

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL ELVIS WEEK



DAILY LOTTERY

Meganumber: ...
Jackpot: \$...M

Meganumber: ...
Jackpot: \$...M

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DAILY 3 MIDDAY: ...
EVENING: ...

1st: ...
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

■ In June, after the roof of the just-built Cedar Grove Methodist Church near Thorsby, Ala., collapsed (with no one inside), church officials revealed that they had never sought building permits, based on Pastor Jeff Carroll's assumption that "separation of church and state" meant that his church was none of the government's business. Carroll, whose day job is as a home builder, said volunteers designed and then built the church, but agreed to get a permit for the re-building.

■ In June, the leading Hindu cleric in the Kashmir area of Pakistan demanded a judicial investigation as to why the holy, phallus-shaped object (a "lingam") in the Amarnath shrine appeared not to be of naturally formed ice but of imported soft snow. The annual pilgrimage to worship it (the fertility deity Shiva) depends, the cleric said, on ice formations from inside Amarnath, and some leaders are upset that Shiva this year just doesn't look right.

■ **God's Will:** Clara Jean Brown, 65, praying for her absent family during a thunderstorm, had just said "Amen" when a lightning bolt hit across the street, ran through a water pipe and exploded into her kitchen, knocking her down (Daphne, Ala., May).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A newspaper consists of just the same number of words, whether there be any news in it or not."

HENRY FIELDING

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ELECTION 2006

Backed by businesses

SUPPORT: Holbrook, O'Day secure chamber endorsements

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SIXTH STREET — The Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 1,000 local business owners, endorsed the City Council cam-

paigns of Mayor Bob Holbrook and Planning Commissioner Terry O'Day, providing each a significant boost as they head into the November election.

The chamber's board of directors chose to support the two last week

after a series of hour-long interviews with six candidates, including three who have been endorsed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, or SMRR, which has long been at odds

See **CHAMBER**, page 10

Candidates make cut

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — An education advocate, party planner and flight attendant are just some of the City Council candidates to qualify for the November ballot.

They are joined by Mayor Bob Holbrook and council members Kevin McKeown and Pam O'Connor, all of whom collected at least 100 valid signatures from registered voters over the last two-and-a-half weeks, according to a list provided by the city clerk Wednesday afternoon, one hour before the deadline.

Most, if not all, gathered more signatures than required as they tried to avoid being disqualified. One council hopeful wasn't so lucky.

Kevin James, a local deejay who hosts a radio show broadcast in Washington, D.C., was denied a spot on the Nov. 7 ballot because almost half of his signatures were ruled invalid by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder.

"I got 125, mostly from people who live in apartment complexes near me," James, 49, said in his deep, rumbling radio voice. "It turned out 69 signatures were good and 56 were no good, which is very unusual ... It's very disappointing, but I've learned my lesson and will give

See **QUALIFIED**, page 10

Built to last



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A construction worker lays rebar to form the roof of the new Performing Arts Center & Music Academy of Santa Monica College. The new complex is being built at the Madison Campus, on Santa Monica Boulevard and 11th Street. It will include a 541-seat theater, a rehearsal hall, an art gallery, and classrooms and practice rooms for the Academy of Music.

TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES

Reviving tradition

Chilean roots set to plant their seed

By Daily Press staff

SM PIER — Inti-Illimani, a Chilean roots music group, will perform tonight at the free Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series.

Known for their open-minded musical approach, the "Intis" had a much different mission in mind

when they met in the '60s at Santiago Technical University — to become engineers. However, their love of music encouraged their restless souls to explore the indigenous cultures of Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Argentina. In some of

See **TWILIGHT DANCE**, page 12



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Horoscopes

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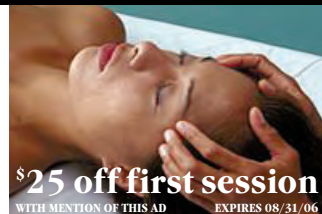
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Treat yourself tonight, Aries

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)

★★★★ Keep discussions flowing, even if you feel like you need to stop and mull over an insight. Your creativity surges, though some of your ideas and perceptions could be off or a bit distorted, especially concerning friends and a key goal. Tonight: Join a friend for an early dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Sometimes you need to spend less time judging and more time acting. A friend or situation could be disappointing. What is going on is not the end of the story. Part of the problem might be that you put others on a pedestal. Tonight: Treat yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You have a winning style. Though you are magnetic, not everything falls into place — quite the opposite. You demonstrate a unique ability to accept what is going on and not let it bother you. Tonight: Time for what you really want to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Deploy your conservative attitude with funds and a partner's creativity. Though much occurs on a research or thinking level, you will make a coup when you have confidence and the facts. Time is your ally. Tonight: Vanish and schedule some private time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your steady leadership points you in a new direction. Those you deal with prove to be inspirational and excellent resources. Use the natural assets that surround you. You might be tempted to spend, perhaps too much. Tonight: Find your pals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might be coming off a lot more fiery than you realize. If you think before you leap, you won't cause any problems. A boss or an associate is watching your actions. Don't kid yourself. Others act in unexpected ways. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22)

★★★★ Elements in your daily life could be stressful, but insight helps you to not get upset. Look at the big picture. Avoid thinking about someone's motives. Everyone is different. Friends and networking play a big role in a happening. Tonight: Put on favorite music and answer your e-mails.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Dealing with individuals rather than groups points to success. You might be overly worn out or tired of the pressure. You might be facing a choice between two different people, situations and their needs. Tonight: Exclusive time with a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Let others run the show. You might be surprised at someone's response or choice. You don't need to push, unless you want some fireworks! Everyone would like some space. Check out a premonition. Tonight: Say yes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Pace yourself so that you don't get distracted by a sudden change. You will be much happier if you accomplish what you want. Perhaps, for now, leave a distraction to the way-side. Be a smart buyer with a purchase. Tonight: R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You often hear a different tune. Today you respond to a different drummer. Some people might question what you are doing. In fact, a close associate or friend could make incendiary comments. Don't take the bait. Tonight: Live it up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your actions, though logical to you, jolt others. You could get a combative reaction because of this trait. Many want you to be consistent and level. Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with a family member. Tonight: Happy at home.

BORN TODAY 1960 Actor Sean Penn 1943 Actor Robert De Niro

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

ROSIE'S GIRLS OPCC's Sojourn outreach manager Liz Jones; Rosie's Girls Santa Monica director Shirl Buss; apprentice coordinator Jennell Maze; mentors Noelia Torres, Dana Levin, Brook Lyon, and Zoe Billington; and 28 Rosie's Girls at the city maintenance yards.

Girl power united

By Daily Press staff

Rosie's Girls Santa Monica learned about domestic violence last week. On Aug. 9 they had a question and answer talk with Sojourn outreach manager Liz Jones on the signs and solutions regarding disrespect, verbal abuse and physical violence. Rosie's Girls is based on a national program designed to build self-esteem, leadership and physical confidence in middle schools girls. The lecture was part of a three-week intensive summer camp in which the 28 adolescent girls experience city maintenance by learning and applying skills in carpentry, welding, fire-fighting and other technical trades. While the 6-year-old camp is fee-based, 50 percent of the girls are on scholarships supported by foundation and donation grants. Sojourn — providing shelter, support groups, counseling, legal assistance and 24-hour hotline services for more than 3,000 battered women and children on the Westside each year — sends Jones into the community to familiarize various groups with what can be done when faced with various forms of aggressive behavior, abuse or domestic violence. "Today I learned that there is no excuse for abuse," said Chloe Roberts, 11. "Don't let an abuser stay in your life," said Nicole Daghighian, 12. "Be more careful in relationships," said Arielle Kronovet, 10. Rosie's Girls are returning the favor to Sojourn by building three large planters that they will donate and install in Adams House, the second stage shelter that accommodates battered women and children for three- to-six month periods. "People of all ages can be a part of preventing domestic violence and supporting victims," said Jones. "Another way to get involved is to become a volunteer. Sojourn's next volunteer training starts Sept. 19." Sojourn, one of OPCC's (formerly Ocean Park Community Center's) 10 projects, runs California's second oldest battered women's shelter. For more information, call Sojourn's 24-hour hotline at (310) 264-6644 or OPCC at (310) 264-6646 and visit www.opcc.net.

