



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

August 13-14, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 235

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 13 21 32 41
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

1 12 31 32 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 7 4
Evening: 5 1 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
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RACE TIME: 1:42,70
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

First prize in the youth division of the Fourth of July parade this year in Haines, Ore., went to three kids, all aged 9 and 10, who dressed as large, shelled insects (actually, in inner tubes covered by garbage bags), pushing huge rubber balls coated in sand, dirt and dead grass, according to the Baker City Herald. (Yes, the parents had conspired with their kids to dress them up as dung beetles!)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Aug. 13, the 225th day of 2005. There are 140 days left in the year.

Five years ago: On the eve of the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, 3,500 protesters demonstrated against police brutality and in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal, on death row for killing a Philadelphia police officer. Somalia swore in legislators for its first central government after almost a decade of internecine warfare.

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Citizens fed up with loitering laborers

Residents are up to necks in blight and human waste

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

11TH STREET — Residents here concerned about crime in their neighborhood — and excrement on their sidewalks — have asked City Hall to step in and help regulate the day laborers who gather in this part of town.

For decades, immigrant workers have loitered near 11th Street and Olympic Boulevard each day in the hopes of finding work. They congregate on the sidewalks, keeping a watchful eye on traffic coming and going from the Salvation Army outlet, Bourget Brothers supply store, the old

Fisher Lumber site and other businesses from which they might be called upon to help with construction, landscaping, home improvement, moving and other “fix-up” jobs.

However, residents have grown weary of the blight created by the situation, which they deem to be out of control. On Tuesday, a group of them asked the Santa Monica City Council to do something about it, telling their elected leaders that crime has spiked in the neighborhood, including robberies and rape.

In addition, the residents pointed out that the area lacks bathrooms, prompting the laborers to

See **DAY LABORERS**, page 13



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The intersection at 11th Street and Colorado Avenue has become notorious for a daily gathering of day laborers seeking work and a sense of community.

Sense of security: City mulls its costs

City officials determining how to foot \$2M price tag

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Officials in the coming days will determine how to pay for an estimated \$2 million in security

upgrades as a result of a possible probe of the Santa Monica Pier by suspected terrorists.

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. informed the public this week that a citizen on July 3 spotted three men — each of Middle Eastern descent — suspiciously videotaping specific areas of the pier, including access roads

and the SMPD's substation.

Based on intelligence from other agencies, the same men have been seen recently videotaping the Vincent Thomas Bridge in Long Beach and the Huntington Beach Pier. Another agency confirmed that the same individuals were seen videotaping at the 2003 Academy Awards.

Officials are now planning how to make preemptive changes to the city's security systems to further protect the public in the event a terrorist attack does hit Santa Monica.

The SMPD has added four overtime police officers and reconfigured the observation posts at the pier. Security has been increased underneath the pier and surrounding the structure's pilings.

Already underway are plans to train and hire additional K-9 officers with bomb-sniffing dogs. Butts anticipates hiring at least two new K-9 officers, but four may be necessary. The dogs themselves cost \$5,000 apiece and the specially trained officers com-

See **SECURITY**, page 15

LOCAL

Officials: SM's response ability is at highest level

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — While reports of a possible terrorist probe focusing on this renowned gathering place may leave some residents jittery, city officials contend they have a plan to address any emergency, including attacks.

News reports released on Thursday indicated suspected Middle Eastern operatives may have been recently surveying the Santa Monica Pier as a possible target. Meanwhile, City Hall — in addition to announcing plans this week to put \$2 million toward terrorist prevention efforts — has assured residents it is at the highest level of response should a terrorist act occur in Santa Monica.

Fire Chief Jim Hone explained that in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, cities have been asked to prepare a plan that would

See **READINESS**, page 16

Blind ambition



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Inner-city campers from Kanoa Aquatics Surf Camp seemingly walk on water Thursday at the Santa Monica Beach under Kip Jerger's supervision. Jerger helped dozens of blind surfers catch some waves.

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Don't overdo it, Scorpio

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)
 ★★★ Take off for the day and wander some. Avoid a midday hassle and don't get uptight. Everyone has different opinions. Develop patience. A child or budding relationship will need much more nurturing; if you care, start now. Tonight: Experiment; try a new spot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Others want to lead, and you might not want to stop them. A special person might want to share his or her feelings, though this person might inadvertently irritate you. A family member shows a stern side. You could be taken aback. Tonight: How about some romance?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ You are out of sorts, and that seems to come out when dealing with others. Understand that this is not your ballgame; someone else is in control. Know when to go along for the ride. Do nothing you cannot change. Tonight: Follow the leader.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Opt to stay close to home and not push yourself. You might be happiest lazing around, going for a swim or maybe heading to the movies. Be careful with spending. You could make a mistake. Tonight: Make it easy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your humor can save the day for others as well as for yourself. Often, plans or misunderstandings happen out of the blue. Your light attitude will make everything easier. Don't get jumbled up in what could have been or should have been. Tonight: Indulge a loved one. A child might need your attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Entertain at home or make sure your plans revolve around your home. Someone might be out of sorts, casting a blue mood on you. Don't accept this negativity. Rather, flow with the moment. Use your instincts. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★ You don't need to go far. Find favorite people and make fun plans. Have munchies at a favorite place or go to a concert or exhibit. You find that hanging out and doing something with a pal or loved one bonds you closer. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Use care with money and extremes. You might want to rethink your spending habits. A person you respect might make demands that you feel you need to meet. This person has been uptight for a while. Tonight: Don't overdo it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You might need to adapt your plans, as others have very different ideas. You could be disappointed by not being able to see someone at a distance or take a day trip. Your temper could be triggered by a misunderstanding. Tonight: Take the lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ You need time to relax and not feel obligated to others. A partner or associate could be throwing his or her weight around and adding a heavy feeling right now. You might need to let this key person have his or her way. Tonight: Try to get your special friend to open up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Friends can be provocative, which is unusual. Misunderstandings occur when you least expect it. Try to clear out problems and opt for fun, friends and perhaps a party or two. A key friend could be serious. Be gentle with him or her. Tonight: You are where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ You might need to assume a strong role in plans right now. A family member or boss could be demanding. Others might express their upset in a strange manner. Do what you must, and don't take their comments or moods personally. Tonight: Get home as early as you can.

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LOCAL



Artful exit: Schuessler dies of cancer at 50

By Daily Press staff

Andy Schuessler, an art installer and electro-mechanical assemblage artist died this past week of pancreatic cancer. He was 50 years old.

Known to many in the Los Angeles art community as the chief art installer and founder of Crate 88 Fine Art Handling, Schuessler died on Aug. 5.

He also was a significant practitioner of found object and kinetic "Electro-Mech" assemblage art, whose national and international reputation was ascending at the time of his death. His sculpture acknowledged the influence of Marcel Duchamp and Jean Tinguely, as he developed his uniquely lyrical "electro-mechanical philosophy."

"Andy was a pillar of the Southern California art community who was always willing to lend his energy and expertise to an art adventure," said friend, mentor, and fellow assemblage artist George Herms. "Andy's help has been crucial to me in mounting successful art exhibitions for the last two decades and hence to my success and survival as a working artist. He is loved by many in the art community and will be dearly remembered."

Schuessler is survived by his wife Carol; his son Will; his mother Jeri; his sister Chris; and his brothers Guy, Brant and Zig.

Family and friends will gather in remembrance of Schuessler on Sunday, Aug. 14. For more information, call Victor at (310) 821-8558.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to help support Schuessler's son, Will, as he enters Columbia University in the fall, or to the charity of your choice.

For more information about Schuessler and his work, visit www.electromechart.com.



SURF REPORT

Where is the surf? For the past week, it's been flat as a pancake, with an occasional knee-high set. There is no real swell in the foreseeable future, this week we might see a slight building south, but mostly residual wind swell from the northwest, and pathetic at that. A stronger southwest is marching our way, and has the potential to bring in some waist high waves by next Wednesday.

Today the water is:

71°

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	8:05	2.7	N/A	N/A	5:10	2.8	3:52	5.2
SUNDAY	11:07	0.9	N/A	N/A	7:26	3.1	5:06	5.6
MONDAY	1:07	0.2	11:37	3.0	8:10	3.5	6:13	6.0
TUESDAY	1:15	-0.5	12:50	2.8	8:42	3.8	7:10	6.6
WEDNESDAY	2:37	-1.0	1:48	2.4	9:13	4.2	8:03	7.0

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC reflects on the summer that was

By Daily Press staff

This fall, it'll be a time to reflect on summer.

Santa Monica College's Emeritus College will present "Summer Reflections," the fall 2005 student art show from Aug. 29 through Oct. 14 at the Emeritus College Art Gallery.

The exhibit will feature works selected by students from 17 summer art classes held at Emeritus College. The works represent an eclectic mix of styles, media and content.

The opening reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1 in the gallery, located on the first floor of Emeritus College, 1227 Second St. in downtown Santa Monica. Parking is available next door in Santa Monica public parking structure No. 2.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Emeritus College was founded 35 years ago and serves about 3,500 older adults with 160 classes and special programs.

