

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 19 21 31 42

Megamember: 9

Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

7 20 22 30 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 2 5

Evening: 7 1 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:40.84

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

News of the Weird has reported on Americans singularly obsessed, beyond all distraction, with the alleged illegality of U.S. income taxes. In July, an Australian family was convicted in Melbourne of defrauding the Tax Office, after converting its farm in Victoria into the "Principality of Ponderosa," claiming it was an independent kingdom that owed Australia nothing for its income from polystyrene box manufacturing. Virgilio Rigoli and his sons (including "Little Joe," 25) had issued a Declaration of Independence in 1994 and required passports for anyone crossing the border "from" Australia. According to their lawyer, what initially angered the Rigolis was the Department of Agriculture's bulldozing a crop that had become infested with a pest.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 230th day of 2005.
There are 135 days left in the year.

On Aug. 18, 1846, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, N.M.

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"That is one of the bitter curses of poverty; it leaves no right to be generous."

GEORGE GISSING
ENGLISH AUTHOR AND CRITIC (1857-1903)

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Military center a possible target

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — A recent counter-terrorism investigation has led to the arrest of a Santa Monica College student and the discovery that a local military recruitment center may have been a potential

bomb target.

Pakistani national Hammad Riaz Samana, 21, was taken into custody Aug. 2 and has been detained at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, according to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Federal officials would not say

what charges he could face.

The arrest of Samana, an SMC student from Inglewood who has been living in the United States for at least three years, is part of a terror probe that began when Torrance police arrested Levar Haney Washington, 25, and Gregory Vernon Patterson, 21, on

July 5 for a series of gas station robberies.

Torrance police searched an apartment and discovered a list of possible sites targeted for Sept. 11, 2005. That list included three National Guard facilities in the

See **TERROR ARREST**, page 9

Tanks for memories

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — The demolition of the old RAND Corp. building this month marks the end of an era for the global think-tank based in downtown Santa Monica.

The old RAND headquarters was razed in the past week, leaving only debris and dust to occupy a building that has accommodated some of the greatest leaders and thinkers the world has ever seen.

Completed in 1953, the building was designed, in part, by

RAND's then-head of the math department, John Williams. His concept was intended to maximize "chance meetings" between people, said RAND spokeswoman Iao Katagiri. Williams suggested the idea and mathematical building plan in a memo to RAND staff, which was then incorporated into the architect's design.

The lattice design had people walking in small figure-eight patterns so that they were frequently turning corners.

See **RAND RAZED**, page 10



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Construction workers raze the former RAND Corp. building on Main Street recently. The site will eventually be transformed into a park and housing.

Missing Alzheimer's victim presumed dead

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

The search for an elderly Santa Monica man gone missing three weeks ago may have come to a grim conclusion Tuesday morning, as gardeners in West Los Angeles discovered a decomposed, unrecognizable body wearing an Alzheimer's alert bracelet

similar to the one last seen on the 73-year-old's wrist.

Though police have not yet identified the body — found near a home off Sunset Boulevard and West Cove Drive — the Los



ROLAND BAKER

Angeles County coroner will likely examine the remains within the next couple days, using fingerprints and dental records to determine if the remains are in fact Roland Baker's, said Lt. Ed Winter at the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner.

"Once the body is examined,

See **BODY FOUND**, page 9

One Phat tribute to Benny Goodman on Pier

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's free outdoor concert at the Santa Monica Pier is promised to be phat.

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band and clarinetist Eddie Daniels will headline the Twilight Dance Series, now in its 21st season.

The concert has been scheduled specifically to mark the 70th anniversary of the night Benny Goodman and his orchestra opened a two-night engagement on Aug. 21, 1935 at the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles. The engagement was so successful that



Photo courtesy

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band will take center stage tonight on the Pier.

it was extended to seven weeks. The Swing era began from there.

In celebration of the event, tonight's concert will open with the well-known film historian and frequent contributor to "Entertainment Tonight," Leonard Maltin, also an admirer of the Big Phat

Band, introducing a film clip taken from the 1937 Warner Brothers' film, "Hollywood Hotel," directed by Buzz Berkeley. The Goodman band in formation is shown playing

See **GETTING PHAT**, page 12

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A whole new world, without leaving home

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica will be the center of the universe next month. "In the Beginning," a look at the details of the birth of the universe and the formation of the solar system, will be the feature show Sept. 2, 9, 16 and 23 at SMC's Friday night astronomy series.

The guest lecture will be "Palomar's 200-Inch Telescope: The Impossible Challenge." Todd and Robin Mason, Los Angeles documentary filmmakers, will tell the story of the technological breakthroughs and human will that it took to build the giant telescope. The guest lecture will be Friday, Sept. 30.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration at 7 p.m.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lecture is in science lecture hall 140.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Sweet sounds of 'String Strong'

By Daily Press staff

A group of children from various Santa Monica elementary schools will be performing an eclectic array of chamber music at the Third Street Promenade on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds raised will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Los Angeles.

The group calls themselves "String Strong" and their formation was inspired by Elemental Strings, a larger string group ensemble sponsored by Aaron Mendelsohn's Maestro Foundation and led by John Redfield.

The members of String Strong are Ilana Greenberg, Sydney Howard, Lillian Hwang, Chloe Stoddard, Jessica Stoddard and Sasha Strohkendl.

Top Elk pays visit to local gang

By Daily Press staff

Bob Duitsman, who was recently installed at the Elks Grand Lodge Convention in Reno as district deputy grand exalted ruler, recently paid his official visit to Santa Monica Elks. Duitsman is a past exalted ruler of Culver City Elks and a past state vice president. He reviewed their lodge procedures and their committee activities.

Duitsman presented a certificate of commendation to Exalted Ruler Ray Beers for having a well-run lodge with a well-balanced set of programs. All programs mandated by Grand Lodge were being conducted.

Duitsman presented a "District Distinguished Elk" plaque to Robbie Robinson, chairman of the Veterans Program. Robinson's committee conducted two barbecues for hospitalized Veterans, serving more than 400 people each time. They had Veterans Day, Flag Day and Memorial Day programs.

Grady Sain, president of the Jack Showers Foundation, also received recognition for its charitable contributions. They have been major contributors to the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club — a computer technology room, baseball programs, basketball leagues, a Christmas party for underprivileged children — as well as Christmas packages for overseas servicemen, drug awareness programs and many other programs.

Lisa Meinhart, chairman of the Drug Awareness Committee, has just completed another drug awareness program involving 60 boys, girls and adults.

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SURF REPORT

SoCal waters are starting to show ground swell coming in from the south at 2-3 feet with 14+ second periods, and remnant SW from Fernanda at 2-3 feet with 10-second periods.

Overall, south-facing breaks are doing best with waist- to chest-high surf. West-facing breaks are running waist high. Size is expected to increase as the day progresses along south facing breaks.

Today the water is:

67°

Write us at alex@smdp.com
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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
FRIDAY	3:55	-1.3	3:29	1.5	10:18	4.8	9:39	7.1

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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.

