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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Among the more astonishing repeat stories in News of the Weird are reports of people who had somehow managed to swallow their toothbrushes. The Saudi Press Association reported in January that doctors at King Abdul Aziz Hospital in Taif had removed a toothbrush from the stomach of a 70-year-old man (who claimed to have accidentally swallowed it 22 years ago). And in July, the Associated Press reported that a Taiwan surgeon had removed an eight-tooth, accidentally swallowed lower denture from the bronchial tube of a 45-year-old man. The man said he had misplaced the denture three years ago and had been looking everywhere for it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2005. There are 115 days left in the year.

On Sept. 7, 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, bade farewell to President John Quincy Adams at the White House.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People do not live in the present always, at one with it. They live at all kinds of and manners of distance from it, as difficult to measure as the course of planets. Fears and traumas make their journeys slanted, peripheral, uneven, evasive."

— ANAIS NIN

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Overwhelming support



David Hume Kennerly/Special to the Daily Press

Volunteers outside Franklin Elementary School this past weekend collect donations for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The drive was led by two Franklin parents, Tom Browne and Debra Young Krizman, who are Louisiana natives.

Agents arrest 'Fanny Pack Bandit' suspect

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

BRENTWOOD — A suspect believed to be the serial bank robber known as the "Fanny Pack Bandit" was apprehended by FBI agents on Saturday as he walked past them during lunch.

Peter Soren Walsky, 45, was arrested on Saturday for a bank robbery that officials say he committed at a Bank of America on San Vicente Boulevard in Brentwood. Walsky is believed by officials to be responsible for 10 bank robberies, including two in Santa Monica.

Laura Eimiller, an FBI spokeswoman, said Walsky has been charged for Saturday's robbery, but not for the numerous other bank robberies he is suspected to have committed. Once the additional charges are filed, if convicted, he could face several years in prison.

Walsky is suspected to be the man officials have deemed the Fanny Pack Bandit, named for the pouch the suspect wore during robberies.

Walsky was spotted Saturday by two FBI agents, who, while

eating lunch, noticed a man in a T-shirt and exercise shorts walking eastbound on South Westgate Avenue. He was carrying what appeared to be a bank-deposit money bag that was emanating red smoke.

The agents left the restaurant to

confront the suspect. After realizing the smoke had a pepper-spray base, they determined a bank dye-pack had been activated. After a brief struggle, the suspect was taken into custody near the inter-

See **BANDIT**, page 7

Picture perfect



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Photo majors take part in an activity on Tuesday at Santa Monica College as part of a class focused on advanced black-and-white printing techniques.

Local relief efforts trucking along

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Two Santa Monica parents frustrated by a slow federal response to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina took matters into their own hands over the holiday weekend, as hundreds of people across the Southland joined them in filling six 50-foot tractor trailers with supplies that are now bound for Louisiana.

Franklin Elementary School parents Tom Browne and Debra Young Krizman, former residents of Louisiana, began what they believed would be a small collection to assist victims of Katrina. In an e-mail they sent to local parents on Friday morning, Browne and

See **RELIEF**, page 6

STATE

Ship remains found at construction site

BY RON HARRIS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The remains of a massive Gold Rush-era sailing ship dating to the early 1800s have been discovered at the site of a large construction project in downtown San Francisco, archaeologists at the scene confirmed Tuesday.

The ship's decaying bow peeked through mounds of earth as workers under the direction of an archaeologist brushed away generations of dirt from its aging timbers. A dig crew unearthed the first por-

See **SHIP REMAINS**, page 8

Jacquie Banks

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Dinner for two, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press

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




ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Someone close wakes up in such a good mood that you might even be put off! Don't be. Grab the moment for what it offers. Others seem happier than usual. Listen to a close friend or associate in the afternoon. Tonight: Dinner for two.


TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Dive into work this morning, but think of co-workers and bring some doughnuts. Nearly everyone has a sweet tooth, if he or she is honest about it. Network and schedule meetings for the afternoon. Tonight: Your popularity soars.


GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might find a child or loved one particularly adorable this morning. You could be quite distracted. Let your happiness flow into your day. Buckle down with work this afternoon, or get into a project. Tonight: Put some extra hours into a project.


CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might have a difficult time leaving home right now. You are simply content in your own environment. Perhaps you are also sprucing up a room or two. Funnel your creativity this afternoon and make what you are doing more fun. Tonight: Try an old-fashioned date.


LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Clear your desk. Return calls. Schedule meetings. You are a veritable whirlwind this morning, reaching out to others. Do something special for a loved one or a friend. Later in the day, you might want to be reclusive. Tonight: Stroll on home.


VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ An expenditure feels perfect, even if you are a bit more extravagant than you'd planned. Schedule meetings, discussions and all interpersonal activity for the late afternoon. You bring smiles to others' faces. Tonight: Dinner at one of your favorite places.


LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your magic is irresistible this morning. Consider this fact, and do what is really important to you while the Force is with you. In the afternoon, you become driven about a purchase or making money. Cut the extravagance. Tonight: Your treat.


SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You move into your day slowly, but once you are up to full speed, you might be hard to stop. You hit your peak days of the month starting this afternoon. Go for what you want. Expect only yeses. Tonight: Whatever you want.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your friends play a big role in making what you want happen. In fact, feelings could be developing between you and a friend. Treat this situation with care, especially if the caring isn't mutual. You might reverse your course out of the blue. Tonight: Curl up with a book.


CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your leadership draws direct results, which you see in the afternoon. A meeting or get-together could be important. Know that you can count on your friends. Ease up the pace this afternoon. Tonight: Where the action is.


AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Good feelings warm up your morning. You could hear news or receive a call that puts a smile on your face. You might not want to share your news just yet. This afternoon, responsibilities demand your full attention. Tonight: Out as late as you need to be.


PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A partner demonstrates unusual caring and happiness just to be around you. Getting into work or even starting your day could be difficult, as you would rather bathe in the good vibes. Can you take the day off? Tonight: Share your dreams.



AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Salvation Army's cupboard is bare

By Daily Press staff

The Salvation Army Santa Monica Corps Community Center desperately needs help filling their food pantry.

"We're asking for the community's help. In order for The Salvation Army to continue serving the community, we need to ensure that our cupboards are not so bare for the neediest in our community," said Captain Eric Bradley.

Every month, more than 30 families visit The Salvation Army's food pantry in search of food. Many haven't eaten in days. Some call the streets their home. All are hungry. The Salvation Army Santa Monica Corps Community Center needs all kinds of canned foods, ready-to-eat soups, canned meats, etc.

Located just four blocks from the beach, The Salvation Army Santa Monica Corps offers men, women and children in Santa Monica, Venice, Mar Vista, West Los Angeles and Westwood opportunities for spiritual growth, age-specific group activities and social service programs. The Corps holds weekly chapel services and bible study, makes visits to the elderly, sends kids and adults to The Salvation Army's summer camp and distributes food and toys during the holiday season.

The Salvation Army in Santa Monica is open Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to receive donations between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

To drop off items for The Salvation Army's food pantry, contact Bradley at (310) 451-1358.

SMC Foundation awards grants to professors

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Foundation awarded nine mini-grants, for a total of \$34,000, to professors for equipment ranging from sophisticated astronomical devices to "green screen" technology used in film post-production.

The SMC Foundation, through its President's Circle, earlier this year said it would launch the new program that allows full-time professors and program directors to get grants of up to \$5,000 for equipment, supplies, instructional materials, seminars and more.

"These awards are not only a vote of confidence in the incredible work that our professors do, they provide funds for equipment that will make a major difference in the learning experience of our students," said foundation executive director JoAnn Ortiz.

The awards include new lab glassware for organic chemistry students, a conga drum set for dance students and an ozonometer that will allow astronomy students to determine atmospheric ozone amounts.



SURF REPORT

Overall, southerly periods are averaging 14 seconds from 210 degrees, NW periods are averaging eight seconds from 290 degrees. In SoCal, south-facing are seeing waist- to chest-high + sets with some pluses coming through at times at standouts. West-facing breaks are running waist high.

