

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

46-3-28-25-47

Megamember: 12
Jackpot: \$30 million

FANTASY 5

29, 26, 34, 10, 25

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 1, 9

Evening picks: 9, 0, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 04, Big Ben

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race Time: 1:45.28



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

On July 31, a jury in Miami concluded almost simultaneously that a subsidiary of the Chevron Texaco corporation breached a contract with a local company, Apex Development Corp., yet caused Apex not a penny's worth of harm, and still had to pay Apex \$33.8 million in "punitive" damages. (Apex had charged that Chevron Texaco backed out of a contract to build "express lube" sites after Apex had already built them.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have a new philosophy. I am going to dread on one day at a time."

— Charles Shultz

INDEX

Horoscopes

Live now, Taurus 2

Local

Man ready to walk for cancer 3

State

Alternative fuel station opens 5

National

Rich and powerful go to camp 7

National

The desert of Atlantis exposed 10

People in the News

Cat Stevens rallies Muslims 16

Catalina now closer with new ferry service

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Tony Elliott-Cannon's business plan to take thousands of people across the sea not only hits an untapped market, it's headed into uncharted waters.

At least from Marina del Rey, which for the first time is offering ferry service to Catalina, an island paradise 38 miles from L.A.

Now in its fifth week of operation, the Grey Lady II brings up to 149 people to Catalina four times a day. Elliott-Cannon, along with a five investors, formed Sea Planes Inc. in 1999 with the hope of one day tapping into the Los Angeles market's 9.5 million people.

It has taken more than four years and \$4 million to offer the service, which until now was only available in ports like San Pedro and Long Beach.

"(Marina del Rey) is the nearest port to the largest population," Elliott-Cannon said. "This is the slam dunk operation."

Although it took a lot of patience to get approvals and plenty of political maneuvering with competitors, marina operators and politicians, Elliott-Cannon knows his efforts will some day pay off.

At \$52 for an adult round-trip ticket, Elliott-Cannon, president and CEO of Sea Planes, said an average of 46 people have to ride the ferry each run in order to break even with the operation's costs. He expects the company will reach a positive cash flow in a few months.

All of the ferry trips were sold out this holiday weekend. And as people learn that there's a more convenient hub to travel from, the operation is expected to get more popular.

"We are building our reputation slowly and we have good people behind us," Elliott-

Cannon said. "You can lose it in a heartbeat if you screw it up."

But Elliott-Cannon, who has 20 years of experience in the cruise shipping business, has no intention of screwing it up.

During Elliott-Cannon's research, it became clear that the Catalina Island market had been static for the last 20 years because the two main tour operators in the South Bay could only handle so much business, he said. And when one of the Long Beach operators closed in March 2001, Elliott-Cannon knew the opportunity was ripe.

"The locations of San Pedro and Long Beach ferry operators are a real deterrent to most people except maybe Orange County residents," he said. "The thought of driving down the 405 freeway then onto the heavy truck

See FERRY, page 4



Photo courtesy of Sea Planes Inc.

The Grey Lady II cruises across the Pacific Ocean on its way to Catalina Island from Marina del Rey.

Democratic front-runners: 'Don't celebrate too soon'

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — By tradition, Labor Day is the political starting gun, the time when voters tend to notice the race for the presidency.

Through the years, the presumptive front-runners have discovered that Labor Day is either the beginning of the glide path to the nomination and the White House or the time they acquire a giant bull's-eye on their back.

It just depends on the political party. "Democrats traditionally don't have all that much respect for front-runners," said political scientist Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia. "They view them more as targets."

Consider a recent list of early leaders from Labor Day weekends' past — Mario Cuomo in 1991,

Gary Hart in 1987 and Ted Kennedy in 1979. All three led in national polls in September, months before the caucuses and primaries. All three never won the party's nomination and if they've spent any time in the West Wing,

it's been as a visitor.

Republicans, on the other hand, are more respectful of front-runners at the Labor Day stage in the calendar. Bob Dole, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon were in front in September

and eventually captured their party's nomination. Nixon in 1968, Reagan in 1980 and 1984 and Bush in 1988 also secured the bigger prize, winning the presidency. "Republicans tend to choose

See LABOR DAY, page 6

America's working class has little to celebrate this Labor Day

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Union leaders say America's workers have little to celebrate this Labor Day.

New data indicates the economy is improving, yet the gains are failing to reach the working-class, they said.

"We do not see a reason to be optimistic about the current economic situation," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

A flood of U.S. jobs are going

overseas because of the massive trade deficit, said Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer.

The National Association of Manufacturers said "urgently needed policy changes" were needed to restore the millions of jobs lost.

President Bush will travel to Ohio today for an event with the International Union of Operating Engineers.

He will talk with union mem-

bers and their families about "the administration's commitment to helping workers and Americans who want to work get back to work," White House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan said.

But Sweeney blamed the Bush administration for the poor economic outlook for workers. Three rounds of tax cuts passed by Congress have gone to the wealthiest taxpayers and exploded the federal deficit, he said.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

Whatever you do or focus on works. A special goal might be very important to you. You can and will achieve it with hard work. The liability here is that you might not want it once you get it. Another scenario could be that once you decide to get rid of the item — for instance, a house — you could have difficulty selling it. You start a very lucky life cycle this year, where you will expand. If something doesn't happen naturally, don't force it. What you want could be inappropriate. If single, there is no reason to maintain that status if you don't want to. You could have several suitors to choose from. If attached, a relationship will flow because of your good will and ability to communicate your essence. SCORPIO understands you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You relax with a friend or associate more than with groups. Keeping this fact in mind, you could enjoy a leisurely day enhancing your relationship and ultimate desires. A child or loved one would like you to come out and play! Tonight: Don't push it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ It is clear just how many options you really have. Pick and choose your activities with care. Truth be told, you cannot be everywhere all of the time. Make several calls to wish friends a happy Labor Day. Tonight: Forget tomorrow. Live now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ A phone call delights you and heads you in a new direction. You might not be sure what kind of plans you want to make. What might be best for you is spending a leisurely day visiting with a pal or two. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Express your adoration for someone close to you. You tend to go overboard and to go to extremes with your feelings. In some way, you are like a mood ring, as you experience so many moods. Color yourself pink today. Tonight: Add to the heat of the night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your dreams might be significant. You might get an inkling of how someone feels or why he or she is acting in the manner that he or she is. You will have a tendency to go overboard with a loved one, but that is what makes you so special. Tonight: Make it an early night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Don't feel pressured to do anything, even if others are off celebrating Labor Day. You might need a timeout from others. Evaluate a special relationship. You might be unusually touchy. Tonight: Catch up on news via phone or e-mail.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You have a tendency to go overboard when you care about someone. Why would today be any different? Join friends for a celebration. Remember, not everyone judges you by what you give or how much you spend. Others could just care about you. Tonight: Could go till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ With the Moon in your sign, the world revolves around you, at least today. Make plans that delight you. Wherever you appear, others beam from ear to ear. Don't be surprised at another's proposition. Tonight: The only obstacle that could tumble in your way is you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Continue to take some time off. Don't feel obligated to do anything. If you follow that prescription, you will renew and gain a new, vital perspective. Tonight: Yawn. Get some extra zzz's.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You cannot say "no," nor should you. Invitations surround you. Get together with friends, though certainly don't leave out a partner. Others clearly are in the mood to celebrate. Tonight: Schedule in what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ While you might want to take a break like many other signs, somehow you're called to action. Possibly you might throw a party or bring others together. An older relative might need some extra attention. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Walk in another's shoes and understand what might be ailing this special person. Recognize, as well, that you might have been more bellicose or touchy than in the past. Your nurturing actions do make a difference. Tonight: Do the untraditional.