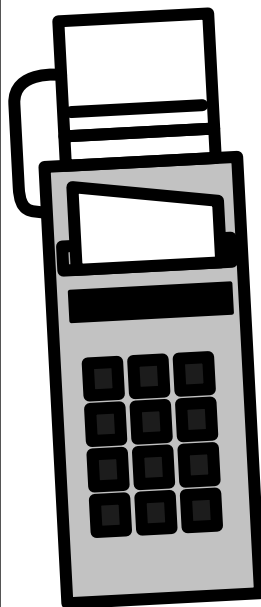
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bush turns conservative into a liberal

Editor:

Mr. Smith, I read with interest your article re: Mrs. Sheehan's "demonstration" in Crawford, (SMDP, Aug. 11, page 4). I totally agree with your premise that President Bush could/should have another conversation with her.

Recently, while driving home from my daughter's home in Santa Monica, I was listening to NPR and the president was saying that he hoped those who had lost loved ones could take reassurance knowing that he and the nation were remembering them in their thoughts and prayers and that the loved ones had died for a noble cause. I literally became nauseated by such disregard for the obvious. What noble cause?

Also on Aug. 11 there was an article on the op/ed page of the LA Times by Margaret Carlson regarding the same situation, as well as others.

To be quite honest, I'm not sure why I'm writing to you unless it is to say that President Bush's war has made a liberal of me and the majority of my family, friends, etc. are conservatives who either endorse Bush because of his other policies or because they don't want to be known as liberal, whatever the hell that means. My friends are constantly sending me stuff about supporting our troops in Iraq and when I explain to them that I am not showing a lack of support for our troops, I'm showing a lack of support for Bush's foreign policies, if you can stretch the imagination to call them policies.

I lived in Houston for 11 years and I developed a tongue-in-cheek attitude about the Texas image. I realize Bush is not from Texas but I think his hubris comes from the mistaken notion of macho that follows that cowboy persona. Real cowboys are not stupid. I honestly become nauseated when I listen to Bush anymore. I voted for him the first time he ran but I listen, hoping to find a ray of intelligence or humility in him. I really don't believe it exists. I don't really believe he is an evil man, just ignorant and surrounds himself with people who agree with him. I wouldn't trust Dick Cheney in a meat house with a muzzle on. I didn't trust him when he was in Reagan's administration.

I got my degree in political science from George Washington University and I simply love politics and philosophy. My dad taught me to listen to both sides of a discussion and then make my decision. This I have tried to do in all areas but I have learned that many people say the news is so bad they don't listen to it anymore. I find that so sad and alarming that they follow blindly without trying to find out the basis of their beliefs.

I do hope Mrs. Sheehan does not waste the opportunity she has to be strong regarding Bush but not to succumb to any superficial rhetoric that can hurt her credibility. Sometimes the spotlight does strange things to honorable and well intentioned people.

Carmella Cornett
Westlake Village

You go, Governor

Editor:

I can't believe the media has been saying that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is "stale" and doing nothing. This is untrue because the governor has been doing something. He has improved the state's economy, cut down the huge deficit and has proposed reforms to the state's wrecked system of government. This has all been done without raising taxes. The governor's special election on Nov. 8 will help the state and its children's education. It is obvious that the governor is the most influential political figure currently on the scene.

Katie Tucker
Downey

It's simple math

Editor:

There are 40 gallons of oil in a barrel, \$64 divided by 40 is \$1.60. If you take away the 18-cent state tax and the 19-cent federal tax on each gallon of California gasoline, we get \$2.64 less 37 cents or \$2.27 net retail at the pump. There is no way that the oil refiners are buying their crude at \$64 a barrel with a margin, excluding gas stations, of \$2.27 less \$1.60 or 67 cents.

I think that the refiners are paying around \$15 to \$25 per barrel of crude as it comes to their plant. And the almost exponentially rising Wall Street prices are artificially inflated because energy is the only game in town when speculators, energy mutual funds, and the oil companies themselves who probably bought futures when oil was at \$32 a barrel, are compensating for the loss of "turn-over" commissions since the Nasdaq bubble broke in 2000, and blue chip manufacturing stocks are in the doldrums.

I say this because the Lumber survey, who some years ago would comment about rising gasoline prices are all of a sudden very quiet.

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

'Awe' shucks: Iraq searches for a name

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



They're having a tough time of it over there drafting an American-style constitution in what may soon officially be called "New Iraq." One of the main points they're haggling over in fact is what to name the thing that has emerged from the ash and rubble of "Shock and Awe." See how easy it is for America to name things? So these poor new Iraqi founding fathers are under the gun, thinking there's got to be something catchier than "New Iraq," and besides — York, England, Mexico and Zealand already have just about worn the "New" thing out.

So the current American administration has been getting their heads together, and these media-savvy westerners who now own the ancient Mesopotamia are trying to help them come up with a brand name that has cachet.

Donald Rumsfeld suggested "Mesopotopia," but it was shot down — too new-agey for this old school bunch.

The president came up with "Freelandia" and you'd think that one might be a keeper.

But it's almost like trying to come up with the perfect name for a rock 'n' roll band. Who among us hasn't sat around somewhere in a smoke-filled room with guys forming a new group, throwing names at the wall until one sticks? The more you dwell on it the harder it gets. It's hard work. No name is perfect. As excellent as "Freelandia" might have sounded at first, the more they thought about it the more they hated it. Not that there's anything wrong with it, but it's a little happy if you know what I mean, so they threw it out.

Dick Cheney must have been smoking the good stuff because he favored "Qwik-Cashistan," though it does have a nice flow to it, and a proper suffix. A lot of people are making a lot of that over there, especially his old company, Halliburton, and the mercenary soldiers of fortune who are being paid salaries that dwarf those of the official American soldiers of misfortune. But, too bad, "Qwik-Cash" — suffix or no suffix — is already taken by a little payday advance store at a strip mall on Pico and Lincoln, the kind that has been thriving for some time now in cities and small towns all across America, especially the ones with military bases near them. I took note of the sudden preponderance of the cash stores some four years ago but could never figure out the significance, other than a lot of people must be living

right on the edge of financial depravity. And now, that includes soldiers, many of whom have given their all for "New Iraq" while simultaneously being taken of their all by the burgeoning "Qwik-Cash" outlets that charge fees adding up to something like a 720 percent annual interest rate.

Navy Petty officer 2nd Class Jason Withrow paid first-class interest on the advances he took on the meager paycheck he drew for having our back in Iraq. He said, "In five months I spent about \$7,000 in interest and didn't even pay on the \$1,900 principal." One lobbyist in Washington named — I'm not kidding — Jet Toney, blames it on the kids who are willing to die for his greediness. He provides strong advocacy in the halls of Congress for the 720 percent financial interests of the loan sharks, saying, "They're not preying on anybody, they're just open for business. How many 18- to 22-year-olds make perfect financial decisions?" Jet Toney maybe hasn't fully thought through the difficulty of making perfect financial decisions while dodging all manner of improvised explosive devices on the dead-end streets of Baghdad for a bad paycheck. A little shell-shocked maybe, the GI writes home to tell the wife to get the draw against the next check down at the Qwik-Cash to keep the kids fed until he gets home to a decent-paying job. Meanwhile Jet Toney sheds a tear all the way to the bank.

George W. Bush — Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Withrow's and Army Spc. Casey Sheehan's commander-in-chief — when questioned how he could find time for daily two-hour bike rides on his five-week vacation without finding five minutes to meet with Sheehan's mother in his driveway for one minute answered, "I have to go on with my life." You fill in the punchline.