Today, we should see a small decline in surf, but size is still expected to be around waist to chest high or so with fewer pluses.

Today the water is:

67°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	4:45	0.5	4:53	1.3	11:00	4.5	10:52	5.0
TUESDAY	5:05	0.9	5:32	1.3	11:22	5.0	11:28	4.5
WEDNESDAY	5:25	1.3	6:18	1.3	11:46	4.3	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	5:43	1.8	7:15	1.3	12:12	4.0	12:14	5.2
FRIDAY	6:02	1.7	7:40	0.9	12:40	3.2	12:09	4.6

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The State Senate approved legislation last week that would legalize same-sex marriages in California, the most populous state in the country. The 21-15 vote made the Senate the first legislative chamber in the nation to approve a gay marriage bill, setting the stage for a showdown in the Assembly, which narrowly rejected a similar bill in June.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **Do you support the state's official sanctioning of gay marriages, or do you feel our elected leaders are off track? Why?**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Try to limit comments to a minute or less.

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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wrongly played race card

Editor:

Woe to everybody who breathes free if they pay the slightest heed to the race card rant of the letter writer Erik Erikson (SMDP, Aug. 31) concerning the awful Farmers' Market tragedy.

Nothing could be further from the truth that Santa Monica devolves special privileges on any segment of its residents or visitors. SM, in fact, has a worldwide reputation, quite deservedly so, in both social and judicial matters, of fair, impartial treatment of everyone.

The city has an utmost duty to protect its interests from unfounded, misplaced charges of lax security apropos of any of its venues. An open-air market, by definition and public expectation, is not supposed to have any barriers whatsoever. The price society must expect to pay for its beautiful marketing events, alas, the potential of wanton carnage. We owe it to our humanity to resist racial insensitivity. We must issue to the individual alone who is responsible for spontaneous ire, all due condign punishment, ire when some silly catalyst "persuades" him to do the wrong thing subsequent to what? A bad hair day?

William Cook
Santa Monica

Bring Bush to justice

Editor:

Those of us who watch "Law and Order" programs on television are familiar with the term "criminally negligent homicide." This is what has happened in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina — with a projected death toll in the thousands.

Will any state or federal officials, including President Bush and his closest aides, be brought to justice for the deaths of these thousands — overwhelmingly poor blacks and whites?

Will a single Democrat have the courage to demand that the responsible parties be charged with criminally negligent homicide in these tragic deaths?

John Marciano
Santa Monica

Global warming not just hot air

Editor:

We are at the tipping point of disastrous climate change around the world.

The storms are getting stronger and more frequent in the recent years. Katrina grew into a monster category-five storm overnight over an unusually hot Gulf of Mexico.

It is high time to do something about the greenhouse gas emissions that are one of the main causes of global warming and climate change.

I believe we must take immediate and decisive action to reduce our dependence on greenhouse gas emitting technologies. It is very clear to me that our present administration does not care about the state of our country and our world, so Congress needs to take the leadership and initiative in this important issue as soon as possible.

Nadia Kuyumjian
Los Angeles

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Stop trying to appease "Muslim opinion"

To listen to most of our foreign-policy commentators, the biggest problem facing America today — four years after Sept. 11th — is the fact that many Muslims are mad at us.

"Whatever one's views on the [Iraq] war," writes a New York Times columnist, "thoughtful Americans need to consider . . . the bitter anger that it has provoked among Muslims around the world." In response to Abu Ghraib, Ted Kennedy lamented, "We have become the most hated nation in the world, as a result of this disastrous policy in the prisons." Muslim anger over America's support of Israel, we are told, is a major cause of anti-American terrorism.

We face, these commentators say, a crisis of "Muslim opinion." We must, they say, win the "hearts and minds" of angry Muslims by heaping public affection on Islam, by shutting down Guantanamo, by being more "evenhanded" between free Israel and the terrorist Palestinian Authority — and certainly by avoiding any new military action in the Muslim world. If we fail to win over "Muslim opinion," we are told, we will drive even more to become terrorists.

All of this evades one blatant truth: the hatred being heaped on America is irrational and undeserved. Consider the issue of treatment of POWs. Many Muslims are up in arms about the treatment of prisoners of war in Iraq and at Guantanamo — many of whom were captured on battlefields trying to kill Americans. Yet these same Muslims are silent about the summary convictions and torture — real torture, with electric drills and vats of acid — that are official policy and daily practice throughout the Middle East.

Or consider "Muslim opinion" over the U.S. handling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which the United States is accused of not being "hard enough" on Israel — a free nation with laws that protect all citizens, Jew and Arab alike — for Israel's supposed mistreatment of Palestinians. Yet "Muslim opinion" reveres the Palestinian Authority, a brutal dictatorship that deprives Palestinians of every basic freedom, keeps them in unspeakable poverty, and routinely tortures and executes peaceful dissenters.

So-called Muslim opinion is not the unanimous and just consensus that its seekers pretend. It is the irrational and unjust opinion of the world's worst Muslims: Islamists and their legions of "moderate" supporters and sympathizers. These people oppose us not because of any legitimate grievances against America, but because they are steeped in a fundamentalist interpretation of their religion — one that views America's freedom, prosperity and pursuit of worldly pleasures as the height of depravity. They do not seek respect for

the rights of the individual (Muslim or non-Muslim), they seek a world in which the rights of all are sacrificed to the dictates of Islam.

The proper response to Islamists and their supporters is to identify them as our ideological and political enemies — and dispense justice accordingly. In the case of our militant enemies, we must kill or demoralize them — especially those regimes that support terrorism and fuel the Islamist movement; as for the rest, we must politically ignore them and intellectually discredit them, while proudly arguing for the superiority of Americanism. Such a policy would make us safe, expose Islamic anti-Americanism as irrational and immoral, and embolden the better Muslims to support our ideals and emulate our ways.

President Bush, like most politicians and intellectuals, has taken the opposite approach to "Muslim opinion": appeasement. Instead of identifying anti-American Muslims as ideological enemies to be discredited, he has appealed to their sensibilities and met their demands — e.g., sacrificing American soldiers to save Iraqi civilians and mosques. Instead of seeking to crush the Islamists by defeating the causes they fight for — such as Islamic world domination and the destruction of Israel — he has appeased those causes, declaring Islam a "great religion" and rewarding the Palestinian terrorist Jihad with a promised Palestinian state. Instead of destroying terrorist regimes that wage war against the West — including, most notably, Iran — he has sought their "cooperation" and even cast some as "coalition partners."

Such measures have rewarded our enemy for waging physical and spiritual war against us. "Condemn America," they have learned, "and American leaders will praise your ideals and meet your demands." "Attack America via terrorist proxy," terrorist states and movements have been taught, "and America will neither blame you nor destroy you, but redouble its efforts to buy your love."

Every attempt to appease "Muslim opinion" preserves, promotes and emboldens our enemies. Every concession to angry Muslim mobs gives hope to the Islamist cause. Every day we allow terrorist regimes to exist gives their minions time to execute the next Sept. 11. America needs honest leadership with the courage to identify and defeat our enemies — "Muslim opinion" be damned.

(Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand — best-selling author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

COMMENTARY



Issues of timing on a strawberry night

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



The soft, balmy breeze was whispering across my face, as if it wanted to expose a secret about Mr. Strawberry.

"Oh, do tell," I said to the wind. And the wind slyly replied, "Well, it wouldn't be a secret then, would it?"

Oh, that fickle wind. You never know which way it's gonna blow.

Refusing any further conversation with the baiting breeze, I stepped into the crowded restaurant on Ocean Avenue, where Strawberry suggested we meet. My eyes darted down the bar and across the waiting area, but there was no tall, dark, red-headed man within radar. The host hadn't seen him either.

Where was he? Please don't let him be one of those tardy fellas. Not my favorite attribute.

Suddenly, an expansive hand snuggled my shoulder. I slowly turned. The sight of Strawberry made me silently gasp. His physical fare had become no less appealing.

