.	-1.06'
High-	11:07 a.m.	4.61'
Low-	4:12 p.m.	1.77'
High-	10:22 p.m.	6.72'

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



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OPINION

Fun, power and games at the SMRR convention



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

One of the city's most important meetings was held last Sunday. The Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR) convention is where the powerful renters' rights group, which dominates city politics, endorses its favorites for the fall election.

SMRR, and consequently the majority of those in our city government, seem to be more interested in weighty social issues and noble causes than dealing with local problems. How else would you explain the obsession with "social injustice?"

Some members of the SMRR women's caucus are so fanatical about the "living wage" that it looked for a while as if they might not support Councilwoman Pam O'Connor in her re-election bid because she wasn't passionate enough in her support of it.

Newcomer Abby Arnold's platform was more of what most of the SMRR leadership had in mind. Arnold stated,

"I'm running because I care so much about social and economic justice."

Former Councilman Tony Vasquez waxed enthusiastic that Arnold "would champion social justice issues" and so-on and so-on.

On the other hand, O'Connor, it is widely believed, is running primarily to "continue in my regional role" on the powerful Metropolitan Transit Authority board of directors.

The political idealism extends to SMRR's school board endorsees; just take a look at newcomers Oscar de la Torre, Anna Jara and Emily Bloomfield. And then there's incumbent Julia Brownley, who carried on as if the entire community was made up of exploited, low-income workers whose social injustices must be dealt with.

But de la Torre is something else. He was the organizer of a labor rally advocating the unionization of a local hotel, which was held on the Samohi campus last April. The exploitation of Samohi students and public school property by de la Torre, some district staff and union bosses was self-serving.

And their actions offended segments of

the business community. The result is that many businesses and "former" friends of the district, I've been told, are now reluctant to support our schools. Yet, to the SMRR membership who apparently places idealism over practicality, de la Torre, Brownley and other human rights candidates for the school board and other offices were more than worthy of wildly enthusiastic support.

SMRR's agenda does not go unrewarded. SMRR benefits from considerable union largess and manpower, so maybe that's why "social justice" and unionization receives a lot more attention than educating our children and building a better community.

The "community" is renters and homeowners, old and young, single and married, retirees, people working for a living at all income levels, house moms and children — and we all want safe streets, responsible development, coherent traffic and parking management, good schools and a better quality of life.

With the exception of tenant harassment, there was very little rhetoric about community issues at this gathering. The recent series of shootings and the ongoing

maiming of our children in the Pico neighborhood were barely mentioned even by candidates from the Pico neighborhood. Sadly, it seems that they care more about "workers rights" than our children's safety.

We're all being shortchanged — just like Joe Weichman who was seeking SMRR's endorsement for College Board of Trustees. In the first ballot round, he received more than 20 percent of the vote, which required a second ballot. But, SMRR co-chair Nancy Greenstein, who had just received SMRR's endorsement for college board, adjourned the meeting before a second vote could be taken. Weichman got screwed, and Greenstein eliminated a competitor. So much for honesty, fair play and other noble causes.

Like Joe, we're all being manipulated by those who say "we care," but who are only out to stay in power and pander to their own big money interests — all under the guise of social justice.

Don't kid yourself, folks. This does not portend well for the future of Santa Monica.

(Bill Bauer has been a resident for 32 years in Santa Monica and is a freelance writer.)

LETTERS

Holbrook should withdraw

Editor:

Councilman Robert Holbrook has taken out papers to run for his fourth, four-year term on the Santa Monica City Council. That will be sixteen years in city government.

Mr. Holbrook says he strongly supports the proposed Veritas government reorganization scheme. Veritas calls for limiting councilmembers to only two, four-year terms, among its other changes.

Shouldn't Mr. Holbrook "walk the talk" by withdrawing now from the council race in favor of less-entrenched, first-time candidates?

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

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- Main Street and Ashland
- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
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- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

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LOCAL



The QLine

CONT., from page 3

plow through yellow lights at intersections, and I've seen buses driven as though the drivers are in a big hurry. It appears as though overall traffic on the streets is heavier, and the buses time points and schedules need to be adjusted so the driver has plenty of time without having to drive fast. The police also need to strictly enforce traffic laws."

■ "I've noticed that since the bus transit has been put in in Santa Monica that the bus drivers do seem to blow their horns quite a bit. They hurry to keep their schedules. I was on a bus the other day and our bus driver nearly missed hitting a car to be on time. They are so stressed out to be on time! They have a lot of pressure."

■ "They drive dangerously fast and jerk the brakes often. The number 14 goes around curves in Brentwood so fast that it is sometimes impossible to stand up. In the past couple of months, the drivers have been exhibiting road rage. They are so rude."

■ "I say they certainly are being driven safely. Pedestrians should be more careful. I am not a bus driver."

■ "The new busses are driven in an erratic fashion. Very jerky. The brakes seem to grab. Many of the drivers are new and seem to be under stress. The drivers don't wait until passengers get seated, and then the drivers take off too fast making the passengers stumble and fall. Many times the drivers don't wait for people to get aboard, even when the potential passengers are knocking on the door. The drivers of the automobiles pull out in front of the buses making the drivers nervous. The whole scene is erratic and frightening."

■ "No, the buses are not driven safely. The elderly get on, put their coins in the box, and the drivers deliberately, if they are out of sorts, put their foot to the metal and drive off knocking elderly people onto the ground. I am 60 years old and have almost fallen over several times. It's horrible."

■ "Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus has a few bad apples like all municipal systems. I've reported a few, but they are still employed and still driving in the same manner. Clearly there is a lack of supervision and follow-up. Have you ever tried to report a bad driver? Try calling 451-5444 after 5 p.m. or on weekends. There is but a recording. Big Blue should have one of those 'How is my driving?' Call 1-800-BAD-BLUE stickers on every bus in contract with the fleet reporting service and improve its follow up and supervision of drivers. Further complicating matters the new traffic calming and beautification elements make it hazardous for the buses to operate in mixed traffic. The new concrete medians force buses, cars and bicycles

even closer together and put pedestrians in harms way. Even the most seasoned bus drivers will have accidents. Both Big Blue and the City of Santa Monica need to re-examine their practices. Big Blue can certainly stand to improve its safety record."

■ "No, I do not think the Big Blue buses are being driven safely. I've thought this for a long time, and, in fact, I've made a commitment to myself about a month ago that I would carry a pen and paper in my car so I could write down numbers of buses so I could report them. I wonder if the drivers are being asked to work under realistic conditions or if the schedules being given are too optimistic and they are feeling some kind of pressure to maintain them."