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LOCAL



Retired marathoner looks for a new team

Santa Monica man wants to raise money, help people get fit

By Daily Press staff

A retired Santa Monica attorney was so encouraged by a recent community event to raise cancer that he's already started preparing for next year's Relay for Life.

Jerry Condon, 72, knew nothing about the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life 24-hour event when he showed up at Santa Monica College's Corsair Track this past July.

But he threw down \$100 as a donation anyway, and walked around the track for an hour and a half with hundreds of community members who formed their own teams to raise money for cancer research.

Condon, a 20-year survivor of Leukemia and a 40-year veteran of marathon running, walked away from the event inspired to organize his own team. And he wants to do it now despite that next year's event is 11 months away.

The team wouldn't be primarily about raising money — it's also for those who want to gather for fitness training. Condon, who is a longtime member of the Santa Monica Track Club, will at no charge offer his expertise in getting an optimal workout through walking and running.

It's also a chance to bring people together who enjoy health and fitness, as well as to resurrect the Santa Monica Track Club, which was once an elite group of marathon runners and Olympians that formed in the late 1960s, Condon said.

"Basically I want to deal with people who have the 'lose it or use it' (mentality) not the 'no, pain no gain,'" he said.

Condon started running 40 years ago but gave it up in 1985 when his body told him to ease up.

He's hoping to get between 20 and 40 people to meet at 5 p.m. every weekday and at 9 a.m. on Sunday on San Vicente Boulevard to train, bond as a team, and raise money for Relay for Life and the Santa Monica Track Foundation.

Joe Douglas, the current coach of the Santa Monica Track Club and former



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Jerry Condon, dressed in his vintage 1970's Santa Monica Track Club athletic suit, stands on San Vicente Boulevard, where he wants to train a fitness team to raise money for cancer.

coach of Olympian Carl Lewis, will also be on hand from time to time to help train the Relay for Life team, Condon said.

The Relay for Life is an around the clock event that just finished its second year in Santa Monica and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the fight against cancer. More than a dozen teams camped out at SMC and had at least one team member always walking around the track at all times.

Sonki's Fitness, a new Santa Monica business that offers fitness training, raised the most money this year — nearly \$6,000.

Condon hopes to raise at least that much and by starting early, his team could easily surpass it.

Participants can be any age and of any fitness level. Condon is asking people to meet at 5 p.m. on San Vicente Boulevard between 14th and 17th streets. For more information, call (310) 451-4139.

surf report

It may look clean, but the surf is pretty weak at the moment. Not too nice. At Malibu, it's running about one to two feet, ankle to knee high with poor to fair conditions. Same goes for Topanga. At Zuma and Venice, the wind swell is breaking close to shore. Let's hope it improves by next weekend when the Malibu Surfing Association will host its 16th annual Club Classic on Sept. 6-7 at Surfrider Beach. Longboarders from around the world will compete at one of the premiere longboard surf spots on the West Coast, and all are bound to have a good time.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

58°

**Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.**

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:34	0.3	5:58	1.1	11:53	5.4	11:58	5.0
SUNDAY	6:06	0.9	6:59	1.1	N/A	N/A	12:30	5.5
MONDAY	6:41	1.5	8:15	1.0	12:58	4.3	1:14	5.5
TUESDAY	7:22	2.2	9:50	0.9	2:22	3.6	2:10	5.5
WEDNESDAY	8:22	2.8	11:26	0.5	4:33	3.2	3:24	5.5
THURSDAY	10:09	3.1	N/A	N/A	6:40	3.5	4:47	5.6
FRIDAY	12:38	0.0	(11:30)	3.0)	7:42	3.9	6:02	5.8

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The Q Line

The state's recall election is heating up as the top leaders position themselves for the governor's seat.

There have been plenty of polls conducted by various news outlets trying to nail down who's in the lead for Gov. Gray Davis' job. One day it's Davis, then it's Arnold Schwarzenegger, or Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, or Arianna Huffington.

As we enter a new month, the public expects to hear some real messages coming from these candidates about how they are going to fix the state's problems. Even if we don't get any

answers, it promises to be an entertaining news cycle.

This week, the Santa Monica Daily Press will conduct its own poll of Santa Monicans' thoughts on the election, though it won't be quite as scientific as the others.

"Will you vote for or against the recall? And who will you vote for and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LOCAL

Ferry rides could offer an alternative in commuting

FERRY, from page 1

infested 710 to Long Beach is abhorrent to most people.

"Far better to leave the 405 onto the 90 to the lovely Marina del Rey," he added. "However, our intent is not to merely attract customers away from existing operations but more to attract a whole new untapped market and in doing this we will stimulate the market for the benefit of all."

For the past three and a half years, Elliott-Cannon had to convince the California Public Utilities Commission and the United States Coast Guard of that.

The California ferry industry is permitted, regulated and controlled by the PUC. Sea Planes was able to prove there was a "public need and necessity" to the government, despite that there were several objections from two other ferry operators.

The Los Angeles County Beaches & Harbors department has for many years tried in vain to encourage a ferry operator to establish any scheduled service, but the industry is heavily political, particularly in Marina del Rey where boaters are protective of their turf.

"(The marina) was built up as a yachting place, not a ferry place and they wanted to make sure the waterfront was kept accessible," Elliott-Cannon said.

But with the backing of the Avalon Chamber of Commerce and the island's politicians, Sea Planes was able to get enough support. Last month, Avalon's Mayor, Ralph Morrow, cut the ribbon during an opening ceremony and the service to Catalina Island was launched.

Doug Lord, owner of Catalina Ocean Rafting, said a ferry from Los Angeles will boost Avalon's economy and hopefully help local businesses.

"Marina del Rey was a ripe market," he said. "It makes it a lot more convenient for people in the valley and in Santa Monica to get here."

Lord, who operates whale watching tours from January through March, and a host of trips during the summer, hopes the new ferry will help Catalina business in the slow winter months.

Elliott-Cannon said he plans to market with area chambers of commerce, large hotels and area merchants to drum up business. He said a lot of companies, particularly in the entertainment industry, have booked trips to take clients to Catalina.

The new ferry service also props up the faltering business community in the marina, particularly Fisherman's Village, a string of shops and restaurants along Fiji Way



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Art Lanser, one of the captains of the Grey Lady II, gets ready to drop anchor in Avalon.

where the boat picks up its passengers, Elliott-Cannon said.

He prides his staff of 40 crew members on the personalized service they offer guests while they kick back on a comfortable and smooth ride to Catalina. There is two indoor seating areas, an outside deck and a large cargo area that can accommodate guests' dive equipment, bicycles, kayaks and luggage.

On one recent Saturday evening, the boat's upper deck was jammed packed with people of all ages enjoying the sunset and the school of dolphins swimming next to the boat.