The Arlington West crosses representing every American who has given his life to the Iraq War — some 2,000 and counting — were taken from the sands of Santa Monica last weekend, to a field outside the president's Prairie Chapel ranch in Crawford where Cindy Sheehan continues her vigil in honor of her fallen son. A local patriot chained a long iron bar to the back of his pickup truck Monday night, and mowed them down in a courageous show of support for the president, the soldiers, the war, and God knows whatever else.

As he attempted to flee into the Texas night, he didn't get very far. His truck ground to a halt, impaled on some of the crosses.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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STATE



Controllers warn FAA of impending disasters

CLOSE CALLS, from page 1

Understaffing means greater workloads, longer work hours and fewer eyes available to catch mistakes, said Hamid Ghaffari, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association representative for Los Angeles Center in Palmdale.

Both of the recent close calls, which occurred during bad weather, resulted from controller mistakes, he said. Nine such errors have occurred during the past two months and 27 since Oct. 1, 2004, he said.

Controllers have warned the FAA that understaffing could have disastrous consequences, Ghaffari said.

"You're really dealing with people who are overworked, low morale, stressed out," Ghaffari said. "Boy, that's not a good mixture for air traffic controllers."

Walker said the controllers' allegations were "very curious in light of the fact we began contract negotiations last month."

FAA regulations require that high altitude aircraft be separated by at least 1,000 vertical feet or five horizontal miles.

But on Aug. 14, a small Learjet flying from Cheyenne, Wyo., to Burbank came

within 100 vertical feet and three horizontal miles of a Frontier Airlines jet that had departed Los Angeles International Airport for Denver, Ghaffari said. At the time, 10 controllers were staffing a sector that was supposed to have 15 on duty, he said.

On the afternoon of Aug. 12, a commuter jet heading to Los Angeles from Salt Lake City came within 800 vertical feet and one horizontal mile of a King Air turboprop flying from Palm Springs to Livermore, Ghaffari said. When this conflict occurred, one controller was working two radar positions that normally are staffed by four people, he said.

The control center is authorized to employ 310 controllers but has just 217 certified personnel and 48 trainees, including 21 who can do very little because they're brand new to the job, Ghaffari said.

FAA officials said the center was properly staffed when the most recent incidents occurred and neither resulted in imminent collision danger.

The center handled nearly 2.2 million flights in 2004, FAA statistics show.

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Governor keeping eyes on sex offenders

BY TOM CHORNEAU
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed sweeping penalties for sex offenders Tuesday, including a requirement that paroled molesters wear satellite tracking devices for life.

The governor wants to prohibit registered sex offenders from living near parks and schools. He also seeks to increase penalties for possession of child pornography, date rapists and using the Internet to lure minors for sex acts.

"I'm sponsoring this legislation to give California the strictest laws and toughest penalties for the worst crimes," the governor said at a news conference in his office. "We want to give greater protection for all Californians — especially our children — against sexual offenders."

If enacted, the legislation would give California some of the toughest laws in the nation for released sex offenders, its supporters said. Lawmakers in Florida recently adopted a similar lifetime monitoring requirement.

Schwarzenegger's proposal could face resistance in the Democratically controlled Legislature. Democrats in the state Senate rejected a bill in June by Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Merced, that would have required lifetime electronic tracking of convicted pedophiles.

The Legislature's annual session ends early next month, giving lawmakers little time to consider such a hefty bill, said Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, who chairs the public safety committee.

"I don't know how we digest a 52-page bill and give it the appropriate attention when we have as many things going on as we do," he said.

Leno said he had not had a chance to read the legislation but said placing all registered sex offenders under satellite surveillance for life would be enormously expensive. He estimated the governor's total package of proposed changes could cost as much as \$500 million a year, a price he said included the satellite surveillance, additional jail time for some offenders and longer parole terms.

He also was concerned with placing limits on where registered sex offenders can live. Leno said he knew of someone who violated sex laws more than 30 years ago but who was never again in legal trouble. Nevertheless, that person could lose his apartment under the proposed ban on living near schools and parks, Leno said.

"Is this good public policy?" he said. "I think not."

Schwarzenegger said he did not know the potential cost of imposing lifelong monitoring of sex offenders but said it would be worth the expense.

He was joined at the event by key GOP lawmakers, chiefs of police and district attorneys from throughout the state. Schwarzenegger sidestepped a question about why no Democrats were at the event but said he hoped there would be bipartisan support for the measures and quick passage before the session ends next month. The legislation, formally titled the Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act, would be amended into existing bills and is sponsored by state Sen. George Runner, R-Antelope Valley, and his wife, Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, also a Republican. George Runner said there are less than 100,000 parolees who would be required to wear a global positioning device for the rest of their lives.

He said Democrats already have seen almost all the ideas included in the new legislation as separate bills that have been introduced previously. All of those have been rejected either this year or last, he said.

Supporters of Schwarzenegger's proposals decided to put all the changes into one bill and give the Legislature another chance. The issue will go to the ballot if they are unsuccessful this year, he said.

"We think the people of California deserve this," George Runner said. "Our thought was to give the Democrats one more shot and, if not, we've got it as an initiative."

He said the proposed ballot measure already is pending before the attorney general and most likely would be planned for the November 2006 ballot.

The Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act is amended into Senate Bill 588 and Assembly Bill 231.

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STATE



Workers, employers mull heat restrictions

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.

Farmworker advocates said they will take to the fields to make sure the provisions are enforced.

Until the new rule, which still faces review, becomes permanent in four months, they'll continue to push for a bill in the Legislature, AB805, that calls for similar provisions.

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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Historic office building to become hotel

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Landmarks Commission last week designated 710 Wilshire Blvd. as a city landmark.

The property, originally known as the "Santa Monica Professional Building," is a six-story, plus penthouse, commercial/office building located at the southeast corner of Wilshire Boulevard and 7th Street on about a 10,000-square-foot lot.

Development plans for the landmarked structure include the renovation and change of use to a hotel, including a new hotel located on the existing 37,500-square-foot parking lot directly to the south. The proposed development to the south will include ground floor retail, pedestrian-oriented shops and underground parking to accommodate the designated historic landmark structure.

Santa Monica architect Howard Laks, AIA Architects, has been selected as the architect for the proposed development project along with architectural preservationist Robert Chattel, AIA.



IRS tax deadline passes

By Daily Press staff

Time ran out this week for 1.4 million Californians, including more than 400,000 in the Los Angeles area, who had earlier requested the automatic four-month extension to file their 2004 taxes. The deadline was Aug. 15.

"Visit your professional tax preparer, use your personal computer, or go to the Free File feature at www.irs.gov <<http://www.irs.gov>> to e-file your taxes," said Victor Omelczenko, IRS spokesman in Los Angeles. "So far this year, over 8.1 million Californians have e-filed their taxes. No matter what time of the year, e-filing is fast, safe, and easy."

People unable to meet the Aug. 15 deadline may seek an additional two-month extension by filing Form 2688 — Application for Additional Extension of Time to File. Taxpayers need to provide an explanation for their extension request which, if approved by the IRS, will give them until Oct. 17 to file their return. The extension request applies only to the deadline for filing the tax return, not time for paying taxes owed.