■ "The new style buses are very dangerous. It's impossible to safely walk even one step while the bus is moving. The drivers complain about how unreliable and dangerous the brakes are. When you apply the break pedals, the buses jerk and cause people to fall. Also, many times the back door does not open. It's very difficult to reach the cord to signal a stop without falling."

■ "I ride the bus and have been doing so for 45 years. They need that 'How am I driving?' sticker on the back of the buses. There should be a form available in the bus to make comments."

■ "I don't think the buses are driving unsafely. I think the problem is all the traffic. More traffic, more accidents. It's not the bus driver's fault."

■ "Last Saturday, I was scared by a Big Blue Bus that went flying by me at a high rate of speed. I did not even know where the bus came from! I thought to myself 'Wow, I wonder if that person's shift is over, and they really want to get home?' Then I saw it stop to pick up some passengers. I would not want to be on that bus at any cost."

■ "I'm a lifelong resident of Santa Monica, and I've noticed the buses have gotten a lot more dangerous over the past few years. I often see the blue buses running red lights all over town. Wherever I turn, practically every third time they are running yellow or red lights. They drive fast all the time. On Main Street when I was crossing the crosswalk, one bus refused to stop and almost hit me and missed by inches. It was actually exceeding the speed limit there on Main Street, which they often do all the time. Something needs to be done. I have a theory about this that the drivers are not from Santa Monica so they have an aggression towards citizens of Santa Monica."

■ "I was riding a MTA bus a couple of weeks ago and the bus hit another car. So I know for a fact that they do hit people. On the blue bus, they speed. They need training. I like them all, but they drive too fast. I see them having cell phone conversations with loved ones."

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LOCAL

Council members undecided on Petersen appointment

TOURISM, from page 1

by demonstrating, disrupting and annoying our guests to no avail," said Francois Khoury, general manager of the Doubletree.

"Mr. Petersen's agenda and profession does not coincide with this of the (Convention and Visitors Bureau). I understand that the majority of the city council is loyal to the unions or indebted to them. Let them find another way to pay (him) back."

Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel general manager John Thacker agreed.

"It seems to me there are a lot more people qualified and knowledgeable about marketing Santa Monica, and that the key skill for that kind of position is marketing," he said. "And I wonder what possible good is coming from having Kurt Petersen on the board."

Convention and Visitors Bureau members also did not endorse Petersen. Instead, they recommended West Hooker, owner of a Third Street Promenade restaurant, and David Moughalian, dean of the Santa Monica-based Art Institute of Los Angeles, to fill the board's vacancies.

"Personally, I am against anyone with a strong affiliation that is anti-tourism," said board member William Crookston, a Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce appointee. "I do not believe the convention bureau can be considered a political entity."

But Petersen said that many cities, like New York and Los Angeles, have union representation on their tourism boards.

"This is normal. It's sad in Santa Monica that people have used it as an opportunity to attack workers," Petersen said. "These people need to dig deep in their conscience because I'm not sure

what their motives are."

And Petersen notes that both hotels and restaurants have representatives on the board, while organized labor does not. He believes his presence on the board would add experience and perspective not already present.

"I'll add a new voice," the union rep said. "I thought this community was all about diversity and hearing from all sides of society."

"One day this industry needs to work together," he added, "and I hope this is one step closer to doing that."

There has been an active letter and e-mail campaign by both supporters and detractors of Petersen to influence city council members. But many on the city council say they have yet to make up their minds on how to vote.

"I'm waiting to make my final decision, but I decided on a direction several weeks ago," said Councilman Richard Bloom. "I think we need to focus on what the (Convention and Visitors Bureau's) mission is and find the right people to fill that."

Mayor Mike Feinstein said he was still unsure of how he would vote, though he said there is a need to "include various stakeholders in the visitor and tourism industry" on the board.

"While there is a difference between what hotels bring than what labor does, they are all still stakeholders," Feinstein said. "Sometimes a contribution that isn't the most apparent can be the one that is the most important."

Petersen agrees.

"The board should represent all the interests of the tourism industry in Santa Monica," he said. "A representative of the workers seems to fill an enormous void that exists on that board."

Bladers searching for leaders

ROLLERBLADERS, from page 1

From Washington D.C., Routes 97 and 30 led the team through Gettysburg to Shanksville, Penn., and around the crash site of Flight 93. In Uniontown, Penn., the team picked up Route 40 to go across Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and into St. Louis. Interstate 44 and Route 66 led them to The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. From there, the team followed Route 66 to California through Santa Fe, N.M., Flagstaff, AZ., and across the Mojave

Desert to the Santa Monica Pier.

As the team approached Santa Monica, Hollywood resident Andy Sykora, who was going home after doing errands on his bike, noticed the threesome and decided to finish the route with them. He biked alongside of them on Santa Monica Boulevard from Sunset Boulevard.

No injuries occurred during the trek, and they all reported they lost 15 pounds each.

The team is looking for "mile leaders" along the route. More information can be obtained at www.libertystand.org.

Mom's milk causes suspicions

BREAST MILK, from page 1

McGarry on his radio talk show, ridiculed the notion that anyone could have suspected the Long Island woman of being a terrorist.

"The number of middle-aged, lactating white women who passed through al-Qaida training is probably negligible," he said.

Kuby said the suburban woman is not looking to sue over the incident.

"She's primarily concerned this doesn't happen to somebody else," Kuby said. "She does feel the people who did this were plain stupid, and should be punished in some way."

McGarry and her daughter were pulled out of the boarding line for a random search. Guards examined her shoes, searched her baby and went through her

diaper bag, Kuby said.

"None of that bothered her," Kuby said. "Only when she was ordered to drink the breast milk did she fail to see the connection to stopping terrorism."

The male guard was employed by a private company.

At the time, screeners were permitted to have passengers drink from containers, said Transportation Security Administration spokesman Sebastian Warren. That policy was changed on June 24, he said.

"In light of this unfortunate incident, the TSA is redoubling its efforts to ensure that both private-sector and federal screeners uniformly and consistently apply this policy," Warren said.

STATE



Bill has landlords giving tenants 60-day notice

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Echoing Senate approval earlier this year, the state Assembly passed a bill Thursday requiring California landlords to give long-term or month-to-month tenants 60 days notice to move out.

Democrats prevailed in a 43-23 vote over Republican opposition. Now the bill returns to the Senate for a vote on Assembly amendments to the proposal.

If passed and signed by Gov. Gray Davis, the bill will give tenants in tight rental markets twice as long to find a new place to live. The bill's sponsor, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, says 30 days often isn't enough for elderly or disabled renters and families trying to keep their children in the same schools.

