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Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

An official monitor in the online role-playing game Second Life told BBC News in April that he knows of spouses of game players who have actually paid money to online-game detectives to learn whether their mates are committing "virtual adultery" with other players' characters in the course of the game. (Second Life encourages players to create a character and live out a made-up existence, which can of course include having an affair with another player's made-up character.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 229th day of 2005.
There are 136 days left in the year.

On Aug. 17, 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steam Boat began heading up New York's Hudson River on its successful annular-trip to Albany. In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minn., in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year. In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at a Berlin hospital near Spandau Prison at age 93, having apparently committed suicide.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it."

EDITH WHARTON
AMERICAN AUTHOR (1862-1937)

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First Federal robbed for third time in '05

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — A Santa Monica bank popular among customers and thieves was robbed on Tuesday for the third time this year.

At 10:57 a.m., the Santa Monica police responded to a bank robbery that occurred at the First Federal Bank at 2827 Main St. An undisclosed amount of money was stolen. No one was injured.

When officers arrived at the scene, they were told the two suspects fled on foot from the bank, according to Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega. A search of the area was conducted, and the suspects were not located.

Witnesses said they were conducting business in the bank when two black men entered and demanded that everyone "stick up their hands."

The suspects didn't reveal any weapons. One man kept his hand in his pocket during the incident as the other one collected money from

See ROBBERY, page 6



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

While police investigate the scene, a bank employee leans up against First Federal Bank and smokes a cigarette to cool his nerves after a robbery took place there on Tuesday.

Mice squeal on three Main Street shops

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — A routine county inspection led to the closure of three Main Street shops on Tuesday because they were infested with rodents.

County health inspectors, after discovering the stores had too many mice, shut down the buildings until the vermin are removed.

The Coffee Bean, Main Street Bagels and Rick's Tavern all had to close due to health code violations. Employees said their shops expect to be back up and running within days. The restaurants are all located within one building on the east side of Main Street.

Business owners declined to comment.

Terrance Powell, Los Angeles County health specialist, said he is not aware of a history of rodents affecting those establishments.

He said such inspections are common, and if there is an infestation within one shop, health inspectors often will follow the

Tuesday's closures stopped short of including buildings next door to the affected businesses.

trail to see where it ends.

"What happened is as the inspectors looked inside the facility, they saw there was a problem," Powell said. "They looked next door to see how pervasive the problem was."

"It was enough of a problem to close those businesses."

The inspection report said 50 rodent droppings were found at Main Street Bagels at 2905 Main St. The droppings were inside the cabinets where the soda syrup dispensers are kept, and also above, on and below the food preparation table, the report said.

At the Coffee Bean, 2901 Main St., the inspectors found rodent droppings inside the cabinets used to store utensils.

At Rick's Tavern, 2907 Main

St., the inspectors said they found rodent droppings on top of the ice machine in the kitchen area.

Powell said buildings are constructed in such a way that it is difficult for rodents to penetrate them. However, during the summer months, residents and business owners frequently open their doors and windows, exposing themselves to easy infiltration by vermin.

Main Street Bagels was directed in the inspection report to seal gaps exposed underneath the door and to keep doors closed unless they are being used.

Dubbed one of the "shining stars" of the Los Angeles County Health Department's grading system, Santa Monica's kitchens are

See MICE, page 6

STATE

Northerly winds arrive — finally

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The northerly winds that sustain the Pacific Coast's marine ecosystems have returned, but their arrival came about four months late — too late for fish and birds that couldn't survive the unseasonably warm waters.

Coastal ecosystems rely on winds blowing south to push warmer surface waters away from shore and bring up colder water from the ocean bottom. That upwelling of nutrient-rich water feeds massive blooms of plankton — the tiny plant-like organisms that form the basis of the marine food web.

The winds usually start blowing in March or April, but when they didn't arrive this spring, researchers saw the effects up and down the coast

See WINDS, page 8

Jacquie Banks

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could feel a bit scattered, though you will eventually focus. Note the ideas and thoughts that go through your mind. Write them down. Efficiently clear out work, so that you can enjoy the people in your life. You also might want to brainstorm. Tonight: Out among the crowds.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will want to explore an idea and ask someone you trust to help you research facts. Your drive is unusually high right now, topped with a strong sensitivity. Realize that others are admiring or observing your actions. Tonight: Out late.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ If you want to succeed, work with one other person rather than groups right now. You will make headway on turning a creative concept into a working plan. Your mind takes you down a very unusual path. Go with it. Tonight: Feed your mind.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others play their cards, and you might not even be able to put in your two cents. You might not be aware of how much you are missing. You want to paint a rosy picture. Ultimately, is this good for you? Tonight: A special night for two at home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Get as much done as you can. Others float in and out of your day and distract you. Pace yourself, as you want to clear out as much of your must-do list as possible. Conversations have an unusually fun and pleasant tone. Tonight: Visit with your pals.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your imagination will take you down a new path if you allow yourself to freely associate. Share your thoughts. Don't censor your ideas; rather, toss them out. Information comes in from a distance. Tonight: Do what you have put off.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You have much more going for you than you realize. Venus in your sign adds to your allure and popularity, which are high in general. You will open up because of another's strong approach. Tonight: Add some spice.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Others say what they think, whether you want to hear it or not. Discussions might be animated as well. Your inner strength prevents you from taking what someone says personally. Be very careful with new people and/or money ventures. Tonight: Head home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You work hard and are unusually creative. Don't undermine your efforts by taking a financial risk. Listen to others, but ultimately go for what you want. Toss ideas into the ring. Encourage feedback. Tonight: Talk away.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You have a lot of ground to cover. Use caution with your finances, as money could float right out of your hands. Others admire your presentation and style. Accept the applause. Tonight: Overindulge a little.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Check out facts, especially if you are weighing the pros and cons of a creative enterprise. Others don't always understand where you are coming from. They will soon enough. Tonight: Feel your Wheaties.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Friends play a significant role in your choices. Co-workers also might steer you in a certain direction. Still, you trust one person more than anyone else. Talk out a situation with your trusted confidant. Tonight: You need some extra R and R.



Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Starving artist?

By Daily Press staff

You're an artist. There's no workers' union. There's no workers' comp. You employ yourself. How are you to function in society without many of the benefits that other workers get?

Find out Aug. 18th when 18th Street Arts Center hosts a mini-seminar on the multiple benefits programs available for visual and performing artists. Meet the people who provide affordable services to artists and performers, and get detailed information about their programs.

Representatives from both The Actor's Fund and Benefits Opportunities for Artists will give detailed presentations about the benefit services that their organizations offer to artists and performers. They will cover health insurance, loan funds, career services, home ownership and financial planning.

The Actor's Fund is a national nonprofit organization that was established to provide social services to performers and other professionals in the theater and motion picture field. Now, they help people in a wide range of entertainment careers.

Benefits Opportunities for Artists is a new program of the Center for Cultural Innovation in Los Angeles. They provide artists with resources for health insurance, financial services and discounted travel, to name a few.

The workshop will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the 18th Street Arts Center, 1639 18th St. To RSVP, call (310) 453-3711.

Local school ready for orientation

By Daily Press staff

What do you know about Waldorf?

The Westside Waldorf School is offering an introductory workshop explaining and demonstrating the developmental stages of Waldorf education.

The workshop will take place at the Westside Waldorf campus on Aug. 26, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with an orientation lecture, and Aug. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with classroom lessons and activities.

Waldorf education is designed to cultivate highly motivated, creative, independent thinkers, school officials said. It is directed at building confidence and developing a high degree of individual and social responsibility.

To enroll contact, Anne Saldo at (310) 576-0788, ext. 21. Westside Waldorf School offers parent/toddler, nursery, kindergarten and first through eighth grades. RSVP by Aug. 22.

Death penalty hashed out

By Daily Press staff

The talk of death and its associated penalties will come to Santa Monica this weekend.

The LA Chapter of Death Penalty Focus and the LA Coalition Against the Death Penalty will be sparking some debate at a performance event on Saturday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m.

The event will be held at the Track 16 gallery at 2525 Michigan Ave. in building C1.

The groups will present an evening of art and discussion, including artists from various disciplines ranging from fine art, to acting, writing and music.

The panel will discuss their perspectives on capital punishment and will be available to answer questions from the audience.

Mike Farrell, president of Death Penalty Focus and moderator of the panel, will set the context for the evening by speaking briefly about the study commissioned by the State Senate to examine how the death penalty is used in California, and on AB 1121, a bill recently introduced to the State Assembly that calls for a moratorium on executions until that study is completed.

Also participating will be Barbara Becnel, a writer and activist who co-authored a series of anti-gang books for children with Stanley Toookie Williams, a California death row inmate, co-founder of the Crips, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and one of the men in the state facing a last appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court this fall.