Whoa. Get a grip, girl.

"I was at the far end of the bar. Tried to get your attention, but your scanning missed me."

Had Strawberry spoken? I was still trying to get a grip.

He led me over to the bar, where I ordered an extra-dry vodka martini, straight up with a twist. Yum. I didn't know if that was a wise choice, given my grip problem, but I promised myself I could have a wee one. And I always keep my promises.

The martini became an easy topic of

discussion. As he sipped on his peppery Pinot, I told him my cocktail of choice first appeared on the scene in the late 1800s. A San Francisco bartender invented it and decided to coin it 'Martinez,' after his hometown of Martinez, Calif. Many thanks to that beloved bartender.

By dinner our alliance felt more secure. We were voyaging out, Strawberry and I, exploring the other's worlds. Granted, this was due, in part, to a magnificent martini and a fine red wine. But there was a true connection.

Three weeks had passed since our Starbucks rendezvous. Our busy schedules had prohibited an earlier follow-up. We'd e-mailed, talked a few times, but nary a word regarding ex-wife issues.

Frankly, I was OK with that.

Several years ago, an ex-girlfriend of a guy I was dating called, threatening to barbecue her bird if he didn't come over immediately. Naturally, I was not eager to be responsible for the passing of a pet parakeet, so I shoved him out the door to prevent this casualty. Since then, I decided early boundaries are a beautiful thing.

And that's what I told Strawberry when halfway through my arugula goat cheese salad, he cautiously broached the forbidden subject. I quickly advised him against any specifics, and he agreed. Not that I wasn't curious. That dang wind had seen to that. Maybe later. Maybe.

Still, I liked him. And he seemed to like me. Therefore, it was no surprise as we walked toward my car at evening's end that my heart pulsated. The time had arrived. Will he or won't he?

Strawberry chose his moment while I searched for my keys. As he swung my body around, I was relieved to have forsaken my flippers for a more stylish, superior sandal, one that guaranteed solid footing. My pivot was as smooth as that martini. And the kiss was even better.

Once we came up for air, I said, "I'd better go." Lest I lose the grip I'd gained.

"OK. I'll call you." And I knew he, too, kept his promises.

Evidently, Strawberry was not the only one with issues. There was one waiting for me when I got home. A heartfelt message from 'the one who got away.'

"Hi sweetie, it's Colin. 'Member me?" he said with an uncomfortable giggle. "I know. I know. It's been a while, but I was thinking about you and thought I'd call ..."

Is five years a while?

Colin had unbelievable timing.

I spread my hands across my face and said a rather un-ladylike word. Driven to the fridge, I opened it with defiance. Then, spotting my weapon, I reached in and slid my teeth into a nice plump strawberry, letting the juice drizzle down my chin. Lalalala...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com. You can follow her Strawberry stories the first week of each month. Some names have been changed to protect the innocent ... and the guilty.)

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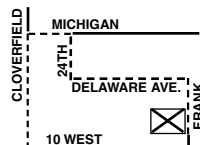
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LOCAL

Donations pouring in at SM Red Cross

RELIEF, from page 1

Krizman asked for items to be dropped off near Franklin Elementary. Browne agreed to pack all collected supplies into a truck and deliver them to hurricane victims. Word spread quickly over the Internet, however, and hundreds of concerned citizens and business representatives from across Southern California contributed several tons of food, clothing, bedding and medical supplies for Katrina relief efforts.

Krizman said one reason for the drive's success was that it enabled people to be proactive about the devastation caused by Katrina, which is being characterized as the most devastating natural disaster on record to hit the United States.

"I thought I was mostly going to sit on my lawn chair for a few hours and read a

book," Krizman said. But the turnout and outpouring of donations over the four-day collection period was more than she anticipated.

"It seemed everyone was so frustrated that nothing was being done by the federal government," Krizman said. "I have never seen anything like it."

Fellow parents, industry executives and homeless individuals were among those who supported the cause by dedicating their time, energy and resources from Friday to Monday.

Children sold lemonade, emptied their piggy banks and raised funds for the victims. A local Girl Scout troop gave \$600 to the Red Cross and brought \$600 in baby supplies to the drive.

A shoe company donated 5,000 pairs of shoes, and 20th Century Fox Studios

Internet sites that can help:

www.redcrossofsantamonica.org
www.networkforgood.org

contributed 200 new blankets and a truck filled with medical supplies.

Browne, who owns a lighting company, said he and others will be bringing the supplies to Slidell, La., where he grew up. They will be met by Slidell police officers at the border of Louisiana and escorted to the city. More than \$15,000 was raised to pay for gas alone, which is expected to cost \$2,800 round trip for each of the six diesel trucks being used, Krizman said.

They were en route on Tuesday.

Krizman said some at the scene of the drive, including an LA Times reporter, were brought to tears by the unexpected show of charity.

"All you hear about these days is how divided the world is," Krizman said. "It was good to see people can stop what they're doing and work together to make something like this happen."

"I was very happy by how successful we were."

Other groups committed to the relief effort are also making headway.

As of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the Santa Monica chapter of the Red Cross had raised \$167,000 for hurricane relief.

Nearly 400 Hurricane Katrina disaster relief containers have been filled by donations from Santa Monica residents, and people are still streaming in the door with donations and mailing in checks, according to local Red Cross representatives.

Fund-raising efforts in Santa Monica are expected to continue indefinitely. A "drive-through," where people can stop by to drop off donations, will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1450 11th Street.

The national Red Cross is hoping to gather \$150 million.

So far, 487 shelters are expected to open in 16 states to house 142,121 surviving victims of Katrina, according to local officials. There have been 5,000 volunteers deployed, and the Red Cross hopes to have 40,000 total trained by November,

according to Red Cross representatives. Displaced persons are likely to be airlifted to parts of Southern California soon.

A "fast track" system has been established to make it easier for volunteers to receive basic disaster relief training so they can be in the field quickly to provide aid to hurricane victims. Those wishing to volunteer must attend four classes to qualify, and all sessions are held at the Santa Monica chapter.

In one week, 389 people have signed up to become volunteers.

Two disaster volunteers from the Santa Monica chapter have already been deployed. Karen Sue Donoho has been deployed to Picayune, Ala., and Christy Courtemanche is working in a shelter in Houston, Texas, where flood victims were bussed from New Orleans 230 miles away.

Volunteers going to the disaster area will serve for a minimum of nine days, although a two- or three-week period of availability is preferred. Air fare to and from the disaster locale, food and housing expenses are covered by the American Red Cross.

Many Katrina shelters are located in areas with virtually no amenities. Volunteer housing will most likely be in a public shelter. At the current time, power is still off and water is scarce in most locales.

"Working in a disaster environment is likely to be very uncomfortable and not advisable for those who are used to creature comforts," said Robert Chatman, the chapter's director of disaster services.

Those willing to help, but who want to stay closer to home, can contribute to the cause in other ways.

Pastor Edward Bell of Mount Hermon Baptist Church at 19th Street and Pico Boulevard will be hosting a car wash from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The proceeds will go toward Katrina relief.

Bell said many youngsters, feeling the need to pitch in, have organized the fund-raising event.

"This disaster has touched the hearts of everyone in America, and we feel it's our duty to help," Bell said.



David Hume Kennerly/Special to the Daily Press

Franklin Elementary School parents and Louisiana natives Tom Browne and Debra Young Krizman spearheaded a donation drive for Hurricane Katrina relief outside the school over the weekend. The four-day drive filled six 50-foot tractor trailers with supplies for hurricane victims in Louisiana. The trucks are en route to the area.

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'Fanny Pack Bandit' believed to have robbed two SM banks

BANDIT, from page 1

section of Chenault Street.

The agents then contacted the Los Angeles Police Department to take custody of Walsky for the remainder of the weekend. Walsky is now being held at the federal Metropolitan Detention Center and was expected to make an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Walsky is believed by officials to have robbed 10 banks, beginning Nov. 13, 2004. They include seven in Los Angeles, one in Manhattan Beach and two in Santa Monica.