The bill, authored by Sen. Sheila

Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, applies only to month-to-month renters who have been in an apartment or house for more than a year. Landlords can still give 30 days notice to renters occupying their housing for less than a year.

The Senate passed the bill in April, two weeks after noon rallies in the state's major cities demanded more rights for the state's 4.9 million rental households. Japanese billionaire Gensiro Kawamoto also added fuel to the cause in January, issuing 30-day eviction notices to 420 Sacramento rental households and 150 more in Santa Rosa. Kawamoto eventually backed down, extending the notices to 90 days.

The bill also requires that landlords give 24 hours notice to inspect their rentals, except during emergencies or after tenants have abandoned or surrendered the property.

Suit alleges 'Six Feet Under' is based on 1997 script idea

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A screenwriter sued Time Warner Entertainment claiming the critically acclaimed HBO hit "Six Feet Under" is based on a script she wrote in 1997.

The suit was filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court by screenwriter Gwen O'Donnell. It alleges the parent firm of HBO violated federal copyright laws.

The suit seeks damages of \$10 million on behalf of O'Donnell and \$20 million for Funky Films, the company that is producing her screenplay, "The Funk Parlor," as a feature film.

HBO denied the allegations in a pre-

pared statement issued Thursday.

"We haven't seen the lawsuit but 'Six Feet Under' springs from the imagination of Alan Ball," the statement read. "Anyone who suggests otherwise doesn't know what they are talking about."

The lawsuit claims that Ball, who won an Academy Award for writing 1999's "American Beauty," was approached by HBO to create a drama based on a funeral parlor after an HBO executive had access to O'Donnell's screenplay in 1999. Ball could not be immediately reached for comment.

"Six Feet Under" has a leading 23 Emmy nominations at the television industry's top awards next month.

Bank robber touted 'Pale Bandit' frustrating authorities

BY JASON WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Averaging a hit every three days, a prolific bank robber who dons heavy makeup and women's wigs has frustrated authorities in San Diego County over the last 2 1/2 months. The man dubbed the "Pale Bandit" struck again this week.

On Wednesday, the bandit got away clean with more than \$1,700 from a USE Credit Union — his 19th robbery since June 12.

FBI agents are stymied by the man's unpredictable behavior. Serial criminals usually stick to a pattern, but the Pale Bandit — so named for the light-toned makeup he wears — varies his routine.

He hits credit unions and commercial banks alike, whether they are stand-alone buildings or inside supermarkets. He has no preference for any particular company, targeting Wells Fargo, Union Bank, Washington Mutual and others.

He strikes at any time of day, on any day of the week, and often switches his mode of escape, at times leaving on foot or in one of a variety of vehicles.

"He is unique in that he has no specific set pattern," FBI Special Agent Jeff

Thurman said.

Authorities have not disclosed how much the bandit has stolen.

They believe he uses makeup to cover acne scars, and witnesses have observed sandy blond hair under his wig — usually a brunette pageboy. He is a thin white male in his mid to late 30s who stands about 5-feet-10-inches tall.

He typically wears a burgundy two-piece sweat suit, a business suit or hospital scrubs. He also favors dark sunglasses.

In the wake of his most recent appearance, FBI officials on Wednesday released the first evidence of the bandit's alleged activities outside of a bank: Surveillance images showing a man exchanging \$2,000 in dye-stained money at a local Indian casino.

The money was stained when a dye-pack exploded shortly after the Pale Bandit robbed a bank on June 24.

Authorities hope to catch the bandit soon, because it appears he is becoming more aggressive — and confident — with each robbery.

Early on, the bandit would approach a bank teller and request money, stating he had a gun or showing the weapon stashed in a briefcase.

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NATIONAL

Grand Canyon opens debate over river permits

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Grand Canyon National Park officials say they're dealing with a tricky balancing act as they try to design a new Colorado River-use plan that will affect about 23,000 boaters and river runners each year.

Determining who should get access to the river, whether motorized rafts and boats should continue to ply the river, and how to divvy up trips between commercial and private operators are expected to be hot topics at public meetings in Flagstaff and Mesa this month.

Environmental groups, who want motorized crafts on the river to be phased out, say the National Park Service needs to control who has access to the 250-mile Colorado corridor.

Living Rivers, a group dedicated to the river's restoration, as well as other groups that have banded together as the Grand Canyon Wilderness Alliance, wants a greater allocation to individuals and

groups that travel the river using their own equipment and expertise.

"We're losing native species, turning the river into a carnival attraction," said Kim Crumbo, a member of the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association. "This is an American park. This is not the back yard of Las Vegas and Flagstaff. They really need to reach out to the nation."

Crumbo argues that the system for river trips is skewed toward an economic elite, since most of the trips go to people who sign up for commercial trips that cost around \$200 a day. If they're willing to pay, he said, people can make a river trip within a year or two of making a reservation.

But as a private boater, Crumbo said, it will take nearly 20 years before his name is called from a waiting list.

Parks officials say the average wait for a private trip is 19 years. There isn't a comparable statistic for the commercial operations because they use price, not time, to ration trips.

Surgeon who left patient during surgery suspended

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — A surgeon who left a patient anesthetized and with an open incision in his back while he went to a bank several blocks away has had his medical license suspended.

The patient was not harmed, but Dr. David C. Arndt created an immediate threat when he left the patient at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge to go to a bank in Harvard Square, the state Board of Registration in Medicine said Wednesday. It suspended his license indefinitely.

The board said Arndt, a Harvard-trained orthopedic surgeon, was six hours into a spine operation when he told the operating staff he needed to "step out." The board said he returned about 35 minutes later and finished the operation.

Another surgeon who had walked into

the operating area to deliver Arndt's paycheck told the board Arndt asked him to stay for a few minutes while he took a break. The other surgeon, who was not credentialed to perform the surgery and had not scrubbed in, assumed Arndt was simply going to the restroom, the board said.

Arndt later said that the surgery had run longer than he expected and that he had to get the check to the bank because he was in "a financial crisis" and had to pay bills.

His lawyer, Claudia Hunter, said Thursday that Arndt would appeal Wednesday's decision, which suspended his license until further order by the state board. Arndt has a right to a hearing, but no date has been set.

"He regrets his actions of July 10 and apologizes to his patient," Hunter said. "At the time of the events, the patient was stable and the surgery was successful."

Nursing home accused by labor officials of mistreating workers

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — A nursing home that accused union organizers of using voodoo to frighten its Haitian-American employees into joining has been accused by federal officials of mistreating workers.