Chukkers for children

By Daily Press staff

Horses racing, mallets swinging, the West Los Angeles nonprofit Circle of Light will hold its third annual Chukkers for Children Polo Challenge this weekend. The polo matches will be held this Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Will Rogers Polo Grounds in Pacific Palisades to benefit the plastic and reconstructive surgery division of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). The action-packed event will feature six teams of polo players — all members of the Will Rogers Polo Club, Southern California's oldest — playing three matches. The players are volunteering their time to support the cause, and all net proceeds from the event

See BRIEFS, page 6



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
Not much is on tap. Some wind swell is expected stick around and trace amounts of SW are expected as well. Overall, Thursday is another knee to waist high day, although west facing breaks could see some waist high+ stuff from time to time.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND SWELL CONTINUES THIS WEEK...
MINOR BUMPS OF SW SWELL OFF AND ON THIS WEEK...
SOUTHERN HEMI SWELL DUE 24TH-25TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

	08-17 07:15 AM	08-17 10:26 AM	08-17 05:14 PM
7 ft			
6 ft			
5 ft			
4 ft			
3 ft			
2 ft			
1 ft			
0 ft			
-1 ft			
-2 ft			

Forecast: 03:36 PM
Sunrise: 05:20 AM
Moonset: 08:48 PM

The QLine

Getting punchy with the ballot ...
When voters take to the polls on Nov. 7, not only will they be faced with deciding the governor's race, city council race and school board race, but they will be confronted with a myriad of 13 statewide ballot initiatives, four local measures and a \$268 million bond to help repair and upgrade local school facilities. With so many decisions to be made, political pundits warn that voters could feel fatigue at the polls. So this week, Q-Line wants to know:
What initiatives or races have your attention heading into election season? Are there too many entries on the ballot?
Call (310) 285-8106 or type responses at smdp.com/forum and we'll print your answers.

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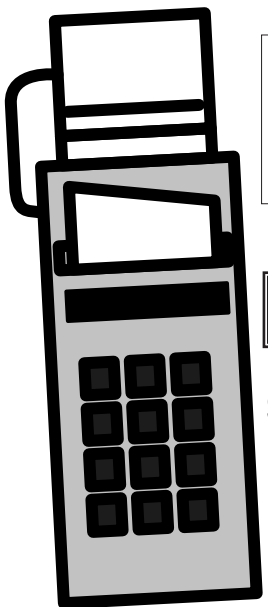
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't muddy the waters

Editor:

Regarding the article "Culver City spill pollutes bay; forces beach closure," (SMDP, Aug. 9, page 1):

It is outrageous that Southern California is once again subjected to sewage spills and beach closures. In California and nationwide, beach closings and health advisories are on the rise. In 2005, there were more than 20,000 closings and health advisory days at beaches across the country, more than ever before.

Beach-goers shouldn't be swimming in animal and human waste. There is a lot more that we should be doing locally and nationally to protect beach-goers. We need stricter health standards from the EPA, more federal funding to help communities upgrade their sewage systems, and more communities to capture and filter stormwater at its source.

Moira Chapin
Los Angeles

Speaking of freedom

Editor:

In regards to John W. Whitehead's "Losing our religion, or at least our opinion of it" (SMDP, Aug. 9, page 4):

Because the characteristic of freedom of speech is relatively fixed to strengthen the system of separation of church and state outlined in our Constitution, I suggest that sensation-seeking plaintiffs and their collaborating attorneys that bring cases like: "No prayers in school," "no mention of 'liberty under God,'" and other socially accepted inspirations of togetherness are without doubt the cause of this loss of religious freedom of speech.

What compels judges who are also lawyers to even consider these cases, while whimsically by summary judgment dismissing cases brought about by citizens who have been wronged by entities like insurance companies, corporations and our government, all of which have the greater bargaining power, is an anathema to me.

For crying out loud, what does a child understand about separation of church and state? A wronged adult surely makes a conscious effort to right a wrong and he is often denied due civil process, and if he or she is lucky to get a day in court, the all-mighty corporation and state-owned appeals court will probably overturn any remedy coming to the plaintiff, albeit the lawyers get to keep their fees.

Mr. Whitehead, you are preaching to the choir when it comes to people's lack of assertiveness in rewriting our Constitution. An English friend of mine who is accustomed to hearing soap-box deliberations in Hyde Park in Australia on any weekend once laughed at our Constitution by saying that if this document was so important, then why does America have so many lawyers and so many bills that are constantly voted into new laws?

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

Wake up, liberals

Editor:

How many liberal, anti-Bush, anti-administration people have to die in terrorist plane crashes before they realize we are truly at war? I am very serious. We lost more than 3,000 people on 9/11, I am sure there was a fair share of libs in those buildings and on those planes. But I guess it was not enough to truly understand what is really going on in the world.

We are not fighting a country with a different form of government. At least there you can bargain with the destruction of their country if they harm yours. We are at war with a radical/religious ideology. While peace talks may work in one situation, they do not work in the second. The radical Islamists do not care to live in peace with those of us they refer to as infidels. They want us all dead, and they want the country as we know it destroyed. They want all western-style nations gone. All Jews killed. Do you people get this? How do you bargain with that? Where do you start?

Over the last few days, thanks to programs I am sure that will make most liberal's skin crawl, the U.S. and the U.K. discovered a massive murderous, terrorist plot to not only blow up planes in the sky from the U.K. to the U.S., but they were going to blow them up once they got over American cities, thus creating even more destruction, death and chaos.

I am so sick of the truly ignorant residents of this country who think that the government really cares when they talk to their nana in Hoboken. And I am sure you are wiring funds internationally on a daily basis so tracking them by the U.S. and the U.K. will really affect your privacy. Get a grip, people.

I am truly afraid that it will take a nuclear explosion in a major U.S. city for this country to finally wake up and realize that "now is the time for all good Americans to come to the aid of their country." Or at least sometime before we are thrown back into the dark ages and forced to pray to Allah.

Billy Woody
Agoura Hills

My way or the Segway



ICONOCLAST BLAST BY SETH BARNES

The modern world is indebted to the visionary willpower of inventors. It's hard to imagine living without the industrial, medical and technological advancements that have made our everyday lives increasingly convenient and enjoyable. And some inventions have literally extended the life expectancies for millions across the globe.

That's why it pains me to say the following about the highest-profile invention of the last decade: I hate the Segway Human Transporter and we need to eradicate it from the face of the earth. Now.

Did our founding fathers dedicate themselves to the emancipation of the human spirit so that a few centuries later, lazy geeks and geekettes could buzz around without so much as lifting a foot? Did hallowed war veterans of yore slog through two world wars so their progeny wouldn't have to slog down the sidewalk under their own power? After five years of the Segway, I think it's about time that we pack the whole idea up and send it back to space camp.

While the Segway was unveiled to much hoopla as a "change agent" that would alter the course of human transportation, it's clear that it is a commercial dud. As anybody who lives in Santa Monica knows, tourists — suffering from brain cramps brought about by jet lag and sun poisoning — are seemingly the only people willing to climb aboard these \$5,000 moron chariots. Oh, the company has grand plans to outfit law enforcement agencies and couriers with their scooters, to which I say "show me a cop on a Segway and I'll show you Officer Laughingstock." Let's just say it isn't the best way to channel Dirty Harry.

Then there's the argument that the Segway could alleviate congestion and gas usage in car-dependent metro areas like Los Angeles. Nice idea. But I'm going to hold off on venturing onto the 405 until they make a Segway with an air raid siren for a horn, a shotgun holster, and front and rear-end battering rams.

Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway and a minor celebrity, is a brilliant man who has done more for mankind than I ever will. He's invented sophisticated medical devices and wheelchairs that have helped countless people. He even lives and works in my hometown of Bedford, N.H. But that doesn't mean the Segway isn't a stinker.

I submit that walking is a fundamental component of the human experience. Our lives already are so overrun by technological shortcuts that we easily forget how privileged we are. We're so entrenched in our comfort zone that we routinely look past the simple miracles of life. I'm not advocating that we revert to the Dark Ages, but if we're not careful we'll all wake up some day to find ourselves being fed by a robotic arm while relaxing on a levitation device in front of a 60-inch plasma television.

Of course, that sounds kind of nice. But last time I checked the United States had a serious obesity problem. It's gotten so bad that half our citizens can only be photographed or filmed from the neck down lest anyone positively identify their gut with their face. In such a climate, I hardly think an Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD) is part of the special sauce to bring us back to health. I happen to advocate the YDSJWTTPO solution — that is, "You Degenerate Sloth, Just Walk To The Post Office".

Kamen's Wikipedia entry — see, I'm lazy too — tells us that his DEKA Research & Development Corporation employs about 200 engineers, technicians and machinists. The man has a lot of brainpower at his fingertips and clearly has some big ideas running around in his head. Maybe this entire clan should drop production of the Segway and move on to something that actually will benefit mankind. Leave walking alone. The Creator clearly intended for us to use our arms and legs. If he didn't, we would have spent the last million years slithering around on our bellies scarfing down whatever we could get our jaws around.