As the wind picked up, the sea got rough but kids and adults handled it well as they laughed while getting sprayed with water and trying to maintain their balance with their newly formed sea legs. Meanwhile, a group of teenaged girls sitting on the upper deck set the mood by playing music of all genres from their boom box. A couple with their three children sat next to the teenagers while singing along to tunes from the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Bob Marley and Frank Sinatra, to name a few.

Eagle Rock residents Stuart Martin and Kim Huynh took the ferry to Catalina for a day trip. They departed Marina del Rey at 7:15 a.m. and returned on the 5:35 p.m. run. The couple celebrated Huynh's birthday with champagne that they brought on the boat.

"It was a 30-minute drive to Marina del Rey, it's so nice to have this," Martin said.

The high speed catamaran, which for the past seven years has operated daily between Hyannis, Mass. and Nantucket Island, also has a small food operation. Elliott-Cannon hopes to get a liquor license in the next couple of weeks to sell beer and wine.

The name "Grey Lady" is derived from Nantucket, which is historically known as the "Grey Lady" because the island has grey pebble beaches and is often enshrined in grey mist. The Grey Lady II was sailed from Massachusetts through the Panama Canal to Los Angeles.

Once firmly established, Sea Planes Inc. will be creating coastal ferry routes between Santa Barbara to San Diego, with a stop in Marina del Rey. Elliott-Cannon, who is based in Santa Barbara, said a ferry ride from Marina del Rey to Santa Barbara will take just over an hour and a half, and will cost \$35.

"It could be an easy commute," he said Friday while sitting in traffic on Highway 101 heading north to Santa Barbara. "As I drive up the coast and constantly look at the ocean, I wonder why isn't America doing what the rest of the world is doing?"

If you go:

Marina del Rey to Avalon

Avalon to Marina del Rey

Depart
7:15 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
3:30 p.m.

Depart
9:15 a.m.
1:15 a.m.
5:35 p.m.

Transit time is about 1 hour, 30 minutes

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\$20
\$24
\$3
\$3

Round Trip
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\$40
\$48
\$6
\$6

Getting there:

From Santa Monica: Take Lincoln Boulevard south to Fiji Way. Turn right. Follow to Fisherman's Village. From the 405: Take CA-90 west toward Marina del Rey. Turn left at Lincoln Boulevard. Turn right onto Fiji Way. Ferry departs from the El Torito Dock directly in front of the restaurant at Fisherman's Village. www.catalinaferries.com

Do Catalina by rubber raft

By Daily Press staff

Catalina Island is known for its multitude of water sports and ocean rafting is one of them.

Doug Lord, owner of Catalina Ocean Rafting, said the sport has become more popular in the past decade. He offers trips on 12-foot, 24-foot and 32-foot-long motorized rubber rafts.

The operator offers everything from two-hour snorkeling trips to full-day trips along the island's coastline.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Capt. Kerry Green (right) talks to guests while they take a break from snorkeling on her ocean raft near Willows Cove on Catalina Island.

A half-day excursion tour is Lord's most popular trip, which is a combination of snorkeling, Two Harbors and a dolphin trip. The trip includes exploring sea caves, the rustic village of Two Harbors and Catalina's undersea gardens.

A full island circumnavigation trip explores all 54 miles of Catalina's coastline

The snorkeling trip, which is \$40, allows people to explore some of the best snorkel spots down the coastline, free from the crowds of Avalon. The boat then heads offshore in search of dolphin.

For those who want to see Catalina's coastline, a two-hour trip offers a tour that gives a lesson in geology and the island's natural history. It's not uncommon to see bald eagles, sea lions and flying fish on the 10-mile trip.

while the full-day land and sea adventure includes exploring half of the island's coastline and hiking four miles of the interior with a naturalist, as well as snorkeling.

And from January through March, Lord's outfit offers grey whale watching trips. About 28,000 grey whales migrate past the island each winter and Lord's rafts are virtually the only vessel that can ride along with them, he said.

For more information, log onto www.CatalinaOceanRafting.com or call (310) 510-0211.

Sailing isn't just for the water

By Daily Press staff

They say it's like sitting in a Lazy Boy chair hundreds of feet in the air.

Except you are being pulled by a boat and a parachute is holding you up.

Para-Sailing Catalina offers a bird's eye view of Catalina Island and the town of Avalon from 300 feet in the air.

The parasailing equipment lets people take off and land directly in the boat, gently reeling parasailers out and then back in. The only time people get wet is when they ask to be "dipped" into the ocean, which done by the captain slowing the boat down.

Customers will first make their reservations at the ticket booth on Pebbly Beach Road at the beginning of downtown Avalon. They'll then be directed to one of the many boats waiting for them. Boats leave the harbor every hour on the hour and check-in time is 20 minutes prior to departure.

Prices are \$65 per person for an approximate 10-minute ride with six people maximum on the boat. Friends can ride along on the boat for \$10, if there is room.

For more information, log onto www.ParasailingCatalina.com or call (310) 510-1777.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Abe Halstead (left) and Dave Christensen (right) of Parasailing Catalina Tours take Alta Coma resident Brandi Rasmussen on a parasailing excursion near Avalon on Catalina Island.

STATE

World's most advanced fuel station opens in San Diego

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — At the fuel station of the future, attendants in white, 1950s-style uniforms hand customers a piece of Bazooka gum, clean the windshield, and offer to fill up the tank with gas — or any of six alternatives.

There's biodiesel made from fish fry grease. The ethanol pump, the only one west of Salt Lake City, serves fuel made from waste scraped off the floor of a cheese plant.

Electric cars can charge their batteries for free. Or there's natural gas and liquefied propane gas or LPG, both popular, less-polluting gasoline alternatives.

"No one has ever put all of these in one place," said Mike Lewis, the 37-year-old West Virginian who manages the Regional Transportation Center.

So far, the 3-week-old station is missing only one thing — a steady flow of customers for the exotic combustibles. For now, the No. 1 fuel at the station of the future is plain old gasoline.

Still, gasoline and diesel sales pay the bills and leave the center well-positioned for California's clean vehicle movement aimed at fighting the nation's worst air pollution while cutting dependence on oil. California has set a goal of having one of every 10 new vehicles sold in the state be nonpolluting by 2018. The RTC aims to solve one of the challenges posed by the mandate: Where do you fill 'er up?

"You want these products to be marketed and sold just like gasoline," said Dan Fong, a transportation technology specialist with the California Energy Commission. "You don't want to go to a dark corner in a barren location and get fuel for your vehicle."

The \$15 million RTC — located in a run-down San Diego neighborhood, down the street from a gun store — was conceived more than five years ago by a Ford dealership marketing executive who drew up plans on a restaurant napkin. Today, it includes a garage with mechanics specializing in alternative fuel vehicles and an education center. Pearson Ford, the dealership that bankrolled the center, sells Ford Motor Co.'s line of alternative fuel vehicles beneath an adjacent swooping steel and glass structure.

The project helps solve what Lewis calls the chicken-and-egg problem for

alternative vehicles — should alternative fuel stations spur sales of the vehicles or vehicles sales lead to more alternative fuel pumps?

With the RTC, he said, "we built the chicken and the egg. In this area, we're taking away the excuses."

The center strives to make alternative fuels as consumer-friendly as possible. Unsightly gas tanks and pipes are buried underground or hidden from view. The only sign that this isn't your typical gas station is the eight-item price list that resembles the quote board at a currency exchange.