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 4-5.**

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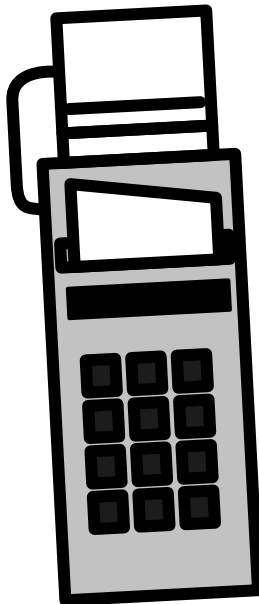
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OPINION

The Q Line

RESIDENTS' AIMS ARE RIGHT ON, TARGET

“What would you like to see move into the large hole that will be left when Robinsons-May closes up shop?”
Here are your responses:

- ☞ “With the announced closing of the Robinsons-May store in 2006, one can only wonder what devious plans are going on behind the scenes in our city administration offices. Certainly nothing that will really benefit the taxpaying citizens. Remember when they voted down the great Target store plan and the Trader Joe’s? That’s what we need, stores like that. But what will we get? Which ever upscale chain kicks in the most under-the-table money.”
- ☞ “The biggest problem with Santa Monica is the horrific traffic congestion, especially in that area around the Santa Monica Pier, the mall and the Third Street Promenade which is adjacent to the mall. If you were to put a very popular store in there, the three most popular stores today are Big Lots, Ross and Target. If you were to put any one of those three stores in there, it would be a gold mine for the owner but it would also create the most horrific traffic jam, and they do not have adequate parking at the mall. They never have had adequate parking at the mall. It’s a very confusing form of parking that they have at the mall. So my suggestion primarily, would be not to not do anything with the big open hole. Just leave it a big open hole and eliminate the traffic congestion.”
- ☞ “Since they want to tear down Santa Monica Place anyway, it doesn’t really matter what goes in the old Robinsons May space. But if they do get something they should have a Target store since all the mom-and-pop stores are gone from Santa Monica. The only stores in Santa Monica now are overpriced chain stores anyway, so if it puts a few of them out of business it’s no loss but not Wal-Mart because Wal-Mart is evil.”
- ☞ “Yes, I think it would be wonderful to open up the Santa Monica Place mall to different businesses like organic foods, maybe a Williams Sonoma, and like maybe Greek food, Turkish food, some Jewish food. Maybe a Wal-Mart, whatever, we need to make Santa Monica revitalized.”
- ☞ “I’d like to see a Wal-Mart, a Target or an upscale Penny’s where the Robinsons May currently is.”
- ☞ “I think that having a Target in Santa Monica since we were deprived of one a few years ago would be a terrific project downtown and it would be good shopping for most residents and even tourists and visitors.”
- ☞ “I like Bobby Shriver’s idea of buying the building. The city should be the one to profit instead of the shopping mall developer. And it’s a lot better idea than throwing more money at the homeless bureaucracy, his other idea.”
- ☞ “Because two first-class department stores can no longer be supported due to the Mexicanization of the economy, it is only fitting that the vacant space be turned into an illegal alien, i.e. Mexican Bazaar. I envision multitudes of small mystery meat taco stands, shoddy furniture stalls, junk jewelry tables, fake ID and drivers license vendors, etc. And the city could set up counseling booths to assist in getting welfare, ADC, Medicaid, medical, what-

- ever, disability, etc. Do I have vision or don’t I?”
- ☞ “The question this week is an easy one. I would like to see when Robinsons May moves out that we bring in something that will be beneficial to Santa Monica. Either Target, which would be very nice there, or even JC Penny which originally was on the Promenade up towards the corner at Wilshire. They would be very beneficial to everyone in Santa Monica.”
- ☞ “I would like to see either a Target or a Wal-Mart move into that space. I know it’s not generally the kind of configuration they are interested in but it might be an opportunity for them and it might be something good for the mall.”
- ☞ “Into the hole, the large hole, the city manager, the assistant city manager, each and every council member, and Randy Brant. Then cover it up and put a public park on the spot.”
- ☞ “Let’s see — Titanic, Hindenberg, Santa Monica Public Library and now Robinsons May. I can see this coming from a mile away. The city will use Robinsons as the largest day-care in the country, keeping the bleeding hearts in this town happy taking care of somebody else’s child from another town. It will be in keeping with our Socialist philosophy. Or a new homeless shelter. Not only would we have another 500 non-workers given a place to sleep, but we could put all the parasitic non-profit, homeless outreach organizations under one roof. That would keep them out of the way of the Salvation Army and the Union Reps Commission doing the really hard work keeping the homeless downtown LA. You need to think about putting condominiums in this space to help support the cost of Santa Monica Place. The more important thing for the city, needs to find a way to connect the mall to the new Santa Monica Place, no building over three stories, and then connect it to the Rand development and then on through to Pico Boulevard and Ocean Avenue so that will include the hotels on Ocean Avenue. I like a monorail. Nothing says futuristic like a monorail. But if that connection/transportation doesn’t work, how about donkey taxis to the mall? No CO2 and the emissions can be used to fertilize open space and if you are too large or have too many groceries we can use a bull instead.”
- ☞ “I think that you should bring back a JC Penny’s to take over for Robinsons May. Sounds good.”
- ☞ “To replace Robinsons-May I suggest Target. We missed out about six years ago and I think it’s about time we had a discount store in the area.”
- ☞ “For myself, I would love to see a Target store going into that vacancy. I’m sure that a lot of people had their heart set on having a Target near or into the old building on the corner there at Fourth and Arizona. We were very disappointed when we didn’t get it. So that’s the main thing I would be interested in. I can’t get to a Target anywhere else because I don’t drive, I’m disabled, so this would be very good for me and I’m sure a lot of other people too.”
- ☞ “Well, you know, the big Eddie Bauer store that was so great has been empty for I guess almost two years now and all the cool stores are gone and replaced with something like Forever 21 which about says it for Santa Monica. So you know, what to put when Robinsons May closes up? I’ll quote a great movie and say, ‘Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn.’”

See Q-LINE, page 5

When going to infinity and beyond was far out



MODERN TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

I know the Space Shuttle voyage was widely covered in the news, but I can’t help feeling that we’ve become too blasé about space travel. At any given moment, most of us couldn’t say if there is a space trip in progress or who’s manning the international space station and what they are doing up there. We forget how extraordinary this all is. Years ago, everybody stopped whatever they were doing to marvel every time a person went into space. Everybody knew the name of each astronaut. I know it’s natural for us to be less excited about what they just did than we would have been years ago, but it’s not their fault they weren’t born 60 or 70 years ago. And it doesn’t make them less heroic.

Maybe you feel space travel is a fool-

ish way to spend money. Maybe you feel it shouldn’t be a priority. Maybe you’re right. But don’t blame the astronauts. They don’t set policy. They just do things that most of us wouldn’t consider doing for a second.

President Bush praised them as “risk-takers.” That’s putting it mildly. Think about them in comparison to the rest of the population. We order salad dressing on the side, we’re afraid to drive with less than half a tank of gas, and our doors are triple-locked at night. Meanwhile these brave people were hurtling through space at speeds thousands of times greater than a 16-year-old with a new license.

Shortly after takeoff, the world and the astronauts were told that their spacecraft might have a problem similar to the ill-fated Columbia. This was like being on a plane and hearing the pilot say, “This turbulence might not be minor. It could lead to a disaster. But just act normal.” And the amazing thing is they did just act normal. Better than normal. In an unprecedented move, they fixed the craft.

The astronauts shouldn’t be admired

just because of the physical risks they’re willing to take. They put up with all kinds of things the average citizen wouldn’t go for. We complain about a long, five-hour flight. It takes them days to fly to the space station. When astronauts eventually fly to Mars — which they will probably do in a few years — the flight will take six months each way. Six months without stretching your legs outside or breathing fresh air. Six months of not using a regular bathroom. Six months of being stuck with people you work with 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

And someday, the flights will get even longer. It would take three years to fly to Saturn, and using the same technology and fuel we have today, it would take 75,000 years to reach the closest star — not including the sun — 75,000 years! Those newspapers and magazines are really going to stack up at the astronauts’ homes.

Think how upset you’d get if you were told that the plane you were on was going to land an hour late. These folks had to deal with landing 24 hours later than

scheduled. And they touched down hundreds of miles from where they were supposed to land.

Astronauts risk hearing loss, radiation exposure, decrease in bone density, and something called, “Puffy-head Bird-legs syndrome.” And I get upset if I’m on a flight and the air conditioning isn’t perfect.

So, let’s give these people some medals, give them a parade, certainly give them respect. At the very least, we should learn their names. They are Eileen Collins, Steve Robinson, Jim Kelly, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charlie Camarda and Soichi Noguchi. And none of them complained about not having a window seat.

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

OPINION



The Q Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

☉“Four years or five years ago the city wouldn’t give us Target because they said it would cause too much traffic. Well, now they own the parking structure where Robinsons May is. They can give us a Target. We need affordable shopping in this town. They keep talking about affordable housing, but there’s no affordable place to shop. The 99 Cent store is just too small and the parking there is crazy. But it’s packed any day of the week at anytime when you go there. A Target would fit the bill for what all of us who live and work in Santa Monica need.”

☉“I would like to see a large Target store go up where Robinsons-May is now because we do not have any stores in Santa Monica due to the fact that we have the worst City Council people we ever had. We got rid of one man — Mike Feinstein — now we gotta get rid of them all because we need a Target store. We have no place we can shop in this town for the senior citizens, the poor people. All we got is big stores that are owned by all these companies. Lets get a Target store put in. We had an opportunity years ago and the City Council threw it away.”

☉“I would like to see a day center for children living in the area of Santa Monica with a staff of professional teachers in different languages, music, arts and, of course, reading and math. Probably on the weekends they can use it for people that are shopping and they leave their kids there. Probably would be expensive but that you have to figure out and people will pay because it’s for the good of their own children.”

☉“I would like to see a Wal-Mart or a Target replace Robinsons. It’s time there be more shopping for the working-class families and seniors and low income people of Santa Monica.”

☉“I’d like to see a Trader Joe’s because none of the Trader Joe’s in our neighborhood have enough parking and I think there is probably enough parking there at the Santa Monica mall.”

☉“They should replace the Robinsons-May with a Midnight Special to bring that store back. With the extra space they could have even more guest speakers and books.”

☉“Santa Monica College should open a satellite campus in the mall. It would only be a few blocks south of the emeritus college and perhaps that could be expanded so they could offer more services to people that come to the mall. Perhaps even a class that relates to the commerce that’s on the Promenade and this mall.”

☉“Since all Macerich ever does nowadays is poll residents to see how they can convince them to expand the mall, perhaps Macerich should open its own store there, its own polling center full time in its own mall and could save on the rent and combine all the services so that they could combine the lobbying operations with their retail operations and retail stores.”



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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Hotel has an uninvited guest

• **At 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4**, the Santa Monica police responded to a luxury beach hotel on the 1700 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a burglary suspect. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to security personnel, who said the suspect had entered hotel rooms using a screw driver. One of the occupants arrived to the hotel room and discovered the suspect. The suspect said the hotel had given him the room and that there must have been a mistake. As the hotel room occupant and the suspect walked toward the hotel desk, the suspect fled the scene. He was later detained. William Davis, 40, from Los Angeles, was arrested for burglary. Bail was set for \$80,000.

• **At 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1**, Santa Monica police were called for assistance regarding two women fighting on the 1500 block of Palisades Park. When officers arrived to the scene, they separated the combatants. During their investigation officers learned the suspect who assaulted the victim had done so at the request of her boyfriend, because the victim had put a restraining order on him. Casandra Marie Alvarado, 21, was arrested for assault. Bail was set for \$47,070.