Eimiller said the Santa Monica robberies, like the one that occurred on Saturday in Brentwood, were initiated when the suspect passed a note to the tellers in which he demanded money.

Walsky is believed to have robbed the US Bank at 3302 Pico Blvd. on March 28, as well as the Bank of America at 287 26th St. on Feb. 14.

Building boom brings an end to many year-round school schedules

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A \$9.2 billion building boom by the Los Angeles Unified School District has brought an end to the unpopular year-round schedule at nearly two dozen schools.

The year-round schedule has been in place for years to relieve overcrowding at nearly 200 of the most crowded schools in the nation's second-largest school district. The schedule forced some overcrowded campuses to trim 17 days off the school year to accommodate all their students.

At South Gate High School, the year-round schedule was imposed in 1981 and came to an end Tuesday. The new South East High School, also in South Gate, opened Tuesday and is one of 13 new schools to open this week and 32 to open during this academic year.

"Just to have the continuity of all the teachers and kids within the same system creates a better learning environment," said South East principal Jesus Angulo said. "No matter how hard you tried, there was always one track that got short-changed."

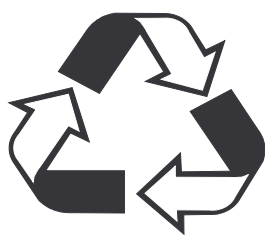
About 85,000 students at 22 district

schools and one charter school are moving to the traditional September-to-June schedule.

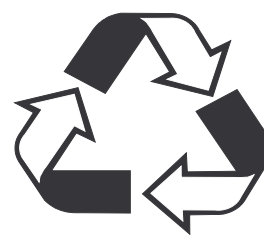
The district is expected to add about 160 schools over a decade and it has a goal of having a traditional school year for its nearly 740,000 students.

The district last year settled a class-action lawsuit in which it pledged to put all schools on a 180-day school year, which is the state standard, by 2012. This school year, 208 of the district's roughly 800 campuses will remain on year-round schedules, with 87 of them on the three-track, 163-day academic year.

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STATE

San Francisco prepares to house 300 Katrina refugees

BY RON HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Volunteers got to work Monday at a vast emergency shelter built underneath a San Francisco cathedral that will temporarily house at least 300 refugees from Hurricane Katrina.

The displaced Gulf Coast residents were expected to arrive Monday. Once here, they will receive shelter, food, medical care and social services at the lower level of St. Mary's Cathedral, said Peter Ragone, spokesman for Mayor Gavin Newsom.

But state Office of Emergency Services officials have warned San Francisco that it could lose out on federal money by responding too quickly to the Red Cross' request for help.

"If any jurisdiction moves forward to make agreements to do things in a disaster period when they have not used the normal process that we have in California, they always take a risk of having expenses that are not eligible (for reimbursement)," Henry Renteria, director of the governor's Office of Emergency Services, said in a news conference Sunday.

San Francisco officials weren't worried about acting too quickly. After several meetings during the weekend with city officials and representatives from local organizations including Catholic Charities and the local Red Cross chapter, the call to help was clear.

"This isn't the time to dilly-dally as bureaucrats talk things out," Ragone said. "There's a desperate need that needs to be filled. ... We'll work out the details of the funding as soon as we can."

It's unknown just how many children will be among the 300 refugees, but the San Francisco Unified School District is ready to enroll victims at any schools with extra space.

At the church, volunteers poured in with offers of food and clothing, though many were turned away and told their contributions were best directed to the local Red Cross and Salvation Army offices.

The massive cathedral has 18,000 square feet that will serve as the refugees' home for a month or two, according to Maurice Healy, a spokesman for the San Francisco Archdiocese.

"There's so much to do, bringing in food, bringing in bedding. It's just massive," Healy said. The homily at Sunday Masses stressed community outreach, Healy said, and the congregation's response was swift.

"Immediately after church, people came forward expressing a willingness to volunteer," Healy said.

Inside Patron's Hall, volunteers set up dining tables and chairs, while others vacuumed and spruced up. Outside the hall, a worker taped up the first sign that indicated the church was ready to warmly accept the visitors. "Welcome friends to San Francisco," the sign read.

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department will handle security for the shelter and the refugees, and city officials

were working on an identification system to quickly check in Hurricane Katrina victims as they come and go from the facility.

Annemarie Conroy, the director of the city's Office of Emergency Services, said the cost of the care and shelter operation is being split among the city, charitable organizations, corporate partners and donations. There were no cost estimates Monday.

"We're taking these 300 whether we get reimbursed or not. The number one priority is taking care of people, now how we're going to pay for it," Conroy said.

The state has informed federal officials that it can accept 1,000 people evacuated from the hurricane-ravaged states, but precisely which cities those people would go to had not been determined by late Monday, according to Shirley Tsagris, a spokeswoman for the governor's Office of Emergency Services.

A joint Los Angeles city-county task force has been formed to assist hurricane evacuees in the Los Angeles area.

The task force, assembled by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, will assist with shelter, supportive services, information and coordination of private sector assistance aimed at finding evacuees more permanent housing, according to officials.

In Los Angeles, 42 families displaced by the hurricane registered with the local chapter of the Red Cross and were put up in area hotels, said Anne Maria Tafoya, a Red Cross spokeswoman. The agency expected more evacuees Tuesday and was working with the Los Angeles Unified School District to find schools for the families with children, Tafoya said.

The Los Angeles Dream Center church group received ten hurricane victims from Baton Rouge, La., Sunday.

A Dream Center administrator said they could accommodate 251 evacuees at the former Queen of Angels hospital and 100 at Angelus Temple in Echo Park.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on Monday also sent a search and rescue helicopter team to the Gulf Coast to help with the rescue and recovery effort. The five-member crew of pilots and personnel departed on a two- to three-day journey to Baton Rouge, La.

Elsewhere, a group of 80 hurricane refugees were brought to San Diego Sunday on a chartered jet out of New Orleans.

They were housed overnight at Kearny Mesa High School in Kearny Mesa and were visited Monday by caseworkers to start work on rebuilding their lives, according to Red Cross spokeswoman Gayle Falkenthal.

San Diego businessman David Perez hired the private 737 jet to airlift the victims, Falkenthal said.

Falkenthal said the Red Cross has arranged to use a San Diego State University gymnasium as a shelter for up to 600 people.

Ship's greatest treasure is its history

SHIP REMAINS, from page 1

tions of the ship last week as they carved away dirt to lay the foundation for a 650-unit condominium development.

"This is awesome. Everybody gets excited about this. It makes digging in all that mud worthwhile," said James Allan, an archaeologist with Williams Self Associates overseeing the removal and cataloging of the ship's remains.

The city of San Francisco, the site developer and Allan's firm have a standing agreement to record the historical value of any submerged cultural resources they come across at such sites, Allan said. It's not the first such find; the city's financial district rests atop a nautical morgue, of sorts, with hundreds of ships forming a portion of the landfill that used to be prime waterfront.

Allan said the ship remains do not have anything of value in it, other than history.

The ship was likely abandoned as Gold Rush fever overtook the region in the mid-1800s. In the 1850s, as many as 600 ships were abandoned in San Francisco's

harbor, burned or simply junked by owners who switched their focus to mining the rich gold veins in the state's interior, according to Wolfgang Schubert, who gives historical walking tours of the San Francisco's waterfront for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

What's left of the ship would be removed, up to the Folsom Street property line. The rest of the ship, likely most of the stern, would remain buried, Allan said.

The waters of the San Francisco Bay and the nearby coastline are a graveyard for shipwrecks from centuries past, as schooners, steamers and clippers failed to properly navigate the region's rugged sea floor. But this relic is two large blocks inland, just a stone's throw from the headquarters of Gap Inc.

Other now-inland shipwrecks serve as interesting obstacles for public works projects. The new Municipal Railway tunnel extension that takes baseball fans out to SBC park goes right through the hull of The Rome, a ship's remains underground at the intersection of Market Street and the Embarcadero along the waterfront.