Alternative fuel stations are hard to come by. LPG, the most common gas alternative in California, is often found at welding supply stores, propane supply houses, U-Haul depots and a handful of gas stations. When it comes to natural gas, there are 110 stations open to the public in California, and only three in San Diego County, according to Mike Eaves of the California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition. "We're fighting the 900-pound gorilla that's on all the street corners," he said.

Consumers are creatures of habit, and it's difficult to beat the ease or convenience of the nation's vast network of gas stations. Last year, Californians used about 15 billion gallons of gasoline, more than a tenth of total U.S. demand. While drivers grumble about prices, a gallon of gas in 2002 cost less on average than it did 20 years earlier, when adjusted for inflation.

Low gas prices have discouraged the market for alternative vehicles, experts say.

"The largest motivating factor for a retail consumer to buy a natural gas vehicle is to get into the carpool lane," said Scott Ruhlen, Ford Motor Co.'s regional sales manager for alternative vehicles in the Western region.

Only about 67,500 out of 25 million registered vehicles in California used alternative fuels at the beginning of the decade, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Most are service vehicles used around airports, in local bus fleets or business, such as LPG-powered vehicles that deliver the Los Angeles Times.

Also confusing the issue are the variety of alternative fuel choices. California's Air Resources Board, which imposed the zero-emissions mandate in 1990, is debating what should power the nonpolluting cars of tomorrow. The board initially favored battery-powered cars but now

likes the future of hydrogen fuel cells. But hurdles remain, namely high costs and concerns about distribution.

Rather than try to pick the fuel of the future, the Regional Transportation Center decided to offer as many as possible until a clear winner emerges.

"There is a limit to how far ahead of the curve we're prepared to be," Lewis said. "The Regional Transportation Center emphasizes now. Not one day someday in the future, 10 years down the road. We're offering alternative fuels to the public right now."

One customer, Derek Applebaum, pulled into the center recently in his old

gas-powered Dodge pickup and was blown away by the choices.

"It's incredible that somebody's even doing it," Applebaum said. "Everybody's so afraid to take a chance like this, especially when you've got the influence of oil companies."

A week later, he returned to buy a Ford Explorer that runs on ethanol or gasoline.

"I want to do my part for clean air and get off the Middle East oil dependence," said Applebaum, a 41-year-old bar owner who lives nearby. "The best thing I can do in my circle is buy an alternative fuel vehicle."

"I guess I am their dream customer," he said.



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NATIONAL

Public pays more attention to politics in the fall, expert says

LABOR DAY, from page 1

early, Democrats tend to choose late," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Most political analysts discount the early national polls, which tend to reflect name recognition, and focus on surveys in states with early contests, such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Veteran New Hampshire pollster Dick Bennett points out that the leader in his New Hampshire surveys in September 1979 was not Kennedy but rather incumbent President Carter, and in September 1987, eventual nominee Michael Dukakis was ahead.

Earlier this year, Joe Lieberman led in several national polls, based in large part on his presence on the 2000 ticket as the vice presidential nominee, though there's no clear leader in national polls now.

The story is different in Iowa and New Hampshire. Howard Dean holds a 21-point advantage in the most recent New Hampshire survey, and he and Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri share the lead in Iowa.

Two of the initial binding contests in the election cycle are the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 19 and the New Hampshire primary, tentatively set for Jan. 27. The Democratic field is one of the most crowded in recent election years with nine candidates and a possible 10th, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark.

"The public begins to pay a little more attention in the fall than in the summer," said Kohut, who closely monitors the public's interest in current events. "Democrats are going to begin to think about these nine or 10 candidates. We're

"You'd always rather be ahead than behind. But generally, whoever is ahead at Thanksgiving or Christmastime, usually ends up being the winner of the primary."

— DAYTON DUNCAN
Presidential campaign veteran

only four or five months away from the start of the voting."

Even in New Hampshire and Iowa, where voters have seen the candidates on almost a daily basis this summer, some political observers argue that the electorate is just starting to pay attention.

"The summer-early fall period is still a transitional time," said Dayton Duncan, a New Hampshire veteran of past presidential campaigns who has written about the state's primary. "The primary has pretty much belonged to the activists and the political junkies up to this moment."

And Labor Day, he argued, is not a date for candidates to celebrate a lead in the New Hampshire polls.

"You'd always rather be ahead than behind," Duncan said of the battle in his state. "But generally, whoever is ahead at Thanksgiving or Christmastime, usually ends up being the winner of the primary."

Environmentalists demand details on Leavitt-Norton deal

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — An environmental group has filed a federal lawsuit seeking details of the secret deal between Gov. Mike Leavitt and Interior Secretary Gale Norton that lifted wilderness protection from more than 6 million acres of land in Utah.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Washington, D.C., seeks the immediate release of all Interior Department documents related to the settlement. Norton agreed to reverse an order by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt that gave interim wilderness protection to 2.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management holdings.

She rescinded another Babbitt order that gave similar but lesser protections to another 3.3 million acres that environmentalists say are wilderness-worthy.

The settlement removes many of the interim wilderness protections from some sensitive BLM lands inside and outside Utah.

In exchange, Leavitt agreed to drop a lawsuit the state filed in 1996 against the

Interior Department that alleged Babbitt overstepped his authority.

The Wilderness Society says Interior has delayed or ignored the bulk of its public-records requests, filed in March and April, about the deal.

"We're trying to find out what happened in the settlement, and we have seen no documents related to the settlement," said Earthjustice attorney Ted Zukoski, representing The Wilderness Society. "We want to shine some light on this deal that was cut in the dark in a back room someplace."

The Wilderness Society has not made similar records requests to Leavitt, who has previously released numerous copies of a stipulation agreement.

In June, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and nine other environmental groups appealed a Utah federal judge's decision that approved the wilderness deal to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. That case has yet to be scheduled.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL

Top leaders go to summer camp for some fun in the sun

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

JACKSON, Wyo. — Take Ph.D. economists from some 20 countries, add the world's most powerful central banker and spice things up with white water rafting and horseback rides and you have the recipe for what might be called "Summer Camp for the Incredibly Gifted and Talented."

The official name for the two-day conference that ended this past weekend was the 27th annual symposium on economic policy, sponsored by the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. In the rarefied world of monetary economics, it is the hottest ticket around.

Foreign central bank officials from Argentina to Japan vied with top private sector economists for one of the 137 coveted invitations to this year's event.

The lucky ones got to hobnob with officials from the current Bush administration and the past Clinton administration as well as top Wall Street financiers, not to mention the prize attraction — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Greenspan's reputation, which soared to near mythical proportions on Wall Street during the booming 1990s, has lost a bit of its luster since the stock market bubble burst in 2000, but that doesn't mean there still aren't plenty of financial types clamoring for his views.

Some critics have contended that Greenspan erred in not pricking the stock market bubble sooner.

More recently the complaint has been that the Fed mangled its communications this year, sending misleading signals to financial markets that caused long-term interest rates first to drop sharply, only to reverse course and rise sharply in recent weeks.

Greenspan, perhaps with an eye on his legacy, used this year's symposium to defend his record, arguing that if the Fed had tried to prick the market bubble sooner, it would have had to drive interest rates so high as to bring on a recession.

He also said the Fed's comments about the possibility of deflation and the use of unconventional methods to lower interest rates, which had triggered the short-lived bond market rally, represented a prudent approach to monetary policy that tries to prepare for all eventualities.