The National Labor Relations Board said last month it found evidence of spying on workers, threats and unfair dismissals at Mount Sinai-St. Francis Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Miami. It granted four workers a Nov. 12 hearing before a labor judge.

Earlier this year, the nursing home had accused the Service Employees International Union of planting lines of pennies and half-empty water cups — bad omens in voodoo lore — at the center in an effort to scare workers into joining the union.

The NLRB rejected the voodoo claims in May and refused to overturn an election in February where workers voted in favor of a union. Instead, it opened an investi-

gation into the home after workers said they had been mistreated.

A complaint filed by the union claimed employees Rose Marie Noel and Urlick Antoine were fired and Julienne Lubin and Kurt Tkac were disciplined because of their support of the union.

The union also accused the nursing home of spying on and threatening workers while they handed out fliers and discussed the union. The NLRB released its findings on July 30.

Union members said the board's findings gives them a boost as they fight the nursing home's appeal of the board's decision not to overturn the Feb. 28 vote.

Nursing home spokesman Bruce Rubin charged the union with creating an atmosphere of intimidation.

"Shame on the union. They were the ones who injected this element of fear and intimidation into this issue," Rubin said. "There is absolutely no merit to any innuendo to mistreat or inappropriately discipline."

NATIONAL

Stock market crash hits college savings funds

BY DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The stock market's long slide has had a punishing effect on the Buchanan family college fund.

After years of gains, the investment portfolio that Buck Buchanan had hoped would put his seven children through school is losing value fast.

"You know, a year or two ago, I had it. I had enough money set aside in my investments to pay for all of my children to go to a full four years of college. I had it, and now I don't," said the retired executive from Devon.

Parents across the nation have suffered similar losses and are now scrambling to find ways to pay their children's tuition.

Demand for financial aid has risen, with the Education Department reporting a 10 percent increase in applications over the previous year. And some colleges are reporting an increase in calls and letters from parents whose ability to pay tuition has been abruptly compromised.

The stock market drop-off has been especially worrisome for parents whose children are nearing college age. They are suddenly faced with the prospect of having to cash out an education fund at one of the market's low points.

"I certainly think that people are starting to panic," said Anthony Zalesky, a planner at Lincoln Financial Advisors. "For the first time, I'm hearing from some clients that they are worried about having to raid their retirement fund to pay for their kids' college."

As the school year approaches, some families have scrambled to appeal rulings made in early spring that they were too well off to qualify for scholarships or subsidized loans.

The University of Maryland has seen a 30 percent increase this year in the number of students appealing their initial aid award. Temple University in Philadelphia is also dealing with a flood of requests for more aid.

"We've had many appeals this year from families whose assets are down because of the stock market. We have also had appeals from families where the primary wage earner has lost a job," said John Morris, Temple's director of student financial services.

The savings crunch comes at a bad time for colleges. At most colleges, operating costs are up and endowment income is down, and state schools are facing budget cuts because of falling tax revenue. As a result, tuitions are up significantly.

The families who have fared the worst are those who

kept their money in stocks even as their children entered high school.

Buchanan's portfolio was hit hardest by the plunge at Tyco International, the company that purchased the sprinkler manufacturer where he had been an executive for 27

"I'm walking away and putting money in the bank instead. I put another \$5,000 in a savings account for him last year, and he now has \$5,100. I'll stick with that."

— DEL RIESENHUBER
Investor

years. When he retired a year ago, his Tyco stock was worth \$68 a share. This week it was trading at about \$12.

Traditional investment advice says parents should invest more aggressively when the child is young and

gradually move to more conservative holdings such as government bonds when the student is within a few years of needing to tap that college fund.

State-sponsored 529 education savings plans have been among the most popular tools of late, since they allow students to save tax-free and they usually move into more conservative investments as the child gets older. The families who have poured more than \$9 billion into these plans have seen their holdings shrink.

Joe Hurley, the Pittsford, N.Y., accountant who runs the 529 plan ratings service www.savingforcollege.com, said families with children still many years away from college should not abandon an investment savings plan.

"Some people are suggesting that there has really been no better time to invest in the stock market than right now, when it is at bargain levels," he said. "I wouldn't suggest that they just put it under the mattress."

Del Riesenhuber of Los Gatos, Calif., said he lost faith in the markets after the \$5,000 investment he made in one of California's state-sponsored 529 plans for his grandson dwindled to \$3,500.

"I'm walking away and putting money in the bank instead," he said. "I put another \$5,000 in a savings account for him last year, and he now has \$5,100. I'll stick with that."

Police group backs proposal to legalize possession of marijuana

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Nevada's largest police organization has endorsed a state ballot initiative that would let adults legally possess small amounts of marijuana.

The board of the Nevada Conference of Police and Sheriffs, a 3,000-member group that represents about 65 percent of the state's street patrol officers, voted 9-0 on Tuesday to support a change in the state constitution that would decriminalize possession of up to three ounces of marijuana.

"I was a Metro Police officer for 28 years and I spent a lot of time booking people on marijuana charges that never went to court," said Andy Anderson, president of the conference.

Under the proposal, marijuana would be sold in state-

licensed shops and taxed like cigarettes and other tobacco products. A distribution system would also be set up to provide low-cost pot for medical uses.

Billy Rogers, spokesman for Nevadans for Responsible Law Enforcement, which supports the proposed change, said the Nevada conference is the first police group to throw its support behind the initiative.

To become law, the change needs voter approval in November and again in 2004. But whether it could ever take effect is unclear. Federal law bans marijuana possession, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that states cannot make exceptions for medical use.

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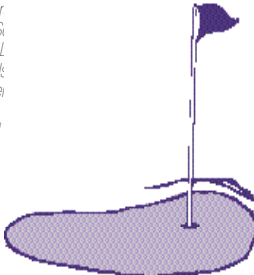
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NATIONAL

Guests fall into shark, sting ray filled aquarium

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Ten aquarium visitors, including four children, fell into a shark tank and thrashed around in terror for up to 15 minutes with the animals swimming beneath their kicking feet before they were pulled out.

No one was seriously hurt, though one of the children, a 2-year-old girl, later woke up screaming in the night.

The visitors fell in Wednesday night when a catwalk over the water collapsed.

One of the onlookers, 8-year-old Amanda Kruse, said most of the sharks scattered, but she saw one cruising underneath the panicked guests.

"Its lips were peeled back and its teeth were showing," Amanda said.

Officials at the Aquarium of the Americas were investigating what caused the accident at the Gulf of Mexico exhibit, which includes about 24 nurse sharks and sand tiger sharks. The aquarium Web site warns visitors: "You'll be glad you're on the outside looking in."