NATIONAL



New Orleans braces for what lies beneath

BY DOUG SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — With a major levee break finally plugged, engineers struggled to pump out the flooded city Tuesday as authorities braced for the horrors the receding water is certain to reveal. “It’s going to be awful and it’s going to wake the nation up again,” the mayor warned.

Mayor Ray Nagin said after an aerial tour that about 60 percent of the city was under water, down from 80 percent during the darkest hours last week.

“We are starting to see some significant progress. I’m starting to see rays of light,” he said.

Nagin said it would take three weeks to remove the water and another few weeks to clear the debris. It could also take up to eight weeks to get the electricity back on.

He warned that what awaits authorities below the toxic muck would be gruesome. A day earlier, he said the death toll in New Orleans could reach 10,000.

The Pentagon began sending paratroopers from the Army’s storied 82nd Airborne Division to New Orleans to use small boats, including inflatable Zodiac craft, to launch a new search-and-rescue effort in flooded sections of the city.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, division commander, said about 5,000 paratroopers would be in place by Tuesday.

The Army Corps of Engineers began pumping the water out after closing a major gap in a key levee that burst during Hurricane Katrina and swamped 80 percent of the bowl-shaped, below-sea-level city.

Efforts to evacuate holdouts were stepped up, with boat rescue crews and a caravan of law enforcement vehicles from around the country searching for people to rescue.

“In some cases, it’s real easy. They’re sitting on the porch with their bags packed,” said Joe Youdell of the Kentucky Air National Guard. “But some don’t want to leave and we can’t force them.”

Nagin warned: “We have to convince them to leave. It’s not safe here. There is

toxic waste in the water and dead bodies and mosquitoes and gas. We are pumping about a million dollars’ worth a gas a day in the air. Fires have been started and we don’t have running water.”

Early Tuesday, fire broke out at a big house in the historic Garden District. National Guardsmen cordoned off the area as firefighters battled the blaze by helicopter.

Patrick Rhode, deputy director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said evacuees would receive debit cards so that they could begin buying necessary personal items. He said the agency was going from shelter to shelter to make sure that evacuees received cards quickly and that the paperwork usually required would be reduced or eliminated.

“We’re eliminating as much red tape as humanly possible,” Rhode said on ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

The Air Force late Monday concluded its huge airlift of elderly and serious ill patients from New Orleans’ major airport. A total of 9,788 patients and other evacuees were evacuated by air from the New Orleans area.

Local officials bitterly expressed frustration with the federal government’s sluggish response as the tragedy unfolded.

“Bureaucracy has murdered people in the greater New Orleans area. And bureaucracy needs to stand trial before Congress today,” Aaron Broussard, president of Jefferson Parish, said on CBS’ “The Early Show.”

“So I’m asking Congress, please investigate this now. Take whatever idiot they have at the top of whatever agency and give me a better idiot. Give me a caring idiot. Give me a sensitive idiot. Just don’t give me the same idiot.”

A Canadian task force of firefighters and police arrived four days after the storm, St. Bernard Fire Chief Thomas Stone said.

“If you can get a Canadian team here in four days, U.S. teams should be here faster than that,” Stone said. Pointing to two large oil refineries, “When they’re paying

\$5 to \$6 a gallon for gas, they’re going to realize what this place means to America.”

The frustrations were also felt along the Mississippi coast, where people who have chosen to stay or are stuck in demolished neighborhoods scavenge for necessities.

Some say they will stay to rebuild their communities. Others say they would leave if they could get a ride or a few gallons of gasoline. All agree that they need more help from the government just to survive.

“I have been all over the world. I’ve been in a lot of Third World countries where people were better off than the people here are right now,” retired Air Force Capt. William Bissell said Monday. “We’ve got 28 miles of coastline here that’s absolutely destroyed, and the federal government, they’re not here.”

The scope of the misery inflicted by Katrina was evident Monday as President Bush visited Baton Rouge and Poplarville, Miss., his second inspection tour by ground.

“Mississippi is a part of the future of this country and part of that future is to help you get back up on your feet,” Bush told 200 local officials.

While in Louisiana, Bush tried to repair tattered relations with the state’s Democratic governor, Kathleen Blanco, while also praising relief workers. Blanco played down any tension.

“We’d like to stop the voices out there trying to create a divide. There is no divide,” she said. “Every leader in this nation wants to see this problem solved.”

Former Presidents Bush and Clinton got smiles, hugs and requests for autographs when they met with refugees from Hurricane Katrina.

Barbara Bush, who accompanied the former presidents on a tour of the Astrodome complex Monday, said the relocation to Houston is “working very well” for some of the poor people forced out of New Orleans.

“What I’m hearing, which is sort of scary, is they all want to stay in Texas. Everyone is so overwhelmed by the hospitality,” she said during a radio interview

with the American Public Media program “Marketplace.” “And so many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this is working very well for them.”

The two ex-presidents announced the creation of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

“We’re most anxious to roll up our sleeves and get to work,” said former President George H.W. Bush. “It will take all of us working together to accomplish our goal. This job is too big for any one group.”

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt declared a public health emergency for Texas, saying it would speed up federal assistance to help almost 240,000 storm evacuees.

In New Orleans, Deputy Police Superintendent W.J. Riley estimated that fewer than 10,000 people were left in the city. Some simply did not want to leave their homes, while others were hanging back to loot or commit other crimes, authorities said.

Nagin said the city had the authority to force residents to evacuate but didn’t say if it was taking that step. He denied reports that the city will no longer hand out water to people who refuse to leave.

The leader of troops patrolling New Orleans declared the city largely free of the lawlessness that plagued it in the days following the hurricane. He lashed out at suggestions that search-and-rescue operations were being stymied by random gunfire and lawlessness.

“Go on the streets of New Orleans — it’s secure,” Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore said to a reporter. “Have you been to New Orleans? Did anybody accost you?”

In neighboring Jefferson Parish, some of its 460,000 residents got a chance to briefly see their flooded homes, and to scoop up soaked wedding pictures and other cherished mementos.

“I won’t be getting inside today unless I get some scuba gear,” said Jack Rabito, a 61-year-old bar owner whose one-story home had water lapping at the gutters.

Roberts confirmation hearings set to begin on Monday

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate will begin confirmation hearings next Monday for John Roberts to be Supreme Court chief justice, one week after President Bush selected him to replace the late William H. Rehnquist as the 17th leader of the nation’s highest court.

Bush urged senators to confirm Roberts before the court session resumes Oct. 3 and said he is considering many candidates for filling a second vacancy. “The list is wide open,” Bush said in the Cabinet Room where he met with advisers about Hurricane Katrina.

Senate leaders made the hearings announcement Tuesday as Rehnquist’s body lay in repose across the street at the Supreme Court. Roberts, a former Rehnquist clerk, helped carry the flag-draped casket into the building for public viewing.

Roberts was supposed to begin his confirmation hearings as the replacement for the retiring Sandra Day O’Connor on Tuesday, but the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing was canceled after Rehnquist’s death and Bush’s decision to elevate the 50-year-old Roberts to the top spot.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said senators on the panel would begin their opening statements at noon on Monday. Roberts would be likely to make his opening statement late that afternoon after being introduced by Indiana Sens. Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh, and Virginia Sen. John Warner.

Roberts is likely to begin facing questions from senators starting on Tuesday.

“It is our expectation that we will be able to complete the hearings that week,” Specter said.

With the hearings pushed back a week, Democrats now are refusing to guarantee when the full Senate will give Roberts a final vote. As for the opening of the hearings, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said, “We all agree that Monday should be the day.”

Even with the delay, Republicans say they will conclude Roberts’ confirmation before Oct. 3, the start of the new Supreme Court session.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he expects the committee to finish its vote on Sept. 22, and he plans to bring the nomination to the Senate floor on Monday, Sept. 26 and finish before that Friday.

“Roberts has the skill, the mind, the intellect and the temperament to lead the Supreme Court for decades to come,” Frist said. “The Senate will complete floor action on his nomination before the session begins.”