Lyle Gramley, a former Fed board member and a participant at this year's conference, said he believed Greenspan was trying to set the record straight.

"He is aware that the Fed has come under considerable criticism for what has happened after the stock market bubble broke and he is trying to explain that the Fed didn't have any good options," Gramley said in an interview.

Like any good summer camp, the Fed gathering tried to offer a wide range of recreational opportunities, from rafting and horseback riding to hiking the trails and trout fishing, all against the dramatic backdrop of the Grand Teton Mountains.

But the economists seemed to prefer sitting inside windowless conference rooms for hours at a stretch, debating the fine

"He is aware that the Fed has come under considerable criticism for what has happened after the stock market bubble broke and he is trying to explain that the Fed didn't have any good options."

— LYLE GRAMLEY
Former Fed board member

points of economic theory raised in hundreds of pages of papers, all complete with their own complex economic equations.

Much of the discussion revolved around the operation of the Federal Reserve during Greenspan's tenure and whether his great success with flexible decision-making can be repeated. Some economists believe the Fed needs to adopt more rigid rules, such as setting targets for inflation rates.

"Some day in the future Alan Greenspan may not be there and it might be best to work on a system that does not require so much virtue," Arminio Fraga, the former head of Brazil's central bank, said during Saturday's closing session.

While the topic did not come up in the meeting, the guessing game about Greenspan's eventual successor was certainly part of the hallway and dinner discussions.

President Bush announced earlier this year that he planned to nominate Greenspan, 77, for another four-year term next year when his current term expires. But many conference participants said they believed Greenspan will choose to serve only a portion of that term so that the president elected in 2004 can name a new Fed chairman early on.

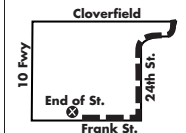
Some of the possible candidates for Greenspan's job were at this year's conference, including Harvard professor Martin Feldstein; Stanley Fischer, former deputy director of the International Monetary Fund; and Harvard President Lawrence Summers, who served as Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration.

The widely held view was that whoever succeeds Greenspan will have a tough act to follow.

"The success of the Greenspan Fed has been extraordinary," said Allen Sinai, president of Decision Economics. "Only two recessions during his 16 years in office and both of them relatively mild."

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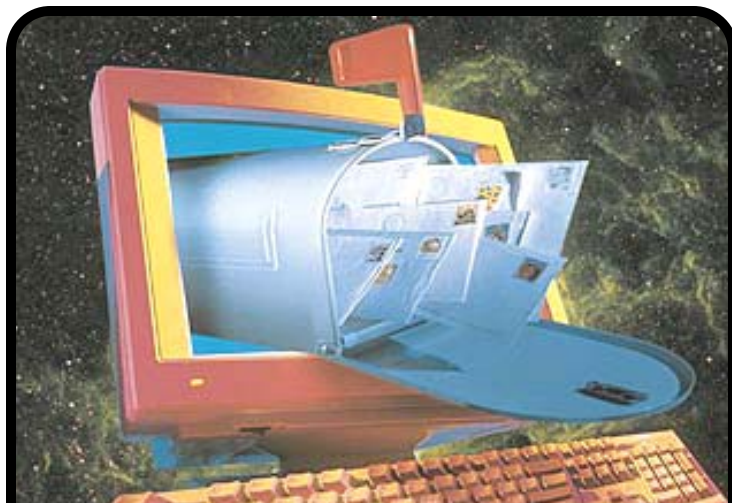
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NATIONAL

Widow of accused man in Smart case files lawsuit

BY PATTY HENETZ
 Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Angela Ricci, whose husband was cleared of suspicion in the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping only after he died in a prison cell, filed a federal lawsuit last week alleging false prosecution, libel and wrongful death.

The civil rights lawsuit in U.S. District Court names as defendants Salt Lake City Police Chief Rick Dinse and three police detectives who worked on the Smart investigation, Don Bell, Jerry Mendez and Mark Scharman.

Other defendants include Clint Freil, the warden of the state prison, a prison doctor and nurse and the city of Salt Lake City.

The complaint accuses police, city and prison officials of unconstitutional false arrest, libel and slander, baseless prosecution, false imprisonment and wrongful death, and seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Richard Ricci died of a brain hemorrhage in prison three months after Elizabeth, then 14, was kidnapped at knifepoint from her bed in the early hours of June 5, 2002.

Ricci was in prison on a parole violation — he had been caught drinking a beer, the lawsuit states — and was facing charges he burglarized the Smart home and another in the neighborhood when he died. He also had been charged in federal court with felony bank robbery.

For months, police and FBI investigators focused attention on Ricci as a "top potential suspect" in the girl's disappearance.

Ricci never was formally charged in the kidnapping. He steadfastly maintained his innocence, but remained a potential suspect even after his death.

The lawsuit claims that police statements to news media about Ricci "was knowingly false," and that evidence exonerating Ricci — including a palm print — was suppressed.

"All the focus placed on Richard Ricci was done knowing he was not a viable suspect," Bruce Oliver, Angela Ricci's attorney, said Friday. "The police ... should not just run off on national television and name someone who is not a suspect."

The only witness to the abduction, Elizabeth's younger sister Mary Katherine, early on told her family Ricci wasn't the kidnapper. Last October, she suddenly told her parents she thought Mitchell, who the family knew as Emmanuel, had been the man in the room that night.

Police, still focused on Ricci, told the family not to go public with the information.

Mitchell was publicly identified in mid-February when the television program "America's Most Wanted" aired a segment on the man and posted on the show's Web site a sketch and photograph provided by the FBI and Salt Lake City police.

Mitchell's sister had called law enforcement with the identity after the Smart family held a news conference Feb. 3 to circulate the sketch.

The two couples who called police after spotting Elizabeth on March 12 said they recognized Mitchell from the television program.

The lawsuit alleges that Utah State Prison Warden Clint Freil reviewed

"All the focus placed on Richard Ricci was done knowing he was not a viable suspect. The police ... should not just run off on national television and name someone who is not a suspect."

— **BRUCE OLIVER**
 Angela Ricci's attorney

Ricci's medical history, which showed that during a previous prison stay, Ricci's hypertension became so severe he received medical care three times a week.

Even with treatment, Ricci's blood pressure remained abnormally high, the lawsuit states.

In the days after Ricci collapsed in his cell of a spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage, prison spokesman Jack Ford said Ricci had a history of hypertension but wasn't on medication at the time.

The lawsuit says that Angela Ricci later obtained her husband's medical records — which appeared to have been altered — that noted Ricci had "no history of hypertension" and a healthy blood pressure level.

Oliver said the prison's inattention to Ricci's condition was "negligent and inappropriate." The lawsuit states the defendants "recklessly and maliciously" caused Ricci's "wrongful and premature death."

However, Oliver said it wasn't known whether lack of medication was the direct cause of death.

Corrections Department spokesman Jack Ford on Friday referred all questions to the Utah Attorney General's office.

"We haven't had a chance to look at the lawsuit," said Paul Murphy, spokesman for Attorney General Mark Shurtleff. "There's really nothing to say until we've seen a copy of it."

Salt Lake City Police Capt. Scott Atkinson also said the department would not comment.