• **At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1**, Santa Monica police officers on routine patrol were flagged down by a citizen on the 1400 block of the Promenade alley. The citizen reported seeing the suspect using a wooden mallet to try to break the windows of a 1987 Toyota Corolla parked in the alley. Officers detained the suspect as he was walking away. An investigation revealed the car had been stolen a few hours earlier in Lancaster. The victim had gone to the store in Lancaster and when she came out she saw the suspect drive away in her car. She notified the Lancaster Police Department. Manuel Alberto Cano, a transient, was arrested for grand theft auto and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set for \$20,000.

• **At 10:40 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1**, the Santa Monica police were on patrol on the 1600 block of Seventh Street when they observed three suspects standing together who appeared to be involved in narcotics activity. When officers walked up to where the suspects were standing, they found a metal container with white powder inside which later tested to be cocaine. Ronald Reginold Granger, 49, from Los Angeles; Arturo Thomas, 45, a transient and Eddie Ray Roberts, 43, a transient, were arrested for drug possession and parole violations. They were transported to Santa Monica jail. No bail was set.

• **At 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3**, the Santa Monica police responded to the 500 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a suspect who was sleeping in the Palisades Bluffs. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the suspect, who told them he had throwing knives in his pants. The suspect showed the throwing knives to the officers. Upon further inspection, officers found other illegal knives hidden in the suspect's boots. David Jonathan Stomp, 35, a transient, was arrested for possessing a concealed weapon and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set for \$20,000.

• **At 11:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3**, the Santa Monica police responded to the Santa Monica Pier regarding a suspect chasing people around with a knife and threatening them. When officers from the police substation on the pier arrived to the scene, they detained the suspect. During their investigation, they searched the suspect, who had a knife hidden in his waistband. Arnaldo Reyes, 19, of Los Angeles, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set for \$30,000.

• **At 3:25 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3**, the Santa Monica police responded to the Robinsons-May department store at Santa Monica Place mall regarding a suspect who had stolen jewelry. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to security personnel, who said the suspect had removed the items of jewelry and failed to pay for them. The suspect was detained by store security. Laura Ann Carter, 38, from Alhambra, was charged for grand theft and parole violations. She was transported to Santa Monica jail. No bail was set.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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STATE



Gush of excitement over remote waterfall

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press Writer

WHISKEYTOWN, Calif. — Dick McDermott knows these parts as well as any man can.

The 92-year-old used to earn a meager living mining the creeks that meander through the deeply wooded hills. He has slogged through the brush and hiked overgrown logging roads, hunting deer and gathering wood for his homemade fiddles.

But McDermott says he's never laid eyes on the nearly 400-foot waterfall that park officials recently discovered in a remote corner of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, 43,000 acres of wilderness in northern California.

"Sure, I was surprised," he said from his home in the park, where he's lived for more than 70 years. "I've been all around that place, I never seen 'em."

Until recently, very few had seen the roaring water that tumbles three tiers before pouring neatly into Crystal Creek. That such a spectacle should evade even park officials for nearly 40 years is remarkable, said park Superintendent Jim Milestone.

"It wasn't on a map, no one on the trail crew knew about it. People who been here 27 years had never seen it," said Milestone, who is leading an effort to clear a trail to the newly named Whiskeytown Falls. It's expected to be finished by next summer.

There's no doubt the falls have had visitors over the years. The Wintu Indians were probably the first, although archeologists have so far found no traces on the site. A small band of loggers that harvested Douglas firs in the early 1950s left behind a choker cable and part of a bulldozer. A knife blade stuck in a nearby tree indicates that others have also made the trek.

But for park officials, the falls were merely a rumor for many years, said Russ Weatherbee, the wildlife biologist credited with the find.

A couple years ago, Weatherbee was cleaning out a cabinet of old maps when he stumbled across one from the 1960s marked with a note reading "Whiskeytown falls" near Crystal Creek.

"I just decided to go looking for it. But I went in and hiked up and never found

anything," Weatherbee said. The map had been more than a mile off.

In the spring of 2003, he was looking at satellite maps on his computer when he saw a stretch in the creek that dropped in altitude quickly with a sliver of white leading through it.

"I thought, 'That looks like white water to me,'" he said.

Since Weatherbee's discovery, a handful of rangers and park guests have made the nearly two-mile hike to the falls. The trek veers off a well-trodden trail and follows an eroding logging road through thick brush and manzanita, an evergreen shrub found in the West.

The falls are best viewed from a spot Milestone calls Artist's Point, where a hiker can sit and admire the rushing water from a rocky jut. Milestone said he wants to bring groups of painters there for inspiration.

He also hopes Whiskeytown Falls will draw other people past the park's popular lake — a favorite for boaters and water-skiers — and into the woods.

Not surprisingly, however, there are some who would prefer the falls remain a secret. Milestone has even received an anonymous letter criticizing him for inviting outsiders to overrun the park.

Dave Girard, an avid hiker who lives in Redding, said he's known about the falls for about 10 years and has visited at least twice. He said he doesn't oppose Milestone's efforts to open the falls to visitors because he believes no matter how much hikers like to covet their favorite places, "there's always someone who's been there before you."

From his home on Grizzly Gulch a few miles from the falls' new trailhead, McDermott also said he has no problem with officials trying to draw more people into the park.

There are plenty of natural wonders out there for everybody, he said. For example, he's seen a giant manzanita shrub with a 3-foot diameter stump, and he said he may be the only person to know about it.

If park officials want to build a trail to it, however, they're on their own.

"They're going to have find it themselves," he said.

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STATE

A win-win situation for Prop 73 battlers

BY STEVE LAWRENCE

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A Sacramento judge gave victories to both sides Thursday in a ballot argument fight over Proposition 73, the initiative that would require notification of parents or a waiver from a judge before a girl could get an abortion.

Superior Court Judge Raymond Cadei refused to strike a voter guide statement made by the measure's supporters that parental notification laws in other states had reduced teen pregnancy and abortion rates "without danger and harm to minors."

He also ordered opponents to find other wording than to say that girls who sought a waiver from a judge would be put "on trial."

But he refused to strike an argument by opponents that "millions of concerned parents" opposed the initiative or to order the opponents to spell out that the measure could affect girls as young as 10, 11 or 12 instead of just teenagers.

He also wouldn't order changes sought by Proposition 73 supporters in the brief description of the proposal that was drafted by the attorney general and legislative analyst's office.

Cadei repeatedly said that the side seeking changes in the arguments that will be mailed to voters had to demonstrate clearly that the language they were attacking was incorrect.

"We are not here to convince the court that one person's way of saying it is better than someone else's," he said.

The measure is among several on the

ballot for the Nov. 8 special election, which was called in June by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Opponents of the measure said several studies had found that parental notification laws failed to reduce abortion rates among minors but had put some girls in danger of emotional or physical abuse by angry parents.

California courts, in overturning a 1987 law that required minors to get permission from a parent or court to get an abortion, reached the same conclusions, the opponents said.

But Cadei said the studies weren't always conclusive. He said he didn't want to compare the conclusions reached by the state Supreme Court and lower courts in overturning the 1987 law.

"I don't know what was before the Supreme Court in that case," he said. "There's no comparison of the law they considered ... what the issue was or how they came to that conclusion."

Proposition 73 would require a physician to wait 48 hours and notify a parent or guardian before performing an abortion on a minor. The requirement would be waived if there was a medical emergency or the minor got an order from a judge or permission from a parent.

The measure wouldn't cover married minors or others judged to be emancipated from their parents.

Supporters say parents should have a role in deciding whether their children have abortions. Opponents say most girls do tell their parents if they're considering an abortion, but that some minors could be harmed if their parents were notified.

Coastal panel moves against new oil leases

BY RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press Writer

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Thirty-six gas and oil leases in U.S. waters off the California coast should not be renewed, the state Coastal Commission has ruled, setting up a likely legal battle with the federal government.

"I think it will end up in court. And we will prevail in court," Commissioner Jim Aldinger said after Thursday's unanimous vote.

The dispute over the future of the leases — and the nine-member panel's authority over them — represents a prelude to the far more pitched battle that would erupt if any of the four lease-holding companies submitted a plan to actually begin new drilling. That would be strongly opposed by environmentalists and many coastal residents.

Oil companies and the federal government are seeking new sources of domestic oil to offset rising prices and the nation's reliance on foreign producers, and the federal Interior Department argues that the California Coastal Act allows for the extension of the leases.

No representatives of federal agencies or oil companies showed up at Thursday's meeting, a development that commissioners and staff took as an insult and an indi-

cation that their actions would likely be ignored. Peter Douglas, the commission's executive director, called the perceived snub "institutional malfeasance" that was unprecedented in the more than two decades he's served.

Aldinger called it "a slap in the face" and urged the Bush administration to "get involved in this process."

John Romero, a spokesman for the U.S. Minerals Management Service, responded that the agency had submitted hundreds of pages of documents that "clearly and effectively present the MMS' position" and felt no need to add anything at the meeting.

"We have been working collaboratively and cooperatively with the Coastal Commission staff for many months now," he added.

The oil companies have repeatedly declined to discuss their plans for the leases, citing a series of lawsuits.

"Because those leases are tied up in litigation, we are not in a position to comment," said Susan Hersberger, a spokeswoman for Bakersfield-based Aera Energy LLC, which has at least partial ownership in 20 of the leases.

The leases — taken by oil companies from the 1960s through the 1980s — are located primarily off Santa Barbara County.

STATE



What a gas! Engineers have hybrids reaching 250 m.p.g.

BY TIM MOLLOY

Associated Press Writer

HOCORTE MADERA, Calif. — Politicians and automakers say a car that can both reduce greenhouse gases and free America from its reliance on foreign oil is years or even decades away.

Ron Gremban says such a car is parked in his garage. It looks like a typical Toyota Prius hybrid, but in the trunk sits an 80-miles-per-gallon secret — a stack of 18 brick-sized batteries that boosts the car's high mileage with an extra electrical charge so it can burn even less fuel.

Gremban, an electrical engineer and committed environmentalist, spent several months and \$3,000 tinkering with his car.

Like all hybrids, his Prius increases fuel efficiency by harnessing small amounts of electricity generated during braking and coasting. The extra batteries let him store extra power by plugging the car into a wall outlet at his home in this San Francisco suburb — all for about a quarter.