Actually, there are plenty of people in this country who shove anything they come upon down their throats. But good luck inventing something to stop that.

(Seth Barnes can be reached at barnesseth@hotmail.com.)

Bitch! Whine! Complain!

Check out our Q-Line™ question on Page 3.

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STATE BRIEFS

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MURRIETA

Former mayor arrested on forgery charges

Former Mayor Jack van Haaster faces charges involving city financial-disclosure documents related to property "ostensibly owned" by his daughter, prosecutors said.

Van Haaster, 49, was arrested Tuesday on 10 felony charges — five each of perjury and forgery — and five misdemeanor counts of violating conflict-of-interest law, court records state.

He was released on \$25,000 bail, district attorney's spokeswoman Ingrid Wyatt said.

"There were material omissions which involved business interests and very substantial loans that were not listed that should have been," Supervising Deputy District Attorney Richard West said.

If convicted as charged, van Haaster, who was first elected to the City Council in 1992, could face up to eight years in state prison, officials said.

Prosecutors allege that van Haaster voted as a councilman in 2004 to approve a paving project near his daughter's parcel.

Van Haaster's vote later put him in the cross-hairs of a recall campaign that ousted him from office in May 2005 after 13 years on the council.

Calls for comment to a number provided as van Haaster's by an information line were not immediately returned.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Joshua Tree could lose its namesake

New climate models indicate that the park's namesake tree could be wiped out by air pollution and global warming within 100 years, according to a report by an advocacy group.

Climate changes could push conditions suitable for Joshua trees north of the park's boundary, according to the report released Wednesday by the National Parks Conservation Association in Washington.

"Global warming isn't new," park scientist Luke Sabala said. "What is alarming is the rate of change."

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Construction workers unearth skull

Construction workers found part of the skull of an American Indian while building an expansion to a parochial school's chapel, officials said.

The partial skull, which halted the chapel project to let archeologists sift the dirt for artifacts, was discovered Friday afternoon and taken to the coroner's office for analysis, officials said Tuesday.

A forensic anthropologist confirmed the remains were American Indian and not recently buried, said coroner spokesman Jim Amormino.

Archeologists uncovered some artifacts on the site Tuesday, officials said.

Sonia Johnston, who chairs the group of Juaneno Band of Mission Indians that will get custody of the bones, said it could have been an American Indian campground.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Oil reps plead with wildlife officials

An oil company representative asked wildlife officials not to let water reach a newly restored wetland this month as planned because filling the basin could subject the area to an oil spill risk, officials said.

Aera Energy LLC asked state and federal managers of the \$120 million habitat restoration project to delay filling part of the wetlands for as long as eight months, officials said this week.

Officials planned to open the section of the Bolsa Chica wetlands up to the ocean on Aug. 24.

But Aera said in an Aug. 11 letter that cleanup of contaminated soil in the area, which includes some oil wells, is not complete.

Aera also said it wants to perform a new assessment of oil-spill risk despite the fact that an earlier assessment has been approved by state water quality officials.

The request, coming so close to the date of the wetland's planned opening, angered some officials.

The delay could involve significant costs that would have to be paid by Aera, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project manager Jack Fancher.

"If they insist we delay, we insist that there's a cost associated with that, and we'll have to work that out," he said.

The request would not impact a 367-acre basin in the wetlands that full-strength ocean tides will hit when a newly dug tidal inlet is opened.

LOS ANGELES

Boy drowns on fishing trip

A 14-year-old boy drowned in the Los Angeles River during a fishing trip, police said. Andre Torres fell into the water Tuesday while fishing with his 13-year-old brother and 12-year-old sister, police Lt. David Young said.

The boy's body was found during a search involving more than 100 firefighters, some in boats and helicopters, fire spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

"We have no reason to believe that it was foul play," Young said.

LOS ANGELES

Commission approves \$7M in stun guns

The Police Commission approved a plan for the Police Department to buy 6,780 Tasers for nearly \$7 million, officials said.

Putting the stun guns in officers' hands would help avoid lethal officer-involved shootings, Commissioner Alan Skobin said Tuesday.

"This is something that I see as a win-win for the department," he said.

The devices temporarily disable suspects by delivering a non-lethal electric shock via two electricity-conducting projectiles.

The department already owns 750 older-model Tasers, officials said

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Alleged kingpin said to be cartel's 'violent hand'

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Francisco Javier Arellano Felix was a suspected strongman in one of Mexico's oldest and most notorious drug cartels until his capture aboard a U.S.-registered sport fishing boat.

"In the underworld, he was known as the enforcer. He was the violent hand, the one in charge of executions," said Victor Clark Alfaro, director of the Binational Center for Human Rights in Tijuana, Mexico, the home to the cartel.

"He was no financier, he was no businessman," Clark said.

Arellano Felix, 36, also known as El Tigrillo, was en route Wednesday to San

Diego, where he will be formally arrested after being captured by the U.S. Coast Guard on Monday off Mexico's Baja California coast.

Jesus Blancornelas, co-founder of the Zeta newspaper in Tijuana, said Arellano Felix was overshadowed by other family members in the cartel that emerged as Mexico's dominant drug gang in the 1980s.

"Francisco Javier was a sort of playboy," said Blancornelas, who has chronicled the Tijuana drug trade for decades. "He likes to spend money and enjoy his fame. He drives around in luxury cars."

Arellano Felix is suspected of ordering many killings but typically was not the triggerman, Blancornelas said.

Arellano Felix was charged in 2003 with conspiracy and racketeering in an indict-

ment that describes a string of killings orchestrated by the gang in northern Mexico and Southern California.

He also conspired to assassinate Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo in 1993 at the airport in Guadalajara, U.S. officials said.

John Kirby, a former federal prosecutor in San Diego who worked on the 2003 indictment, said Arellano Felix led the Tijuana clan almost by default after his older brother Benjamin was jailed in 2002 and brother Ramon was killed that same year.

"He was the little brother thug," Kirby said. "He did not handle finances as far as I'm aware. He was Benjamin's and Ramon's younger brother who was learning the business and ordering killings."

Benjamin Arellano Felix continued to issue orders from jail in Mexico, but his younger brother was the top lieutenant in the field, said Kirby, who is now in private practice.

Francisco Javier Arellano Felix "was the guy holding it together," Kirby said. "There are other people (in the cartel), but they will likely change sides, run away or get killed."

The cartel is believed to have lost influence in recent years. It recently ceded control of Mexicali, an important drug corridor about 120 miles east of Tijuana, Kirby said.

Mexico's top drug gangs are now believed to be the Juarez cartel, based in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, and the Gulf cartel, based in Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas.

Benjamin Arellano Felix has allegedly formed an alliance with suspected Gulf cartel leader Osiel Cardenas. Both are being held at the top-security La Palma prison, west of Mexico City.

Others said it was premature to predict the demise of the Arellano Felix clan.

The group is often linked to kidnappings. In addition, U.S. authorities suspect it may have orchestrated construction of the longest cross-border tunnel ever discovered along the U.S.-Mexico border, a 2,400-foot secret passageway found in January linking warehouses in Tijuana and San Diego.

"Their golden age was in the '90s, but they have a remarkable capacity to reinvent themselves and confront adversity," Clark said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

will support Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. There also will be a silent auction and prizes awarded to the winner of each of the Chukker Boards.

"Those who have attended our past Polo Challenges have raved that they were so much fun, as well as being extremely successful," said Ranlyn Tilley Hill, founder of non-profit This Little Light, of which Circle of Light is a division. "We're looking forward to another exciting event that will further the life-changing work being done by the plastic and reconstructive surgery division at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles."

Circle of Light, founded in 2003, is composed of professionals in their 30s and 40s who donate their time and expertise to help fund the research, educational and clinical efforts of renowned CHLA plastic and reconstructive surgeon John Reinisch, M.D.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and individual tickets cost \$65 in advance, \$80 at the door, with tables \$650 prior to the event. Tickets for children 4 to 14 years old are \$30; 3 and under free. For more information, call (310) 289-5404 or go to www.chukkers4children.com.

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Heal the Bay

Labor groups try to heal wounds from divorce to reach shared political goals

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A year after their bitter breakup, former partners in organized labor are trying to heal some of their differences by joining forces politically for the November midterm elections. They're cooperating now for the sake of those who depend on them.

That's about 15 million union members.

Both the AFL-CIO and the breakaway Change to Win alliance are negotiating an agreement that would allow them to coordinate their massive effort to educate and mobilize workers.