Elizabeth was found walking down the street of a Salt Lake City suburb with homeless drifter Brian David Mitchell, 49, and his wife, Wanda Barzee, 57.

Mitchell and Barzee have been charged with burglary, kidnapping and sexual assault. They are both being held on \$10 million bond pending psychological examinations to determine whether they are competent to stand trial.

The day after Elizabeth was found, Dinse formally cleared Ricci but didn't offer the apology Angela Ricci said she wanted.

Ricci was unavailable for comment Friday, and would remain so, said her spokeswoman, Nancy Pomeroy.

But she has said that intense police scrutiny robbed her of time with her husband. The lawsuit says she suffered emotional distress.

DID YOU KNOW?: The first Best Picture Oscar for an animation was awarded in 1991 for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

NATIONAL



Isle entrepreneurs find niche for Hawaii-made products

BY B.J. REYES
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Years of selling her Niihau shell leis and handmade jewelry at craft fairs on the mainland has taught Gale Sagucio a thing or two about finding a niche market.

"A lot of people are looking for stuff that is made here in Hawaii," said Sagucio, owner of JJ Ohana, which has been in business in the Kauai community of Hanapepe since 1995.

"They go bonkers," she added. "They go, 'Ooh, Hawaii.'"

These days, hundreds of other purveyors of "made in Hawaii" merchandise are finding out the same thing.

Whether it's an aloha shirt for casual Friday, a dashboard hula doll for the convertible or fresh pineapple and macadamia nuts for that end of summer luau, merchants say Hawaii-made products are in demand like never before.

"Everything that has a Hawaiian feel, look, taste, smell, people are just snapping up," said Ryan Mielke, a spokesman for HiloHattie.com, the online retail arm of Hilo Hattie, considered the largest maker and seller of Hawaii-themed products.

Without providing exact figures, Mielke said online sales through July 31 were up 86 percent over a year ago, adding that Hilo Hattie itself, with 13 stores in Hawaii, California, Nevada and Arizona to complement the Web site, records annual sales in the "tens of millions."

"Everything Hawaii is very, very fashionable these days," Mielke said.

David Nada would agree.

He's a program manager in the state office that traditionally has been charged with raising the profile of Hawaii's cultural products and resources.

"I think the word Hawaii has this connotation — a magic — about the island and also the quality of the products that are manufactured here," he said. The demand, "really has grown over the years."

Although the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism doesn't track the sales of Hawaii-made goods, many point to the annual Made in Hawaii Festival as a barometer for measuring the popularity of island goods.

When it first opened eight years ago, some scoffed at the notion that anybody in the islands — let alone tourists or people on the mainland — would want to buy the products, and the festival opened with just 61 merchants.

"There was a time when consumers considered things made here not being superior, so they would prefer something made on

"I think the word Hawaii has this connotation — a magic — about the island and also the quality of the products that are manufactured here. The demand, really has grown over the years."

— DAVID NADA
Program manager,
State office

the mainland," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who was on hand to give opening remarks at the most recent festival. "I think that attitude has changed completely."

This year's three-day festival featured a record 410 exhibitors and attracted an estimated 37,000 people, said Ed Thompson, executive director of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, a sponsor.

He conservatively estimated that merchants generated between \$3 million and \$5 million.

"Many of the vendors actually sold out of products," Thompson said. "Some of them made comments like ... by Friday night they had sold more products than all three days last year."

For Sagucio, the handcrafted jeweler from Hanapepe, this year's was her fifth festival.

"This is the biggest," she said. "They have a larger variety of stuff."

Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, Sagucio said she doesn't travel to the mainland as much for craft shows, but she's trying to make up for it by setting up a retail Web site.

This year's made-in-Hawaii was the first for Naneo ao Kula, or Maui Kula Lavender, which operates tours of its lavender farm and sells various products made with the fragrant herb.

Lani Medina, director of sales and marketing for the year-old business, said right now it only sells in Hawaii and online.

But Naneo ao Kula also hopes to tap into the demand for Hawaii products beyond the islands, mostly through its Web site, www.mauikulalavender.com.

"I think people love anything synonymous with Hawaii," she said. "We think that it's what Hawaii represents — we have a name for it, and that's called 'aloha,' and it's not found anywhere in the world."

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NATIONAL

Disappearing Lake Mead exposes desert of Atlantis

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

ST. THOMAS, Nev. — Jerry Phillipeck and his family zipped around Lake Mead's St. Thomas cove on boats and water skis for 20 years, never realizing they were playing above a desert Atlantis.

This year, with a Western drought dropping the vast reservoir behind Hoover Dam to its lowest level since the mid-1960s, Phillipeck left the boat on the trailer and led a family trek to the dusty remains of old St. Thomas — a Mormon community flooded in the 1930s to slake the thirst of the Southwest.

D'Aryne Phillipeck, 18, clutched her baseball cap to her head against a blast-furnace August wind and described the foundation of a house and a drinking water cistern they found amid tree stumps and fast-growing tamarisk brush.

At water's edge, a crumbling chimney marked the site of a long-ago ice cream parlor.

"When we were water skiing, we were 70 feet over someone's house," said her dad, Jerry Phillipeck, from Simi Valley, Calif. Verna Chadburn Heller, 84, grew up in one of those homes, and remembers the ice cream parlor. It was Reinhold Hannig's place.

"We didn't any of us have any money," said Heller, who was entering eighth grade when her family of 10 moved from St. Thomas to Springville, Utah. "But everyone cared for everyone else. It was like one big family."

St. Thomas survived 73 years before being sacrificed to progress when Hoover Dam was completed in 1935 and water started filling Lake Mead, the nation's largest man-made reservoir.

The town had been settled in 1865 by Mormons led by Thomas Smith, dispatched by Brigham Young to plant cotton along the Muddy River. Almost 500 people lived there at the end.

Leland Whitmore postmarked the last letter from St. Thomas on June 11, 1938, and tossed the last sack of mail into a boat at the post office doorstep.

Hugh Lord waited a little longer.

"He said the lake would never reach him," said Virginia "Beezy" Tobiasson, 58, historian for the surrounding Moapa Valley and Heller's daughter-in-law. "He said he was going to stay in his house."

Tobiasson pores over maps, ledgers and journals at an old schoolhouse library in nearby Logandale. She has a photograph of Lord stepping from his porch onto a rowboat before setting his home ablaze.

"He torched the house," she said.

In the three years it took for the lake to reach 45 miles upstream to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin rivers, the Army Corps of Engineers dismantled or moved town buildings, cut the mock orange trees lining Main Street and exhumed the dead from the town cemetery. They were reburied in Overton, eight miles up the road.

The town was famous for cantaloupes, Tobiasson said. Every family had at least one milk cow and a grape arbor. They dried grapes for raisins and grew apricots, peaches, almonds, pomegranates, asparagus and figs.

These days, the National Park Service says the site, within Lake Mead National Recreation Area, gets 300 visitors on weekend days. It is accessible from the bluff promontory at the end of a 3.4-mile washboard dirt road off state Highway 169.

Determined scavengers surreptitiously

scour the site with metal detectors, and rangers fret that people are making off with teacups, bricks and other artifacts.

"We want people to be able to go there and see this town frozen in time," spokeswoman Roxanne Dey said. "But we are having a problem with treasure hunters out there."