He's part of a small but growing movement. "Plug-in" hybrids aren't yet cost-efficient, but some of the dozen known experimental models have gotten up to 250 mpg.

They have support not only from environmentalists but also from conservative foreign-policy hawks who insist Americans fuel terrorism through their gas guzzling.

And while the technology has existed for three decades, automakers are beginning to take notice, too.

So far, DaimlerChrysler AG is the only company that has committed to building its own plug-in hybrids, quietly pledging to make up to 40 vans for U.S. companies. But Toyota Motor Corp. officials who initially frowned on people altering their cars now say they may be able to learn from them.

"They're like the hot rodders of yesterday who did everything to soup up their cars. It was all about horsepower and bling-bling, lots of chrome and accessories," said Cindy Knight, a Toyota spokeswoman. "Maybe the hot rodders of tomorrow are the people who want to get in there and see what they can do about increasing fuel economy."

The extra batteries let Gremban drive for 20 miles with a 50-50 mix of gas and electricity. Even after the car runs out of power from the batteries and switches to the standard hybrid mode, it gets the typical Prius fuel efficiency of around 45 mpg. As long as Gremban doesn't drive too far in a day, he says, he gets 80 mpg.

"The value of plug-in hybrids is they can dramatically reduce gasoline usage for the first few miles every day," Gremban said. "The average for people's usage of a car is somewhere around 30 to 40 miles per day. During that kind of driving, the plug-in hybrid can make a dramatic difference."

Backers of plug-in hybrids acknowledge that the electricity to boost their cars generally comes from fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, but they say that process still produces far less pollution than oil. They also note that electricity could be generated cleanly from

solar power.

Gremban rigged his car to promote the nonprofit CalCars Initiative, a San Francisco Bay area-based volunteer effort that argues automakers could mass produce plug-in hybrids at a reasonable price.

But Toyota and other car companies say they are worried about the cost, convenience and safety of plug-in hybrids — and note that consumers haven't embraced all-electric cars because of the inconvenience of recharging them like giant cell phones.

Automakers have spent millions of dollars telling motorists that hybrids don't need to be plugged in, and don't want to confuse the message.

Nonetheless, plug-in hybrids are starting to get the backing of prominent hawks like former CIA Director James Woolsey and Frank Gaffney, President Reagan's undersecretary of defense. They have joined Set America Free, a group that wants the government to spend \$12 billion over four years on plug-in hybrids, alternative fuels and other measures to reduce foreign oil dependence.

Gaffney, who heads the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Security Policy, said Americans would embrace plug-ins if they understood arguments from him and others who say gasoline contributes to oil-rich Middle Eastern governments that support terrorism.

"The more we are consuming oil that either comes from places that are bent on our destruction or helping those who are ... the more we are enabling those who are trying to kill us," Gaffney said.

DaimlerChrysler spokesman Nick Cappa said plug-in hybrids are ideal for companies with fleets of vehicles that can be recharged at a central location at night. He declined to name the companies buying the vehicles and said he did not know the vehicles' mileage or cost, or when they would be available.

Others are modifying hybrids, too.

Monrovia-based Energy CS has converted two Priuses to get up to 230 mpg by using powerful lithium ion batteries. It is forming a new company, EDrive Systems, that will convert hybrids to plug-ins for about \$12,000 starting next year, company Vice President Greg Hanssen said.

University of California, Davis engineering professor Andy Frank built a plug-in hybrid from the ground up in 1972 and has since built seven others, one of which gets up to 250 mpg. They were converted from nonhybrids, including a Ford Taurus and Chevrolet Suburban.

Frank has spent \$150,000 to \$250,000 in research costs on each car, but believes automakers could mass-produce them by adding just \$6,000 to each vehicle's price tag.

Instead, Frank said, automakers promise hydrogen-powered vehicles hailed by President Bush and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, even though hydrogen's backers acknowledge the cars won't be widely available for years and would require a vast infrastructure of new fueling stations.

"They'd rather work on something that won't be in their lifetime, and that's this hydrogen economy stuff," Frank said. "They pick this kind of target to get the public off their back, essentially."

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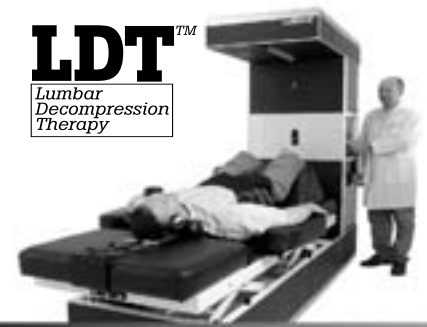
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BLM nets \$10 million in sale of oil, gas leases

BY JUDITH KOHLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Several parcels of land up for oil and gas leases that were previously pulled from the auction block were among more than 71,000 acres sold Thursday in the Colorado Bureau of Land Management's second-highest grossing auction ever.

The sale of leases for federal mineral rights netted the BLM about \$10 million, slightly below the record \$10.3 million sale in May 2001.

A 400-acre parcel on national forest land near Kebler Pass and Paonia State Park in western Colorado after Forest Service wasn't included in the auction after officials said they would reevaluate it. About 500 area residents, local elected officials and Democratic Congressman John Salazar urged the BLM to yank that lease from the sale.

The BLM delayed action on a few more parcels because of concerns about species that environmentalists want to see declared endangered.

But the auction of several parcels with split ownership — one party owns the surface, one owns the minerals underneath — proceeded. The BLM withdrew leases on a total of 17,500 acres in May after landowners complained they hadn't been notified that the minerals,

owned by the federal government, were up for lease.

The BLM posted the information in field offices 45 days before the sale as required by law, but couldn't post it on its Web site because of systemwide security problems. Agency officials have said they aren't able to notify individual landowners, some of whom live out of state.

BLM officials said they have stepped up efforts to get information out through the media and community outreach.

"The BLM strives to be responsive to public concerns while still fulfilling our role of making the public mineral estate available for responsible development," said Ron Wenker, state BLM director.

Peter Shelton, whose land near Ridgway was among 79 parcels leased, said the BLM didn't contact him or his neighbors between May and Thursday.

"I think they assumed we all knew, but that's not the way you do business," Shelton said.

He drove to Denver for Thursday's auction "to watch the land under my house sold." He and his wife and two neighbors decided against bidding on the leases because of financial considerations, but were happy the roughly 1,500-acre parcel drew only the minimum bid.

"Maybe they're not convinced this is a hot spot," Shelton said.

Landowners and environmentalists have filed protests of the sales. If rejected, the protests can be appealed to an Interior Department board.

Shelton and area rancher Ken Lipton said they haven't decided how far they will pursue the protests. Lipton said the BLM is basing its decisions for the area on a 1989 management plan that doesn't reflect economic or population trends.

"Ouray County is based on tourism, agriculture, hunting and fishing and this is just not compatible," Lipton said of energy development.

Industry officials have said landowners should know whether they own their minerals rights and that oil and gas development is possible if they don't. Under state and federal law, the mineral owner or lessee has the right to reasonable use of the surface to extract the minerals.

The BLM is required to hold quarterly auctions of mineral leases.

Lipton said while he agrees that landowners should know who owns the mineral rights, the deeds aren't always clear.

"Some of these ranches are owned by extremely wealthy people who have batteries of lawyers. Even people well represented by attorneys have troubles with this," Lipton said.



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Ladi moved to California in 1981 from Rome, Italy, where she lived for 5 years and attended Marymount International School. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree from UCLA, Ladi started working for a Real Estate Investment and Management Company in Brentwood. After 12 years, of dealing with commercial properties, she decided to switch to residential real estate. She feels that there is an indescribable satisfaction in witnessing the look on people's faces when you hand them the key to their dream home. Ladi resides in Beverly Hills, California and specializes in all of the surrounding cities. She can be reached at (310)435-1541.

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Day-labor center idea pondered by City Hall

DAY LABORERS, from page 1

urinate and defecate on the sidewalks.

In July 2003, City Hall was authorized to spend \$2,000 on portable toilets in the neighborhood to deter people from relieving themselves in public.

Several portable toilets were to be added to the stretch along 11th Street between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard as part of a City Council response to complaints from residents fed up with the sight and stench of urine and feces.

However, those portable toilets are not there today, and the day laborer situation is becoming worse, according to some residents.

"I know these people have to work, but I recently counted 175 of them out there," resident Gene Griffith told the council on Tuesday. "That's simply too many lined up to work in one spot."

Resident Linda Rider is one of those hoping City Hall can find a better way to regulate the human traffic on 11th Street.

"We are your constituents and the day laborers are not," Rider told the council on Tuesday. "We live and work in Santa Monica and do business here."

"It is your job to resolve the situation."

Residents outlined ways they believe City Hall can help. One of the ideas floated is to establish a center where workers can go to sign up for jobs, a site that would provide bathrooms and drinking water.

Reports indicate day labor centers are becoming an increasingly popular way for municipalities to address immigrant worker issues among the border states. In Fort Worth, Texas, the city's economic and community development department opened a day labor center in December of 2001. According to the city's Web site, officials wanted to have a "new, safe location for the day laborers to find employment." The 7,200-square-foot facility has helped provide jobs for as many as 100 laborers in a single day.

Each morning, a bus picks up laborers from the Fort



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Clusters of day laborers stake out territory along 11th Street, hoping to earn cash from do-it-yourselfers.

Worth Salvation Army and other stops throughout the city's downtown area. As contractors arrive each day, they let staff know what type of workers they need. The laborers are assigned jobs as their names come up on a list. They are placed on the list according to the number they draw. The city of Fort Worth doesn't charge for the service.

Santa Monica City Manager Susan McCarthy said City Hall has received requests in the past to try to address concerns related to day laborers. The notion of creating a day-laborer center failed because City Hall couldn't afford to create and maintain one, McCarthy said, citing that securing a site in close proximity to 11th Street was too expensive.

In addition, City Hall had trouble mustering support for the cause from the business community, as well as other local service providers.

At the City Council's suggestion, McCarthy said City Hall would again look into a day-labor center, as well as

other options that may help address resident concerns.

However, McCarthy was not optimistic City Hall would be successful in its attempts, mostly due to the same issues it has faced in the past.

"We're clearly going to keep our eyes on this, but I doubt the level of support from the business community or agency providers has changed," McCarthy said.