Form 2688 is available at www.irs.gov <<http://www.irs.gov>>, and can be electronically sent to IRS either through tax professionals or through personal computers. Taxpayers also may mail it to the IRS center where their tax return must be filed.

The IRS expects to receive about 575,000 Forms 2688 from Californians, including more than 173,000 from Los Angeles area taxpayers.

Law firm puts Carr in the fast lane

By Daily Press staff

Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP., which is representing several victims of the 2003 Santa Monica Farmers' Market against City Hall, has announced that associate Scott H. Carr has become a partner with the firm.

Carr represents clients in the areas of business litigation, legal malpractice, insurance bad faith, products liability, and employment litigation. He enjoys Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating for competence and ethics.

"I've spent my entire legal career at Greene Broillet," Carr said, "and have learned the skills of being a litigator at the elbows of some of this nation's most outstanding trial attorneys. They've taught me everything that it takes to prepare a case for trial and the fine art of communicating with a jury. It's an honor to stand among them as their partner, and to be able to mentor the current generation of young lawyers working at our firm."

An accomplished plaintiff's trial attorney, Carr, 41, has handled numerous cases in diverse practice areas. They include obtaining \$11.3 million in a breach of contract and fraud case involving an investment group; \$10.4 million in a business fraud action relating to the sale of a business; and \$4.5 million in a collision at Los Angeles Airport involving a police vehicle and an airline tug. He settled a \$2.25 million case involving an automobile collision that killed a celebrity; a \$3 million industrial accident involving brake failure on a loader; and a \$3 million tire tread separation case.

"Scott brings a quiet intelligence and wisdom to the table among his many qualities as a trial attorney," said Timothy J. Wheeler, managing partner of Greene Broillet & Wheeler. "We're glad that he's on board for the long haul."

Carr serves on the board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Los Angeles chapter. He is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Consumer Attorneys of California, and the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. He also belongs to the Los Angeles County and American Bar Associations.

Keep it 'SIMPLE' at smaller businesses



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AUGER

The Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Businesses (SIMPLE) is a retirement plan designed to help employees working for small businesses save for retirement on a tax-favored basis, while allowing employers current-year tax deductions. A SIMPLE plan may use a SIMPLE individual retirement account (a SIMPLE IRA) to receive contributions.

Q: What is a SIMPLE IRA retirement plan and what are its advantages?

A: A SIMPLE IRA plan is a type of "salary reduction" retirement plan for small businesses. Due to its basic design features, it is not subject to the complex eligibility and nondiscrimination requirements associated with traditional 401(k) plans or Salary Reduction-Simplified Employee Pension Plans (SARSEPs). Administrative and other plan costs, therefore, are minimized.

Another advantage of SIMPLE IRA plans, from an employer's standpoint, is that SIMPLE IRA plans are not subject to annual reporting and testing requirements. Also, the employer will not be subject to fiduciary liability resulting from an employee exercising control over the assets in the employee's SIMPLE IRA account.

Q: Who can adopt a SIMPLE plan?

A: Any employer who has 100 or fewer employees and who does not maintain another plan may adopt a SIMPLE IRA plan. Employees with compensation of \$5,000 or more in up to any two preceding years must be included in the SIMPLE IRA plan. The employer may be a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, tax-exempt organization, or a state or local government or agency.

Q: How does a SIMPLE IRA plan work?

A: A SIMPLE IRA plan allows employees to make pre-tax elective contributions to a SIMPLE IRA. Employee contributions may be any percentage — not more than 100 percent — of total compensation, or net earned income, so long as the dollar amount contributed for any year does not exceed \$9,000 for 2004 and \$10,000 for 2005, which is subject to cost-of-living adjustments for later years. Under a sunset provision in the 2001 tax act, those enhanced limits will expire in 2011 unless Congress extends the act. It also includes any allowable catch-up contributions. Eligible employees who are at least age 50 by the last day of the year may defer an additional \$1,500 for 2004, \$2,000 for 2005 and \$2,500 for 2006 and later years. Catch-up contributions are also subject to the sunset provision in the tax law discussed in the note above.

Also, employers must contribute to the employees' SIMPLE IRA accounts using one of two contribution formulas:

■ Under the matching contribution formula, employers are required to match

employee contributions dollar-for-dollar up to 3 percent of each participating employee's compensation. A special rule allows employers to elect a lower percentage matching contribution rate but not less than 1 percent of each employee's compensation.

■ Instead of making matching contributions, for any year, employers may select a non-elective contribution formula of 2 percent of compensation on behalf of each eligible employee regardless of whether the employee is making contributions. The employer may require that each such employee actually receive at least \$5,000 in compensation during the year to be eligible to receive this employer contribution. For that purpose, compensation taken into account may not exceed \$205,000, as indexed for inflation.

The employer must give written notice specifying the employer's contribution formula for a particular year to every eligible employee at least 60 days before the start of the year. SIMPLE IRA contributions may only be made to a SIMPLE IRA account. Except for rollovers from other SIMPLE IRAs, no other contributions may be made.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: Generally, any employee who received at least \$5,000 in compensation during any two prior years, and who is reasonably expected to receive at least \$5,000 in compensation during the current year, is eligible to participate in a SIMPLE plan. An employer may elect more liberal eligibility rules. All SIMPLE contributions — employee and employer matching — are fully vested when made.

Q: How are SIMPLE IRA contributions treated for federal income tax purposes?

A: All SIMPLE IRA contributions are tax deductible for the employers. In addition, contributions to a SIMPLE IRA account are excluded from an employee's income for federal income tax purposes in the year contributed, and the assets of a SIMPLE IRA account may grow on a tax-deferred basis. The employee's pre-tax contributions are included in income for Social Security — both retirement and Medicare benefits — and unemployment taxes, if applicable. Thus, participation in a SIMPLE IRA plan will not reduce an employee's Social Security benefits. Employees' contributions may have different state income tax treatment and employers should consult with their tax advisors before beginning any retirement program.

Q: How are distributions from a SIMPLE IRA plan taxed?

A: Generally, distributions from a SIMPLE IRA plan are taxed under the rules applicable to IRAs. However, a 25 percent early distribution penalty applies to distributions taken prior to the two-year anniversary of initial participation. After the two-year period, the penalty tax rate is 10 percent. The penalty tax does not apply if the employee is 59 years old or older, or another exception applies. Tax-free rollovers may be made from one account to another.

(Call Kirk Auger at (310) 319-5220.)

LOCAL



Bank robbery busts lead FBI to student

TERROR ARREST, from page 1

Los Angeles area, including a military recruitment center at the corner of 20th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. That list also included the Israeli Consulate and several synagogues, according to recent news reports.

The FBI was subsequently notified. Laura Eimiller, FBI spokeswoman, said the bureau wouldn't comment on specifics related to the terror probe, only that the case remains under investigation.

It was unclear what led authorities from Washington and Patterson to Samana.

Lt. Rod Irvine, spokesperson for the Torrance police, would neither confirm nor deny whether a Santa Monica military recruitment center was listed as a possible target, as reported Tuesday on ABC World News Tonight with Charlie Gibson.

Tom Mrozek, a spokesperson with the U.S. Attorney's Office, would not comment on any facet of the charges related to Samana, including whether he had retained an attorney.