Specter said he may call for an early committee vote on Roberts, possibly on Sept. 20.

Republicans say quick movement is possible because Roberts is the same judge who seemed to be headed for confirmation as an associate justice before Rehnquist died Saturday.

“We must also remember that with two vacancies, it is more important than ever to put partisanship aside and ensure the court is at full strength as soon as possible,” said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of the Judiciary Committee that will hold confirmation hearings on the nominee.

Democrats said bumping Roberts up to chief justice instead of having him replace O’Connor means tougher scrutiny of Rehnquist’s former Supreme Court clerk.

“Substantive questions will be asked,” said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the senior Democrat on the committee. “I would hope all senators, Republicans and

Democrats, would ask very substantive questions because this is, after all, a lifetime position.”

No Democratic senator has yet publicly opposed Roberts’ nomination to the Supreme Court, with several praising the federal appeals court judge when he was set to be O’Connor’s replacement. Assuming no more than a handful of Republicans would fail to vote for Roberts, the only way Democrats might stop Roberts’ confirmation would be through a politically bruising filibuster fight.

After turning twice to Roberts, Bush faces increasing pressure to name a woman or a minority, and to replace O’Connor’s swing vote with a more reliable conservative.

Liberal groups are trying to drum up support to fight Roberts’ ascension to chief justice, after working for weeks in an effort to persuade senators to oppose him as an associate justice.

“We must oppose his confirmation as chief justice even more strenuously because, in that post, he would have even greater power to shape the direction of our courts, our laws and our lives,” said Debra Ness, president of the National Partnership for Women & Families.

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BUYING AND SELLING
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR & BRENT PARSONS

One of the things that you should take a look at if you are planning to buy a home or refinance in the next year is your credit report. Being prepared with a good credit report will help you receive the best loan options on the market.

In this article you will learn the ways of removing negative items from your credit file, or repairing your credit. These are the exact same methods credit repair clinics and attorneys charge up to \$3,500 to perform.

Steps to Repair Your Credit

1. Obtain your credit reports from Experian, TRW and Equifax.
2. Review the reports and notate the items that reflect any negatives, such as late payments or non-payment.
3. It is completely legal for you to dispute items on your credit file even if you know they are correct. You are simply testing to see if your creditors have maintained the proper records to verify the dispute. You have a very bad memory and forgot that the negative accounts on your credit file are really yours.
4. Dispute the negative items with the credit bureaus. This can be done by writing letters to each of the bureaus advising that the items are wrong. The bureaus have forms that you can use, but a good tip to slow them down is to avoid the form. By slowing them down, you increase your chances that the item cannot be verified within the time-frame allowed. Another hint, do not confirm the account if any information about the item is wrong.

A final hint on this matter is to send disputes during busy times of the year. For example, the first to middle of November can cause a delay in verification because of Thanksgiving. Christmas rush for the creditor and the bureau can catch them before they can thoroughly investigate within a reasonable time.

5. Send the letter yourself. By sending it through someone else, it looks like you are paying someone to work on this for you. If you can afford to pay someone to fix your credit, they might assume that you can pay off the negative items on your report.
6. Write one letter for each item that you are disputing. If you are disputing an inquiry, write that you have never applied for credit with this creditor. If there is a negative item that you want removed from your credit, such as a bankruptcy, charge off or collection account, you may want to write that this is not your account and you want it removed immediately. If the account is now paid off, but was seriously past due at one time, do not write that it's not your account. Instead, write that it is your account but was never past due and you need it updated to say that everything has always been current.
7. Send your dispute letter by certified return receipt mail. This will reduce your risk of lost mail within the credit bureau and increase your chance of a prompt response. If you have received no answer to your dispute after 30 to 37 days, it must be that the information was either inaccurate, or it could not be verified. In either case, according to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the items must be immediately deleted.
8. Disputed items are removed or corrected. Items that were not re-verified are removed.
9. For items that were not removed, contact the creditor directly. Start by asking them for proof that the account is yours. Allow this to be mailed to you, if they have it. If the creditor is able to supply the written proof you request, offer to settle the debt for 10 cents on the dollar provided that you have the money. If they refuse, tell them that you will file bankruptcy and they will get nothing. This will certainly open them up to negotiating with you.
10. Persistence will prevail. Consumers have found it possible to eliminate negative marks on credit reports simply by going through this process of disputing items over and over again. If you don't have the money to make payment arrangements, start back at Step 1 of this section. Remember that the laws are in your favor and you are legally allowed by Federal Law to dispute the negative items on your credit file every 30 days. You are allowed to repeat this process as many times as you wish until the Credit Bureaus cannot verify the item and must remove it.
11. If you agree to make payment arrangements with any creditor, do so only under one condition. The condition is that before you pay any money, the creditor must mail you a written agreement that they will report the account to the credit bureaus as current, paid off and never late. Otherwise, it may still remain on your credit file and may not be worth paying.

(The Powerhouse Team can be reached at 310-482-2015 or brent@pwrhteam.com.)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, CONDOS AND INCOME HOMES

Sold Santa Monica 09/01/2005	626 14TH ST SqFt: 2,193 Lot Size: 7,500	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$2,050,000 Sold Price: \$2,050,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/30/2005	522 21ST ST SqFt: 3,002 Lot Size: 8,940	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$2,350,000 Sold Price: \$2,275,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/29/2005	1023 WILSON PL SqFt: 880 Lot Size: 4,639	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$825,000 Sold Price: \$840,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 09/02/2005	517 14TH ST SqFt: 2,063 Lot Size: 7,500	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,995,000 Sold Price: \$2,005,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 09/01/2005	2432 32ND ST SqFt: 1,424 Lot Size: 9,000	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,199,000 Sold Price: \$1,350,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 09/02/2005	2117 PEARL ST SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 5,175	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,175,000 Sold Price: \$1,250,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/31/2005	1040 24TH ST SqFt: 1,281 Lot Size: 6,118	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,595,000 Sold Price: \$1,595,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 08/30/2005	364 SYCAMORE RD SqFt: 1,140 Lot Size: 6,578	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,795,000 Sold Price: \$1,900,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 08/30/2005	835 GRANT ST #1 SqFt: 1,702 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$749,000 Sold Price: \$760,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/31/2005	2502 ARIZONA AVE #3 SqFt: 1,216 HOD: \$335	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$649,000 Sold Price: \$675,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/30/2005	844 7TH ST #2 SqFt: 927 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$635,000 Sold Price: \$640,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 08/29/2005	110 OCEAN PARK #404 SqFt: 1,146 HOD: \$645	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,050,000 Sold Price: \$1,000,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/31/2005	1131 CALIFORNIA AVE #301 SqFt: 1,215 HOD: \$362	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$749,000 Sold Price: \$825,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 09/02/2005	2912 11TH ST #1 SqFt: 900 HOD: \$181	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$549,000 Sold Price: \$595,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 08/31/2005	912 16TH ST #1 SqFt: 2,471 HOD: \$335	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,395,000 Sold Price: \$1,475,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/29/2005	1337 BERKELEY ST #6 SqFt: 1,335 HOD: \$160	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$539,000 Sold Price: \$530,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 09/01/2005	702 HILL ST #A SqFt: 2,117 HOD: \$398	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,289,000 Sold Price: \$1,250,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 3.75
Sold Santa Monica 09/02/2005	1543 11TH ST SqFt: 2,248 Lot Size: 7,497	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$1,200,000 Sold Price: \$1,126,000	Gl: \$46,908 GRM: 0.00
Sold Santa Monica 09/01/2005	1021 GRANT ST SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 6,499	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,199,000 Sold Price: \$1,225,000	Gl: \$0 GRM: 0.00
Sold Santa Monica 09/01/2005	1004 HILL ST SqFt: 1,762 Lot Size: 8,499	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,250,000 Sold Price: \$1,125,000	Gl: \$0 GRM: 0.00
Sold Santa Monica 08/31/2005	2207 OCEAN PARK BLVD SqFt: 2,871 Lot Size: 4,948	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,198,000 Sold Price: \$1,198,000	Gl: \$0 GRM: 0.00

THOMAS AT THE POWHERHOUSE TEAM:
thomas@pwrhteam.com

Information received as per the MLS on 09/07/05. Not all transactions may have been represented by THE POWERHOUSE TEAM.
www.thepowerhouseteam.net



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

AMAZING 4 UNIT INVESTMENT PROPERTY

that is currently bringing in the highest rents out of any 4 unit on the market within that criteria. This property is not listed on the MLS yet and is a brand new listing. It is currently bringing in \$4100.00 per month and is very well maintained. This is an EASY TO MAINTAIN GEM!!!! Call now for more information.