Meanwhile, City Councilman Bobby Shriver, who has a business background, said that if such a center charged the contractors and laborers a minimal fee, City Hall or a business owner may not only be able to afford operating such a site, but find it worthwhile to do so.

"I'm sympathetic to the idea and curious to find some way to manage (a day-labor center) in a professional way," Shriver said.

If a day-labor center is not possible, residents said they would like City Hall to explore other options. One proposal — to establish a "no loitering" zone that would make congregating illegal — was subsequently discarded by City Hall. Other suggestions included posting signs that would discourage contractors and others from picking up workers; making benefiting businesses pay to provide public bathrooms; and beefing up police patrols on 11th Street.

Santa Monica Police Lt. Alex Padilla said he is not aware of a concentration of crimes, such as robbery or rape, involving 11th Street day laborers. However, Padilla said police have met with 11th Street residents and encouraged them to report suspicious activity to police.

Padilla said the SMPD is working with other groups to find solutions.

On Thursday morning, dozens of day laborers were scattered about on the sidewalks of 11th Street and Olympic Boulevard. Several told the Daily Press they supported the idea of a day-labor center, claiming they often spend entire days standing around, hoping for work, but finding none.

The laborers questioned also said they would use portable bathrooms, if they were available.



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LOCAL



Homeland Security provided California with \$282M in '04

SECURITY, from page 1

mand about \$100,000 a year in salary.

There also will be increased security on the Third Street Promenade, including the installation of security cameras, which will be placed throughout the downtown area and the pier. Signs will be posted throughout the Bayside District indicating that there are cameras rolling.

Butts said he and city officials are currently working with a consultant about the size and scope of the project. The camera system's installation and equipment will likely be an emergency purchase and won't go out for a public bid. The cost of the surveillance system is estimated at \$1.1 million.

Santa Monica has been placed on a list for grant consideration by the California Office of Homeland Security. The maximum the city could receive under the "buffer zone protection fund" is \$50,000. About \$13 million of that fund is budgeted for 259 cities throughout California, Department of Homeland Security officials said.

And while there are opportunities to receive more grant money from the Department of Homeland Security, city officials plan to move forward with the security enhancements and figure out how to pay for them later.

"When extraordinary things happen ... we can shift things around," said City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau, adding city officials met on Thursday to discuss funding issues. "Over the next few days, we'll figure out where the money is going to come from."

"I'm certain we'll look for grant funding."

Rambeau added that revenue from the state, in the form of vehicle license fees, came earlier than anticipated to Santa Monica, which could be used for the immediate security upgrades. Another option is to dip into City Hall's reserve funds.

"We try to keep a healthy reserve, but whether they use it, I don't know," she said.

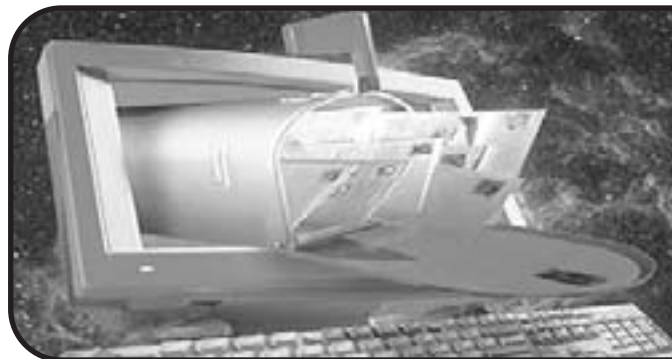
The city of Santa Monica has received nearly \$1.7 million from the California Office of Homeland Security since 2001, said Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone. That money is used for the city's emergency management department, and the fire and police departments. In 2005, the Santa Monica Fire Department is expected to receive \$2.2 million in homeland security funding. Funding to local municipalities for terrorism protection is distributed through a complex bureaucratic process, with the city of Los Angeles ultimately deciding how much Santa Monica will receive, according to Gary Wunik, chief deputy director of the California Office of Homeland Security.

The federal Department of Homeland Security distributed \$282 million to California last year, of which \$85 million went to Los Angeles — one of nine cities determined "high risk" by federal authorities. Santa Monica is included as part of the Los Angeles region, Wunik said.

The California Office of Homeland Security administers money to municipalities through three major programs — the first is on a cost-plus basis, determined by population. Another is based on a city's risk factor, and the third applies only to law enforcement agencies, which can use the money for equipment, training, exercises and capital improvements.

Wunik said Santa Monica's surveillance system could be covered under that grant, which has a \$1 million cap.

He added that all funding from the Department of Homeland Security must be done with regional planning among area agencies. The approving authority consists of the Los Angeles County Sheriff, the Los Angeles County Fire Department chief, the Los Angeles County public health officer, and the city of Los Angeles fire and police chiefs, Wunik said.



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City Hall holds secret center for emergencies

READINESS, from page 1

allow them to qualify for grant funding to aid disaster response efforts. Cities must show they are prepared to coordinate support for one another on a regional level in the event of a terrorist strike.

Santa Monica is one of 31 fire departments in the Los Angeles County area that belong to the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, which has helped the region develop its approach to dealing with terrorist attacks that may involve weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"Because of that regional approach, our fire department, in particular, has benefited by obtaining the equipment and training to bring our urban search and rescue capability from a medium level to the highest level," Chief Hone said.

The SMFD has used grant funding to purchase equipment, and vehicles to carry the equipment and provide training to personnel for incidents involving WMDs. According to Hone, the department has been able to acquire personal protective equipment on every vehicle that responds to a devastating incident.

Paul Weinberg, City Hall's emergency services coordinator, said public safety personnel conduct training drills once a month for scenarios that could include terrorist attacks. In addition, a massive drill involving several agencies is staged each year.

Santa Monica has an emergency operations center located within its public safety building that can be used to coordinate response efforts. In addition, City Hall has a secret location where it can conduct similar operations in case the emergency operations center within the public safety building is rendered inoperable.

Weinberg said the public safety building is designed to withstand severe earthquakes, as well as other calamities.

Santa Monicans interested in learning what to do in preparation for an act of terrorism, or how to respond, are urged to log on to the city's Web site and click on "emergency preparedness."

Links are available to other government agencies and groups which have beefed up security efforts in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, disseminating information on what citizens can do to help ensure their safety.

Missing the point



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Balancing on one leg atop of a six-foot ladder, Rick Wellington, a Venice beach entertainer/juggler, keeps three razor-sharp machetes in motion as onlookers stroll past.

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NATIONAL



Part-time troops' death toll on the rise

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The National Guard and Reserve suffered more combat deaths in Iraq during the first 10 days of August than in any full month of the entire war.

More broadly, Pentagon casualty reports show that the number of deaths among Guard and Reserve forces has been trending upward much of this year, totaling more than 100 since May 1. That ranks as the deadliest stretch of the war for the Guard and Reserve, whose members perform both combat and support missions.

There is little evidence to suggest that part-time troops are being specifically targeted by the insurgents, since the Guard and Reserve troops are mostly indistinguishable from regular active-duty troops.

The 42nd Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard is commanding a combat force in north-central Iraq that includes two brigades from the active-duty 3rd Infantry Division, and a brigade from the Mississippi Army National Guard is operating with the Marine Corps.

The Pentagon rejects any suggestion the Guard and Reserve are more vulnerable in combat because they are part-timers.

"We will not deploy a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who is not fully trained and prepared for the mission," said Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "Combat operations are inherently dangerous and despite the best training and the best equipment, we will unfortunately have service members killed and wounded in action."

Some see it differently. Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst with the Brookings Institution think tank, said Thursday that while the performance of reservists has been generally excellent, some are shortchanged on training prior to arriving in Iraq.

"If we really believe that military personnel need months of intensive training before being at their best — as logic suggests and other evidence would seem to prove — it is hard to believe that most reservists in Iraq are really as strong as active-duty troops, especially when they first arrive in country," O'Hanlon said.

The 32 combat deaths in the first 10 days of August are in addition to one death classified as non-combat.

The previous highest monthly killed-in-action total for the Guard and Reserve was 27 in May, when there were also four non-combat deaths. In August 2004, there were six Guard and Reserve combat deaths and eight total.

The increasing death toll among reserve forces in recent months reflects, at least in part, their more prominent role in

Iraq. They represent about half of all U.S. combat forces there, or double the share in early 2004.

The Army National Guard has brigade combat teams in Iraq from Idaho, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Hawaii, Texas, Georgia and Pennsylvania, and the Army Reserve and Marine Reserve also are represented.

By this time next year, if the Pentagon's plan holds up, the number of National Guard brigades in Iraq would fall to two, as the regular active-duty Army redeploys two newly enlarged divisions — the 101st Airborne and the 4th Infantry.

The recent surge in Guard and Reserve combat deaths comes as the Army National Guard and Army Reserve are stuck in a prolonged recruiting slump that some attribute in large measure to young people's fear of getting sent to Iraq. More than 1,840 U.S. service members have died since the war began.

On Wednesday the Pentagon announced that as of July 31 the Army National Guard was running 23 percent behind in recruiting for the year and the Army Reserve was 20 percent behind. The Marine Reserve was right at its goal.

The combat deaths in the first 10 days of August came in bunches, starting with six Marine Reserve snipers who were killed by small arms fire during a Marine offensive near the town of Haditha in western Iraq.

Two days later, 14 Marine Reserve troops from Ohio were killed when their amphibious assault vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb that U.S. officials said later was three land mines stacked atop each other.

Also on Aug. 3, three members of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade were killed in Baghdad when a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near the soldiers' armored troop carrier.

On Aug. 9, five members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard were killed — four of them in a single attack near Bayji, involving a land mine and small arms fire. On Friday the Pentagon released the names of those four, who were members of the Guard's 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment, based in Philadelphia.

Two other Pennsylvania guardsmen were killed in an attack Aug. 6, and one Marine Reserve member died Aug. 4 of wounds sustained in combat last November.

One Army Reserve soldier was among the 32 killed in action during the first 10 days of the month; another died when a civilian fuel truck collided with the Humvee in which he was traveling on a convoy mission.