SURF REPORT

The SW swell filling in right now is expected to reach its peak, bringing in sets in the chest- to head-high range for most breaks with good exposure to the south.

Fernanda's energy is still being felt as this system continues to drift away from the coast. This system is losing strength and will continue to decline over the next few days.

Tropical Depression Greg never materialized into anything surf-worthy, and is traveling away from SoCal on a SW'erly course.

No other significant activity is forming at this time.

Today the water is:

67°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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
THURSDAY	3:17	-1.3	2:39	1.9	9:45	4.5	8:52	7.2
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The Q Line

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The Santa Monica Police Department informed the public last week that three suspicious men had been sighted videotaping specific areas of the Santa Monica Pier, including access roads and the SMPD's substation. The men, all of Middle Eastern descent, recently were reported for similar activities in other SoCal communities.

Based on this suspected terrorist activity, officials are determining how to pay for \$2 million in security upgrades throughout Santa Monica, including the addition of a security camera system throughout the downtown area. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Are you in favor of beefing up security in Santa Monica? If so, how should it be funded?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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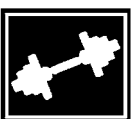
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom infringed

Editor:

Reading a recent Associated Press article about young people in Saudi Arabia using their Bluetooth phones to get around very strict rules of gender segregation brought an initial wave of cultural superiority that is anything but not politically correct.

The story painted an amusing picture of young people who would like to get together with the opposite sex using their phones to send pictures and flirty messages. Naturally, the religious police went ballistic the way all cops do when they come up against a technology that renders their job impossible. We must ban the technology. We must protect our citizens from themselves. We must write a law.

In one sense, not having religious police is a source of pride to the average westerner. We tend to think we're superior because we put enforcement effort into things that can and should be dealt with: murder, theft and drug dealing. We're free, we tell ourselves. On second thought, maybe not.

Sure, we're free from having a bunch of cops using the state to enforce a religion that in its strictest form seems to hate and fear women. We're free of orthodoxy if for no other reason that there are too many different opinions here that no one will ever become dominant. Score one point for us for letting people make their own decisions, most of the time.

Take the point away once we realize that cops are the same everywhere. Our silly and pointless laws may not be religious in nature, but we do have them. We have a Patriot Act that gives our cops carte blanche to violate our civil liberties without judicial review. The Supreme Court voted in favor of a city that appropriated private land — not because they were out to use the land for the common good (freeways, airports and so on), but because they felt new development would bring in more tax revenue.

The Patriot Act allows police to snoop into reading habits, computers and bank accounts with limited or, in some cases, no judicial review. We must protect our citizens from evils of The Anarchist's Cookbook or even the Koran, the argument goes. We were told that this would help us fight terrorists. So far, tons of people have been detained, but very few have been charged or tried and many who have were actually acquitted.

It must be the influence of TV, specifically 24, that informs us that if we streamline the warrant process then we will be safer. If our cops save 36 hours in making a case against the Al-Qaeda cell living next door then we will catch them in time. But, a television writer always writes his bad guys to be caught in the last reel. If we need these hours then we're likely screwed. Meanwhile, your library is keeping your reading list just in case the government calls.

As for property rights, in this past year the Supreme Court decided in favor of a Vermont town that seized many houses under eminent domain and gave the land to a developer in the hopes of getting a wealthier class of citizen who would pay higher taxes. This is the first time that eminent domain had been used for anything other than public infrastructure, and a court made up of conservatives and moderates went along.

The problem with giving cities this tool is that cities aren't always the best judge of tax revenue. Property taxes are based on the assessed value of the land. Sometimes the government will sell seized land at well below the real value causing a depression in the tax base, not an increase. This also is a tool that can be misused — any property owner out of favor with City Hall could lose his property, if someone can show that the tax revenue might increase. Let's hope no Nazis or Al-Qaeda types get elected in your home town.

Choosing between a religious police force determined to keep men and women apart and failing because of technology and cops who snoop your reading habits and can steal your house for the benefit of private interests is a tough one. Neither society is free. Dealing with our laws though brings to mind the thought that if Iraq needs a constitution, they can take ours because we're not using it.

Greg Jacobs
Santa Monica

Church causing a stir in neighborhood

Editor:

It appears democracy and neighborhood rights might be in action right here in Santa Monica with two more pieces in the Aug. 15 edition of the SMDP about the 18th Street Unitarian Universalist Church's no parking variance. Bill Bauer in his column defends himself from the vitriolic attack of the church's architect and apologist Ralph Mechur. Another area neighbor, Blair Calderhead, writes a letter to vent frustration with the Planning Department's unanimous decision to allow the church to expand without any parking. Bauer also writes about how the residents are appealing the decision with money out of their own pockets. Hopefully now some of the council people will take a look at the situation and comment. Are they even aware of this variance at a time when they claim parking is such a sensitive issue? Are they just going to sit on their hands?

With local dissent still building, no doubt Mr. Ralph Mechur, the architect, will write another letter in defense of the church's expansion. Perhaps he might include more about his original comment which has so irked neighbors. Mechur wrote (SMDP, Aug. 9, page 4) ... "The church is the least of the neighborhood's parking problems." From this we can conclude that Mechur recognizes that there is a parking problem. And also as a professional that he has prioritized the problems. Perhaps Mechur can now explain how any expansion — nearly 4,000 square feet of services — will help alleviate the situation?

Resident Blair Calderhead suggests in a letter to the editor that the church look for someone to underwrite its parking costs since money seems to be the root of the problem. That may be the answer. How about Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights

See LETTERS, page 5

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

On its 70th birthday, put Social Security out of our misery

This month marks the 70th birthday of Social Security. In the program's old age, many politicians are worried about its health and debating about how to cure it. One side, led by President Bush, says that Social Security is in mortal peril, and must be saved via "partial privatization." The other side says that Social Security is just a little sick, and needs only a little tinkering to be restored to health.

Both sides, however, agree on one absolute: Social Security should be saved. While it may have financial problems, they believe, some form of mandatory government-run retirement program is morally necessary.

But is it?

Social Security is commonly portrayed as benefiting most, if not all, Americans by providing them "risk-free" financial security in old age.

This is a fraud.

Under Social Security, lower- and middle-class individuals are forced to pay a significant portion of their gross income — approximately 12 percent — for the alleged purpose of securing their retirement. That money is not saved or invested, but transferred directly to the program's current beneficiaries — with the "promise" that when current taxpayers get old, the income of future taxpayers will be transferred to them. Since this scheme creates no wealth, any benefits one person receives in excess of his payments necessarily come at the expense of others.

Under Social Security, every aspect of the government's "promise" to provide financial security is at the mercy of political whim. The government can change how much of an individual's money it takes — it has increased the payroll tax 17 times since 1935. The government can spend the money on anything it wants — observe the long-time practice of spending any annual Social Security surplus on other entitlement programs. The government can change when (and therefore if) it chooses to pay benefits and how much they consist of — witness the current proposals to raise the age cutoff or lower future benefits. Under Social Security, whether an individual gets twice as much from others as was taken, or half as much, or nothing at all, is entirely at the discretion of politicians. People cannot count on Social Security for anything — except a massive drain on income.

If Social Security did not exist — if the individual were free to use that 12 percent of income — one's ability to better one's future would be incomparably greater. People could save for retirement with a diversified, long-term, pro-

ductive investment in stocks or bonds. Or they could reasonably choose not to devote all 12 percent to retirement. They might choose to work far past the age of 65. They might choose to live more comfortably when young and more modestly in old age. They might choose to invest in their own productivity through additional education or starting a business.

How much, when, and in what form one should provide for retirement is highly individual — and is properly left to the individual's free judgment and action. Social Security deprives the young of this freedom, and thus makes them less able to plan for the future, less able to provide for their retirements, less able to buy homes, less able to enjoy their most vital years, less able to invest in themselves.

And yet Social Security's advocates continue to push it as moral. Why?

The answer lies in the program's ideal of "universal coverage" — the idea that, as a recent New York Times editorial preached, "all old people must have the dignity of financial security" — regardless of how irresponsibly they have acted. On this premise, since some would not save adequately on their own, everyone must be forced into some sort of "guaranteed" collective plan — no matter how irrational. Observe that Social Security's wholesale harm to those who would use their income responsibly is justified in the name of those who would not. The rational and responsible are shackled and throttled for the sake of the irrational and irresponsible.

Those who wish to devote their wealth to saving the irresponsible from the consequences of their own actions should be free to do so through private charity, but to loot the savings of untold millions of innocent, responsible, hard-working young people in the name of such a goal is a monstrous injustice.

Social Security in any form is morally irredeemable. We should be debating not how to save Social Security, but how to end it — how to phase it out so as to best protect both the rights of those who have paid into it, and those who are forced to pay for it today. This will be a painful task. But it will make possible a world in which Americans enjoy far greater freedom to secure their own futures.

(Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

or the city, if they really believe that the church is so important, pony up for the required 12 spaces?

I hope the Santa Monica Daily Press will continue its coverage on this matter. When the appeal of the variance comes before the city again, it should not be conducted with the nod and wink of biased politics but right down Main Street with everyone watching and understanding the stakes and precedent.

Larry Mollin
Santa Monica

Questioning de la Torre's approach

Editor:

Regarding "Don't shoot the messenger," (SMDP, Aug. 11, page 4). Kudos to Lori Emerson.

Oscar de la Torre's disrespectful actions and ethnocentric accusations grow increasingly offensive. What is this person doing on the school board? It appears his irresponsible behavior contributes more to the problem than providing any useful solutions.

Wayne Kohli
Santa Monica

Senior between a rock and a hard place

Editor:

Regarding Ed Silverstein's column (SMDP, Aug. 10, page 4). I am a 76-year-old senior citizen and a former refugee of 1956. Please allow me to reply to your column "President's so-called plan will put seniors in squalor." First of all, I thank you for thinking of seniors' grinding problems. Also, I appreciate it.

In October 23, 1956, a spontaneous uprising against the occupying Soviet Tyranny broke out in Hungary. Eleven days later the huge Soviet Red Army crushed down the freedom fight. Then the merciless retaliations started. I was told I must flee because in 1947, I was a prisoner of the Soviet KGB. I spent three months in their dungeon. I underwent untold tortures. Where were the International Red Cross, the human rights?

The Newsweek magazine's reporter never visited the prisoners of the KGB. The communists put me to a forced labor camp in 1951-1953. I was young and hated the Soviets. I volunteered to help the United States Air Force's Intelligence, in 1954-1956. I was a secret freedom fighter. I risked my life for two years.

I hesitated to leave Hungary, because due to medical malpractice, I lost 90 percent of hearing ability. On Nov. 23, 1956, I successfully escaped to Austria. On Jan. 30, 1957, I arrived at Newark, NJ. Then I was 27 years old. I started to learn English. Of course, it was extremely difficult as a deaf man. I have been here for over 48 years. In 1957, I was very happy. I "restarted" my life. I immediately got a job at Citizens National Bank — now it is Wells Fargo Bank. I worked here for over 10 years, then I lost the job because of reduction in staff due to merging.

Now I am here in Mercury Media for nine years and I am unable to retire. In 1957, on 1330 Fifth St., the rent was \$40 and the utilities included. My life went smoothly until 1974, when the rent gouging started. The landlords became extremely greedy. Then the Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights and the Rent Control were established. Unfortunately, now the Rent Control is very weak. In 2000, I was evicted from my rent-controlled two-bedroom apartment, where I and my family lived for 14 years.

The young landlord, who every Sunday goes to the same church where I used to go for 39 years, in the court, lied under oath. The pastor of St. Monica Church refused to hear me and help. They never returned my wife's calls, never answered to my letters. Then I walked in the Pastoral Center and tried to see any priest. None of them were "available." Only a civilian employee showed up, and he was very rude. This is a rude elder abuse. I am totally defenseless. Since 1999, I am on the waiting list for an affordable apartment. Now I am living in a dark one-bedroom apartment. The rent is \$1,139. Me and my wife are so desperate.

I fled from my native country because of the communist terror. Now we try to flee because of landlords' financial terror. I am thinking of going to Costa Rica, Mexico, Arizona or where? Who can help me? In 1957, I saw the retirees could survive. Then, I never thought, when I become old, I will find such grinding problems. I lost \$7,000 on my 401(k) retirement account because of the stock market. Now I am worried about the Social Security. Stock market is very risky. What could be the best solution? Suicide? I have a strange feelings, because I saw my father's philanthropic activities. My father had seven apartment buildings in Hungary. My father never evicted anyone.

I remember that one family man could not pay the rent for six months. My father ordered the manager of that building to not bother him. My mother bought shoes for his children. The six months rent was forgiven. Such good-will is unheard of in Santa Monica.

When the Second World War broke out in September 1939, the Nazi blitzkrieg crushed down the Polish defense. My father helped the Polish refugees. He offered three Polish colonels, with their families, three rent-free apartments which were vacated by Austrian diplomats, who fled to Canada in 1938, when Hitler annexed Austria. In March 1944, when the Nazis invaded Hungary, my father successfully hid, fed and saved seven Jewish families in our remote hideaway cabin. In 1945, the Communists confiscated all of our possessions. Now I am here, as a pariah and fearing of being homeless some day.

Laszlo K. Makay
Santa Monica



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Robbers have struck banks 13 times in 2005

ROBBERY, from page 1

a teller and put it into a bag, witnesses said.

The suspects didn't take any money from the bank's customers.

Witnesses said the robbery lasted less than a minute. The suspects exited through the front door and walked up Ashland Avenue toward Second Street.

Several pedestrians said they saw the two suspects walk out of the bank carrying bags. No one stopped them.

Police said the first suspect is a black male, 35 to 45 years old, 6 feet tall, weighing 160 pounds, wearing a dark shirt and a dark cap with a small brim. The other suspect is described as a black male, 25 to 30 years old, 6 feet tall, weighing 250 pounds, wearing a brown baseball cap, brown and beige shirt, and having a thin beard.

The getaway vehicle is described as a newer midsize silver sedan.

There have been 13 bank robberies so far in Santa Monica this year, compared to a total of 10 last year, according to the FBI.

First Federal Bank also was robbed this year on April 14 and June 29. In the June robbery, police chased the two suspects to a location in Marina del Rey. During the course of their escape, the two suspects were shot and arrested. They were transported to a nearby hospital and face prosecution.

2005 Santa Monica bank robberies

Jan. 8	U.S. Bank 2221 Santa Monica Blvd.
Feb. 2	U.S. Bank 2221 Santa Monica Blvd.
Feb. 3	California Bank & Trust 100 Wilshire Blvd.
Feb. 18	Pacific Western Bank 120 Wilshire Blvd.
Feb. 24	Citibank 1505 Montana Ave.
Feb. 25	Citibank 501 Santa Monica Blvd.
March 28	U.S. Bank 3302 W. Pico Blvd.
April 14	First Federal 2827 Main St.
May 11	Pacific Western Bank 120 Wilshire Blvd.
May 19	California National Bank 201 Santa Monica Blvd.
June 29	First Federal 2827 Main St.
July 15	Citibank 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Aug. 16	First Federal 2827 Main St.

(Information provided by the FBI)

Closed shops get same grades as most county restaurants

MICE, from page 1

cleaner than most, Powell told the Daily Press last week.

The Los Angeles County Health Department serves as the watchdog for the public in making sure that the people who handle food are doing it safely, cleanly and properly. Based on unannounced visits from health inspectors, food establishments are measured on a unique grading system that deducts points for infractions, starting from 100. The system was devised to allow the public a way to gauge for themselves whether it's clean or safe enough to eat somewhere.

At the end of the past fiscal year, which ran from July 2004 to June 2005, 91 percent of Santa Monica businesses received an "A" rating, which is 9 percent higher

than the county average of 82 percent. And for the three years prior, Santa Monica remained well above the county average, Powell said. In Santa Monica, the health department in 2004-05 graded 657 businesses, 122 of which are restaurants and 136 are markets.

The three shops closed on Tuesday received grades between 82 to 84, which constitutes a "B" rating.

Tuesday's closures stopped short of including buildings next door to the affected businesses. A bartender from the Library Ale House said the bar had been inspected for rodents last week and passed. The county said it will conduct another inspection next week, but so far, the Library Ale House hasn't been affected.

"We're happily open for business," the bartender said.

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STATE



Rules to protect workers from heat are on the way

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — By next week, new state regulations will guarantee outdoor workers toiling under the blazing California sun a quart of water each hour, training to recognize heat stroke symptoms, and shade to escape the heat if they start feeling ill.

Had those measures been in place five weeks ago, Constantino Cruz, 24, might still be alive, providing for his wife and three children in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Agustin Gudino's family — a wife and five children in Colima, Mexico — might not have had to raise \$3,091 to bring the body of the 44-year-old worker back home for burial.

And Salud Zamudio Rodriguez's co-workers might not have to live with the image of the 42-year-old man convulsing between rows of bell peppers and collapsing from heatstroke on a 108-degree day.

The state's workplace safety board, which approved the emergency regulations on Friday after years of debate, is investigating whether heat led to 10 deaths and four illnesses on the job since July 12.

Four of the deaths were in the fields — among them Cruz, Gudino and Zamudio Rodriguez. Four were in construction. One was a moving company employee, and one worked for a utility company.

All of the cases except one — the heat illness of a police cadet in Oakland — were in California's Central Valley, home to the nation's most productive farms, where relentless sunshine kept temperatures above 100 for more than three weeks this summer.

Constantino Cruz's brother, Juan, also a farmworker, hopes the rules will make farm work safer.