Some hard feelings remain after organized labor splintered last year in a dispute about priorities, organizing strategies and personalities. Earlier efforts to pull the labor movement together have run into friction.

"It's almost like a divorce," said Anna Burger, chairwoman of the Change to Win federation. "It takes time to work things through."

The AFL-CIO is spending \$40 million on its political program this year — the most ever for a midterm year — despite losing about a half dozen unions to the breakaway group. Change to Win, which won't disclose the amount it's committed to politics, will spend in the millions of dollars. The labor movement supports both parties on occasion, but leans heavily Democratic.

Both sides are spending most of that money and effort on educating voters and getting them to the polls. They share many concerns, including worker's pay, job security, and health and retirement benefits.

The AFL-CIO's program to educate voters and turn them out became so successful in the last few elections that it became a model for all political operations in recent years.

Republicans and their allies borrowed from the labor strategy — and used those tactics in 2004 to win a very close election for President Bush. That has put pressure on labor to do a better job than ever of educating and turning out voters — despite the rift in the labor movement.

"We go into this election with a split labor movement and we will come out of this election with a split labor movement," said Karen Ackerman, political director of the AFL-CIO. "However, there is interest on both sides because of this moment we have to change the direction of this country."

People from union households made up a quarter of the voters in 2004 and almost six

in 10 supported Democrat John Kerry for president. In 2002, about a fourth of voters were from union households, and just over six in 10 supported Democratic House candidates, according to exit polls.

Union members from both sides are already working closely together in states like California, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

The AFL-CIO creation of solidarity charters, which allow members of breakaway unions to affiliate with the AFL unions at the local level, will allow many state labor movements to work closely together. About three-quarters of workers from the breakaway unions have joined the solidarity charters, AFL-CIO officials estimate.

The solidarity charter program ran into problems in April when leaders began quarreling about details of the arrangements.

That squabble highlighted the strained relations between the AFL-CIO with about 9 million members and the Change to Win alliance, with roughly 6 million members.

Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, worked out an arrangement in principle with Burger, who is with the Service Employees International Union. Details of that broad agreement are being worked out now.

"The unions in the AFL-CIO and in Change to Win will work together in many areas to coordinate their efforts so there won't be a waste of people power and money," McEntee said.

The unions from both federations are likely to cooperate closely in local and congressional campaigns, said Gary Chaison, a professor of industrial relations from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. But he notes that organized labor is not quite as dominant a force in politics as it once was.

"There was a time when unions were powerful politically because they could 'get out the troops' on Election Day," Chaison said. "Now unions are weakened because not only are they smaller and less wealthy, but they have competition in the 'political ground game.'"

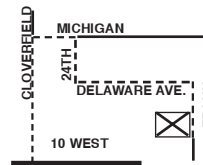
Union leaders from both federations point to the 2005 elections in California, Virginia and New Jersey as evidence of how effectively the divided labor movement can work together when necessary.

And they say the current political climate is motivating them to coordinate closely now.

"It's a very exciting moment in our history," Ackerman said.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Going for the green

By Daily Press staff

Green seems to be the theme lately for the Santa Monica-based company CaseStack, Inc.

Employees from CaseStack, an integrated logistics provider, were among the 50 community members to win free Giant Cypress bikes from the BikeTown USA program, made possible by Bicycling Magazine, LA County Bicycle Coalition and the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro (MTA).

Along with their new bikes, each winner received their own cycling gear, apparel and/or support from Bell Sports, Camelbak, Canari Cycling, CatEye, Ryders Sunglasses and Saris Racks.

In an effort to promote a better environment and a healthier lifestyle for their employees, Jeff Albert, along with Roger Lum, Jason Wolfe and John Ondo, entered the

contest. The participating CaseStack employees were asked to write about what they would do with the bikes if they won, and how they would use them to get to work.

Dan Sanker, CEO and president of CaseStack, encouraged the company's involvement in BikeTown because "it is the perfect fit for the direction our company is headed." CaseStack has also focused their efforts on improving the environment through the Green Rebate program, which encourages truck drivers to use environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel.

CaseStack, Inc. provides logistics outsourcing services to mid-sized consumer packaged goods companies that sell products to retailers, distributors and other manufacturers. CaseStack combines an advanced transportation and warehousing system with proprietary, Web-based software to provide end-to-end fulfillment services that enable customers to reap the benefits and economies of a sophisticated, global logistics system without all the infrastructure costs.

Vashon Organics births new Web site

By Daily Press staff

Although Vashon Organics is not a Santa Monica-based business, it is accessible to local residents and taps into Santa Monica's growing demand for organic and natural products.

Vashon Organics (www.vashonorganics.com), an Internet venture launched on July 7, offers natural and organic lotions, balms, washes, soaps, moisturizers, shampoos and conditioners, and other items such as organic cotton and pet care items.

In celebration of their launch, Vashon Organics is offering 20 percent off every customer's second order. The offer is good until Jan. 1, 2007. Spokesperson Steve Reed said the promotion is designed to reward return customers.

"Loyalty to a healthier lifestyle is really what we're promoting," Reed said. "Our site will offer more than just high-quality, healthy products. We want to provide people with the information to make informed decisions for their own health. We will offer articles about health and beauty, and a blog for customers to share experiences, solutions and anecdotes. Our skin is the largest organ on our bodies, and some estimate up to 60 percent of what we put on our skin finds its way into our systems. We'd better start paying more attention to what we're feeding our skin."



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

Think consolidation

The typical American worker can easily hold a dozen or more jobs in his or her lifetime. The result is often a confusing array of retirement plan statements from multiple employers.

Fortunately, it's easy to simplify your life by consolidating all your separate retirement accounts into one IRA. Doing so may be a savvy move. Here's why:

■ Tax reporting is easier when you don't need to collect tax-reporting statements from multiple sources.

■ Some retirement plans can charge periodic statement fees of up to \$15.

■ IRAs may offer you more investment choices; employer plans limit you to their approved menu, which may not be suitable for you.

■ Eligible investors can convert traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs, reaping the advantages of tax-free growth — if certain criteria are met.

■ If your assets are still in an employer's plan when you die, most plan rules will require your heirs to distribute the account within five years — regardless of the tax consequences. Roll it over to an IRA, and, if available, your heirs can spread their distributions over their entire life expectancy — a practice known as stretching. Note: A stretch IRA may not be appropriate for you and may not be an available alternative in all cases.

Consolidation may not be for you if you work in a high liability business or have pending lawsuits or judgments against you. This is because employer-sponsored retirement plans generally have greater protections against creditors than do IRAs, although this varies from state to state.

If you do decide to consolidate, don't take the money yourself. The fund company or brokerage running your old retirement account will withhold 20 percent of your money and send it right to the IRS for tax purposes. Additionally, you may be hit with a 10 percent federal penalty if you're under 59 years old.

(Kirk Aguer is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. To reach him, call his Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5220 or e-mail kirk.aguer@morganstanley.com. Morgan Stanley DW Inc. member SIPC.)

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Former competitive skiers meet in court over alleged collision

By The Associated Press

DENVER — Two skiers have taken their dispute to federal court, with one suing the other for \$1.3 million after an incident on the slopes of Vail two years ago.

Jason White, 24, a former competitive skier working at a Vail ski shop, said Michael Kaiden came up behind him and made a sharp right turn in April 2004, entangling their skis. He said the accident caused him to smash into a 6-foot pole, leaving him with injuries that have resulted in 10 surgeries.

White contends Kaiden was out of control, in violation of state law.

Kaiden, who lives in New York, testified Tuesday that the two never collided. He said he was turning to his right when he saw "at my 5 o'clock, someone coming right at me."

Kaiden said he turned sharply to the left and avoided hitting White, who then hit the post. Kaiden said he stayed nearby until ski patrol members arrived to take White to the hospital, and then filled out an incident report.

Responding to a question from White's attorney, Beth Klein, Kaiden testified he never called to check on White.

"I didn't know the guy, and I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "It wasn't a major concern of mine."

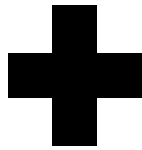
U.S. District Judge Phillip S. Figa has dismissed Kaiden's claim that the Vail ski area should share some of the blame for erecting the post struck by White. Kaiden also is arguing that White was "comparatively negligent" and assumed a known risk when he went skiing.

A friend of White's who was skiing with him that day, Janel Ippolito, testified the two men were even with each other when Kaiden made a sharp right turn. In an incident report she filed the day of the crash, she wrote the men's skis and poles may have hit each other, but that their bodies did not touch.

She also testified that White has been able to return to skiing and working in Vail.