The catwalk is normally reserved for staff but was opened for a behind-the-scenes tour for aquarium members. When it buckled, the group was thrown into the 20-foot-deep, 400,000-gallon tank.

"All of sudden I heard something go bam, and the long catwalk split in half right in the middle and it dropped everybody straight into the water," said Dan Rooney, whose two daughters, 2-year-old granddaughter and 5-year-old nephew plunged in.

Daughter Allison Rooney, 21, told CNN: "Ironically, the man was telling us that if anybody ever fell into the water, that the sharks are well-fed and that they would scatter. ... Well, not even two seconds later, sure enough the whole thing just collapsed."

The water level is about 3 feet below the slick edges of the glass-walled tank, so there was no way for those inside to pull themselves out without help. Many clung to the mock oil platform in the center of the tank. Adults tried to hold small children above the water, splashing around and scattering sandals, makeup kits and brochures inside the tank.

"The water is clear so you could see the sting rays and sharks swimming beneath them," Dan Rooney said. "I know the sharks are well-fed, but with all that splashing you wonder if their hunter instincts are going to kick in."

Like many of those who fell in, Erin Rooney, 14, was scraped by the barnacle-encrusted support poles of the mock oil

platform.

"It happened so fast I didn't really think about the sharks at first, I just wanted to get out of the water," said Erin, who is Allison's sister. "I never wanted to go near the sharks, and the worst part is I was scared to go on the catwalk and people were making fun of me for not wanting to go on it."

Allison Rooney was able to hand 2-year-old daughter Amber to a rescuer after they fell in. But she had to swim to the other side of the tank to get out — and her rescue took 15 minutes.

"It was very scary," she told CNN. "When I first looked down, I saw a sting ray right underneath me and I just freaked out. I was scared to death what I would do if I saw a shark."

"All of sudden I heard something go bam, and the long catwalk split in half right in the middle and it dropped everybody straight into the water."

— DAN ROONEY
Witness

Allison Rooney said Amber was quiet during the accident.

"But on the way home, she started talking," she said. "Last night, she woke up quite a few times screaming, 'Mommy, hold me!'"

Many of those in the tank got out on a makeshift bridge that aquarium workers stretched across to the oil platform.

Officials said the guests were in little if any danger.

"We didn't have 'Jaws' in the aquarium or anything like that," said Ron Forman, president of the Audubon Institute, which runs the aquarium.

Dan Rooney said he pulled three people out before an employee told him to move away from the tank, but no immediate help came for Allison. He called for her to swim over to him and he pulled her out.

"If a shark had gone anywhere near I was ready to jump in — not that it would have helped — but I wasn't just going to stand there if my family was in trouble," he said.

The aquarium was opened for business Thursday, but the shark tank was curtailed off.

15-year-old becomes latest Florida shark-bite victim

By The Associated Press

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla. — A teenage surfer was attacked by a shark in waist-deep water, becoming Volusia County's sixth shark-bite victim this year.

Brennen Smith, 15, of Riviera Beach, said he was coming in after riding his last wave Wednesday when he felt a "pinch" just above his left ankle.

The teenager alerted a lifeguard and was taken to Bert Fish Medical Center, where doctors sutured the 4-inch wound. He was released Wednesday afternoon.

There were 76 unprovoked shark attacks in the United States last year, 37 of them in Florida, according to the International Shark Attack File in Gainesville. Of the 37 attacks in Florida, 22 were in Volusia County.

INTERNATIONAL



Saddam Hussein warns Iraq attackers will fail

BY SAMEER N. YACOB
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ever defiant, Saddam Hussein organized a big military parade Thursday and then warned "the forces of evil" not to attack Iraq as he sought once more to shift the debate away from world demands that he live up to agreements that ended the Gulf War.

The Bush administration has threatened to use military force to oust Saddam, who has barred U.N. weapons inspectors from returning to the country. Iraq remains under tight U.N. sanctions until inspectors certify Saddam no longer has chemical, nuclear or biological weapons or the missiles to deliver them.

The sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, eventually touching off the 1991 war.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday that the Iraqi government hadn't given "an inch" toward meeting U.N. demands for the return of the inspectors. "I don't see any change in attitude," he said.

In a televised speech on the anniversary of the end of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, Saddam said "the forces of evil" — a reference to the United States and its chief ally, Britain — will "die in disgraceful failure" if they attack Iraq.

Saddam said the real issue was not Iraqi behavior but the U.N. Security Council's refusal to respond to his questions about the inspections.

"The right way is that the Security Council should reply to the questions raised by Iraq and should honor its obligations under its own resolutions," Saddam said, dressed in a dark gray suit and sitting in front of a desk adorned with white lilies. "There is no other choice for those who use threat and aggression."

Iraq submitted 19 questions to Annan in March when

talks began on the possible return of inspectors. The talks have since collapsed, and the Security Council, where the United States holds veto power, has issued no response.

Earlier Thursday, about 15,000 members of Saddam's Jerusalem Army marched through Baghdad in a 90-minute display of support for the president. Dressed in khaki uniforms and armed with Kalashnikov rifles, the marchers carried photographs of Saddam and placards with slogans such as "Long live Saddam!" and "Down with U.S.A!"

In the past week, as rhetoric has heated up on all sides of the Iraq issue, Saddam has organized several demonstrations by the Jerusalem Army, a force of men, women and children that he set up in 2000 to drive the Israelis out of Jerusalem. Since it was established, the army has mainly trained and marched in Baghdad.

A White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, said Saddam's speech did not alter President Bush's view of Iraq in the slightest. "The Iraqi government needs to comply with the responsibilities it agreed to at the end of the Gulf War," he told reporters.

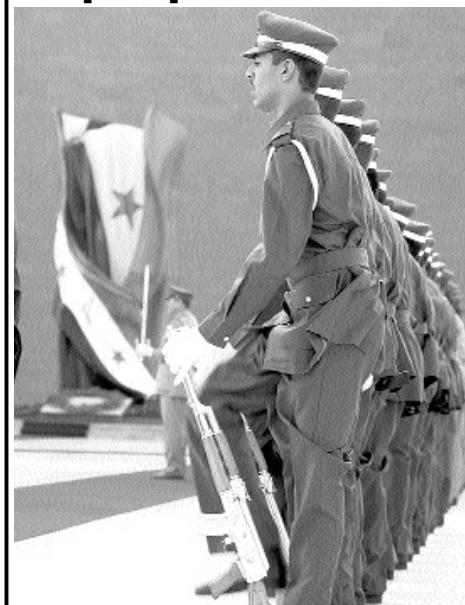
Iraq's strategy is to avoid war with the United States by strengthening ties with its neighbors and appearing open to some level of international weapons' inspections, said a U.S. intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

If war comes, Iraq's best option is to try to force the United States to fight it in the cities, the official said. Saddam knows that the high civilian casualties caused by urban combat is distasteful to the Americans and their European allies. Urban warfare also limits the utility of precision air strikes, as U.S. bombers try to avoid collateral damage to civilian buildings.