Santa Monica Police Chief James Butts, Jr. said he knew about the Torrance arrest through the intelligence community when he met with elected leaders in closed session last week and requested \$2 million worth of additional security measures be taken throughout downtown Santa Monica, including surveillance cameras.

"I was aware of this information when

I talked to the council last week and any implication it had for Santa Monica," Butts said.

The SMPD learned last month that a possible probe of the Santa Monica Pier was conducted by suspected Middle Eastern operatives who may be involved in a terrorist organization. A citizen on July 3 spotted three men suspiciously videotaping specific areas of the pier, including access roads and the SMPD's substation.

Those men also have been seen videotaping in other Southern California cities and tourist attractions in recent months. There's been no connection drawn between the two investigations.

Jason Penny, public affairs officer for the local U.S. Navy recruitment center at 2020 Santa Monica Blvd., said there has been no "specific" threat his office received regarding a bombing.

However, Penny said a mechanism is in place by which information regarding various terrorist threats can be gauged and responded to.

Both Washington and Patterson have pleaded not guilty to robbery charges in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Washington has been jailed at California State Prison, Sacramento. That facility has housed members of a prison-based Islamic group known for its militant views, according to news reports.

Meanwhile, Patterson's attorney, Winston McKesson, denies his client has connections to any extremist groups.

Patient missing since July 28 recalled as a 'pleasant man'

BODY FOUND, from page 1

the results will be provided to us and we'll look into it if need be," said West Los Angeles Police Department homicide detective Kirby Carranza.

Baker went missing on July 28, after leaving his Santa Monica retirement home for an early morning stroll.

Though he suffered from a gradually worsening case of Alzheimer's over the last three years, Baker remained at Holiday Villa East — a hotel-style assisted-living center for seniors who can, for the most part, take care of themselves.

Baker also had gone missing earlier this year, though he was found within a couple hours.

In an interview with the Daily Press two weeks before Tuesday's gruesome discovery, Baker's son, John, said he didn't blame the retirement home for his

father's disappearance, but planned on moving him to a care center that provides more stringent supervision.

At Holiday Villa East, the reaction was somber.

"Everybody's obviously upset," said Sam Rosenberg, an administrator at the retirement home.

Those who knew Baker had nothing but kind words about the former social worker, father of two and grandfather of one.

"He was a very soft-spoken man, always had a smile on his face," Rosenberg said. "Just a very pleasant person to be around, a very good people-person."

Santa Monica police, along with Holiday Villa East employees, Baker's son, and four hired private investigators, had spent the weeks following Baker's disappearance combing through local hospitals, homeless shelters and food lines.

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Santa Monica Civic Center Specific Plan

Prepared for the City of Santa Monica by ROMA Design Group
MAY 4, 2005

Rendering courtesy of city of Santa Monica

The Civic Center Redevelopment Plan, approved in June, includes a town square, garden walk, bicycle paths and 325 housing units earmarked for the former RAND Corp. building site.

Fleeting thoughts: Think-tank site razed

RAND RAZED, from page 1

However, the unintended result was that people often got lost, left to wander around the two-story building.

“People used to joke and say, ‘too bad I didn’t have bread crumbs in my pocket,’” Katagiri said, adding other visitors often said they were disappointed because the building was so plain.

The new RAND headquarters, located just south of the old facility at 1776 Main St., has incorporated the lattice design with one figure-eight pattern on each floor, Katagiri said.

For 52 years, the former headquarters were frequented by senior government officials and leaders from the private sector, and staffed by hundreds of academics.

Eventually, the site will be transformed into affordable housing and a park, under the development of City Hall, which is planning a massive overhaul of the entire Civic Center at an estimated \$120 million price tag.

In June, the Santa Monica City Council approved the environmental impact report for the Civic Center Redevelopment Plan, which includes a town square, a garden walk with botanical and sculpture gardens, plenty of open space and bicycle paths, as well as a childhood development facility and a revamped City Hall.

In place of the RAND building will be 325 housing units, with no fewer than 160

intended for very low- and low-income households, according to Assistant City Attorney Gordon Anderson. Some also may be work-live units.

City officials publicly put the project out for bid and are waiting for the top three proposals to come back from potential developers. The deadline to submit proposals is Sept. 15.

City Hall purchased 11 acres from the RAND Corp. in 2000 for \$53 million with the intention of completely overhauling the Civic Center area so that it would better connect to downtown Santa Monica.

The project is expected to take 10 years to complete and would be paid for through capital improvement funds, redevelopment agency tax increment funds, general obligation bonds and regional, state and federal funding sources. Affordable housing would be supported by local, state and federal housing funds.

The RAND Corp. is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. For more than 50 years, decision-makers in the public and private sectors have turned to the RAND Corp. for objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the nation and the world. Those challenges include such critical social and economic issues as education, poverty, crime and the environment, as well as a range of national security issues.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



On the road of icy stares and chilly glares

(Editor's note: Santa Monica resident Lance Schmidt is spending his last summer days cruising through Alaska on his motorcycle. He will provide a glimpse into that world for Santa Monicans every Thursday until he returns home in September. Check out smdp.com/archives for previous reports.)

EASY WRITER

NOTES FROM THE ROAD



BY LANCE SCHMIDT

Special to the Daily Press

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory — Santa Monica can be downright irritating during the dog days of summer. Traffic grinds to a halt, the homeless descend in droves, tourists fill the streets and bars with unrecognizable dialects, neighborhood groups become architectural firms and the City Council behaves like rabid squirrels frothing at the mouth from their bluff. Kind of like the rest of the year. It was time to blow this pop stand for Alaska.

But first I had to select my riding partner — a spirited saddle monkey to accompany me for the next few weeks. It had come down to three distinct females, each chosen for her own *concevoir et l'expertise*. Which one would it be: the stunt coordinator, the demur professor or the divorced urban cougar? The essential criteria were fundamental: attitude, knowledge of the outdoors, comfort on a motorcycle (in potentially wicked conditions), and overall toughness not necessarily revealed on first blush.

Of course, my primary concern was

how she looked in riding leathers.

I phoned the “winner” to let her know she should be ready to go in a few days. After securing her gleeful acceptance, I text-messed the others to share the results. Perhaps I was just imagining it, but they seemed positively ecstatic about my decision.

I rolled up to my new companion's north-of-Wilshire apartment and out came the professor. I was pleased by my discernment: Not only did she demonstrate the necessary qualifications, but she also was clearly smarter than me and could probably talk me out of an array of foolish initiatives. That was a critical attribute. It is not unusual for me to misconstrue stupid for adventurous.

We took off and headed north on I-5 with loaded saddle bags, camping gear, a full tank of gas and nervous smiles.

Day two: We pulled into Seattle at just about sunset and were greeted by my college buddy and his wife, who had graciously prepared a hot meal and offered us a spare room. They live in Bellevue, just outside the city. The trip so far had been pretty plain-Jane. The two of us were still getting used to each other and getting comfortable on the bike. We also had to make time — our ferry was scheduled to depart that Friday evening and it was the only one headed through the Inside Passage that week.