"You see little holes all over the place," said Steve Daron, a Park Service archaeologist who plans to post interpretive signs telling tales of St. Thomas and encouraging people to leave it untouched.

"The more people who know about and appreciate the town, the more they'll want to help us protect it for the future," he said.

Dey said rangers have issued 13 summonses this year for preservation law violations and illegally using metal detectors in a national park. A misdemeanor can bring a \$500 fine and six months in jail, she said, and a conviction on a felony charge could mean a \$10,000 fine and 10 years in prison.

Looting wasn't considered a problem when St. Thomas resurfaced before during drought in 1952, and again in the early 1960s, when the Lake Powell reservoir was being filled upstream on the Colorado River.

Heller visited then, and found a shiny \$5 gold piece in the old wagon yard. She recognized the school by its fallen arches and hint of stairs, and the Gentry Hotel by its sheer size.

She won't visit this year, she said. She's getting too old.

St. Thomas is exposed because Lake Mead's surface has dropped 72 feet since January 2000, leaving a bathtub ring of mineral white on more than 700 miles of rocky shoreline.

"It's telling us a story about change in the desert and how people adapted," said Michelle Riter, a park ranger who has researched St. Thomas.

She imagines farmers going to church and the rodeo, children picking R.O. Gibson's front-yard cherry tree clean, eight-horse teams clattering down dusty Main Street hauling heavy copper ore from the Grand Gulch mine 30 miles away. Tiny Las Vegas, with 5,165 residents, was a tortuous 70 miles of bad road away.

Officials say that if drought persists, the lake could drop 14 feet more by next summer, to 1,129 feet above sea level. It would still be more than half full, about 500 feet deep at the dam, and contain about 4.6 trillion gallons of water. Water intake tunnels that supply the Las Vegas area are at 1,050 feet and 1,000 feet.

St. Thomas had no plumbing, no electricity, no refrigeration, no air conditioning.

"Nothing to make it easy," said Heller, who now lives in a doublewide mobile home on an acre of land with shady fruit trees in Logandale.

"We took water out of an irrigation ditch with buckets and ran it through charcoal into a barrel out next to a tree," she said. "Cooling was out under an arbor in the back yard. We slept outside until almost Thanksgiving, it was so warm."

Heller recalled bouncing with other barefoot kids in an open-sided bus eight miles up the road to Overton to see black-and-white picture shows. She milked cows and churned butter with her mother to sell to miners — and then to the surveyors who came to town to scout sites

See MEAD, page 11

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NATIONAL



Burning Man festival a focus for parties, religious yearning

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev. — Rising from the desert in one of the flattest, most remote places on earth is an 80-foot temple topped by the stylized figure of a man.

It wasn't here last week and it won't be here after this past weekend, except for a pile of ashes where it is to be ritually burned to the ground.

In one of the most bizarre rites of the Silicon Age, nearly 30,000 people are camped in the middle of the Nevada desert 90 miles north of Reno to build and then destroy a temporary city built around a religious icon.

"This can be anything from a kind of playfulness, to narcissism, to a more serious spiritual quest," said James Donahue, president of the Berkeley, Calif.-based Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of nine theological graduate schools. "It is what you make of it. People bring their own interests and desires to it."

At its most basic level, the annual Burning Man event is nothing more than a weeklong bacchanalia organized by a bunch of San Francisco-area dot-comers.

Yet since its spontaneous origin on a California beach 17 years ago, participants have often found deeper meaning in the elemental dance of the flames.

"The people who are going to Burning Man — Boomers and Xers — are the most educated generations in history. They're trained to question," said Jerome P. Baggett, who teaches religion and society at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Calif.

They're more likely to see religion as a lifelong search for meaning, and to look beyond a single traditional faith, he said. For a week, they can experience mass rituals that can mean everything, or nothing at all.

Jill Jacobs of San Rafael, Calif., wearing a tiara, goggles and not much else, wrote prayers for herself and her friends on a memorial temple Friday afternoon.

"Burning Man touches something primal — it doesn't have words," she said.

Never has Burning Man encouraged that search more than this year, with its most overtly spiritual theme yet — "Beyond Belief."

"It's always been about 'beyond belief,'" Dwight Harbaugh of Palo Alto, Calif., said after taking his own turn portraying a modern Christ. "Maybe now we're calling it what it really is."

The Aztec-style pyramid and its wood-and-neon Burning Man mark the center of Black Rock City, with avenues laid out in the four primary directions. Concentric circles of streets carry such names as Authority, Creed, Dogma, Faith, Gospel, Reality and Vision. Cross streets are labeled Sacred, Profane, Real and Imagined.

The pyramid deliberately evokes ancient ceremonies and symbolic sacrifices that barely echo today in modern mainstream Western religions.

Costumed or painted pilgrims guided by "temple guardians" take turns filling one of 16 niches at the pyramid's base, becoming human shrines to whom passers-by are encouraged to leave offerings, primarily drawings, paintings and sculptures. Others come forward with flowers, buttons, beads and other trinkets.

Annette Himelwright of Klamath Falls, Ore., stripped off her virginal white diaphanous costume Friday afternoon and climbed onto the central of three crucifixes mounted near the pyramid.

"I couldn't tell you if it's about religion or not," she said, putting her clothes back on. "It's about a good time — freedom."

Celebrants leave still more sacrificial offerings at altars within the wood and canvas pyramid, to be burned with the entire structure.

Jason Ayers of Phoenix dressed as a "neo-Pope" to visit the memorial temple where dozens of people wrote the names of loved ones on the intricately crafted and painted walls.

"There's really nothing else in the United States that lets people memorialize their loved ones and then burn it," he said.

They also climb to the top of the structure, where the Burning Man itself rises over "an omphalos," or "world navel," and looks out over a ground-level labyrinth.

In the distance is a second temple, this one dedicated to the dead. Visitors there leave more offerings to be burned during a second ritualistic conflagration Sunday night.

"It can be a religious experience, but there's no particular dogma that's adhered to," said Sarah Pike, who teaches religious studies at California State University,

Chico. "Hundreds of people come and write messages to people who've died, to relatives, to friends who've committed suicide. This is moving for people who don't feel comfortable with organized religion."

Organizers and the setting itself actively encourage participants to shed their old views of themselves and their world.

They are literally in the wilderness, far from home, in a make-believe city with few rules other than "do no harm." Many are painted or masked, anonymous in a way that prompts a similar loss of inhibitions at Mardi Gras or Halloween parties.

"People talk about it being transformative," said Pike, who has written two scientific papers on the Burning Man phenomenon. "People do go there to party, or people go there to have life-changing experiences — or people go there to party and have life-changing experiences."

Besides the cumulative immolations of the two temples, throughout the week there are drum circles, parades, yoga and meditation gatherings. Candles, incense and shrines to no one in particular are scattered around the tent city.

Gael Shepherd of Roseville, Calif., was dressed as a purple pagan goddess as she took a turn in a ceremonial niche in the pyramid on Friday.

"I'm a pagan and this is a chance for me to dress in a bizarre way, but also to flaunt my paganism," she said. "People have come up and blessed me and given me gifts" — incense, a bracelet, a glow-in-the-dark star.

Jacques Rossouw of San Francisco sat in another niche playing haunting reverberating music on a didgeridoo, an instrument he learned living with an aboriginal family.

"I find Burning Man is spirituality without the church, without all the religious practices," he said. "It doesn't come with any of the traditional strings attached."