While the United States says it has reached no decision on attacking Iraq, Washington has nearly 10,000 troops in Kuwait and heavy equipment and warplanes at bases in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. There is substantial U.S. naval and air power on aircraft carriers in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Despite Washington's argument that Saddam is a danger to everyone, most U.S. allies, both in Europe and the Arab world, are cool to launching an attack on Iraq.

Iraq on parade



Jassim Mohammed/Associated Press

An Iraqi military honor guard parade on Thursday in front of Martyr Monument in Baghdad on the 14th anniversary of the end of the 1980-88 war with Iran.

Construction under way to expand U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay

By The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Bulldozers tore at the earth Thursday as construction progressed on a new wing of the U.S. military's prison camp for alleged al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

The 204 new cells at Camp Delta should be finished Oct. 1, bringing the number of cells in the seaside compound to 816.

"We're almost up to full capacity," said Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, commander of the detention mission.

With 598 men in the high-security camp, only 14 cells are empty. Each detainee has an individual cell with running water, sink, simple toilet and a metal bed frame with a foam mattress.

The total construction cost for Camp Delta, including the latest expansion, is \$45 million, military officials said.

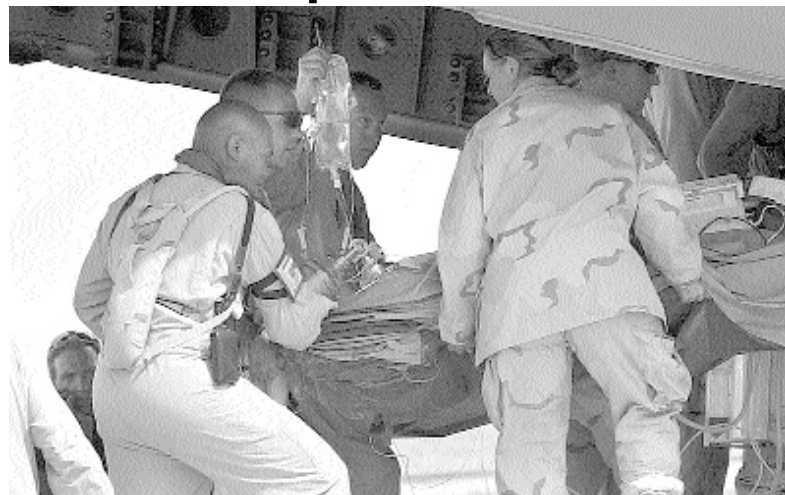
The prisoners, who have yet to face formal charges, are not being allowed lawyers while they are detained and interrogated in the camp.

The metal frame of a new, permanent hospital for detainees is rising next to the prison. When finished, it will have 116 beds, two isolation rooms for tuberculosis patients, at least one operating room and a physical therapy room, officials said.

Four detainees are being treated at the current tented hospital, said Cmdr. James Radtke, a physician. Months of use have taken a toll on the temporary field hospital.

The detainees, who are accused of links to the al-Qaida terrorist network or Afghanistan's fallen Taliban regime, come from 38 countries, officials said Thursday.

American transported



Wally Santana/Associated Press

U.S. Army medics and soldiers carry a wounded American soldier onto a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane Thursday at the Bagram air base, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, Afghanistan. The soldier was in stable condition and on his way to a medical facility in Germany after being shot in the chest in a sniper attack Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan, a military spokesman said Thursday.

Buddha image unveiling draws Tibetan faithful

BY JOE MCDONALD
Associated Press Writer

LHASA, China — Clad in everything from traditional robes to baseball caps, thousands of Tibetan Buddhists climbed a mountain before dawn Thursday to see the annual unveiling of an enormous picture of the Buddha.

The unveiling of the silk tangka on a slope beside the 586-year-old Drepung Monastery came at the start of the Yogurt Festival, a major Tibetan Buddhist celebration. Monks played horns and cymbals and broadcast chanting over loudspeakers as 130 maroon-robed monks lifted a yellow cover, revealing the image of

Sakyamuni, or Gautama Siddhartha, the founder of Buddhism.

The picture of the Buddha — 126 feet high, 111 feet wide and sewn from silk by the monks in the monastery — is unveiled each year to great fanfare at the start of the festival.

The annual ceremony first took place shortly after the monastery was founded in 1416, according to Lobsang Wangchuk, one of its senior monks. He said the ceremony was suspended during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and resumed in 1984.

During the Cultural Revolution, radical leftists incited by Mao Zedong destroyed thousands of temples and monasteries, killed monks

and forced others to give up their religious practices.

China has eased restrictions on religion somewhat in recent decades, but continued controls on Tibetan monasteries prompted rioting in the early 1990s. Chinese authorities still

interfere in religious activity, and rights groups say scores of Tibetan Buddhist monks remain imprisoned.

On Thursday morning, older people in traditional Tibetan clothing climbed the mountainside carrying candles or with their hands clasped in prayer. Younger Tibetans wearing baseball caps and sports jerseys snapped each other's pictures against the Buddha backdrop.



SPORTS

Harding sentenced to jail for violating probation

BY STEVEN DU BOIS

Associated Press Writer

CAMAS, Wash. — Tonya Harding was sentenced to 10 days in jail Thursday for drinking alcohol while on probation.

In court, the former Olympic figure skater said her arrest for drunken driving forced her to re-examine her life and was the best thing that could have happened to her.

"I'm grateful to the judge for giving me this opportunity; I finally found out what my problem is: It's alcohol," Harding said after the brief hearing.

"I'm glad it happened so no one gets hurt, I don't get hurt and I'm making something right in my life for a change."

Harding is scheduled to start her sentence Aug. 20. Her lawyer, Steven Thayer, asked Judge Darvin Zimmerman to let Harding do

her time in isolation. He presented a letter from a doctor saying Harding suffers from panic attacks.

"I'm grateful to the judge for giving me this opportunity; I finally found out what my problem is: It's alcohol."

— TONYA HARDING
Former Olympic figure skater

The judge took no action on the matter. It's unclear if the detention center in Vancouver, Wash., is equipped to shield celebrities from other prisoners.