"I don't want this to happen to anyone else," he said. "I worry, but there's no other work for us."

The rules will standardize practices some companies employ, such as teaching about the danger of working in the sun. In that way it will help, said farmer Pat Ricchiuti, president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

But whether it duplicates existing requirements for water and breaks and how the regulations will be implemented remain questions for which there are no answers. Yet employers who fail to comply can be criminally prosecuted.

The problem, Ricchiuti said, is that "people sitting in an air-conditioned office are making rules for people out in the field."

Among the chief concerns for industry

is how to provide shade in an open field, or by the side of a highway construction project stretching through vast, arid plains.

Is the dappled shade of a peach tree enough respite from the sun to be in compliance? Is the canopy of grape vines enough cover for overheated workers?

Farmers such as John Giumarra, whose family has been a leader in California's grape industry for decades, believe that might be the only shade he can offer among acres of crops.

It was under that shade that Giumarra workers found Gudino's body on July 22, the morning after he had worked a 10-hour shift picking grapes on a day when temperatures peaked at 108.

He had lay down under a vine to seek refuge from the sun after he had felt ill, and told his brother Guadalupe Gudino he was going to get water. But he never returned and his ride left without him at the end of the day, each friend or relative assuming Agustin Gudino was riding in another van, said Alfredo Saenz, a paralegal helping Guadalupe Gudino with a workers' compensation claim.

"He was left in the field without water, without communication, without help," Saenz said.

Like many agricultural workers, Agustin Gudino was not working directly for Giumarra, but for a labor contractor who has denied the worker's comp claim until the county coroner and the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health complete their lengthy investigation into the death and determine it was indeed caused by the heat.

In the meantime, the family had to reach out to the community to raise money for burial funds in Mexico.

Gudino's death was the second at Giumarra Vineyards in a year. On July 28, 2004, Asuncion Valdivia, 53, died of heatstroke after picking grapes for 10 hours in triple-digit heat.

To growers, each death is a tragedy, but many agreed with Giumarra's assessment that they are random, unfortunate incidents that are a reality in fieldwork.

Giumarra says he's doing what he can by providing water, 10 minute breaks in the morning and afternoon, and a half-hour lunch break. But labor leaders say an emphasis on speed and cash incentives makes it harder for workers to rest and get the water they need.

During the Thompson seedless grape harvest — which coincides with the hottest weather of the year — workers are offered 30 cents per 19-pound box on Giumarra's farm, in addition to \$7 an hour.

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STATE

Researchers: Global warming a possible factor

WINDS, from page 1

— higher ocean temperatures near the shore, very little plankton, a drop in groundfish catches and a spike in dead seabirds on beaches.

The winds finally returned in mid-July and generated the long-delayed upwelling and a dramatic increase in plankton populations, according to researchers who recently returned from ocean-monitoring trips.

"The upwelling did come, and the whole system reversed itself," said William Cochlan, a marine ecologist at California State University, San Francisco, who spent most of July monitoring algae off the coast of Washington and British Columbia. "We're not sure

why the winds didn't come, but the situation has remarkably changed, and the ecosystems seem to be getting back to normal."

Earlier this summer, bird researchers along the coast reported a sharp increase in deaths of seabirds such as common murre, Brandt's cormorants and Cassin's auklets. And marine biologists reported unusually low counts of juvenile salmon and rockfish.

William Peterson, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Newport, Ore., who just returned from a 10-day trip Sunday, said ocean conditions have returned to normal off the coasts of California and Oregon, but it's too late for

many species.

"The water is very cold and productive. It's the way we would expect it to be," Peterson said. "But the animals that depend upon the ocean being productive in the spring and the early summer are dead. It's not going to help them any."

Peterson and other scientists hope the coastal waters stay cold through the fall and carry over until next spring. They warn that the biological effects of this year's oceanic disruption could be felt for months, or years, to come.

Scientists still can't explain why the northerly winds that produce ocean upwelling showed up so late this year. Such conditions are usually associated

with El Nino ocean-warming conditions, but this isn't an El Nino year.

Some researchers suspect that global warming — the rise in temperatures blamed on emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide — might have played a role in delaying the winds, but such a connection is difficult to prove because atmospheric systems are so complex. Peterson wants to bring together scientists from different fields to discuss what happened.

"There's no doubt that the planet's warming, but who knows how it's going to affect the coastal systems," Peterson said. "It certainly was an odd year. If we could figure out what might have caused it, then maybe we could predict it in the future."



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STATE



Drug industry launches campaign ads on television

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The drug industry launched a television advertising blitz Monday as part of a drug pricing battle that has already become the costliest ballot issue in California election history.

The industry has raised more than \$72 million to oppose a November ballot measure that would require companies to provide drug discounts to California's poorest, uninsured residents. The proposition would also allow residents to sue drug companies for charging "unconscionable" prices, a prospect the industry fears will open it to a slew of costly lawsuits.

The world's largest pharmaceutical makers have contributed to a campaign that also supports a competing industry-sponsored proposition that would make the drug discounts voluntary and makes no mention of lawsuits.

On Monday, the industry's Washington D.C.-based lobbyist and leader of the California campaign — the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America — rolled out a 30-second television ad it began airing throughout the state.

A coalition of unions and consumer health groups have raised a little more than \$10 million in support of the mandatory drug discount measure and they oppose the industry-backed measure.

The dueling initiatives come at a time when prescription drug prices continue to rise.

"They are spending so much money because the drug companies want to protect their ability to price gouge," said Anthony Wright, head of consumer group Health Access California.

The industry-supported Proposition 78 would provide discounted drugs to uninsured Californians making up to three times the federal poverty level. That's about \$28,000 for an individual and \$58,000 for a family of four. The program would cover about 5 million people. Participation in the program by drug companies is voluntary.

Jan Faiks, a lawyer for the drug lobbyist, said at a news conference in Sacramento on Monday that the industry is also concerned with rising prices and providing for the uninsured. Faiks said the industry has voluntarily started several discount programs throughout the country and argued that tying price controls to programs like Medicaid can't be done without federal approval.

The competing measure, Proposition 79, would provide discounted drugs to uninsured Californians making up to four times the federal poverty level. That's about \$38,000 for an individual and \$77,000 for a family of four. The program would cover about 10 million people. Individuals would be able to sue drug companies if they believe the company engages in illegal profiteering.

"This will allow health care dollars to go into lawyers pockets," said Dorothy Rothrock, chief lobbyist for the California Manufacturers & Technology Association who attended the Sacramento news conference where campaign officials showed the 30-second spot be aired throughout California.

"Dockets will fill up trying to figure it out," Rothrock said.

If a drug company does not participate in the program, the state could choose to discourage the use of its drugs in the state's Medicaid program.



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NATIONAL

State Department defends border crime-fighting

BY JENNIFER TALHELM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The State Department on Tuesday defended efforts by the United States and Mexico to stem violence and drug trafficking on the border following decisions by governors in Arizona and New Mexico to declare an emergency in their border counties.

In the last week, the two governors have said the federal government's inability to control crime and violence related to illegal immigration was forcing them to take matters into their own hands.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the U.S. and Mexico are working together and that Mexico has launched an effort to combat organized crime at the border.

"We're trying to address violence stemming from organized crime along the Mexican border," McCormack

said at a news briefing in response to questions about whether border violence was a threat to U.S. security. "We are working closely with our partners in the hemisphere to stem and stop the flow not only of production, but the transit of these drugs as well."

McCormack did not directly answer whether the problems New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano are facing are getting worse.

"With respect to the action that Governor Richardson of New Mexico took, he is the chief executive of a state and he's responsible for protecting the well-being of his constituents as he deems appropriate," McCormack said.

Richardson on Friday declared the emergency in Dona Ana, Luna, Grant and Hidalgo counties, which he said have been "devastated by the ravages and terror of human smuggling, drug smuggling, kidnapping, murder, destruction of property and death of livestock."

Napolitano followed suit in Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz and Yuma counties on Monday. Arizona is the nation's busiest entry point for illegal border crossings. The federal government "has not done what it needs to do and has promised to do" on the border, Napolitano said.

The governors' actions free up more than \$3 million combined in state emergency dollars to pay for law enforcement overtime, repairs of border fences and costs

related to illegal immigrants' deaths.

About \$1 million combined was made immediately available to the counties in both states.

Richardson also suggested bulldozing a Mexican border town popular with human and drug smugglers.

The Mexican government has criticized the emergency declarations.

But members of Congress from both parties said their decisions prove the federal government must fix its immigration system.

Sponsors of immigration bills say their proposals will improve national security, prevent migrant deaths and meet labor demands. But their bills differ on several points.

One prominent bill was sponsored by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. Another is sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz.