I have driven automobiles and motorcy-



Lance Schmidt/Special to the Daily Press

The Marine Highway in Southeast Alaska is used extensively, serving as the primary mode of transportation since most cities in the region are landlocked and can only be reached by boat or plane. (Inset) The road taken, as a ferry boat makes its way to Alaska's Inside Passage.

cles in most of the lower 48, Hawaii, Alaska and numerous foreign countries, and I can say without hesitation that Washington drivers are the absolute worst. They all plug along in the left lane below the posted speed limit, exhibit no sense of

direction, drive SUVs while yakking on their cell phones — and when asked to move over become positively irate. They also have no respect for motorcycles and

See EASY WRITER, page 12

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LOCAL

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Cabin fever-pitch: Sleeping quarters, or lack of, cause tiff

EASY WRITER, from page 11

are driven mad by the notion of a bike splitting lanes — a common practice in California.

My companion and I headed out the next morning toward Bellingham, Wash., the port from which most of the ferries headed toward Alaska, the San Juan Islands and the Inside Passage depart. It is the southernmost terminus for what is known as Alaska's Marine Highway System (AMHS). The marine highway is used extensively in Southeast Alaska. In fact, it serves as the primary mode of transportation, since most of the cities in the region are land-locked and can only be reached by boat or plane. If only Santa Monica were so lucky.

We drove the Zebra BMW down to the ferry key and queued up in front since motorcycles are permitted to board first. We drove the bike up the ramp and into the bowels of the M/V Columbia — the largest of the AMHS fleet. For you ferry enthusiasts, the Columbia is 418 feet long with capacity for 625 passengers and 134 vehicles. She has 104 total cabins and boasts a fine-dining room, a cafeteria, a gift shop, a cocktail lounge complete with disco ball, solarium and forward observation deck.

The Columbia would be taking us along the British Columbian coast past Vancouver, past Port Hardy and then on into Prince Rupert Sound before entering Alaska's Inside Passage. We would be skirting Glacier Bay National Park, stopping at Juneau, and then sailing into Skagway, where we would disembark and begin our Alaskan motorcycle odyssey. The boat leg would take three days and some change.

Day five: We've seen whales, met lots of folks from all over the world and even partied the night away in the disco while “Gofer,” the first mate dominated the karaoke

machine. Then came our first real spat. I had intended to surprise the professor with a fantastic feature about the AMHS — one I was sure would delight her adventurous spirit. Most of the AMHS ferries that require a night's stay also allow those without a sleeping berth to either sleep in the solarium or pitch a tent on the primary deck landing on the stern. While the professor was taking a tour of the ship, I slipped in back and pitched our Bibler mountain tent in a great spot, just inside the aft railing.

“So where's our cabin, Mr. Adventure?” she asked suspiciously. I led her to the back of the boat.

“Wow, look at all those tents, that's really cool how they allow those without a cabin to do that.”

“Yes it is,” I responded, “and we're one of them.”

That was the student's first encounter with the professor's rebuking glare. Chilling.

After the professor taught his student a lesson by making him spend Friday night alone in his tent, she invited him up for a drink in her newly acquired outside berth state room, which he graciously accepted.

Day six: Monday afternoon we sailed into Skagway and docked at the ferry terminal, where we got on the motorcycle and sped through this touristy old mining town, heading toward Canada's Yukon Territory. We wanted to make it to Whitehorse by sundown, so there would be no lollygagging. We headed up Highway 97 and prepared to go through Canadian customs. What happened next threw me for a loop and would drastically alter my travel plans.

• Next week: Easy Writer's travel plans change as he and the lovely professor decide what to do next.

Contact Easy Writer at lance.schmidt@verizon.net.

Twilight crowd gets into swing of things

GETTING PHAT, from page 1

“Hurray for Hollywood,” while seated atop the boot of liveried-chauffeured Austin convertibles. Goodwin has written a new arrangement of the closing bars of the tune which his band will perform live. Swing dancers on stage will dance to the song as well.

Goodwin also has arranged a medley of 12 tunes, consisting of hits from the Swing era made famous by various big bands. Included in the medley will be several hits of Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman, which Eddie Daniels will perform. The bulk of the concert, however, will consist of the Big Phat Band's contemporary repertoire of big band jazz, which will include more of Daniels' work, as he has been a guest star on Goodwin's two CDs, and also is featured on the next CD.

Goodwin's band was profiled by the New York Times on March 9, written by Mireya Navarro and accompanied by three photographs. The article, entitled “The Definition of Phat: Big Band with Young Fans,” emphasized that young people form the band's core audience. The audience tonight is expected to be, therefore, a mixture of young people as well as older people who remember the thrill of seeing the great bands of yesterday.

On June 12, the Big Phat Band closed this year's Playboy's Jazz Festival. Don Heckman, of the Los Angeles Times observed, “Closing the day on an upbeat note, the Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band performance brought a potent reminder of the importance of the word ‘Jazz’ in the Playboy Jazz Festival label.” Richard S. Ginell in Daily Variety wrote, “Gordon Goodwin's superb, fresh-sounding Big Phat Band provided the caper to the streak and the night, fueled by a madly swinging rhythm section.”

Goodwin has been a long-established film and television composer, and is the recipient of three Emmys for

his arranging prowess. Last year, he arranged and conducted the soundtrack music for such major box office hits as “The Incredibles” and “National Treasure.” This year, his work includes a composing credit for “Coach Carter” starring Samuel L. Jackson. In mid-August Miramax will release “The Great Raid” starring Benjamin Bratt. Again, Goodwin arranged the soundtrack music conducting a large orchestra.

Goodwin's two CDs, “Swingin' for the Fences” and “XXL,” have received a total of five Grammy nominations. His next “Silverline” CD is in the process of being recorded and will be released in January. The Big Phat Band is made up of the best big band musicians in Los Angeles, and includes such stalwarts as saxophonist Eric Marienthal; trumpeters, Wayne Bergeron and Bob Summers; trombonist Andy Martin; and guitarist Grant Geissman.

The Big Phat Band explores many genres, from jazz and salsa to funk and blues.

“I never wanted to boxed into one genre or style,” Goodwin said. “And I always liked different kinds of music from R&B to classical.”

Tonight's concert will be partially sponsored by KABC radio. KABC personality, Doug McIntyre, will be emceeing a portion of the second half of the concert.

Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday on the Santa Monica Pier's west parking deck. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org, or www.santamonica pier.org. You also can call the pier information line at (310) 458-8900. For bus information, visit bigbluebus.com or call (310) 451-5444.

Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking and using mass transit to get to the concerts, as parking is limited. Parking is available in beach parking lots located at 2330 Barnard Way, located south of the pier, and 1550 PCH, just north of the pier.

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

NATIONAL



Going out, gonzo-style

BY DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press Writer

WOODY CREEK, Colo. — A hand-scrawled note on the refrigerator in Hunter S. Thompson's kitchen says, "Never call 911/Never/This means you/HST." Over the sink, a snapshot shows the famously reckless father of Gonzo journalism nuzzling a tiny kitten.

This room, jammed with cooking utensils, writing mementos and a giant TV, is where Thompson wrote some of the acerbic books and articles that made him an American treasure in the late 1960s and early '70s. It was here that he held court with friends and admirers. It is also where he shot himself to death six months ago at age 67.

The kitchen remains a center of Thompson's still-swirling universe as family and friends wrap up plans to blast his ashes out of a 150-foot-tall monument behind the house at Owl Farm this Saturday. It's what he wanted.