CONTACT THOMAS OR BRENT THOMAS@PWRHTEAM.COM BRENT@PWRHTEAM.COM

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TOO NEW FOR PHOTO

1471 37TH DR. LOS ANGELES





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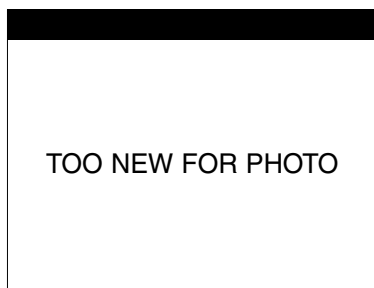
POWERHOUSE TEAM TIP OF THE WEEK: Buyers & Sellers Determine Value. The value of your property is determined by what a **BUYER** is willing to pay and a **SELLER** is willing to accept in today's market. Buyers make their pricing decision based on comparing your property to other property **SOLD** in your area.



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\$2,099,900
426 4TH ST , SANTA MONICA 90402
PRIME LOCATION BY SANTA MONICA BLUFF ELEGANT LIVING. 2 BED/1.75 BATH PLUS SEPARATE GUEST QUARTERS INCLUDING BATH AND KITCHENETTE WITH PRIVATE ENTRANCE SET ALONG ENTIRE LENGTH OF ONE SIDE OF LOT. TWO PATIOS PERFECT FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT FACING LUSH GARDEN, ORIGINAL CONDITION WELL MAINTAINED. NEWER HARDWOOD FLOORS IN DINING ROOM, COPPER PLUMBING, APPROX. 10 YEAR OLD ROOF. WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE OR BUILD NEW - CORNER LOT. NOT LISTED IN SANTA MONICA HISTORIC INVENTORY. TRUST SALE.



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AMAZING 4 UNIT INVESTMENT PROPERTY
THAT IS CURRENTLY BRINGING IN THE HIGHEST RENTS OUT OF ANY 4 UNIT ON THE MARKET WITHIN THAT CRITERIA. THIS PROPERTY IS NOT LISTED ON THE MLS YET AND IS A BRAND NEW LISTING. IT IS CURRENTLY BRINGING IN \$4100.00 PER MONTH AND IS VERY WELL MAINTAINED. THIS IS AN EASY TO MAINTAIN GEM!!!! CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



\$1,399,000
1051 VAN BUREN AVE , VENICE 90291
WALK IN CLOSET, LARGE INVITING LR W/WOOD FLRS, HI CEILINGS, 3 FPS, ROOFTOP W/PANORAMIC VIEW TO DIE FOR & PLENTY OF PARKING. FAB AREA IN VENICE W/GOOD SCHOOLS & STEPS AWAY FROM ABBOT KINNEY & BEACH. MUST SEE INSIDE TO APPRECIATE. NO PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES - CALL TO SCHEDULE APPT FOR SAT & SUNDAY BETWEEN 2-5 PM.



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1511 16th St. #204, Santa Monica 90404
\$399,000
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2767 Woodwardia Dr. Bel Air.....4BD, 2.5BA, 2,263sq.ft.....\$1,499,000.....Open Sun 2-5pm
 222 7th Street #312, Santa Monica.....2BD,1.5BA, 961sq.ft.....\$699,000.....Open Sun 2-5pm
 10124 Hollow Glen Cir, Bel Air.....4BD, 4BA, 3,516sq.ft(A).....\$2,177,000.....Call For Information
 8001 Redlands Ave. Playa Del Rey...2BR,2BA, 1,066sq.ft.(A).....\$545,000.....Call For Information
 1307 Ashland Ave, Santa Monica.....3BD,2BA,1,790sq.ft.(A).....\$1,299,000.....In Escrow
 519 California Ave. #304, Santa Monica.....2BD,2BA, 1,255sq.ft.(A).....\$789,000.....In Escrow
 11847 Gorham Ave. Brentwood.....2BD, 2.5BA, 2,058sq.ft.(A).....\$1,395,000.....In Escrow
 15515 W. Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades.....2BD,2BA,1,434sq.ft.(A).....\$699,000.....Sold and Saved \$36,800
 1228 14th Street, Santa Monica.....3BR, 2BA, 1,552 sq.ft.(A).....\$769,000.....Sold and Saved \$24,450

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Disasters do not destroy the U.S. housing market



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Disasters have little long-term affect on the housing market. After 9/11, prices in downtown Manhattan dipped for about three months. After the Northridge Earthquake, the local economy continued its downward cycle through the late '90s, but here it is 11-plus years after the earthquake and local home prices have seen more than a 500 percent increase.

Hurricane Katrina partially submerged 80 percent of New Orleans. The National Association of Home Builders noted that a "large share" of the more than 200,000 homes in New Orleans were likely to be destroyed — "made uninhabitable and beyond economically justified repair."

FYI: Hurricane Andrew in 1992 destroyed an estimated 28,000 housing units, and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire reportedly destroyed about 28,000 buildings.

Overall, the floods did not tear off roofs or walls or cause structures to collapse, but many homes will be permanently uninhabitable because of floodwaters carrying contaminants that cannot easily be removed, and prolonged submersion would cause structures to be damaged beyond repair, observed the Association of Home Builders report.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said that the entire city would have to be evacuated. "We are not going to be able to have people sitting in houses in the city of New Orleans for weeks and months while we de-water and clean this city," Chertoff declared after arriving in Louisiana.

Damage from Hurricane Katrina is estimated to be more than \$25 billion in damage in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

"The housing market will bounce back," said Grant Thrall, a University of Florida professor specializing in the effect of calamities on real estate values. "We have found from environmental hazards in general that the market has a very short-term memory."

Florida had four major hurricanes in 2004 — and still ended the year with a 22 percent increase in sale prices.

"We know from previous studies that 10 percent of the people who evacuated will not return. So we have a decrease in demand in the short run," Thrall noted.

As with Florida in 2004 — before the storms — Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi were experiencing record home sales before Katrina hit. In New Orleans, the median home price in the second quarter of 2005 was \$152,600 — an 11-percent increase over the prior year.

Casualty loss tax deductions will help individuals pay for part of their losses through income tax savings. According to real estate expert, Bob Bruss, the I.R.S. defines a tax-deductible casualty loss as an uninsured "sudden, unusual or unexpected" loss event.

In Southern California, that most often means damage caused by fire, earthquake,

mudslide, theft, accident, water damage, riot, embezzlement, vandalism or rain — anywhere that has been declared a "disaster area."

Affected taxpayers who suffer casualty losses can claim their uninsured deductions either in the tax year the loss occurred, or in the previous tax year by amending their prior year tax returns. The taxpayer then either receives a prior-year tax refund, or a current-year tax savings.

Check with your accountant, all of your casualty loss may not be deductible. As Bruss points out, "Only personal casualty losses that exceed 10 percent of the taxpayer's annual adjusted gross income (line 37 of your 2004 federal tax return), minus a \$100 non-deductible 'floor' per event are deductible."

To illustrate, suppose your garage caught fire and cost \$15,000 to repair. Homeowner's insurance covered \$5,000 of the repair, leaving you with a \$10,000 out-of-pocket loss. Suppose your adjusted gross income is \$60,000. Subtracting 10 percent or \$6,000, minus the \$100 floor per event, means your \$10,000 loss results in a \$3,900 deductible casualty loss. This amount varies according to your adjusted gross income. To calculate your casualty loss deduction, use IRS Form 4684 and attach it to your federal income tax return.