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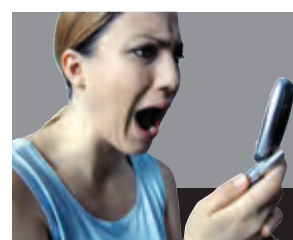
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ELECTION 2006

McKeown, O'Connor, Davis backed by SMRR

CHAMBER, from page 1

with the business community over development issues.

Holbrook, who was endorsed by the chamber during his last re-election campaign, is seeking his fifth term on the council, while O'Day, a member of the Planning Commission since 2003, is making his first run for elected office.

O'Day, who is also endorsed by environmental attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has not yet qualified for the ballot, but is confident he has collected enough signatures from registered voters to do so. The required amount is 100.

The chamber is expected to encourage members to vote for Holbrook and O'Day as well as donate to their campaigns and volunteer to go door to door securing votes. The chamber will not raise money for an independent campaign, said Tom Larmore, chairman elect of the board.

"We felt it was better to help the candidates raise money for their own campaigns rather than have us run one independently," Larmore said. "While we won't be running a slate (of candidates), our members will be actively campaigning on behalf of Bob and Terry, using e-mails, phone banks, whatever we can to help them get elected."

Holbrook and O'Day earned the chamber's endorsement because of their commitments to the community, the environment, education and balanced public policy that weighs the interests of the business community as well as other stakeholders, said Kathy Dodson, president of the chamber.

"I think the business community is very excited about these two candidates," Dodson said. "Terry has been phenomenal on the Planning Commission, very proactive. He's run a business and has had to make payroll ... and he has very practical, creative ideas."

"As for the mayor, he's been a wonderfully consistent voter who has been around long enough to know what's good for Santa Monica, having served on the school board before being on the council. We think his experience in education as well as his ability to offer common-sense solutions make him a great

A king and his castle



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A homeless Korean and Vietnam War veteran, William Kriner, 65, builds a sand castle at Santa Monica Beach on Wednesday. Kriner has been building sand castles at Santa Monica Beach for the past 30 years.

candidate, as with Terry. Both are very strong."

Securing the chamber endorsement was critical for Holbrook and O'Day given the influence of local business owners, many of whom are looking to replace SMRR-backed council members who have blocked development and imposed strict affordable-housing requirements.

"The chamber endorsement was a key endorsement for me four years ago, and I am gratified to have it again," said Holbrook, a pharmacist at USC. "As you know, the chamber has members from all across the community, and they thought I had been very middle-of-the-road and supportive of sustaining our economy, which is very important for businesses bring in tax revenue and create jobs."

"There are those who are driven by interests ... but I vote for what's in the interest of Santa Monicans," Holbrook added.

O'Day, who heads environmental watchdog Environment Now, was pleased to receive the chamber's endorsement as well. There was speculation that O'Day was trying to seek both the SMRR endorsement as well as the chamber's; however, O'Day said he pulled out of the running for SMRR's endorsement at the last minute because he wanted to run an independent campaign and felt he could not do that if he was supported by SMRR.

"I'm running the type of campaign that I think gives me the best opportunity to talk to as many people in the community as possible who are affected by the city's policies," O'Day said. "With SMRR, I felt that I had to commit to a particular platform and, in a way, cut myself off from other opportunities."

Those who decided to go for both endorsements included incumbents Kevin McKeown and Pam O'Connor, and education activist Gleam Davis, all three of whom are endorsed by SMRR.

McKeown's chances of winning the chamber's backing were slim given his record, in which he has supported a living wage law for hotel workers and inclusionary zoning that forces housing developers to set aside units for low- to moderate-income residents.

"Endorsements reflect true interests, and I respect that the chamber differs with my principled positions on development and worker issues," McKeown wrote in an e-mail. "My continued efforts are with the small neighborhood-serving businesses in our city, keeping them viable and encouraging more resident-friendly amenities like outdoor dining."

Larmore said McKeown is out of step with the needs of the city, but was invited to interview with the chamber because "it was the appropriate thing to do since SMRR had not had their convention at the time of the interviews."

"We knew it would be difficult to endorse a SMRR candidate because of their platform," Larmore said. "But we felt we should be open to all candidates who were serious about running. We definitely don't think the SMRR majority has been good for the city, and we'd like to see a change. I think that's reflected in the endorsements we made."

Potential candidates await confirmation

QUALIFIED, from page 1

myself more time to collect even more signatures."

While James is out, Jonathan Mann, a resident of Ocean Park, is in. That came as no surprise to the 60-year-old flight attendant and part-time substitute teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District. After all, Mann said he has run for City Council every election cycle since 1990. He has never won, and doesn't expect to do so this time around, but he feels it is his duty to keep at it.

"It's mainly because there are always the same issues and the same candidates followed by the same special interests that control the city," Mann said. "They've forgotten about the residents, so I feel obligated to run ..."

Those joining Mann on the ballot who have not already been mentioned include: Gleam Davis, a candidate with roots in education who is backed Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, or SMRR; Linda Armstrong, a former council candidate concerned about the well-being of homeless women and low-wage workers; and corporate events planner Jenna Linnekens, who has her eyes set on reducing the homeless population and other quality-of-life issues.

Those who have submitted signatures but are still waiting for the county Registrar-Recorder's ruling are Planning Commissioner Terry O'Day, Mark McLellan, Vincent Garofalo and Terence Later.

There are three council seats available.

As for the Rent Control Board, on which there are three seats open, there are four candidates who have made it through the first cut. They include three who have been endorsed by SMRR: incumbent Jennifer Kennedy, retired teacher Marilyn Korade-Wilson and bookkeeper Zelia Mollica. Property manager Robert Kronovet also qualified.

In the race for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board, where there are four seats up for grabs, incumbents Emily Bloomfield and Oscar de la Torre qualified. Both are seeking a second term and have been endorsed by SMRR.

Incumbent Shane McLoud has filed and is awaiting confirmation, as are Sidonie Smith, Kelly Pye and Barry Snell. Pye and Snell are both endorsed by SMRR.

"I've been very passionate about my work with schools, and I think running for school board is a natural progression," said Pye, who collected 175 signatures.

In the race for the Santa Monica College board of trustees, incumbent Nancy Greenstein has qualified for the ballot along with Louise Jaffe — SMRR candidates. Andrew Walzer, also a SMRR member, is waiting for his signatures to be counted, as are David Finkel, Susanna Kim Bracke and former SMC finance director Thomas Donner.

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Scholarly achievement



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Winners of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica's college scholarships show their pride at the Santa Monica Family YMCA during the Kiwanis Annual Award Luncheon. Kiwanis gave out eight scholarships to SMC students. Students from left to right are Jesalyn Dunlap, Matthew Fuller, Jennifer Hranilovich, Serena Safdari, Marvin Amaya and Margaret McCain.

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New Alaska oil leases being offered

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department is set to open a vast area of environmentally sensitive wetlands in Alaska to new oil drilling, even as opponents point to corroding pipelines to the east at Prudhoe Bay as a reason to keep the area off-limits.

The tens of thousands of acres in and around Lake Teshekpuk on Alaska's North Slope are part of the oil-rich Barrow Arch that also includes the Prudhoe Bay fields that have kept oil flowing for decades.

The lease sale, opposed by environmentalists and some members of Congress, comes

as federal regulators and a House committee investigate inspection and maintenance programs of BP-Alaska where widespread pipeline corrosion forced the partial shutdown of Prudhoe Bay oil production Aug. 6.

BP-Alaska is a subsidiary of London-based BP PLC.

Government geologists believe at least 2 billion barrels of oil and huge amounts of natural gas lie beneath the coastal lagoons, river deltas and sedge grass meadows — an area also where caribou give birth to their calves and thousands of geese migrate each summer to molt.

Within days, the Interior Department will open tracts in the lake area for leasing, with the

winning bids announced in late September.

The lake and its surrounding wetlands are within the federal National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), a vast area of 22 million acres set aside in 1923 by the federal government for its oil and gas resources.

Unlike the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge farther to the east, the NPRA is acknowledged by all sides to be an area for energy development. But environmentalists argue that parts of it — especially the region around Lake Teshekpuk — should be excluded from the lease sales.

They contend that the risks to the environment were reinforced by the recent disclosure of shoddy maintenance, inadequate

inspections and corroded pipes that led to the partial shutdown of North Slope oil production. BP Alaska has said it is replacing two thirds of its 22-mile Prudhoe Bay feeder pipeline system because of corrosion.

The company has acknowledged it was wrong to rely on ultrasonic tests to monitor the pipes and not internal tests using so-called smart pig technology, while also allowing a buildup of sludge in the pipes.