"The governors are saying loud and clear what Americans know to be true: our immigration system is broken and out of date," Kennedy said in a statement. "It must be replaced with a common sense plan that significantly bolsters border security, brings an underground economy above ground, requires more cooperation from Mexico, and upholds our values as a nation of immigrants."

Hispanics in United States divided on the driver's license restrictions

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A majority of Hispanics born in the United States don't think illegal Hispanic immigrants should be given drivers' licenses, according to a new poll.

Most foreign-born Hispanics disagree, according to the polling for the Pew Hispanic Center.

Six in 10 Hispanics born in this country approve of measures to prohibit illegal immigrants from getting drivers' licenses, while two-thirds born in another country disapprove of such measures.

The difference between foreign-born Hispanics and native-born Hispanics on the driver's license issue highlights the disparity between the two groups on several issues.

Foreign-born Hispanics take a more positive view than native-born Hispanics on whether immigrants strengthen the United States. Almost nine in 10 foreign-born Hispanics say immigrants strengthen the country, while two-thirds of Hispanics born in the United States feel that way, according to the poll.

"Among Latinos in the United States, there's a majority that views immigrants favorably, but there is a significant minority concerned about unauthorized immigration into the country and its impact," said Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center.

Two-thirds of Hispanics in the U.S. said undocumented migrants help the economy by providing low-cost

labor. Again, foreign-born Hispanics were more upbeat about the impact of undocumented migrants than those born in this country.

Most Hispanics feel the number of immigrants coming in the country should stay the same or be reduced, with only a third saying the numbers should increase, according to the poll done for Pew and another done for Time Magazine.

Three-fourths in a Time poll of 503 Hispanic adults said people in the United States illegally are taking jobs that U.S. citizens don't want. The Time poll was taken from July 28 to Aug. 3.

The Pew study also looked at how Mexicans feel about trying to get into the United States.

Almost half of Mexicans, 46 percent, surveyed in May said they would go to the U.S. if they could. About two in five said they would be inclined to go live and work in the U.S. without authorization.

"The desire to migrate is not a phenomenon of the poor and poorly educated," Suro said. "The inclination to migrate is powerful in the middle class in Mexico, even those with college educations say they would go to the United States if they could."

The survey of Hispanics in the United States was conducted for the Pew Hispanic Center from June 14-27 by ICR and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. In Mexico, Pew surveyed 1,200 adults in May and the margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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NATIONAL



Tribal cops asked to police alcohol in neighboring state

BY CARSON WALKER

Associated Press Writer

WHITECLAY, Neb. — The main business in this dusty village, population 12, is beer. Lots of it. Thousands of cans each week, millions of cans a year.

Most of the beer is sold to people from just across the state line at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where all booze is banned but alcohol abuse is rampant.

Nebraska's attorney general has responded to the situation by making an unusual move: He is turning over control of law enforcement in Whiteclay to the reservation's tribe, even though it is a sovereign nation in a different state.

Tribal officers from the Oglala Sioux Tribe will soon be deputized and given the legal right to enforce Nebraska law in the town. Nebraska and tribal leaders plan to sign the agreement Aug. 30.

Attorney General Jon Bruning said that deputizing the tribe was the best option to deal with Whiteclay's overwhelming problems stemming from alcohol-related crime, including drunken brawls in the street, theft, pub-

lic intoxication and bootlegging onto the reservation.

"The issue is not so much the border. The issue is there is a massive alcohol problem in the area," Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said. "The facts are that liquor stores licensed by the state of Nebraska sell the alcohol to the people that have the problem."

The thirst for beer in Whiteclay is evident at State Line Liquor — one of three liquor stores in town. Cases of Milwaukee's Best beer and Hurricane malt liquor are stacked to the ceiling. Within minutes on one summer day, one would-be customer tried to trade a used VCR and another peddled an electric screwdriver still in the package — with the goal of scoring some beer.

"They'll sell you anything," said store co-owner Dan Brehmer, who politely refused the offers.

Removing loiterers from the street would cure most of the crime problem, he said.

"That's why there's fights."

The source of the alcohol problem in Whiteclay is the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where the alcoholism-related mortality rate is one of the nation's highest. The reservation also is one of the poorest areas in the country,

with unemployment around 80 percent.

Law enforcement in Whiteclay is rare, with the highway patrol and county sheriff occasionally showing up to patrol the streets. The sheriff's department is based 20 miles away in Rushville.

"As far as I'm concerned, Whiteclay is an embarrassment and I'd like to see it go away. But the problem is the demand for alcohol," said Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb.

He and Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., are working together to get congressional approval for ongoing funding for tribal patrols in Whiteclay.

Osborne secured \$100,000 from the federal government for the current budget year to cover the cost of Pine Ridge officers patrolling the town. He and Herseth have asked for another \$100,000 for the next budget year.

The tribe says it is glad to address the problem in Whiteclay, as long as officers are given the adequate money for the extra patrols.

"You start out with a little piece. That will expand to another piece," Cecelia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribe president. "Pretty soon we'll be able to deal with all of the challenges that Whiteclay presents."

Alaska offers prison space, inmate labor to private businesses

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska — Private companies would employ cheap prison labor and lease production or manufacturing space at three Alaska prisons under a proposal by the state Department of Corrections.

The idea is to have the private sector pay for the Alaska Correctional Industries program, which trains inmates for jobs outside prison. The money from the leases is expected to pay for management and make the program self-sufficient, said Dawn Mattson, general manager of Alaska Correctional Industries.

The state is asking for letters of interest from private businesses.

To attract companies, the department is offering to lease — at 60 percent of market rate — a combined 24,500 square feet of shop and office space on prison grounds in Fairbanks, Palmer and Kenai. Then there is the labor — prisoners who make between 85 cents and \$1.60 an hour.

"They're getting the benefit of a lower lease rate and a captured — not to use a pun — a captured work force," Mattson said. "You don't have to worry about people showing up for work on time. They're going to be there, they're not going to be anywhere else."

The business would be responsible for repairs, utilities and maintenance. The department would provide the inmate labor and security.

Mattson and Corrections Commissioner Marc Antrim both said the private-public partnerships would provide rehabilitation to the prisoners at no cost to the state.

But there are dangers in creating an atmosphere where it is profitable to keep people in prison, even if it is legal, said Kara Gotsch, public policy director for the ACLU National Prisoner Project in Washington, D.C.

"You don't want companies making profits off of prisoners. The potential for exploitation is too high," Gotsch said.

Gotsch said the ACLU believes in the usefulness of prisoner industries programs and said there aren't enough rehabilitation and educational programs in prisons today. But it's successful only if the inmates are adequately

compensated and not used as dirt-cheap domestic labor, she said.

Under the federal Prison Industry Enhancement program, if products produced by prison labor are shipped across state lines, the company must pay the "prevailing wage," that is, what a worker normally would earn in the market. But if the product stays within state lines, the inmates can be paid their normal prison wages, Mattson said.

Both Antrim and Mattson dismissed the notion that contracting with a private company would be exploiting the state's prisoners. The program is for their benefit, Mattson said.

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The Fed rate going up leaves mortgages volatile



BUYING AND SELLING
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR & BRENT PARSONS

The Fed raised the overnight cost of money last week for 10th time since last summer — to 3.5 percent — taking the prime rate, always three points higher, to 6.5 percent.

The hike did no harm to fixed-rate mortgages, still about 6 percent, but did close what little gap remained between ARMs and fixed-rate loans. A market with no spreads leads to some goofy conversations with borrowers asking for quotes: “Young man, I asked for your rates on several different kinds of mortgages, and you say nothing but ‘six’ over and over again. Are you deaf, or do you stammer?”

Inclusive of loan fees, the one-year cost of any 30-year mortgage — jumbo, conforming, one-year ARM, 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, 10/1, COFI option — is within a quarter-percent of 6 percent. As always, mortgages reflect treasuries: yields on two-, three-, five- and 10-year notes are 4.05 percent, 4.1 percent, 4.14 percent and 4.28 percent. Often during the week, those four maturities moved like Prussian grenadiers, perfectly maintaining the five-, four- and 14-basis-point gaps.

So, it is likely to continue. As the market prepares for the Fed to tighten again on Sept. 20 and Nov. 1, the whole yield curve should move up a quarter percent, narrow spreads

intact, mortgages along for the ride. Not because the investors and traders want it to, not because they fear inflation, but because the Fed is pushing from underneath. After that, how high will it go?

Along the way up to a 4 percent Fed we may get a hint from the bond market: If treasury spreads widen, long-term rising away from short, that would signal fear of inflation, and the Fed chasing the economy. If spreads tip the other way, short rates rising above longer by the tiniest bit, that would be a recession warning to the Fed — it has said that it is not worried about such an “inversion,” but that’s bravado.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan has the credit markets exactly where he wants them: anxious and clueless. Goldman’s Bill Dudley has taken his forecast to 5 percent Fed funds, and ex-Fed-governor Meyer said that the Fed may have made “a policy error,” waiting too long to tighten. Others agree that the Fed has already entered a restrictive phase. Just as many guessers think that the error lies in the other direction — that the Fed is in the process of overshooting neutral. One of the very best Fed-watchers, David Jones, 45 years in the game, said before last week’s hike, “Three more and stop at four,” shaking his head at the recession risk in any higher number.