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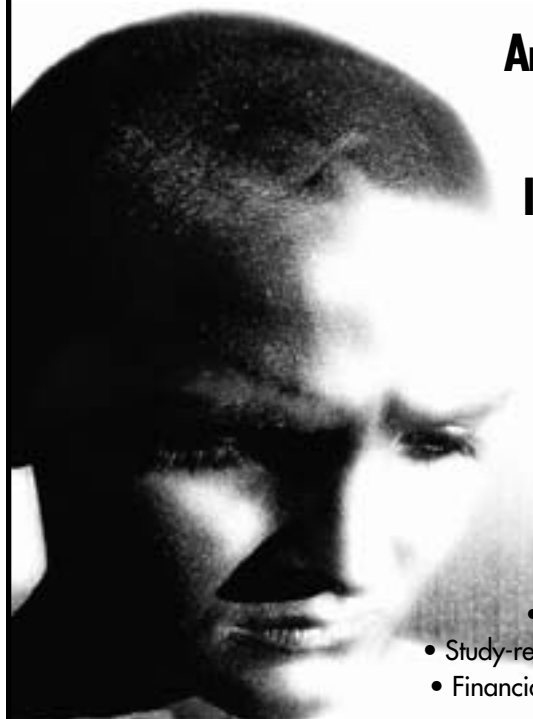
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NATIONAL

Tourists take to Hawaii as safe vacation bet

BY JAYMES SONG

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Newlyweds Ty and Kirschel Vollebregt considered their home state of California, Mexico and Europe when deciding where to spend their dream honeymoon. After weighing everything from cost and convenience to distance and drinks, they agreed on Hawaii.

"We wanted the beach. We wanted to lay around. We wanted fruity drinks with umbrellas," said Kirschel Vollebregt.

The couple from Dana Point are among the millions of Americans flocking to Hawaii in record numbers this year. Besides the refreshing mai tais, tourism experts say the boom can be credited in part to the global unrest, including terrorism, which has persuaded many Americans to seek exotic travel destinations within the U.S. borders.

Safety, they say, has become a key consideration for globe-trotting Americans.

"We used to say that the motivations for tourists were sea, sun and sand. ... The three new S's are safety, security and sanitation," said Walter Jamieson, dean of the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii.

A recent study commissioned by the state found that "safety-security" was the most important factor for Americans choosing a destination. Value and clean environment were second.

"People are looking for something different. At the same time, they want the sense of security that goes with traveling

within the United States," Jamieson said.

The Hawaii Marketing Effectiveness Study also showed that Hawaii's image as a safe destination was among the state's strengths, along with scenery, clean environment and being a great place to get away.

"I have no desire to go (abroad) at all. In fact, I don't want to even go to Canada any more," said Steve DeMeyer of Phoenix, who was recently lounging at Waikiki Beach. "I'm happy with America."

Marsha Weinert, the state's tourism liaison, said "there's no question Hawaii is benefiting greatly from sentiments of wanting to travel within the U.S., rather than internationally."

The 50th state, with its own unique culture, language and history, offers tourists the international flavor they are seeking, Weinert said.

"Still in the United States and protected by Homeland Security, but we're still far away and exotic," said John Monahan, president and chief executive of the Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau.

Tourists seem to agree.

"I know I'm still technically still in the states, but I feel I left the country, which is nice," said honeymooner Patrick Colgan, of Seattle. "That does offer something California doesn't."

Colgan said he even enjoys vowel-heavy Hawaiian words.

"Give me a 37-letter word with one consonant. I love it," he said.

Hawaii is on pace this year to break 7 million visitors for the first time ever. Hawaii welcomed a record 3.6 million

visitors in the first half of the year, 7 percent more than the first six months of 2004. And the percentage of American visitors has increased from 59.6 percent in 2000 to 66.5 percent during the first six months of this year.

Some of the events in recent years that have curbed international travel by Americans include the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the recent subway bombings in London, the SARS epidemic in Asia, the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings, December's deadly tsunami, the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the weak U.S. dollar against the Euro.

"It's not a matter of theory. We now have enough evidence to suggest that either natural or human-caused disasters and crises definitely affect the traveling public," Jamieson said.

The UH professor said the tsunami has been disastrous for tourism in areas like Sri Lanka and Thailand. Bali has also struggled to attract tourists since the bombings there.

Wendy Goodenow, president of the Hawaii chapter of the American Society of Travel Agents, said "people tend to stay closer to home when things get a little hectic out there."

Hawaii has benefited by taking several measures to assure safety and a quick and effective response if something did happen.

"Hawaii is a model — the (Pacific) Tsunami Warning Center, excellent warning systems for hurricanes, good first-responder services," Jamieson said. "This whole level of providing assurance is important."

But officials in Hawaii acknowledge that travel to the islands could be shattered in a moment. The fragile tourism industry is very susceptible to global events, from terrorism to soaring oil costs.

"One destination's misfortune can be positive for another one, and we're clearly an example of that," Jamieson said. "But those same forces can work the other way."

Erika Yowell, spokeswoman for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said her agency has surveyed visitors about whether they feel safe in the desert destination, which is also experiencing record visitor arrivals.

"By in large, they do feel safe," she said. "Las Vegas is an interesting destination because security is such a visible, integrated part of the experience."

Many tourists interviewed in Waikiki acknowledged that security was on their mind, but say it did not factor into their travel planning.

Axel Langer, of Munich, Germany, who was visiting Hawaii for the first time, said no one can forget about terrorism but it will never prevent him from traveling, including to London.

"I would go tomorrow," Langer said. "Otherwise I would have to only live in my house and wait until the day I die."

Saxon Reynolds, of Upper Marlboro, Md., agreed with Langer's philosophy.

"If it's going to happen, it's going to happen," he said. "If it's my day, it's my day."

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NATIONAL

Federal funds won't cure Honolulu's traffic congestion

BY AUDREY MCAVOY

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — The former sugar cane fields that make up the subdivisions on Oahu's Ewa plain are some of the last places in Honolulu where a middle-class family can afford to buy a new four-bedroom home close to the beach.

But it comes with a price: a three- to four-hour round-trip commute along a handful of traffic-clogged highways leading into downtown.

At this point, Ewa entrepreneur and neighborhood board member Genaro Q. Bimbo is so desperate for any traffic fix that he's grateful for the millions of dollars Congress voted to spend on a new road in his town — even though he's doubtful it will help him.

"Undersea tunnel or subway or bridge, I'll take anything, as long as they do it," he said.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic is a daily reality for thousands on these tropical islands better known to outsiders for their aquamarine waters and verdant rainforests.

To ease the congestion, the federal highway spending bill Congress passed last month hands the 50th state \$145.6 million for over a dozen projects on Hawaii's four largest islands.

Critics say, however, that the money will do little to get rid of the state's traffic jams.

To alleviate chronic road congestion, they say, Hawaii needs not just to pour more asphalt but to create alternatives to driving and to build affordable housing closer to the luxury resorts where many people work.

The mountainous terrain created by the volcanic eruptions that formed Hawaiian archipelago only exacerbates the state's traffic problems.

Honolulu's severe lack of space prompted Gov. Linda Lingle three years ago to briefly propose building a second level on top of the city's main highway, the H-1, to create a double-decker freeway.

The proposal died amid concerns over cost and aesthetics, but it underscores the extremes a state like

Hawaii — which otherwise takes great care to preserve the beauty of the islands by banning billboards and limiting the height of buildings — must go to solve its traffic problems.

Some of the roots of congestion are man-made, however. Take inadequate planning.

Developers built new subdivisions in Ewa — about 20 miles from downtown Honolulu — before new roads could be built connecting the town to the H-1 highway. Morning Ewa commuters now sit in crawling traffic for 30 minutes on the limited existing roads just to get on the freeway.

The same goes for Kapolei, designed as Oahu's much heralded "second city" to Honolulu. Developers built government offices, schools and homes years before all the roads planned for the new community were constructed.

City and state officials have only now started to plan for a Honolulu rail line, after discussing the idea sporadically for decades.

Much of Hawaii's share of the federal spending package will — belatedly — address the bottlenecks created by such haphazard growth. Some \$40.8 million will go toward building a new road in Ewa to the H-1 highway and to a new interchange in Kapolei giving the city's residents and workers a badly needed second route in and out of town.

But Makakilo/Kapolei neighborhood board member Michael Golojuch says Honolulu needs to come up with different varieties of transportation instead of just paving more highway.

"You can only have so many cars on the road before it gets bogged down again," he said.

A ferry running from a coastal community like Ewa to downtown Honolulu would be one alternative, he added.

"It's not for everybody, but it's another way of getting around," he said. "We need those type of options to give people the idea that you don't always have to get in your car, that there are other ways of getting around."

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NATIONAL

Five years in prison for ex-WorldCom CFO

BY ERIN MCCLAM

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Depending on whom you believe, Scott Sullivan was either the mastermind of the \$11 billion accounting fraud that capsized WorldCom, or a troubled employee who caved to pressure from his boss.

Five months ago, a jury sided with Sullivan, convicting ex-CEO Bernard Ebbers of orchestrating the largest accounting scandal in U.S. history — a verdict that led to a 25-year prison sentence.

And on Thursday, Sullivan learned his own, much more lenient penalty:

Five years in prison.
“I am sorry for the hurt that has been caused by my cowardly actions. I truly am, Your Honor,” he said before the sentence was issued. “I stand before you today ashamed and embarrassed.”

Sullivan, 43, admitted in early 2004 — and testified for 30 hours at Ebbers’ trial this year — that he carried out the epic accounting fraud, which falsely boosted WorldCom’s performance in a bid to please Wall Street.

But he insisted, and repeated in court Thursday, that he did so under intense pressure from Ebbers, 63, who instructed him over and over to “hit the numbers” and meet analyst expectations. Ebbers always maintained he was kept in the dark, and that the fraud was a Sullivan operation.

U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones told Sullivan he was getting a break on his sentence because he had helped the government build its case against Ebbers. Prosecutors called him a model cooperator.

She also said she was granting him a lighter sentence because his wife is seriously diabetic, and unable to care

for the couple’s 4-year-old daughter during her frequent hospitalizations.

But while Jones said she believed Ebbers was the “instigator” of the scandal, she made clear Sullivan bore significant responsibility, telling him his offenses were “of the highest magnitude.”

“Mr. Sullivan, I believe, was the architect of the fraud,” the judge said moments before imposing the sentence. “Mr. Sullivan was the day-to-day manager, if you will, of the scheme.”

Five former WorldCom executives have now been sentenced to prison, their terms totaling more than 32 years.