Lake Mead could drop another 14 feet

MEAD, from page 10

for Hoover Dam.

She had nightmares about a wall of water swamping her two-story home. But when the water did come, it rose steadily, not all at once.

Heller, who lived in Logandale by then, used to go to the bluff with her daughter, then 2 years old.

"It was interesting to watch the water come in over the town and fill the old cisterns and then the basements," she said. "It would push the air out and the water would spurt."

Jerry Phillippek accepted a cold bottled water from his 20-year-old son, Paul, and looked from the bluff across the old town site, a finger of blue water, and a wide green valley framed by stark mountains of gray, red and brown.

Phillippeck said the group didn't pick up any souvenirs during their hike.

"I've got 20-some-odd years coming here," he said. "I wouldn't take anything. It belongs to history, not to me."

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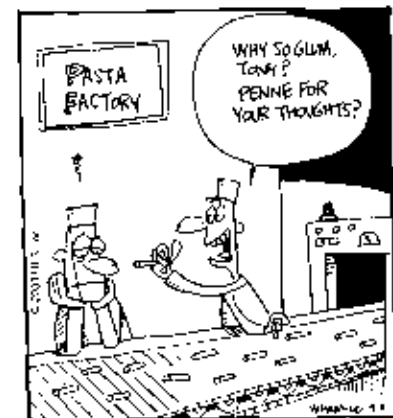


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ACROSS

- 1 Play groups
- 6 Parka part
- 10 Improvised
- 11 Van Gogh painted there
- 13 Deceive
- 14 Snow mass
- 15 Slippery swimmer
- 16 Illuminated
- 18 By way of
- 19 Wild West Show creator
- 22 Online address, for short
- 23 Vichyssoise veggie
- 24 Saudi's neighbor
- 27 Poets
- 28 Boxing site
- 29 Actor Affleck
- 30 Wild West Show star
- 35 Calendar abbr.
- 36 Decay
- 37 Gardner of "Mogambo"
- 38 Mink's cousin
- 40 More reasonable

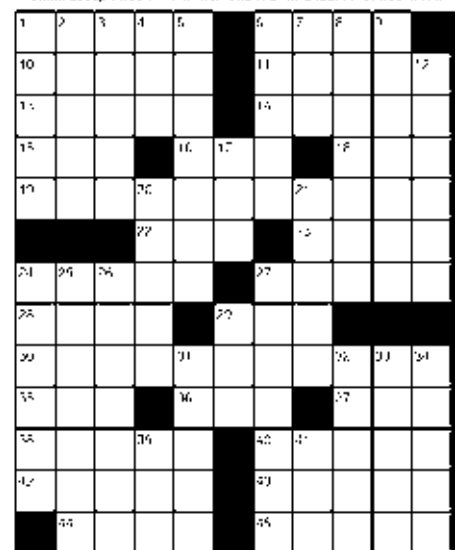
DOWN

- 1 Writer Carr
- 2 French farewell
- 3 Book's spot
- 4 Youngster
- 5 Peter of "Newhart"
- 6 Couldn't not
- 7 Hockey's Bobby
- 8 Oscar-winner for "Hamlet"
- 9 Sullied
- 12 Celery units
- 17 Sick
- 20 Mushrooms, e.g.
- 21 Scrabble tile
- 24 Speaker
- 25 Meeting record
- 26 Frankie's friend
- 27 Thrashes
- 29 Ghost cry
- 31 Blunder
- 32 Highway strips
- 33 Bit of history
- 34 Football measure
- 39 Pitching stat
- 41 King Kong, c.g.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cat Stevens urges Muslims to start religion education

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Former pop star Cat Stevens urged American Muslims to start religious schools in their communities, speaking about the school he started soon after converting to Islam in the 1970s.

Stevens, who now uses the name Yusuf Islam, said he got the idea when the prayer leader at his mosque gave a sermon about the importance of Muslim schools and asked the singer for a donation.

"So I wrote a check, a big check," he said Saturday, joking with the audience about his former life. "I was still a pop star at the time."

He and other parents from the mosque who met each Sunday then decided to start their own school, he said. It opened in 1983 in London.

He urged American Muslims to follow suit. "Once a Muslim school is established it indicates the arrival of the community in that place," he said.

Born Stephen Georgiou, he took Cat Stevens as a stage name and had a string of hits in the early 1970s, then embraced Islam in 1977 and abandoned his career.

At the convention, organized by the Islamic Society of North America, he said Islamic education was critical because movies and other media were distracting Muslims from their religion.

BOULDER, Colo. — The Doors are trying to light a fire among audiences minus the Lizard King, and they don't care if people disapprove of their attempt to revive the group without Jim Morrison.

"I suppose there's always going to be those hardcore

naysayers who believe that if it's not Jim Morrison, it's not the Doors," said Robby Krieger, one of two original band members in the new Doors.

"I don't really care what those people think," the 57-year-old guitarist added. "If they don't want to come to the show, they don't have to. It's not a problem. Believe me, those who have come to see us have loved it."

Krieger and Ray Manzarek, also an original member, formed the group again last fall, more than 30 years after Morrison's death in Paris.

The Cult's Ian Astbury filled the Morrison role at a weekend concert, leather pants and all.

"He just seemed the most realistically interested," according to Krieger. "Obviously, Ian's always been influenced by Morrison. He's sort of very similar to Morrison in many ways: he's Scottish-English, which Jim was, and he's interested in shamanism and American Indians and all that stuff. He just seemed like the right guy. It felt right when we played with him."

ISLE OF BUTE, Scotland — Celebrities including Madonna and Chrissie Hynde were tightlipped about the apparent wedding of designer Stella McCartney and publisher Alasdair Willis as they left this remote Scottish island Sunday.

Pretenders singer Hynde would only say that the 31-year-old daughter of former Beatle Paul McCartney looked "beautiful."

"It was good. It has been a lovely week," said Sharleen Spiteri of the rock band Texas.

There was no official confirmation that McCartney had married Willis, also 31, on Saturday at Mount

Stuart, a Victorian gothic mansion on Bute, off Scotland's west coast. The house and its 300-acre estate are owned by a friend of the McCartney family.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that the newly married couple were driven away from the ceremony in a carriage drawn by two Clydesdale horses.

Dozens of celebrities including Paul McCartney and his wife, Heather Mills, Coldplay's Chris Martin and Gucci boss Tom Ford were spotted on the island.

PLAINVIEW, Texas — Fifty-five years ago, Jimmy Dean dropped out of high school to support his mother.

This week, the 75-year-old country music star turned sausage king will finally be getting his diploma.

A friend worked with the Plainview school district officials to get him the diploma. Although the friend, Dean's wife, and district officials tried to keep the diploma a secret, Dean eventually figured out that something was going on.

"I didn't know a thing in the world, until I put two and two and two together, and when I ended up with three, I knew something was wrong," he said.

Dean left school shortly before his 1946 graduation. He said not getting his high school diploma hurt him, but hurt his mother more.

"I know very well that she'll be watching at the little ceremony, where I'll say 'Mom, I got it,'" Dean said.

He said he worked several odd jobs before heading to the Army Air Corps for three years. Later, he got into music, and won a Grammy for "Big Bad John." Dean also had his own television show before launching his Jimmy Dean sausage company.

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