The largest area of agreement: The Fed is not so much worried about inflation — though its statement last week dutifully recited “elevated” inflation pressures — as

instead leaning against housing, overvalued bonds and too-easy credit generally. Managing asset values is not a part of the Fed’s formal mission, and politicians of both parties react very badly when the Fed departs from strict inflation-fighting.

The Honorable Blowhard from East Outthere can dampen the anger in a newly jobless constituent by pointing to inflation, but better not tell the voter that he has lost his job because his house is worth too much.

Administrations and Congresses for decades have wanted the Fed to adopt an inflation rule, a mechanical and transparent policy. Greenspan has refused to adopt any rule, wanting to preserve his freedom to respond to the “balance of risks” (his phrase), not just to inflation (for example, easing during the Asian-Russian-LTCM meltdown in ’98, tight against stocks ’99-’00). Greenspan’s excellent results have gotten him his way, sensible pols too embarrassed to debate with him.

Neither the White House nor Congress wants his successor to have that latitude, and the leading candidate, Ben Bernanke, believes some explicit policy guide is a good idea. I think we’ll miss Greenspan’s latitude (and, Lord knows, the man), and as painful as rising rates are, I confess enjoyment in these last few months of vintage, I-know-best-and-I-ain’t-talkin’ Alan Greenspan.

(E-mail The Powerhouse Team at info@pwrhteam.com, or call 310-482-2015.)

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Sold Santa Monica 08/11/2005	1211 GRANT ST SqFt: 2,861 Lot Size: 5,500	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,795,000 Sold Price: \$1,735,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 4.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	534 15TH ST SqFt: 4,151 Lot Size: 7,500	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$3,165,000 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 5 Bath: 3.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	1123 BERKELEY ST SqFt: 1,277 Lot Size: 9,000	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,399,000 Sold Price: \$1,425,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/05/2005	472 23RD ST SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 8,880	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$2,650,000 Sold Price: \$2,750,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/12/2005	1235 24TH ST #1 SqFt: 992 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$599,000 Sold Price: \$620,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	1417 26TH ST #C SqFt: 1,595 HOD: \$170	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$669,000 Sold Price: \$710,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/08/2005	1244 12TH ST #4 SqFt: 1,265 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$651,000 Sold Price: \$665,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/09/2005	1120 23RD ST #D SqFt: 703 HOD: \$190	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$495,000 Sold Price: \$525,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	1138 12TH ST #10 SqFt: 998 HOD: \$246	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$649,000 Sold Price: \$685,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
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Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	524 CALIFORNIA AVE #100 SqFt: 1,686 HOD: \$325	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$899,000 Sold Price: \$952,500	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/05/2005	901 5TH ST #G SqFt: 1,584 HOD: \$362	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$749,000 Sold Price: \$850,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/05/2005	812 17TH ST #2 SqFt: 1,892 HOD: \$376	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,495,000 Sold Price: \$1,475,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	201 OCEAN AVE #1106B SqFt: 1,229 HOD: \$670	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,325,000 Sold Price: \$1,280,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/09/2005	1254 24th ST #4 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$300	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$899,000 Sold Price: \$910,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/10/2005	1129 19TH ST #B SqFt: 1,416 HOD: \$265	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$795,000 Sold Price: \$750,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/05/2005	1125 PICO #210 SqFt: 880 HOD: \$172	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$499,000 Sold Price: \$499,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/05/2005	425 IDAHO AVE #6 SqFt: 954 HOD: \$193	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$725,000 Sold Price: \$740,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/09/2005	1420 PRINCETON ST #5 SqFt: 1,300 HOD: \$350	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$599,000 Sold Price: \$625,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50

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Multi-generational homes have special space needs



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Extended families — multiple generations of a family living together under one roof — have been common in many parts of the world for centuries. It's now a growing trend in the United States.

"Many factors are contributing to the current trend of multi-generational households. First, more people are living into their 90s due to advances in medicine and preventative health. Second, many Baby Boomers have waited until their 30s to start their families. Third, cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, as well as rising nursing home and assisted living expenses, have resulted in many seniors moving in with their adult children," notes a spokesperson for the East Central Florida Memory Clinic. "Consequently, more than one generation will be living under the same roof at a given time."

A recent study by Builder Magazine concluded that there are a multitude of reasons U.S. families are now living together. The research team, led by Barbara Nagle and Doris Payne, interviewed eight multi-generational families of different ethnic backgrounds in San Diego, Las Vegas and Orlando.

"Their stories were all different," Nagle noted.

The only criterion for selection was that the families be multi-generational.

Households ranged from three to seven members. Most of the grandparents were in their late 60s and led independent lives. All were driving and some worked full time. There were no instances of "boomerang" kids — adult children moving back home.

In one scenario, a grandmother moved in to look after her grandchildren because she didn't want them in day care. Another time it was a decision to pool resources to get a better house. A widowed grandmother wanted to live with her child and grandchild. In another case, the grandparents had recently immigrated to the United States and wanted to live with their child while they adjusted to American life.

According to National Survey of America's Families (NSAF), in 2000, 8.3 percent of children lived in some type of blended families.

It was unanimous that having an older generation in the home was a blessing to the younger generation. Grandparents were viewed as a source of wisdom, experience and love. Being with their grandchildren helped them stay connected to the present.

Of the multi-generational households interviewed, only one had the conventional housing solution for multi-generational families — a separate apartment. In most

households, the grandparents participated in household activities — cooking and cleaning, or looking after younger children when their parents were not there. One great-grandfather walked his granddaughter to school everyday.

Like most households, multi-generational households tend to congregate around the kitchen and family room. They appreciated niches and extra spaces for computers or tables to spread out homework assignments.

Storage was a big issue — not enough and not the right type. All families included in the survey desired additional storage space in the vicinity of the kitchen for bulk purchases of household goods. Another common complaint was there was no place to store an open 40-pound bag of dry dog food, or a location to feed the dog that wasn't in the middle of everything.

Privacy was another significant issue. Family members wanted a something akin to the parlors of the Victorian — a place where they could be alone or entertain friends that was not a bedroom. It was noted that families generally respected one another's privacy.

First-floor bedrooms and entrances for grandparents who were no longer climbing stairs were considered to be highly desirable.

Acoustics are another age-related issue. If a grandparent was hard of hearing and turned up the volume on the television, it was a distraction of other family members.

Children complained that the grandparent they shared a bathroom with took "forever" in the morning.

Overwhelmingly, the biggest issue for multi-generational households was space for home-based businesses. Office needs were not related to the nature of the household, but to the business. Space and storage needs for many of those families extended well beyond a computer workstation and bookshelves.

The Builder Magazine study reported that one family ran a lawn maintenance service and filled its garage with lawn mowers and other lawn equipment. Another family had two businesses — grandpa filled vending machines with candy and needed storage for the candy, while his daughter ran a day care business, looking after other children in the neighborhood. Other families earned income from a variety of cottage industries and needed space for storage and big worktables.

Builder Magazine commissioned the study as background information for its "Multi-Generation Reality House." The house, designed by the Memphis architectural firm Looney, Ricks, Kiss, will make its debut at International Builders Show in Orlando early next year.

(Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. Contact her at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call 310-309-4219.)