"No crying, no tears, only celebration," Thompson's widow, Anita, said during a 2 1/2-hour interview with The Associated Press at the home and her makeshift office above the Woody Creek Store, not far from Aspen.

"He wanted people to celebrate," she said. "He envisioned it to be a beautiful party. The most amazing people would be there. His friends would celebrate his life. And he was even specific that there would be clinking of ice and whisky."

The structure towers over a field between the home and a tree-covered red rock canyon wall. It is shrouded in gray and blue tarpaulins that ripple in the wind and it will not be unveiled until Saturday. It is modeled after Thompson's Gonzo logo: a clenched fist, made symmetrical with the addition of a second thumb, perched atop a dagger.

Anita Thompson said Saturday will include some reminiscence, readings from Thompson's work and performances by both Lyle Lovett and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. About 250 people were invited, including Thompson's longtime illustrator, Ralph Steadman, and actors Sean Penn and Johnny Depp, close friends of the writer.

Depp, who portrayed Thompson in the 1998 movie version of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," is financ-

ing much of the send-off, Anita Thompson said. She said she doesn't know the total cost and said others have offered to chip in.

"Everybody's bringing what they have to offer," she said.

The event is private and security will be tight. David Meeker of Specialized Protective Services in Aspen would say only that the precautions will be more elaborate than for any similar-sized event he has ever protected. The narrow roads that thread the canyon will remain open, but Pitkin County deputies will bar anyone from stopping to watch from outside the property, Anita Thompson said. Sheriff Bob Braudis, a friend of Thompson, did not return a call.

After Saturday, the monument will be taken down. Anita Thompson said it may be put up elsewhere, but she's not sure. Thompson's son, Juan, did not return calls seeking comment.

Thompson's suicide ended a storied career that included landmark works of new journalism such as "Hells Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs," published in 1966, 1971's "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream" and "Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72."

He built a public persona as a drug-fueled risk-taker, but friends and family say that masked the Kentucky-born writer's true nature — a Southern gentleman and meticulous craftsman who lived and wrote at Owl Farm from the late 1960s until his death. The telephone-answering machine still barks at callers with Thompson's voice, mechanically commanding them to "Please. Leave. A message."

Anita Thompson, 32, who married the writer in April 2003, said she plans to protect and promote her husband's legacy.

"I'll be working for Hunter the rest of my life. I know that. I made that commitment, and I'm honored that I can," she said.

At least three new books are planned, including the third volume of his letters

Lions and tigers to roam free in America? Oh, my!

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA
AP Science Writer

DENVER, Colo. — If a group of prominent ecologists have their way, lions and elephants could someday be roaming the Great Plains of North America.

The idea of transplanting African wildlife to this continent is being greeted with gasps and groans from other scientists and conservationists who recall previous efforts to relocate foreign species halfway around the world, often with disastrous results.

But the proposal's supporters say it could help save some species from extinction in Africa, where protection is spotty and habitats are vanishing. They say the relocated animals could also restore the biodiversity in North America to a condition closer to what it was before humans overran the landscape more than 10,000 years ago.

Most modern African species never lived on the American prairie, the scientists acknowledge. But some of their biological cousins like mastodons, camels and saber-toothed cats, roamed for more than 1 million years alongside antelope and herds of bison until Ice Age glaciers retreated and humans started arriving.

The rapid extinction of dozens of large mammal species in North America — perhaps due to a combination of climate change and overhunting — triggered a landslide of changes to the environmental landscape. Relocating large animals to vast ecological parks and private reserves would begin to repair the damage, proponents say, while offering new ecotourism opportunities to a withering region.

The scientists' plan appears in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*. It is attracting interest from some influential circles, including media mogul Ted Turner, America's largest private landowner. He owns huge ranches in several states to support his commercial bison operation and personal conservation initiatives.

But the plan is also generating criticism on both sides

See **TRANSPLANTING**, page 14

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NATIONAL

Out of Africa: Not all support the wild things

TRANSPLANTING, from page 13

of the conservation debate.

"It is not restoration to introduce animals that were never here," said University of Washington anthropologist Donald K. Grayson. "Why introduce Old World camels and lions when there are North American species that could benefit from the same kind of effort?"

Others wonder whether people would support African lions making a home on the range, given the opposition to the reintroduction of native wolves in the rural West.

"Just when you think the world has gotten as weird as it can get, something like this comes along," said Steve Pilcher, executive vice president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

"I wonder how many calves or lambs it would take to feed a family of lions for a month?" Pilcher mused. "We sort of know what it takes for wolves, but something tells me we would be in a whole new ball game."

Some wildlife conservationists said the idea would further damage the prospects of both threatened species and Africa's hopes for sustainable economic development.

"Such relocations would affect future tourism opportunities for Africa," said Elizabeth Wamba, the East Africa spokeswoman for the International Fund for Animal Welfare in Nairobi, Kenya. "The welfare of the animals would have been reduced by transporting and exposing

them to different eco-climatic conditions."

Critics also point to calamitous relocations of foreign species in Australia. Rabbits brought from Europe swarmed across parts of the Outback, and noxious cane toads brought from South America to control bugs in sugar cane fields killed native wildlife.

The authors of the new plan say they are not discouraged.

"We are not saying this is going to be easy," said Cornell University ecologist Josh Donlan, the lead author of the proposal. "There are huge and substantial risks and obstacles."

The plan grew from a retreat at Turner's New Mexico ranch — a 155,000-acre property in the foothills of the Gila Mountains that contains a mix of ecosystems ranging from desert grasslands to pine forests.

Ecologists are using the ranch to experiment with reintroducing the Bolson tortoise to the region. These 100-pound burrowers were once found across the Southwest, but now survive only in a corner of northern Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert.

The scientists' discussion expanded to consider long-extinct Pleistocene species that have modern counterparts elsewhere in the world.

For example, a larger American cheetah once stalked pronghorn on these lands, with both species evolving special features that enabled them to accelerate to 60 mph. Today, pronghorns rarely are chased, except by the occasional pickup truck.

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INTERNATIONAL



As army forces out settlers; Israeli kills three Palestinians

BY AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops dragged sobbing Jewish settlers out of homes, synagogues and even a nursery school Wednesday and hauled them onto buses in a massive evacuation, fulfilling Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's promise to withdraw from the Gaza Strip after a 38-year occupation.

In the West Bank, an Israeli settler grabbed a gun from a security guard in the Shilo settlement and started shooting Palestinians, killing three and wounding two before being arrested. The killings aroused fears of Palestinian retaliation and the disruption of the evacuation mission.

Sharon condemned the shootings as acts of "Jewish terror" aimed at stopping the pullout. He said the violence was "aimed against innocent Palestinians, out of twisted thinking, aimed at stopping the disengagement."

Later, Palestinians fired a mortar shell toward the Morag settlement, but no injuries were reported. The Islamic militant group Hamas threatened to avenge the shootings but said it had an interest in seeing the withdrawal proceed.

A woman opposed to the pullout set herself on fire at a police roadblock in Israel, suffering life-threatening injuries.