Sullivan, has already agreed to sell his \$11 million mansion in Boca Raton, Fla. — a lavish Mediterranean-style estate with 10 bedrooms and seven fireplaces — and turn the money over to former WorldCom investors.

Under the settlement he also forfeited his decimated WorldCom retirement account, and his lawyer said Thursday that Sullivan had been left without any assets. Sullivan’s wife will set up a trust fund to care for their daughter.

Sullivan, pleading for leniency before the judge issued her sentence, said he accepted responsibility for his crimes and would “carry the burden of my failing always.”

As WorldCom grew from a small Mississippi long-distance reseller into a global communications titan, Sullivan came to be seen by Wall Street as an exceptional chief financial officer who nimbly handled analysts’ questions.

Ebbers, by contrast, had a more laid-back public persona. In one analyst conference call played by the defense at his trial, he said: “Remember, I’m a P.E. grad-

uate, not an economist.”

Sullivan was indicted in 2002 shortly after the company went bankrupt, and initially denied wrongdoing. But he pleaded guilty to fraud and conspiracy in 2004 just before he was to go to trial, turning on his former boss.

At Ebbers’ trial, Sullivan was the star witness, telling jurors Ebbers repeatedly urged him to “hit the numbers” — a kind of mantra that Sullivan said he interpreted as a command to commit fraud.

Sullivan admitted he examined WorldCom’s financial performance each quarter, compared it to what analysts were expecting, then ordered subordinates to make up the difference.

Three of those subordinates — controller David Myers, accounting director Buford Yates and accounting manager Betty Vinson — all face prison terms, although significantly less than Sullivan’s and Ebbers’.

At the sentencing Thursday, lead WorldCom prosecutor David Anders praised the time and effort Sullivan put into the Ebbers case.

“Mr. Sullivan was not the cause of the fraud,” the prosecutor said in court. “Mr. Ebbers was. Yet without Mr. Sullivan’s cooperation, it’s likely that Mr. Ebbers never would have been brought to justice.”

The bulk of the fraud scheme, which prosecutors said took place from 2000 to 2002, was an illegal decision by WorldCom executives to record regular operating expenses as long-term capital expenditures.

When the fraud came to light in the summer of 2002, the company went bankrupt, costing investors billions of dollars and tens of thousands of employees their jobs. The company emerged from bankruptcy last year under the name MCI.

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Dallas immigration speeds green-card process

BY ANABELLE GARAY

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Some immigrants wait months and even years for government workers to sort through stacks of immigration petitions and process applications for green cards. Maria Guadalupe Morgan got hers in less than three months.

The 49-year-old nanny from Mexico participated in a pilot program called Dallas Office Rapid Adjustment, or DORA. The program aims to reduce the backlog of petitions for the permanent residence cards that allow immigrants to legally live and work in the United States by screening applications quickly and in person.

"It was fairly easy, a lot easier than I expected," said Morgan, who's married to a U.S. citizen.

Since the program began in May 2004, about 65 percent of the more than 9,000 DORA cases submitted were completed within the 90-day target.

Such fast and easy resolution is a stark contrast to the up to 2 1/2 years some immigrants wait for permanent residence or citizenship. An estimated 10 million to 12 million illegal immigrants live in the United States, and many remain undocumented while awaiting application approvals.

The program is open to immigrants filing for a green card through a family member or spouse, or after winning a visa lottery.

The government offers a visa lottery that's open to people from countries that send few immigrants into the United States. People selected in the lottery can

apply for their green card through DORA for faster processing.

The DORA program has been so successful that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ombudsman advocated adopting one like it. It would help improve the efficiency of the legalization process and cut down on time-consuming work, the CIS ombudsman wrote in a June report to Congress.

With barely one year left to meet President Bush's pledge of processing applications for citizenship and other immigration benefits within six months, CIS officials are in a rush to find ways to accelerate the work.

For example, DORA participants schedule an appointment with an immigration officer online, rather than waiting for hours in a line at an immigration office that's first come, first served. An immigration officer then inspects their documents and explains what they lack to submit a complete application. If all the paperwork is in order, petitions can gain approval at the appointment.

Immigrants who use the traditional mail-in application process can experience delays for a variety of reasons. For example, a required document may be missing or require translation. The person vouching for the immigrant's application may die. The immigrant's spouse may die or divorce them, or lose a job and can no longer pledge to support them financially.

People often find out about problems with their applications from notices that can arrive months or years after they've submitted them and paid hundreds of dollars in fees to the government.

"The longer they're stretched out, the

more things that happen. Get the thing done as quick as you can before someone dies, divorces," said Vanna Slaughter, division director for Catholic Charities Immigration and Legal Services in Dallas. "The more time that goes into any immigration case, the more problems that are going to arise."

One flaw with DORA is appointments book quickly, immigration attorneys and service agencies say, so it may take up to six weeks to obtain one.

"I get online three or four times a day and haven't been able to get an appointment" for a client, Dallas immigration attorney Sarah Brown said.

Another obstacle is the security check, which requires fingerprinting and clear-

ance from the FBI. People with common first and last names experience longer delays, but the lag can affect anyone.

Yet overall, immigrants, attorneys and immigration service agencies say DORA's smoother procedures has made processing more efficient and improved completion rates.

For Morgan, it means she may see her mother for the first time in three years. As a permanent U.S. resident, she may travel back to Mexico and legally re-enter the United States.

"I can go see my family. I'm planning to go see them in December. Before, I couldn't. Only they could come to visit," she said.

Yahoo buying into Alibaba, eyeing eBay

BY JOE MCDONALD

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Yahoo Inc. is paying \$1 billion in cash for a 40 percent stake in China's biggest online commerce firm, Alibaba.com, strengthening the ties that international companies are forging in the world's second-largest Internet market.

Yahoo said it will merge its China subsidiaries into Alibaba as part of Thursday's deal, the biggest in a flurry of investments by foreign Internet firms eager for access to China's soaring number of Web users, now pegged at 100 million.

"This is Yahoo getting much bigger in China," Daniel Rosensweig, Yahoo's chief operating officer, said at a news conference in Beijing with Alibaba founder Jack Ma.

See YAHOO, page 22

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INTERNATIONAL

Yahoo takes an interest in Chinese commerce

YAHOO, from page 21

Alibaba runs a Web site that matches foreign buyers with Chinese wholesale suppliers, plus the popular consumer auction site Taobao.com, which competes with the Chinese subsidiary run by eBay Inc., the world's top online auction company.

Rosensweig said the alliance creates an entity with assets to compete across the full range of Internet businesses — online commerce, e-mail and search engines. He expects China to become the world's biggest Internet market within five years.

The deal extends Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo's strategy of breaking into Asian markets by connecting with strong local partners. Yahoo and its Asian partners are now major forces in online auctions in China, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, said Porter Erisman, Alibaba's vice president for international relations.

"This is really probably the knockout blow for eBay in China," he said. "This is going to make it hard for eBay to win in Asia."

eBay, which bought the Chinese auction portal Eachnet for \$180 million in 2003, rejected suggestions that the Yahoo-Alibaba tie-up was a threat. eBay's share of China's auction market is 65 percent, according to Shanghai iResearch. TaoBao had 29 percent in 2004.

"It's business as usual for us," said eBay spokesman Hani Durzy in San Jose, Calif.

That sounded like careful posturing to Hoefer and Arnett analyst Martin Pykkonen. He noted that eBay CEO Meg Whitman has predicted that China will become the company's biggest market in five years, so the Yahoo-Alibaba alliance signifies "more than just a casual threat," he said.

China is expected to be a significant profit center for eBay this year or next, but eBay needs to start capitalizing on its investments in the country in 2007 and 2008 to propel earnings growth, he said. eBay is expected to invest about \$100 million in China this year, Pykkonen estimated.

The new Yahoo-Alibaba combination will include 3721.com, a Chinese-language search engine that Yahoo acquired last year for \$120 million.

That will put it in competition with China's most popular search engine, Baidu.com, whose initial stock offering in the United States last week set off a buying frenzy. Its share price soared more than 350 percent in its first day of trading before declining this week.

And the second-most popular Chinese search site is operated by a familiar rival, Google Inc. Google ramped up its China operations this week by authorizing three Chinese companies as resellers of advertisements for its China site. Google also owns 2.6 percent of Baidu.

The Chinese government says the country has 103 million people online, second only to the United States. But online commerce is still small, held back by low consumer spending in a country where urban incomes average just \$1,000 a year.

Consumer-to-consumer online auctions in China totaled about \$500 million last year, while business-to-consumer sales were about \$1 billion, according to Joe Tsai, Alibaba's chief financial officer. He said only about 4 million people in China have used online commerce.

But Tsai said online sales are expected to grow 80 percent annually over the next three years.

With its 40 percent stake valued at \$1 billion, Yahoo clearly expects huge growth from Alibaba, whose revenue was \$68 million last year. Advertisers and companies pay \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year for membership in its commercial online auction service. It does not charge fees for individual auction listings as eBay does.

Yahoo said its investment will make it the biggest shareholder in Alibaba, which has 2,300 employees and is based in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai.

Yahoo will have 35 percent voting rights. The new entity will have a four-member board led by Ma as chairman, with a second seat held by Alibaba and the others held by Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang and a representative of Softbank Corp., the Japanese firm that is a big Yahoo shareholder.

Pykkonen called that a departure for Yahoo and CEO Terry Semel, because the company usually takes control of a partner's operations when it spends this kind of money.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Jolie to world: Actress is Cambodian citizen

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Family ties between Angelina Jolie and her son, Maddox, just got a little tighter.

A royal decree approving citizenship for Jolie, star of the "Tomb Raider" films, was signed by King Norodom Sihamoni on July 31, Sok Sam Oeun, an official of the Council of Ministers, said Friday.

Sok Sam Oeun said he was working through Jolie's contacts in Cambodia to notify the 30-year-old actress of her new citizenship.

Jolie, who adopted Maddox from Cambodia in 2002, is giving Cambodian Vision in Development, a community development group, \$1.5 million for its environmental protection efforts in remote parts of the country's northwest.

Prime Minister Hun Sen offered Jolie citizenship in recognition of her generosity when she visited the country last summer. Jolie told reporters: "I would certainly be thrilled."

"This is what we have dreamed for her for a long time," said Mounh Sarath, director of Cambodian Vision in Development. "Now it's a dream come true."