In April, Harding was behind the wheel of her truck when it veered off the road and crashed into a ditch. Harding failed a field sobriety test and her blood-alcohol level was measured at 0.16 — twice the legal limit in Washington.

The accident happened when Harding had less than a month to go on her two-year probation for hitting a

boyfriend with a hubcap. As part of her probation, she was not allowed to consume alcohol.

She acknowledged violating that condition when she pleaded guilty Monday to drunken driving and was ordered to enter a treatment program for alcoholics.

Zimmerman could have sentenced Harding to more than 5 1/2 months in jail. Instead, he gave her 30 days, with 20 of them suspended if she completes 12 hours of classes for troubled young adults.

"I hope you're sincere and things work out better for you," the judge said.

After the hearing, Camas Assistant City Attorney Shawn MacPherson said he was "satisfied that justice was done."

Harding's attorney said the sentence was fair and wouldn't hinder the progress his client is making in treatment.

"She's gone 10 days, not 10 months," he said.

The two-time U.S. champion was convicted in 1994 of hindering prosecution in a plot to injure rival Nancy Kerrigan during the U.S. championships in Detroit. Harding also was banned for life by the U.S. Figure Skating Association.



Tom Uhlman/Associated Press

Michael Chang hits a forehand during a third round match with Carlos Moya, of Spain, at the Tennis Masters Series Cincinnati tournament Thursday in Mason, Ohio. Moya advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 win.

Hewitt, Moya advance in Cincinnati tournament

By The Associated Press

MASON, Ohio — Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt dropped a set Thursday before turning things around and beating Jarko Nieminen to reach the quarterfinals of the \$2.95 Cincinnati Masters Series.

Hewitt, tuning up to defend his U.S. Open title, eliminated the 35th-ranked Nieminen 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

In other action, 16th-seeded Carlos Moya defeated fellow former French Open champion Michael Chang 6-4, 6-3.

Moya broke Chang's serve to go up 5-4 in the first set and again in the fifth game of the second set.

"I had some chances early on in the first set, but I wasn't quite able to capitalize on them," Chang said. "He played some smart tennis. There were a few points here and there that could have made a difference."

Chang, whose ranking has dropped to No. 111, dropped to 4-14 in 2002, including 2-9 on hard courts.

Moya improved to 41-14 this season, including 13-5 in Masters Series tournaments. He's won all four career matches against Chang.

In the quarterfinals, Moya will play Rainer Schuettler, who eliminated Xavier Malisse 6-4, 6-3.

WTA Tour JP Morgan Chase Open Results

By The Associated Press

Thursday at The Manhattan Country Club
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Purse: \$585,000 (Tier II) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

SINGLES Third Round

Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Nathalie Dechy (15), France, 6-2, 6-1.

Lindsay Davenport (3), United States, def. Tatiana Panova (13), Russia, 6-2, 6-4.

Jelena Dokic (4), Yugoslavia, def. Janette Husarova, Slovakia, 4-0, ret.

Chanda Rubin (12), United States, def. Daja Bedanova (8), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1.

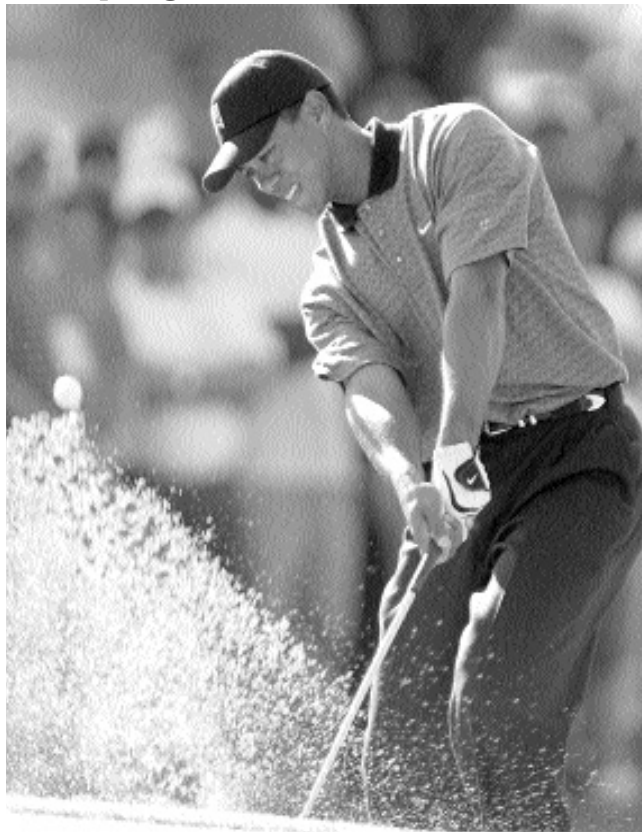
Rita Grande, Italy, def. Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-2, 6-1.

Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, def. Anne Kremer (10), Luxembourg, 6-0, 7-5.

DOUBLES Second Round

Corina Morariu and Kimberly Po-Messerli, United States, def. Chanda Rubin, United States, and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus, 7-6 (5), 0-6, 6-1.

Escaping the bunker



Al Goldis/Associated Press

Tiger Woods hits out of a bunker on No. 15 during the first round of the Buick Open Thursday in Grand Blanc, Mich.

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 - 19 CBA blimp
 - 20 One's with power
 - 21 Count
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 - 24 Put start
 - 25 Like some places
 - 27 Still drink
 - 29 Red wine
 - 32 Biting great
 - 33 Vlogger
 - 34 Fuming feeling
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 - 10 Sol's kin
 - 17 Anony-mous
 - 23 Dog's dck
 - 24 Broadcast
 - 25 Like gas, often
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 - 28 "Sain-feld"
 - 30 Set
 - 31 Bell's right
 - 33 Simmer
 - 36 Knee protector
 - 41 Bach, founded by Jefferson



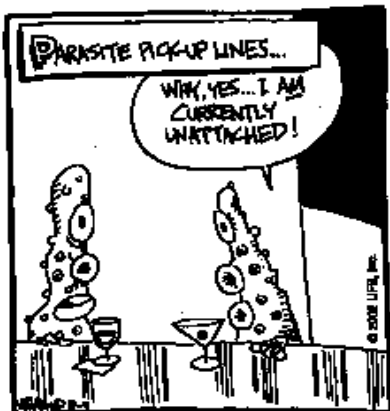
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Getting away with murder ... literally

Serial killer Coral Eugene Watts, 52, thought to have been put away for life by a Houston judge in 1982, is now scheduled to be released in 2006 because of a drafting error in his plea bargain. (Because of a paucity of evidence about the 13 murders to which Watts confessed, he was allowed to plead to "aggravated" attempted murder and be sentenced to 60 years without parole, but the prosecutor neglected to specify any "aggravated"-type weapon, and an appeals court ruled that only "aggravated" crimes justify no parole; consequently, Watts has been amassing "good time" requiring early release.) (And a judge released accused murderer Corey Pernell McNeil in Newport News, Va., in July because a clerk forgot to sign the victim's death certificate; by the time the error was corrected, McNeil could not be found.)