In Kfar Darom, several hundred settlers went on a rampage, pushing large cinderblocks off a bridge and trying to torch a nearby Arab house, witnesses said. Israel troops brought the fire under control and tried to push the settlers back into Kfar Darom as Palestinians threw stones.

During the forced evacuation, unarmed soldiers carried away worshippers wrapped in white prayer shawls. Wailing men ripped their shirts in a Jewish mourning ritual. Women in a synagogue pressed their faces against the curtain covering the Torah scroll.

In Neve Dekalim, dozens of soldiers entered a Gaza yeshiva, or seminary, where settlers linked arms in a wide circle and swayed together in prayer. Soldiers formed a ring around the worshippers, but some troops, still wearing their flak jackets, joined them in prayer.

Another 1,000 resisters held out in the settlement's synagogue.

Settlers kicked and screamed while being loaded onto buses. One woman in Neve Dekalim shouted, "I don't want to! I don't want to!" as she was carried away.

Irate residents in one outpost employed Nazi-era imagery to protest the military's actions.

There were signs a growing number of settlement residents appeared to be coming to terms with the withdrawal.

"I believed that God would not let this happen, but this is not true," a woman said in the isolated settlement of Morag while clutching her baby.

Sharon said the images of settlers being removed from their homes were heartbreaking.

"It's impossible to watch this, and that includes myself, without tears in the eyes," he told a news conference.

"I'm appealing to everyone. Don't attack the men and women in uniform. Don't accuse them. Don't make it harder for them, don't harm them. Attack me. I am responsible for this. Attack me. Accuse me," Sharon said.

The operation capped a bruising political battle for Sharon, who proposed the withdrawal more than 18 months ago as a way to reduce friction with the Palestinians. Opponents accuse him of caving in to Palestinian violence and abandoning the dream of full control over the biblical Land of Israel.

Throughout the day, some 14,000 troops entered six Jewish settlements — Morag, Neve Dekalim, Bedolah, Ganei Tal, Tel Katifa and Kerem Atzmona. By evening, all but Neve Dekalim were emptied, military officials and witnesses said.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas urged restraint, telling Islamic preachers in his Gaza office: "We should let them go peacefully in order not to give them any reason to delay the evacuation."

The Palestinians have deployed thousands of troops to prevent any attacks on settlers or Israeli soldiers during the withdrawal. Palestinians have welcomed the evacua-

tion but also fear that Israel is trying to draw borders without negotiations.

Abbas said the Palestinians will build a sea port at Netzarim and a new city at Morag. The Israelis will leave behind 152 public buildings inside the settlements that can be used by the Palestinians, he said.

Security officials said the goal was to clear out the 21 Gaza settlements in a few days, far more quickly than originally planned. But thousands of pullout opponents who infiltrated Gaza in recent weeks remained.

In Neve Dekalim, a grizzled colonel, with tears in his eyes, shook hands with a young father, cradling the man's baby, as he explained it was time to go.

Another commander, identified only as Yitzhak, tearfully hugged another settler.

"It's not easy. These are very special people. This is the salt of the earth," Yitzhak said. "But we have a mission and we will carry it out, and I think these people understand that."

Some teenage activists showed fierce resistance. Troops dragged dozens of protesters, some as young as 12, onto buses and took them away.

"I want to die!" screamed one youth as he was hauled off.

Several soldiers were hit by white paint bombs, and protesters smashed a bus window.

In the town's main synagogue, a group of teenage girls sang, "I believe in the messiah," and many cried while pressing their faces to the curtain covering the Torah.

In Morag, soldiers encountered cement blocks and burning garbage containers and clashed briefly with residents. The protesters gradually surrendered.

Under a weeping willow tree at a children's nursery, mothers clutched their babies, soldiers carried toddlers, settlers ripped their clothes and troops loaded diapers and toys onto buses for evacuation.

A female soldier with tears in her eyes held a toddler, gave him candy and implored, "Where is his mother?" Another soldier waved away flies from a toddler in a stroller.

Soldiers also removed families from their homes. Female residents walked out under army escort, while the men let themselves be carried. One resident, Eran Hendel, lay on the floor, read a psalm and ripped his shirt collar before being carried away.

In the hardline outpost of Kerem Atzmona, irate settlers shouted at soldiers: "Nazi!" "Refuse orders!" and "Jews don't expel Jews!" Soldiers dragged the flailing residents from their homes and loaded them onto buses, as children cried in the homes.

In the Bedolah settlement, Rabbi Menachem Froman hugged and kissed a Torah scroll as he was led out of the local synagogue. A soldier held him up by the elbow. The elderly, white-bearded rabbi, who lives in a West Bank settlement, advocates coexistence with the Palestinians.

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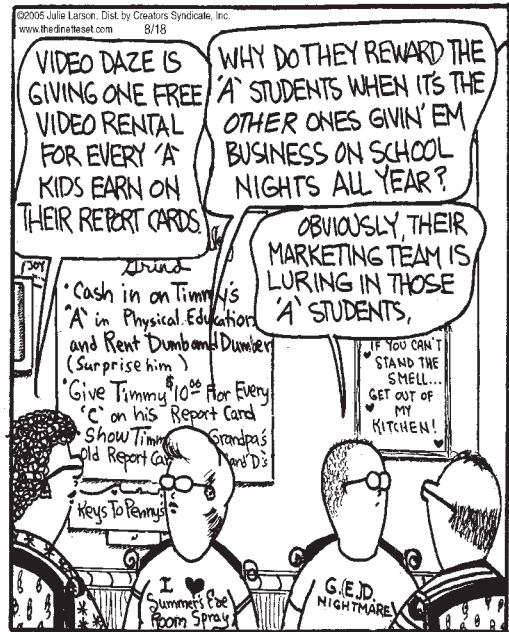
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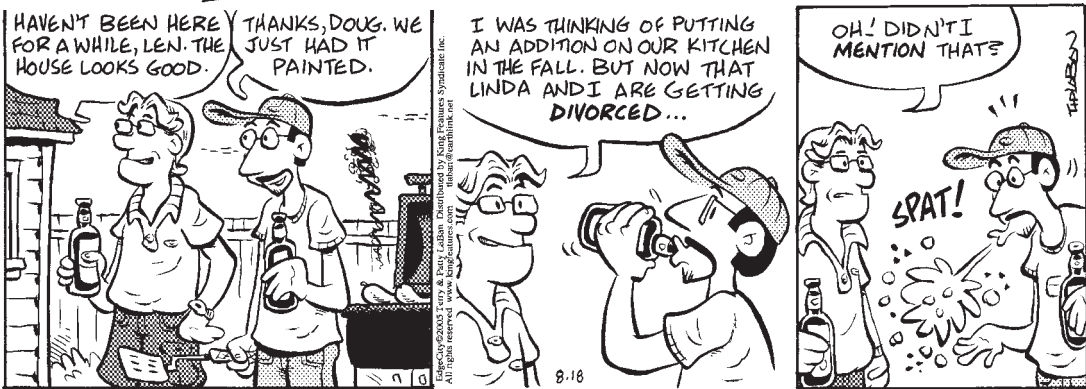


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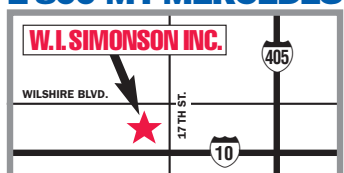
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