He said Jolie deserves citizenship "not because of the money she has given but her good heart and love" for the Cambodian people.

Scenes for Jolie's 2001 movie, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," were filmed at Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temple.

Jolie adopted her daughter, Zahara, from Ethiopia last month.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Concert tickets for major acts are costly, but \$100,000 to see the Rolling Stones?

That's the price to join Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in a luxury box at the Stones' Aug. 21 show at Boston's Fenway Park. The event will cap a multistate fundraising swing that begins next week for Schwarzenegger's Nov. 8 special elec-

tion.

Schwarzenegger will host a private reception before the show for 40 guests who give \$10,000 each to his campaign account. Guests contributing \$100,000 apiece will be invited to watch the concert with Schwarzenegger in a luxury box.

The concert event was arranged after mortgage lender Ameriquest, the lead sponsor of the Stones' 2005 tour, offered Schwarzenegger more than three dozen center stage and luxury box seats. A company spokesman refused comment to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Fran Curtis, the Stones' publicist, said the band had no role in the governor's fundraiser.

The Stones' new album, "A Bigger Bang," is scheduled for release Sept. 6.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lynyrd Skynyrd have postponed eight appearances this month because lead singer Johnny Van Zant has inflamed vocal cords.

The Southern rock band, best known for songs such as "Free Bird" and "Sweet Home Alabama," announced the tour schedule changes in a posting Thursday on their Web site.

"Johnny Van Zant, found by Vanderbilt Voice Center to be suffering from 'significant vocal cord inflammation and swelling,' will be unable to perform several upcoming shows, following doctor's orders for strict vocal rest," the statement said.

Concerts had been scheduled in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas and Oklahoma. The band hopes to reschedule the dates.

They are also planning to share a co-headlining bill with The Allman Brothers Band on five dates in September, their Web site said.

NEW YORK — Kirsten Dunst says her role as Claire in Cameron Crowe's new

film, "Elizabethtown," was one of the best female parts she'd read in ages.

"She is honest and upfront to a fault," Dunst tells W magazine in its September issue, on newsstands Aug. 19. "She doesn't have a lot of fear. She's dorky and doesn't care, and in that way she's cool."

Dunst plays a flight attendant in the romantic comedy, costarring Orlando Bloom. Bloom's brooding character meets Claire while on a flight home to Kentucky.

"Kirsten is a really positive person," Bloom says. "In the film she brings my character back to life. She's perfectly cast because she is that light."

The 23-year-old actress also plays the lead in Sofia Coppola's upcoming Marie-Antoinette biopic. She predicts the French press will be especially rough on the film, which co-stars Jason Schwartzman as Louis XVI.

"And I'm not sure whether historians are going to love our movie," she says, "but we don't care."

BALTIMORE — A breach-of-contract lawsuit brought by Van Halen against the Baltimore Orioles seeking at least \$2 million from a failed concert deal will go to trial, a lawyer for the rock band said.

U.S. District Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr. last week denied the Orioles' motion for summary judgment, and a trial in District Court in Los Angeles is "imminent," according to Howard King, who represents Van Halen.

A trial was to have begun this month, King said Wednesday, but the judge became ill. A hearing on the Orioles' request for summary judgment was held in July, King said, and Byrne handed down the denial on Aug. 4.

The band contends in the lawsuit filed in August 2004 that the baseball team sought to have it perform the first-ever concert inside Camden Yards and then backed out of the deal.

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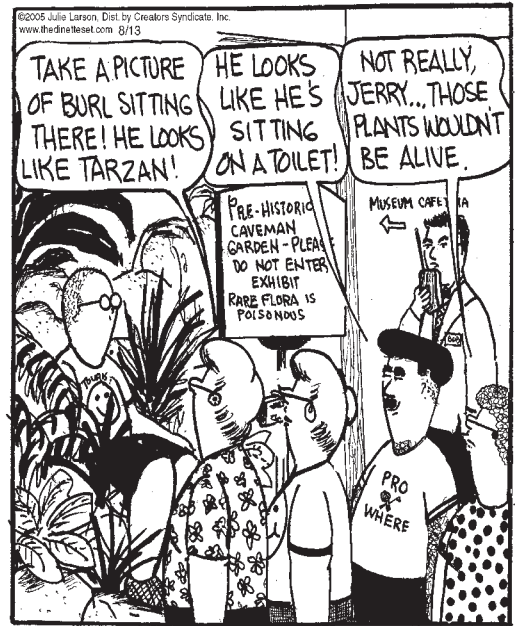
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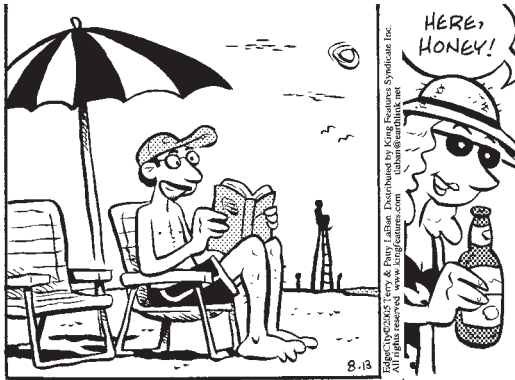
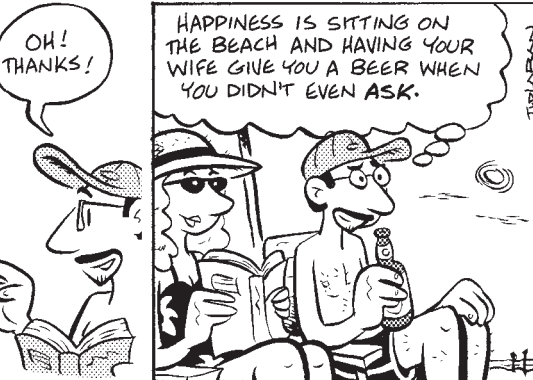
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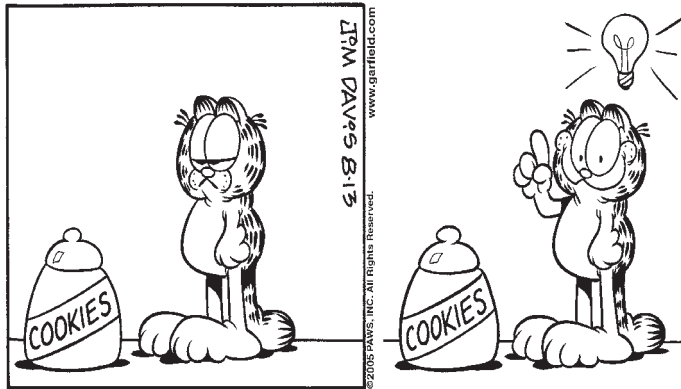
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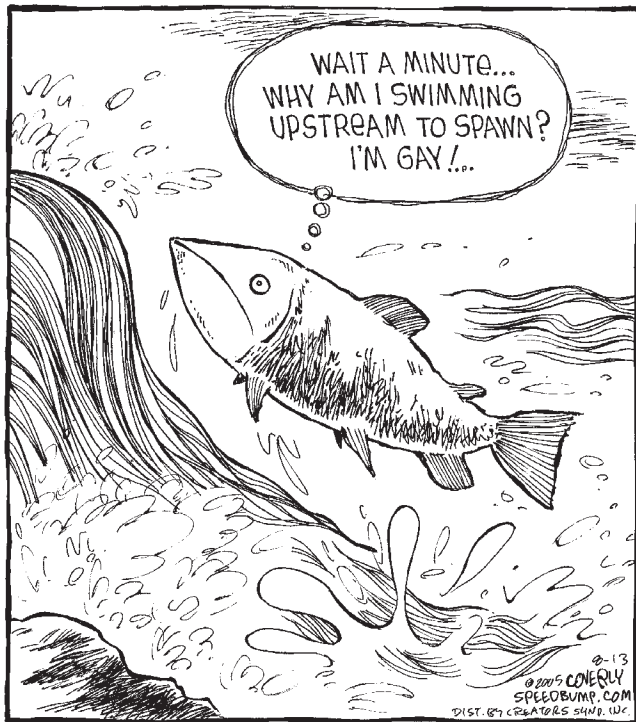
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1 Soda buy

6 Core

11 Battery end

12 "Okla-homa!" aunt

13 "Frances" star

14 "The Happy Prince" author

15 Off the beaten path

17 Took first

18 Illuminated

19 London section

22 Lumber tool

23 Widen

24 Reliable

25 Find appropriate

27 Friend of Huck

30 Fires from a plane

31 "Not — dare!"

32 Hurler's pride

33 Strong points

35 Artless

38 Dunder-head

39 Comfy eatery

40 "Death-trap" co-star

41 Herd member

42 Spud

DOWN

1 Refrain snippet

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5 Recited at length

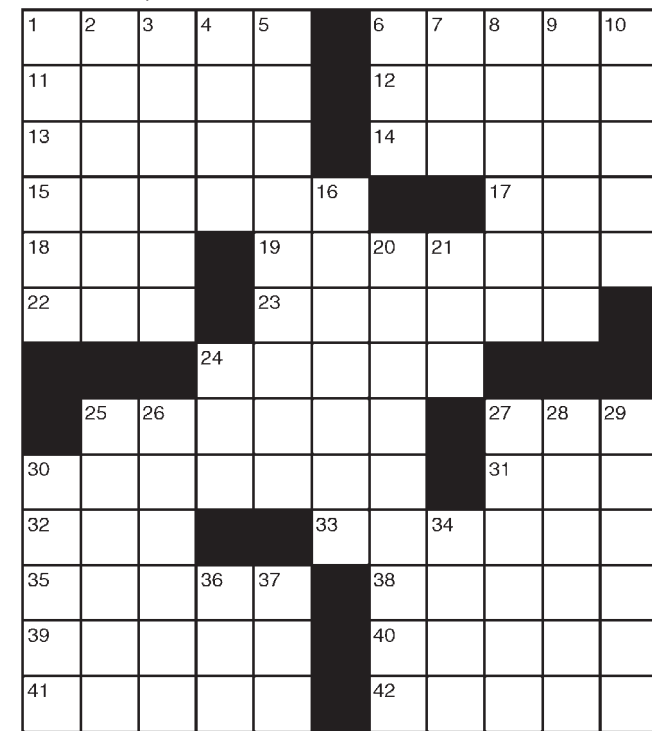
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Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact
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