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SANTA MONICA	930 20TH ST 2	CONDO	3	2.5	1894	\$ 1,150,000	SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1930 11TH ST	INCOME	N/A	N/A	2325	\$1,430,000	SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005 12PM-4PM
SANTA MONICA	3013 COLORADO AVE	INCOME	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,575,000	SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	3121 URBAN AVE	SINGLE FAMILY	2	2	1475	\$895,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	2910 2ND ST	SINGLE FAMILY	3	2	1116	\$968,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	942 26TH ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3	2145	\$1,549,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1028 PINE ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	4	N/A	\$2,095,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	365 24TH ST	SINGLE FAMILY	2	1.75	2182	\$2,395,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	734 19TH ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3	N/A	\$2,695,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	418 EUCLID ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3	N/A	\$2,735,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	313 ALTA AVE	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3.5	2836	\$3,900,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	2909 10TH ST. 1	CONDO	2	1	715	\$495,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	2519 KANSAS AVE 102	CONDO	2	2.5	1367	\$498,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1330 YALE ST. 3	CONDO	2	1.5	1152	\$549,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1105 IDAHO AVE 209	CONDO	1	1	714	\$550,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	699 BAY ST	CONDO	2	2	820	\$569,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1314 17TH ST. 6	CONDO	2	2.5	1187	\$648,500	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1530 18TH ST 6	CONDO	2	1.5	N/A	\$649,500	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	519 CALIFORNIA AVE 304	CONDO	2	1.75	1255	\$789,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1171 STANDFORD ST. 3	CONDO	2	2.5	1612	\$859,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1115 20TH ST 3	CONDO	3	2.5	1684	\$879,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	328 PACIFIC ST 2	CONDO	3	2.5	1808	\$950,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	930 20TH ST 2	CONDO	3	2.5	1894	\$1,150,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
SANTA MONICA	1930 11TH ST	INCOME	N/A	N/A	2325	\$1,430,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 12PM-4PM
SANTA MONICA	3013 COLORADO	INCOME	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,575,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
MARINA DEL REY	4561 ALLA RD 2	CONDO	2	2.5	1912	\$779,000	SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005 2PM-5PM
MARINA DEL REY	4600 VIA DOLCE 118	CONDO	2	2	1480	\$635,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
MARINA DEL REY	4600 VIA DOLCE 118	CONDO	2	2	1480	\$635,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
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MARINA DEL REY	3546 VIA DOLCE	CONDO	2	2.5	1574	\$769,000	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
PLAYA DEL REY	301 REES ST	SINGLE FAMILY	3	2	1835	\$1,965,000	SUNDAY AUGUST 21, 2005 2PM-5PM
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New SoCal land deal satisfies all demands

By The Associated Press

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. — A settlement reached Tuesday will allow the construction of thousands of houses on the site of California's historic Rancho Mission Viejo while preserving vast areas of open space that are home to some of the region's most fragile creatures, participants said.

The deal between environmentalists, Orange County officials and private landowners was hammered out after five environmental groups sued last year over plans to develop what remains of Rancho Mission Viejo, a 200,000-acre Mexican land grant that dates to the 1800s.

The ranch, now about 23,000 acres, has been owned by the same family since 1882.

The settlement allows for the construction of 14,000 homes while protecting more than 17,000 acres of land. It increases the amount of open space by 13 percent over the previous proposal and reduces development by 25 percent.

The protected areas now include 12,000 acres in the San Mateo watershed, which provides drinking water to Camp

Pendleton, and a mile of coastal sage scrub that's home to the threatened California gnatcatcher. It also includes special protections for the arroyo toad, an endangered species.

"This agreement shows how we can preserve open space without hurting housing supply in Southern California," said Cara Horowitz, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which participated in the lawsuit.

The plan also preserves the traditional ranching and farming operations on the land, where its owners still run about 400 head of cattle and lease to avocado, lime and flower growers, ranch officials said.

"We consider this an important milestone in the history of both the Ranch family and our neighbors in south Orange County," said Richard Broming, senior vice president of entitlement and environmental relations for Rancho Mission Viejo.

The environmental groups participating in the suit were the Endangered Habitats League; Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.; Natural Resources Defense Council; Sea and Sage Audubon Society and the Sierra Club.



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Ground-breaking meth bill signed into law by Oregon's governor

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Gov. Ted Kulongoski on Tuesday signed legislation that will make Oregon the first state to require prescriptions for cold and allergy medications that can be converted into methamphetamine.

The requirement applies to any medication containing pseudoephedrine, the key ingredient in the highly addictive street drug.

"This is a tremendous start but we must recognize that it is just that, a start," the governor said. "We have a long way to go."

Kulongoski said he was aware of inconveniences that might arise from having to get prescriptions for commonly purchased remedies but said pharmaceutical companies already are producing replacement remedies that don't contain pseudoephedrine.

He held up a list of 40 such products.

If the federal government passed a law similar to Oregon's, he said, it would further encourage pharmaceutical companies to drop the use of pseudoephedrine.

The governor also signed a bill increasing the penalty for drug crimes involving children and bills for funding drug courts, for related corrections expenses and other costs.

The prescription bill sailed though both houses of the Legislature, opposed by only a handful of lawmakers who said it would be an inconvenience to their constituents to need prescriptions for such common medicines as Sudafed and Claritin D.

The state Board of Pharmacy has until next July to

implement the new prescription requirement but board Executive Director Gary Schnabel said it could be in place within three months.

Patients will be allowed up to five refills in a six-month period, Schnabel said.

Tom Holt, executive director of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association, said he thinks the law will drive the pseudoephedrine-containing cold and allergy pills out of the market within a year or two.

Oregon and several other states already require consumers to show identification and sign a log when obtaining these cold and allergy medicines from pharmacies, and Congress is moving toward similar restrictions.

Sen. Ginny Burdick, chairwoman of the state Senate Judiciary Committee, argued that regulations moving the medicines behind the counter don't work.

She said that as an experiment four legislators in Salem were able to buy enough cold medication in a few hours to make up 200 hits of meth.

The real victims of the new legislation, she said, are home meth cooks — "and that's the way it should be."

While increasing amounts of methamphetamine are coming in from Mexico, bill supporters say it could sharply reduce the number of home meth labs where the chemicals used in the process can pose severe health problems.

Kulongoski estimated that from 20 percent to 25 percent of the meth sold in Oregon comes from such home labs.

He said once home meth labs are under control in Oregon, police could concentrate on stopping the drug from coming in from elsewhere.

Iraqi leaders optimistic agreement will be reached by next week

BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A day after failing to meet their deadline, Iraqi leaders expressed confidence Tuesday they would overcome differences over key issues like the role of Islam and the power of regional governments and finish the new constitution by next week.

Parliament voted Monday to give negotiators until Aug. 22 to try to draft the charter.

The delay was a strong rebuff of President Bush's insistence that the initial deadline be met, even if some issues were unresolved, to maintain political momentum and blunt Iraq's deadly insurgency.

The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said agreement was close and he was optimistic that a deal could be reached by the new Aug. 22 deadline.

"I believe that an agreement will be arrived at if the leaders continue with the attitude of compromising, putting oneself in the shoes of the other side," Khalilzad told reporters in Baghdad. He said he expected talks to resume at 10 a.m. (2 a.m. EDT) Wednesday.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari also said disagreements were largely over details and he expressed confidence that Iraq's constitution could be finished within a week.

"I hope that we will not need another extension. The pending points do not need too much time and God willing we will finish it on time," he said Tuesday.

Fundamental parts of the charter have not been agreed on. Shiite lawmakers said the unresolved issues were

women's rights, an issue tied to Islam's role in Iraq, and the right of Kurds to eventually secede from the country. But al-Jaafari said the key stumbling blocks were distribution of oil wealth and federalism, another broader way of stating Kurdish and Shiite demands for autonomy.

President Jalal Talabani's office said no constitutional meetings were scheduled early Tuesday but lawmakers may resume negotiations later in the day.

Kurdish leaders defended their push for self-determination, saying it had been a long-stated demand in talks. Kurds have suggested language giving them eight years within a unified Iraq and after that the right to secede.

"Kurdish politicians have no present intentions to gain independence. But we need self-determination in order to decide our future in case troubles erupt in Iraq in the future," said Mullah Bakhtiyar, a senior official in the Kurdish Democratic Party.

"We are not making surprise or sudden demands, it is the Shiites who are doing so," said Bakhtiyar, adding that Shiite leaders were pressing to grant special status to clerics. He said the proposal would be "a dangerous thing because every sect will seek orders from its religious leadership and this means that there will be no rule by law or constitution."

Even if negotiators produce a constitution in the next week, the wide divide over issues are unlikely to dissipate. The majority Shiites are vying for federalism, hoping to create an autonomous region in the south as Kurds have in the north. Minority Sunni Arabs oppose federalism, fearing it could split the country, but some have showed a willingness to compromise.



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INTERNATIONAL



Clashes erupt as Israeli police seize control

BY AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces clashed Tuesday with hundreds of Gaza pullout opponents who threw stones and eggs and torched garbage containers. At least 50 people were detained in the worst violence since withdrawal started the day before.

The confrontation came as the troops were trying to clear a path for moving trucks in Neve Dekalim, Gaza's largest settlement, hours ahead of a midnight deadline for all Jewish settlers to leave the coastal strip voluntarily or face forcible removal.

Officials said they were hopeful many settlers would leave the area before the deadline, but also issued a stern warning of tough action against anyone who resists.

"We will make every effort, the army and the police, to have law and order in this process and anyone who acts illegally will be treated according to the law," Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said at a news conference. He said he expected at least half of Gaza's 8,500 residents to be out by midnight (5 p.m. EDT.)

Police burst into Neve Dekalim early Tuesday and dismantled the main entrance gate to clear the way for some 120 moving trucks to enter. Officers cut the electric gate with a saw, then dragged the metal barrier away and threw it on the side of a road.

Within hours, a crowd of predominantly young people blocked the entrance to the settlement and refused to let the trucks enter. When security forces tried to push back the crowd, scuffles erupted.