But the oil industry says it spends tens of millions of dollars for environmental protection on the North Slope and using modern technology can explore and develop oil fields in sensitive areas without a risk to wildlife and the environment.

Inti-Illimani blends cultures, talks politics in its music

TWILIGHT DANCE, from page 1

the poorest and most ancient cultures they discovered Andean music and in a sense, their roots. The name Inti-Illimani (pronounced Inte-E-gee-mane) is from the Ayamara dialect: Inti means sun, and Illimani refers to a mountain near La Paz, Bolivia.

Wedded in traditional Latin American roots, Inti-Illimani composes music for more than 30 wind, string and percussion instruments, and it has for four decades. Inti-Illimani's music became part of Latin America's visceral link between pueblo and people. Inti-Illimani plays Nueva Canción, a blend of traditional Latin American folk

music idioms and progressive and often politicized lyrics.

"We have never been so political that it was propaganda," said Jorge Coulon, the group's remaining founding member. "We are not a political group in that sense, but we have always been politically engaged. We have a concept of society and about the relationships between human beings, and we try to translate our ideas into our sound, not to be part of one political party or another but in the sense to bring about a better world."

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende was deposed while Inti-Illimani was on tour in Europe. The young musicians found themselves without patria or passport, and Italy became their home for the

next 14 years. In 1988, they were warmly welcomed back to Chile, moving home permanently in 1990.

They have appeared on Amnesty International stages with Peter Gabriel, Bruce Springsteen, Mercedes Sosa, Sting, Wynton Marsalis and at benefit concerts for the Victor Jara Foundation (London, Dortmund, Glasgow) with Paco Peña, John Williams, Emma Thompson, Karen Matheson, Maria Farantouri, Salsa Celtica and the Rambert Dance Company.

Bike Attack and Amoeba Records will give out more prizes at tonight's concert. Bike Attack, located on Main Street, is raffling off a beach cruiser. The proceeds from the raffle will support Heal the Bay. Amoeba

Records will give away a \$100 gift certificate to a fan who signs up for their mailing list at their booth.

The Santa Monica Pier entrance is at the intersection of Colorado Avenue and Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. Beach parking is available in lots located at 2030 Barnard Way and 1550 PCH, both of which are accessible from Ocean Avenue. Parking space is limited and pier officials encourage walking, biking and using mass transit.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on the West Parking Deck. For more information and a lineup of future Twilight performers, go to www.twilightdance.org. For bus information, visit www.bigbluebus.com and www.mta.net, or call (310) 451-5444.

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SPORTS BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

NOT A BELLY ITCHER: Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Bruce Hurst gives a pitching clinic at the Urban Youth Academy.

Baseball for books

By Daily Press staff

A group of 40 teenagers from low-income families spent five weeks this summer taking courses with SMC professors in the morning and playing baseball and softball in the afternoons at Major League Baseball’s facility in Compton. On June 26, two professors and two counselors from SMC began teaching college-level courses to a group of about 40 students ranging in age from 14 to 17. Students have spent their mornings four days a week taking either interpersonal communication or English and three days a week in study skills classes with SMC counsels.

“The things professor Hemmert teaches us I can use outside the class,” said 15-year-old Erica Burnett, who attends the Los Angeles Adventist Academy. After attending classes in the morning and taking a lunch break, the young SMC students spent two hours in the afternoon getting intensive baseball and softball training, including workouts outdoors and in a weight-training room in the academy clubhouse, which has equipment donated by the Oakland A’s and other teams.

The academy is operating a variety of free baseball, academic and vocational programs year-round for youngsters ranging in age from 8 to 17. Almost all of the children and teenagers live within 10 miles of the academy, including the communities of South Los Angeles, Carson, Lynwood, Paramount, Long Beach and Compton. All are low-

income, most are boys and the ethnic split is about 60 percent black to 40 percent Latino. Academy officials said while the program is likely to foster the development of Major League players — for example, Lyndon Poole started playing at the academy in June and was signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers July 5 — the organization is focused on much more than baseball skills. Academics, character building and healthy socialization are equally — if not more — important, officials said. Students take specialized clinics in non-playing disciplines such as sports journalism, turf management, statistics, scouting, umpiring and player development. They also have access to computers, as well as college courses to foster academic achievement.

“The youth have to learn that when they pick up the ball, they also have to pick up the book,” said Dr. Robert Adams, SMC vice president of student affairs, who was instrumental in setting up the summer SMC program at the academy.

The Urban Youth Academy — a \$10 million, 10-acre baseball complex at Compton College just opened in February. The 12,000-square-foot clubhouse has locker rooms, a training room complete with a whirlpool to help injured players, batting cages and more. The academy complex features a practice field and the showcase field, complete with scoreboard, 92-seat grandstand, dugouts and lights.

The SMC classes ended Friday and a graduation ceremony was held on July 31 at the academy in Compton.

Table tennis tourney served up

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will host this year’s annual USA Pacific Coast Open Table Tennis Tournament. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, and is free for spectators. On Sunday, Aug. 27, at 9 a.m., the tournament is open to anyone who signs up. The tournament is free. At 1 p.m. Sunday, the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals of Saturday’s round robin tournaments will be held. The tournament will take place in the SMC Pavilion, located at 1900 Pico Blvd. Winners will be awarded trophies. For information, contact Jo Kidd at (310) 434-4315 or e-mail her at kidd_jo@smc.edu.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — AT A GLANCE					ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 5:10 p.m. Seattle at L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.
	W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	70	46	.603	—	
Boston	68	50	.576	3	
Toronto	64	55	.538	7 1/2	
Baltimore	51	68	.429	201/2	
Tampa Bay	47	72	.395	241/2	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	71	48	.597	—	
Philadelphia	59	60	.496	12	
Florida	56	64	.467	151/2	
Atlanta	55	63	.466	151/2	
Washington	52	67	.437	19	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	63	55	.534	—	
Cincinnati	61	58	.513	2 1/2	
Houston	57	63	.475	7	
Milwaukee	57	63	.475	7	
Chicago	52	68	.433	12	
Pittsburgh	46	75	.380	181/2	
West Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	64	57	.529	—	
Arizona	60	59	.504	3	
San Diego	60	59	.504	3	
Colorado	58	61	.487	5	
San Francisco	56	63	.471	7	
THURSDAY'S GAMES					
Baltimore (R.Lopez 8-12)	at	N.Y. Yankees (Wright 9-6), 10:05 a.m.			
Cleveland (Byrd 7-6)	at	Minnesota (Garza 0-1), 10:10 p.m.			
Kansas City (OPerez 4-4)	at	Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 9-10), 11:05 a.m.			
Texas (Volquez 1-1)	at	Detroit (Rogers 11-6), 4:05 p.m.			
Toronto (Burnett 4-5)	at	Tampa Bay (Kazmir 10-8), 4:15 p.m.			
Seattle (Moyer 6-11)	at	L.A. Angels (Escobar 8-10), 7:05 p.m.			
FRIDAY'S GAMES					
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 10:05 a.m., 1st game					
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 5:05 p.m., 2nd game					
Oakland at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m., 1st game					
Oakland at Kansas City, 5:40 p.m., 2nd game					
Texas at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.					
Toronto at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.					
THURSDAY'S GAMES					
Atlanta (Barry 0-1)	at	Washington (Bergmann 0-0), 10:05 a.m.			
N.Y. Mets (Maine 2-3)	at	Philadelphia (Mathieson 1-3), 10:05 a.m.			
Cincinnati (Lohse 2-5)	at	St. Louis (Weaver 5-13), 11:10 a.m.			
Arizona (Webb 13-4)	at	Colorado (Fogg 8-7), 12:05 p.m.			
San Francisco (Cain 8-9)	at	San Diego (Peavy 6-11), 12:35 p.m.			
Houston (Hirsh 0-1)	at	Milwaukee (Sheets 3-4), 5:05 p.m.			
FRIDAY'S GAMES					
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.					
Washington at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.					
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m.					