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Business Opps

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

Classified Advertising Conditions :DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

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Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press

310.458.7737 ext.101

Calendar

Friday, August 9, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Full Frontal (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. Stuart Little 2 (PG) 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:40. Blood Work (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20, 11:40. Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat (R) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

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

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Men In Black II (PG-13) 11:55, 5:15, 10:30. The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 7:25. Signs (PG-13) 11:00, 11:45, 1:35, 2:25, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45. The Master of Disguise (PG) 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50. Reign of Fire (PG-13) 5:00, 10:05. Road to Perdition (R) 11:20, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50, 10:40. K-11: The Widowmaker (PG-13) 2:15, 7:30. Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams (PG) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55.

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

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Tadpole (PG-13) 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55. Read My Lips (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. The Good Girl (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55. Buddha Heads 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15.

Today

Community

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

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

Theater / Arts

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

Music / Entertainment

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

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

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040. Open Mic Music. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Comedy Underground - All improv groups, special on this Friday, \$5.00 gets you in for all three shows! Addle Essence \$5.00, 8:00 p.m., Off The Wall \$5.00, 9:00 p.m., Unusual Suspects \$5.00, 10:00 p.m. 320 Wilshire Blvd. (310)451-1800.

Saturday

Community

Ice Cream Social, at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. Two plus hours of songs and sundaes. Suggested donation for kids: \$5.00. Suggested donation for non-kids: \$8.00. Hosted by The Santa Monica Oceanaries barbershop chorus. (1008 11th Street, two blocks north of Wilshire), starting at 6:00 p.m.

Art in Literature Book Discussion Series - The Santa Monica Public Library offers a new book discussion series on Saturdays, August 10, August 24, and September 7, at 2 p.m. The discussions will take place in the Main Library auditorium, 1343 Sixth Street. Book discussions are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. To register, please stop by the Information Desk on the 2nd floor of the library, or call Rebecca at (310)434-2644, or by e-mail rebecca-ryan@santa-monica.org.

Classes

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a newly forming musical theatre company for chil-

dren. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

Theater / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Piel The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonica-playhouse.com.

Music / Entertainment

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

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

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE



A primary proposal

By The Associated Press

NOVI, Mich. — At his primary election victory bash, Republican gubernatorial nominee Dick Posthumus proposed to lead Michigan for the next four years.

Brad Lyons used the occasion Tuesday to ask Posthumus' daughter, Lisa, for a longer commitment.

Lyons, 22, a Kent County sheriff's deputy, picked the victory party as perfect occasion to propose marriage to his high school sweetheart.

"There was all this commotion and he pulled the ring out of his pocket and got down on his knee," Lisa Posthumus said. "It was awesome."

Dick Posthumus wasn't as surprised as his daughter. After a conversation with Lyons on Monday, Posthumus approved the proposal and on election night waved his future son-in-law to center stage, Lisa Posthumus said.

"It was definitely Lisa," laughed her sister, Heather Posthumus. "She's the attention-getter in the family. She wouldn't want some quiet, just-the-two-of-us engagement."

Rock lobbyists

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Thirty middle-school students from Northern York School District took time from their summer vacations to lobby the Pennsylvania General Assembly on behalf of their favorite mineral.

The students want to see celestite, commonly found

in limestone formations in 12 Pennsylvania counties, become the official state mineral.

Seven of the students testified Tuesday before the House State Government Committee.

"It was a little scary at the beginning. I really didn't want to look up," said student Sarie Tocket. "The more I talked, the more comfortable I got."

In March, 57 students — then at Wellsville Elementary School — began the push by writing a letter to state Rep. Bruce Smith as part of a persuasive writing project for English class. They then took their case to Smith and the 25 members of the committee during a tour of the Capitol, giving each legislator a sample of the pale blue and white crystal gemstone.

Smith introduced a bill in May to grant official status to the mineral.

Dog's saving link

By The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A dog missing for six years was reunited with her family, thanks to a microchip about the size of a grain of rice that was implanted in her skin when she was a pup.

A stranger found Pooh Bear, a 13-year-old black Pomeranian, roaming the streets in Cincinnati and used the chip to trace her back to north Florida. Implanted microchips can be scanned to identify a pet and its owner.

Pooh Bear's owner, Bambi Lesne, of Panama City, said she was heartbroken when the dog disappeared in 1996.

"She went everywhere with us, she was like one of my children," Lesne said.

After three years, she and her daughter, Codi, now 19, gave up hope of seeing their dog again.

Then a dirty and matted Pooh Bear was spotted July 5 walking near a marina in Cincinnati — 620 miles north of her home. A woman who found the dog took her to a veterinarian, who scanned the microchip.

"And I've been able to track dogs before, but not down to Florida," said the veterinarian, Dr. Cheryl Devine.

Lesne met the woman at Birmingham, Ala., to reclaim her pet July 17. The dog has a few more gray hairs on her muzzle and needed an operation for a hernia, but is otherwise healthy and happy to be home, Lesne said.

"When I got home that evening, she saw my daughter Codi and howled with joy," Lesne said. "It gave me chill bumps. I've never seen anything like it."

Funeral director 'sets' the mood

By The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Golf clubs are propped upright and a basketball hoop hangs nearby. A recliner sits in front of a television set showing sports highlights. Together, it makes a perfect setting — for a sports fan's casket.

Funeral directors say "sets" personalized for anglers, film buffs and sports fans have gained popularity as a way to give viewings a personal touch.

"We really bought into the idea that funerals should be a meaningful experience reflective of a person's life," Silvy Edmonds Cotton, president of Perpetua told The Press of Atlantic City.

Perpetua, a Tucson, Ariz., company that acquires funeral homes, showed examples of its sets at the annual convention of the National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, which ended Wednesday.

The Atlanta-based association has about 2,300 members nationwide, mostly black funeral directors.

Early versions of Perpetua's sets consisted of a living room furnished with personal items from the deceased. But they're becoming more elaborate.

"People didn't know they could do this, but now they've embraced it," said Deborah Kellom, Perpetua's director of operations. "It's changed our whole visitation mood. There's still grieving, but there's more laughter now."

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