Protesters set fire to two large garbage containers and white paint splattered in the road. They also pelted police with eggs, stones and plastic water bottles while a water cannon put out the fire. One policeman had burning acid thrown at his face and several people had bloody faces. Four officers were hurt, police said.

A farmer in Gadid set alight his greenhouses and home rather than leave them behind, Israel Radio reported.

"We will do all we can to protect ourselves against the wolves," said Yehuda Glick, a protest leader who urged security forces to disobey orders. "How can you do this to another Jew?"

The army said security forces detained 50 Israelis for clashing with police and soldiers attempting to help Gaza settlers leave, mostly in Neve Dekalim.

The three-week operation to evacuate Gaza began Monday with the distribution of eviction notices. Israel plans to remove all 21 settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank. It is the first time Israel has removed veteran settlements from either area, which are claimed by the Palestinians for a future, independent state.

Also Tuesday, Palestinian militants marched through the streets of a town in southern Gaza flanking the settle-

ments and vowed the Israeli withdrawal would be the first step toward eliminating Israel.

By midday, three Gaza settlements and two West Bank communities were empty, while five other Gaza settlements were rapidly thinning out. But residents and their supporters in several communities appeared to be digging in for a fight.

Jewish settlers have vowed to resist the pullout peacefully. But officials estimate some 5,000 Jewish extremists from outside Gaza, many of them fervently religious teenagers, have infiltrated the settlements in recent weeks.

Police said they carried off several fleeing settlers in Neve Dekalim by grabbing them by their arms and legs. More than an hour later, traffic remained at a standstill.

"If the settlement is struggling to survive, then everybody should stay," said Libby Weinberger, a U.S.-born Israeli who came to the settlement from the Israeli town of Raanana.

At one point during the standoff, a family of settlers tried to leave Neve Dekalim in a jeep carrying four mattresses on the roof and pulling a small trailer. A young girl inside was crying as the crowd prevented the vehicle from moving.

Avner Shimoni, a leader in the Gush Katif settlement bloc, said leaders supported the right of anyone to leave voluntarily.

Much of the opposition appeared to be coming from outsiders who have evaded army roadblocks and infiltrated Gaza in recent weeks. Police spokesman Avi Zelba said about 500 people illegally in Gaza were arrested overnight, and dozens were caught trying to enter from Israel.

Brig. Gen. Gershon Hacohen, the army commander in the settlement, said the standoff was a sign of what lies ahead. "There will be places where it will be easier and there are places where it will require many more forces," he told Israel TV.

In the isolated Gaza settlement of Morag, leaders screamed out codewords over a loudspeaker ordering residents to go into hiding — preparations for the arrival of Israeli troops. About one-third of the settlement's 220 residents had left by early Tuesday, and many others were packing up. However, the army said an estimated 300 hardline outsiders remained holed up in the settlement.

Residents of the Bedolah settlement torched three cars and vowed to burn down their houses ahead of the withdrawal.

In central Gaza, the hardline settlement of Netzarim showed no signs of preparing to leave. Residents spent the night in a communal celebration, singing and dancing and waving orange flags.

In a televised speech Monday evening, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon praised Gaza's settlers as "pioneers," but insisted that it is time for Israel to leave the area after 38 years of occupation.

Sharon also urged Palestinian leaders to control

extremists. "To an outstretched hand of peace, we will respond with an olive branch, but fire will be met by fire more intense than ever," he said.

In the Palestinian town of Khan Younis, Palestinian children rushed toward the wall of a nearby Jewish settlement and placed a flag from the Hamas militant group on it.

Palestinian police struggled to keep the children away from the wall, an almost daily occurrence this last week. The Hamas rally in southern Gaza occurred as some 2,000 people, most of them children and teens, marched through town to celebrate Israel's pullout from Gaza.

Also marching were some 200 hundred masked gunmen carrying rocket launchers and machine guns.

"This is only the first step to liberating all of Palestine including Jerusalem east and west and every inch of Palestinian land from the sea to the river," said Hamas spokesman Younis al-Astal.

Hamas and other militant groups have been seeking to portray the Israeli withdrawal, which got underway this week, as a victory for violent resistance. Israel fears that perception could lead to further militant attacks after the pullout, undermining efforts to jump start Mideast peace-making.

Palestinian leaders promised to maintain law and order after the Israeli pullout. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia and other Palestinian leaders began a campaign to clean up Gaza's streets under the slogan, "Gaza Clean and Beautiful."

Qureia wore a T-shirt saying, "Today Gaza. Tomorrow the West Bank and Jerusalem."

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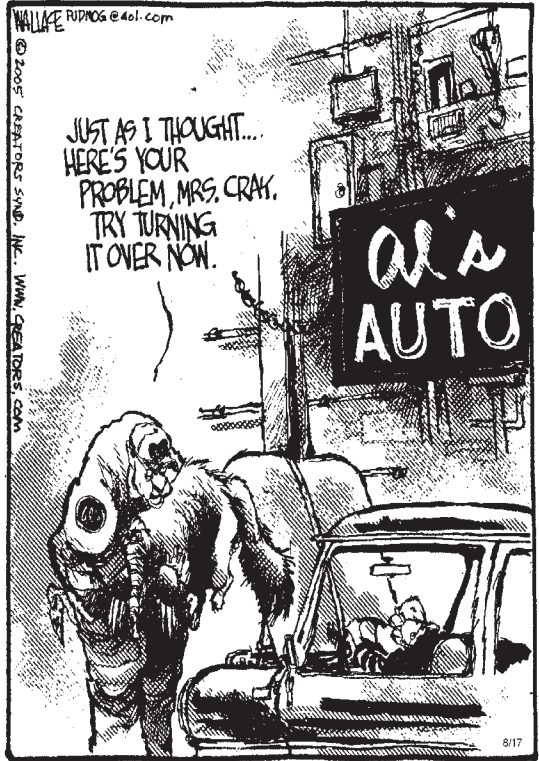
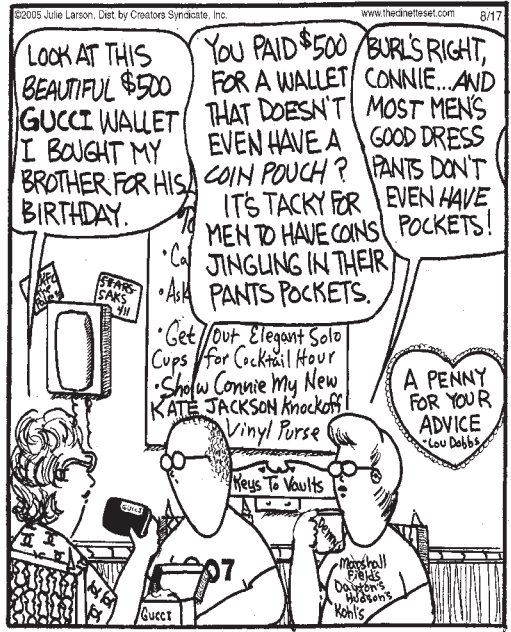


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Yesterday's answer

- 10 Baseball's Sandy
- 11 Outstanding amount
- 16 Scuffle
- 18 Iditarod item
- 21 Noggin
- 23 Goes by foot
- 24 Firefly, for one
- 25 "I'll say!"
- 27 Revolt at sea
- 28 Straight man
- 29 Reverie
- 30 Road division
- 31 Full
- 33 Fires
- 37 Performed

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8-17

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Real Estate



Pacific Ocean Properties

2212 Lincoln Boulevard, Santa Monica

310.392.9223

PREMIER LISTINGS



OPEN SUN. 2PM-5PM

846 Eucalyptus Drive, El Segundo
\$814,900

- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- 1,463 square feet (buyer verify)
- New Kitchen
- Freshly refinished hardwood floors
- New Roof
- New copper plumbing
- Beautiful lush manicured landscaping
- Dining Room
- Stunning stone fireplace



1458 Princeton St., Santa Monica
\$1,599,00

- Santa Monica Duplex
- Two separate structures
- Front house 2+1
- Back unit 1+1
- Copper plumbing
- Hardwood floors
- Delivered vacant



OPEN SUN. 2PM-5PM

9001 S VAN NESS AVE, INGLEWOOD
\$599,000

- 3 bedroom, 1 bath
- Lushly landscaped 8,505 sqft
- Newly painted interior
- Hardwood floors
- Ceramic tile in kitchen
- New appliances
- Brick fireplace
- Inside laundry area w/hookups
- Large backyard w/built in BBQ
- Detached 2 car garage
- Great for large family



2801 La Castana, Los Angeles
\$1,525,000

- 2 BD, 3 BA w/separate office
- Fred Smathers Villa
- Private Pool
- Lavish French Interior w/French doors
- Central air and heat
- Brick fireplaces
- Immaculate beamed ceilings
- Hardwood and brick floors

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