INTERNATIONAL

French foreign minister calls for Israel to lift blockade

BY ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The French foreign minister on Wednesday called for Israel to lift its air, naval and land blockade of Lebanon, saying it was unnecessary with the U.N.-imposed cease-fire holding. Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy was in Beirut with his Turkish counterpart to discuss the deployment of a 15,000-strong international force to south Lebanon, amid doubt over whether Hezbollah would lay down its arms or even withdraw them from the border with Israel. Douste-Blazy said France would commit troops to the United Nations peacekeeping force, but did not say how many soldiers. The international force, which will be bolstered by 15,000 troops from Lebanon, will police the cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah fighters that ended 34 days of fighting on Monday. The diplomatic maneuvers came as the Israeli army withdrew more of its troops from southern Lebanon while Lebanese troops prepared to move across the Litani River on Thursday to take control of the war-ravaged region from Hezbollah guerrillas. The blockade was instituted shortly after fighting began July 12, when Israel bombed

the Beirut international airport, blocked sea-ports and began destroying road links to Syria. “The blockade imposed on the airport and Lebanese ports should be lifted. We ask Israeli authorities to lift the land and sea siege on Lebanon. And we ask the Lebanese government to strengthen monitoring” of points of entry to insure Hezbollah weapons are banned, Douste-Blazy said. “There is no longer a reason for Israel to continue the blockade,” he added. Israel said the blockade is still necessary until the peacekeeping force is in place to prevent the Islamic militant group from rearming. “Israel cannot allow a situation in which Hezbollah could be strategically rearmed,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said. In the interim, Regev said, “Israel will do everything we can to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid to the people of Lebanon.” The U.N. hopes 3,500 international troops can reinforce a 2,000-strong U.N. contingent already on the ground within 10 to 15 days to help consolidate the cease-fire and create conditions for Israeli forces to head home, Assistant U.N. Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Hedi Annabi said. Those plans depend on the Lebanese government giving the order for its army to

move south of the Litani. The Cabinet had been unable to meet on the issue since the cease-fire because of divisions over what should be done about Hezbollah’s arms in the south. It scheduled a meeting for late Wednesday afternoon, the office of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said. Ali Hassan Khalil, a legislator who held talks with Saniora Wednesday on behalf of the Hezbollah, said “everyone was keen on having consensus.” The arrangement taking shape among Lebanese politicians, military officials and Hezbollah would call for guerrillas to not carry weapons or use their heavily fortified bunkers to fire rockets. There would be no requirement to move weapons north of the Litani, for the time being. Israel’s military chief said Wednesday that Israeli soldiers would remain in southern Lebanon for months, if necessary, until replaced by U.N. and Lebanese army soldiers, Israel Radio reported. Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz spoke in response to an intelligence assessment that it could take months for the U.N.-Lebanese force to deploy, the radio station reported. On Tuesday, Halutz had predicted Israel would withdraw its forces from Lebanon within seven to 10 days. In a sign of lingering danger in south Lebanon, security officials said an explosive

detonated Wednesday in the town of Nabatiyeh, killing a 20-year-old man. The victim, Ali Turkieh, stepped on the bomb outside his family home. A girl in the area was injured by explosives a day earlier. Aid officials said unexploded bombs littering southern Lebanon were forcing relief workers to move gingerly to deliver food and fuel to people cut off by weeks of fighting and to evacuate war wounded to hospitals. Lebanese authorities and Hezbollah sent teams across south Lebanon to clear explosives from the battlefield. Lebanese refugees returning home have clogged the road from Beirut to the southern port of Tyre, but farther south near the Israeli border the scene is more desolate, said Annick Bouvier, spokeswoman in Geneva for the International Committee of the Red Cross. “There is a lot of unexploded ordnance and in the very remote areas of southern Lebanon,” Bouvier told The Associated Press. “There is not much traffic because it is a highly dangerous area to move due to unexploded ordnance.” Douste-Blazy and his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, arrived in Beirut for talks early Wednesday. A delegation of the 56-country Organization of the Islamic Conference also traveled to Beirut by land from Syria.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave. (310) 395-4990

ROBOCOP



Friday
Close Encounters of the Third Kind (PG)/ THX-1138 (R) 7:30
Saturday
Robocop (Unrated)/ Starship Troopers (R) 7:30
Sunday
The War of the Worlds (1953) 7:30

AMC7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street (310) 289-4262



TALLADEGA NIGHTS

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)
10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 7:20, 8:35, 9:50, 11:10, 12:00
John Tucker Must Die (PG-13)
11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
Miami Vice (R)
10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:50, 8:50, 10:45, 11:45
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)
10:20, 1:25, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15
Superman Returns (PG-13)
11:30, 5:20, 11:00

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street (310) 458-6232



THE NIGHT LISTENER

The Night Listener (R)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45
Scoop (PG-13)
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00
The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)
11:55, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd (310) 281-8228
Changing Times
11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street (310) 394-9741



AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Quinceanera (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Little Miss Sunshine (R)
12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street (310) 395-1599

The Descent (R)
11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
The Ant Bully (PG)
12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Clerks II (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10
Lady in the Water (PG-13)
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
Monster House (PG, No Passes)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
You, Me and Dupree (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

More information email news@smdp.com



RICHARD GERE has told an AIDS conference that the media — from the chief executives of TV networks to the cultural icons of Hollywood and Bollywood — must fight the disease by using their enormous reach into people's hearts and homes.

Gere, a longtime AIDS activist and founder and director

of Healing the Divide and the Heroes Project in India, joined media giants from India, the Caribbean, South Africa and Russia on Monday to promote the use of AIDS awareness campaigns in TV programming.

The 56-year-old actor said he was inspired by Rock Hudson, who died of AIDS in 1985, and Hudson's good friend

Elizabeth Taylor, one of the first Hollywood stars to become actively involved in anti-AIDS campaigns.

Gere said of Taylor's work: "There was another cultural icon, who just cut to the center of the culture very quickly, very directly. And I think it was in many ways an inspiration to me.

"What I would do later on is

work with people who had that ability to cut through very quickly and very deeply into the heart of a culture."

Gere, a follower and friend of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has made many trips to India. Two years ago, he helped launch the Heroes Project with grants from his own foundation, the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

The group worked with TV executives in India to produce public service announcements using cultural icons such as Bollywood's Amitabh Bachchan, as well as soap operas with HIV-positive characters, documentaries and talk shows.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ricci: Still fighting for abuse

CHRISTINA RICCI co-starred with Charlize Theron in "Monster" and Johnny Depp in "Sleepy Hollow," but she says she still auditions for movies.

Ricci, 26, fought hard for the role of anxiety-ridden Rae, a victim of childhood sexual abuse, in "Black Snake Moan," written and directed by Craig Brewer (writer/director of "Hustle & Flow"). Samuel L. Jackson co-stars as Lazarus, a farmer and blues musician who tries to help her.

She is chained half-naked to a radiator throughout much of the film, due for release in

February.

"... my agent started inundating Craig Brewer with photo shoots I had done that are pure sex shots," Ricci says with a laugh in an interview in the September issue of Premiere magazine.

"I have to say that I still audition for movies," she says. "I don't really have as much control over my career as others would like to pretend that I do."

As for huge commercial stardom, Ricci, whose screen credits also include roles in "The Addams Family," "Buffalo '66" and "The Opposite of Sex,"

says: "I don't think that's ever going to happen for me."

She tells the magazine: "My agent will pull up a picture of me blond, fat, thin, whatever. I know that had I been thinner at the time when my indie movies were hitting, I could've been in a much better position in my career, but I kind of like where I am."

Her upcoming films include the ensemble war drama "Home of the Brave" and the fairy tale "Penelope," about a girl cursed with a pig's nose who must learn to love herself to overcome her affliction.

AP



GOD'S GIFT



LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

says he is getting a hand from God in his battle against pancreatic cancer.

"Now I only need God's help, and it really seems to me that he is giving it to me," Pavarotti was quoted as telling Corriere della Sera in an interview published Tuesday.

The interview, at the 70-year-old tenor's villa near the Adriatic Sea resort town of Pesaro, was conducted by Ettore Mo, a veteran correspondent of the Milan daily and a friend of Pavarotti for some 40 years. Pavarotti sat in a wheelchair.

After reminiscing fondly about his performances alongside Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras as the Three Tenors, Pavarotti added: "It was a great beautiful season that we had. But I don't listen to myself (singing) anymore."

AP



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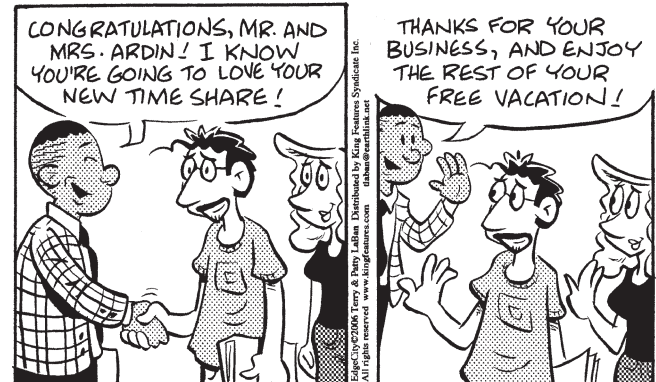
The Dinette Set

by Julie Larson



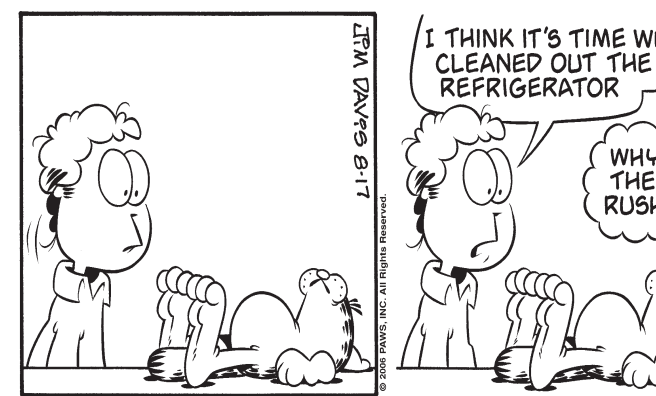
edge city

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



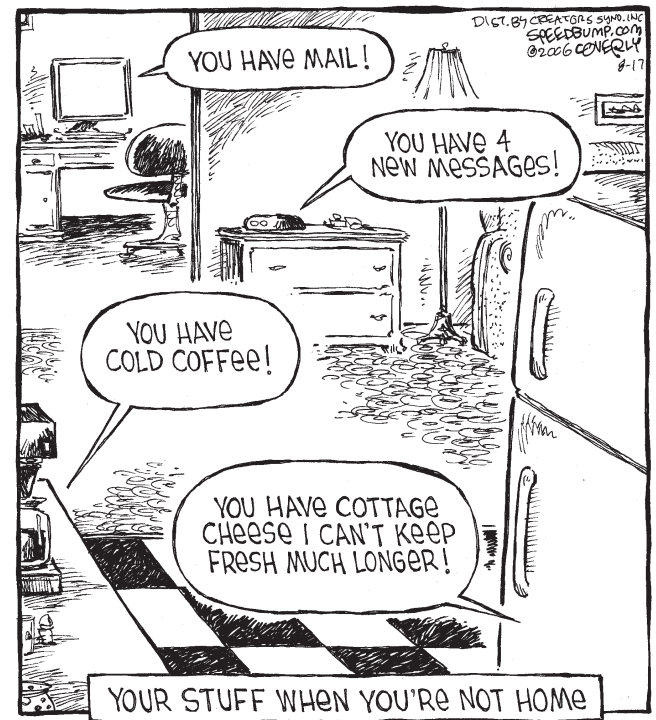
Garfield

By Jim Davis



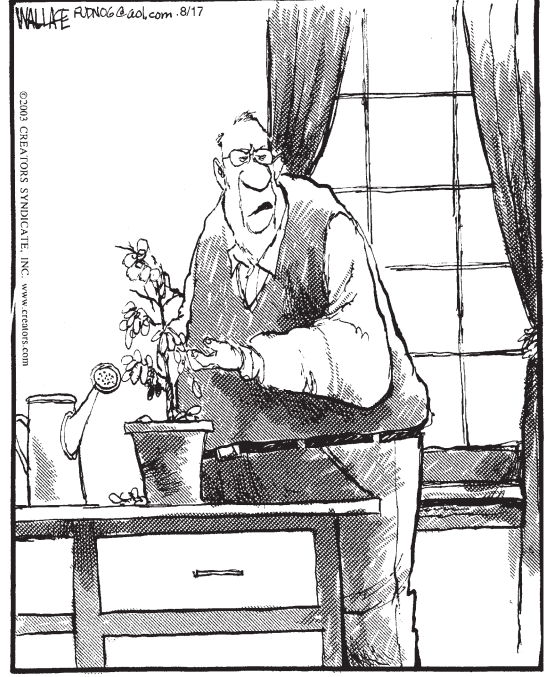
Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Unruly groups
- 5 Kind of basin
- 10 Pennsylvania port
- 11 Italian sandwiches
- 12 Shaker stuff
- 13 Lengthen
- 14 Comment on love and war
- 16 Licorice candy
- 20 Circle spoke
- 23 Fine
- 24 Cast out
- 25 Ship of 1492
- 27 Co-star of Betty and Rue
- 28 Croquet hoop
- 29 Cookie flavoring
- 32 Standout players
- 36 One kind of equality
- 39 Decisive win
- 40 Berserk state
- 41 Opposed to
- 42 River part
- 43 Calendar span

DOWN

- 1 South-western sight
- 2 Language test
- 3 Platypus feature
- 4 Put to sea
- 5 Fare carriers
- 6 Prolog
- 7 Go out
- 8 Abby's sister
- 9 Cover
- 11 Tolls
- 15 Chimney part
- 17 Military level
- 18 Pledge week premium

A	C	I	D			T	O	T	E
P	A	N	E	S		Z	E	B	R
O	C	T	E	T		E	N	T	E
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T	O	W	I	T		U	V	U	L
C	R	E	M	E		P	O	S	E
H	A	R	E				W	E	D

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Card game for three
- 20 Singer McEntire
- 21 Skating maneuver
- 22 Watch part
- 25 Photos holder
- 26 Wonka of fiction
- 30 Pious sort
- 31 Open square
- 33 Top-notch
- 34 Lee of TV
- 35 Commotion
- 36 "Mayberry"
- 37 Is for two?
- 38 Animator's frame

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
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40							41		
42							43		

8-17

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OCEAN House is looking for experienced cook to work in kitchen at upscale retirement community on Ocean Ave. This is a full time position and candidate must have experience and be flexible morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Benefits eligible after 90 days. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume with salary history to (310)314-7356

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings, day and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

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 Exterior Color: Silver
 Price: \$19,950
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2001 Lexus RX 300 – 4dr SUV
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 Mileage: 66,851
 Exterior Color: White
 Stock #: PL15390
 Price: \$16,950
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
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 Mileage: 66,806
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 Price: \$17,950
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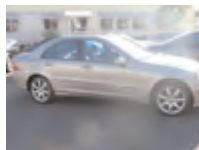
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Exterior Color: Silver
Stock #: L15245
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Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
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Exterior Color: Silver
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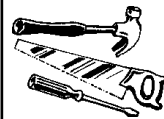
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FOR 27 MONTHS

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\$249.88 + tax first months payment for 27 months on approved Tier 1 credit. \$4204 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$4999 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$50,265. 7.5K Miles/yr. 25¢ per mile excess. **OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.**



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FOR 27 MONTHS
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FOR 27 MONTHS

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FOR 27 MONTHS
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PER MONTH
FOR 39 MONTHS
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'04 C240	RED TAG PRICE	\$22,984
NEW CAR TRADE, CD CHANGER, CERTIFIED, 4E0149871		
'01 E430	RED TAG PRICE	\$24,983
BLACK/BLACK, NAVIGATION, CD, CERTIFIED, 4061487		
'04 C240 WAG	RED TAG PRICE	\$25,984
BLACK/TAN, NEW CAR TRADE, CERTIFIED, 4F542269		
'03 ML500	RED TAG PRICE	\$27,982
DESIGNO EDITION, NEW CAR TRADE, CERTIFIED, 3A742630		
'06 C280	RED TAG PRICE	\$31,981
SILVER/ASH, NAVIGATION, CERTIFIED, 6A844738		
'05 E320 DIESEL	RED TAG PRICE	\$49,981
CERTIFIED AND MORE! 5A7712531		
'03 S500	RED TAG PRICE	\$50,981
BL/BL, SPT, 20" WHLS, NEW CAR TRD, CERTIFIED, 3A375310		
'05 E320 DIESEL	RED TAG PRICE	\$51,981
NAVIGATION, CERTIFIED, 5A681292		
'06 R500	RED TAG PRICE	\$51,981
PEWTER/BLACK, CERTIFIED, MSRP \$69,451, 6A0U3684		
'03 G500	RED TAG PRICE	\$54,981
SILVER/BLACK, CERTIFIED, 3X138034		

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'94 SL600	RED TAG PRICE	\$24,981
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'06 CLS 500	RED TAG PRICE	\$CALL!!!
SPORT/PREMIUM PACKAGES, KEYLESS, LOW 5K MI 6A026167		

'07 S550

BLACK/BLACK, SPORT, MSRP WAS \$108,435, 7A034646

\$CALL!!

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SALE EVENT!**

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'04 PILOT EX	RED TAG PRICE	\$22,981
BLACK/BLACK, ONLY 6K MILES, 4H605035		
'03 LR DISCOVERY	RED TAG PRICE	\$22,983
GREY/BLACK, NEW CAR TRADE, 3A78190		
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