If your loss occurred slowly, over several months or years, it probably is not a deductible casualty loss. F.Y.I. — the IRS likes to audit casualty loss claims.

Keep proof of loss and repair. Photos, bills and receipts are good evidence to support a casualty loss deduction.

Don't forget to include indirect expenses that were not covered by your insurer — these costs might include temporary housing, moving expenses and property protection, such as board-up and legal expenses.

Keep in mind if the casualty loss occurred to an investment property or business, the full, uninsured casualty loss is deductible regardless of amount as a business expense on your income tax Schedule C or E.

For the record, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi had record sales in 2004 and housing prices for 2005 were escalating at a record pace before the storms hit. Those in the know feel confident that these markets will rebound.

"You have very strong market fundamentals in these states," said Walter Molony, spokesman for the National Association of Realtors. "You have a very strong coastal draw and strong second-home market in coastal areas. You have people retiring to those areas."

"We know from studies on how people respond to hazards that if a hazard occurs three times within seven years, the market will internalize that and respond," Thrall said. The last time a hurricane hit Louisiana was Hurricane Camille in 1969, which was 36 years ago, Thrall said.

"On that rate, we have three a century. People don't internalize to hazards that occur with a frequency of three a century," Thrall said, meaning that something happening so seldom won't affect the real estate market.

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



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\$929,000

Melissa Susser or Chris Hrobak 310/393-8491 x13# or 310 916-7098, 310 210-6311



10321 Kimberly Ave, Montclair

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\$449,000

Edith Estrada 310/633-0703 direct or 310/393-8491 ext 18#



124 Park Place, Venice

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\$1,099,000

Jack Susser 310/393-8491 x4#



3138 Reid Avenue, Culver City

"Southwestern pueblo style home in Culver City". 2 bedroom 1 bath. Custom built for owner/builder in 2004. Wood burning fireplace in living room. Large lot with over 6500 square feet. Tenant on lease till December 2005. Custom fishpond & waterfall in beautifully themed front yard. Private front & rear yards with storage for RV & boat. A must to drive by. Please do not disturb tenants.

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Jim Davis 310/393-8491 x5#

1319 11th Street #9, Santa Monica

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Santa Monica Daily Press

OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY

AREA	ADDRESS	PROPERTY TYPE	BEDROOM	BATHROOM	SQUARE FOOTAGE	LIST PRICE	DATE & TIME OPEN
SANTA MONICA	502 EUCLID ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	1.75	N/A	\$1,899,000	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2005
SANTA MONICA	2944 EXPOSITION	SINGLE FAMILY	2	1.75	N/A	\$879,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	1048 25TH ST	SINGLE FAMILY	2	2.00	N/A	\$1,395,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA,	850 HARVARD ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3.00	N/A	\$1,895,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	502 EUCLID ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	1.75	N/A	\$1,899,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	414 EUCLID ST	SINGLE FAMILY	4	3.00	N/A	\$2,795,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	1701 WASHINGTON AVE	CONDO	2	1.00	N/A	\$499,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	516 SAN VICENTE #307	CONDO	1	1.00	N/A	\$630,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	1131 12TH ST #103	CONDO	2	3.00	N/A	\$720,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	2416 34TH ST #1	CONDO	2	3.00	N/A	\$749,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	840 20TH ST #19	CONDO	3	2.50	N/A	\$849,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
SANTA MONICA	840 20TH ST #19	CONDO	3	2.50	N/A	\$849,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
MARINA DEL REY	5000 S CENTINELA AVE #122	CONDO	1	1.00	N/A	\$385,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
MARINA DEL REY	13206 ADMIRAL AVE #G	CONDO	3	2.50	N/A	\$749,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
MARINA DEL REY	3766 VIA DOLCE ST	CONDO	2	2.50	N/A	\$819,000	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
PLAYA DEL REY	8710 DELGANY AVE #31	CONDO	1	2.00	N/A	\$399,900	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2005
PLAYA DEL REY	8707 FALMOUTH AVE #115	CONDO	1	1.00	N/A	\$415,000	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2005
PLAYA DEL REY	8710 DELGANY AVE #31	CONDO	1	2.00	N/A	\$399,900	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
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Insurance companies pushing mountain residents to firescape

BY KIM NGUYEN

Associated Press Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado's average fire season has been a double-edged sword for Brett Gibson, a volunteer fire department chief in the tree-covered hills west of Boulder.

He appreciates the lower threat of fires. But he is having difficulty getting residents to do some of the work that would ease fire risks even more — cutting down nearby trees and brush to create space between forest and home, and storing firewood and combustible chemicals.

But Gibson is getting some help from a persuasive source: insurance companies, which are starting to inspect properties to see if owners are firescaping and taking other precautions to mitigate the fire threat. Insurers are starting to deny new policies and stop renewing others if they don't see an effort.

"It's on the radar of every single insurance company, but the difficulty is getting people's attention," said Carole Walker, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association. "If they don't take preventive steps, they do lose their home. It's difficult to make people understand that people can reduce the risk by doing defensible space."

Jim Frederikson, executive director of the Arizona Insurance Information Association, said insurance rates are being determined by how much firescaping is done and if homes have been built or remodeled with more fire-resistant material.

Gibson, who has approximately 450 homes under his watch, said it was easier to persuade people to work on their properties during the high-risk fire season last year. He said only about 100 homes have been firescaped "to some point."

"People move to the mountains to be in the forest," he said. "Now we're asking those people to pull the forest away from their homes."

Gibson has been butting heads with George Jayne, who has lived in the subdivision for more than 20 years. His white-brick home is surrounded by 2-foot-tall grass, bushes and pine trees. A collapsed barn sits nearby, a wood shed is attached to the home and scrap wood is strewn about.

Jayne is a former volunteer firefighter who has battled wildfires. But he said he wants to keep all the plant life he has, since a prior owner of the property logged trees around the area and Jayne says he hasn't been able to grow anything since.

"If the house goes, I'd rather it all go, even though I don't want it to go," he said.

Jayne said he hasn't been contacted by his insurance agent yet, but "I'll deal with it when it comes to that point."

Insurance companies in California have the govern-

ment behind them: laws requiring defensible space have been on the books for decades. It was a step taken as more and more people moved into the mountains, raising the stakes of a devastating fire, said Jerry Davies, director of communications of the Personal Insurance Federation of California.

Davies said people are still filing claims from 2003 fires that burned in Southern California, killing 24 people and causing more than \$2 billion in insurance claims. He said companies are asking some residents to replace their shake roofs with a more fire-resistant one.

"I have heard that people have been told that they must get defensible space done to their homes or their policies won't be renewed," he said.

State Farm Insurance began a firescaping pilot program three years ago in six states, including Arizona and Colorado. Agents assess high-risk properties for what needs to be done, and allow residents up to 29 months to get the work done.

Steve Niccolai, the company's fire operations supervisor and loss mitigation coordinator, said the program was started to limit expensive claims.

"We looked at own book of business and at the rising trend of fires, and we see that we're starting to get larger ones, ones that are thousands and thousands of acres," Niccolai said. "And we're looking at more people moving into more wooded areas where they're more popular, more susceptible."

Niccolai said the pilot program covering 26,000 customers has been successful.

West of Boulder, Jay and Annette Donaghy said they were against firescaping until they spoke to residents who lost their homes in a 1989 fire that roared through the nearby Sugarloaf community, causing \$10 million in damage. They got rid of trees and cleared out grass and low-growing bushes.

"I had a hard time with the trees, I cried when they were cut down," Annette Donaghy said. "But now, I'll never look at them the same again. I look at them as fuel for a fire."

The Donaghys are remodeling their home with different roofing, fiber-cement siding, fire-resistant wood and synthetic-wood decking. They got help from a federal grant, and say they are seeing their work pay off with a better view of the mountains and more money in their pockets.

"We saw a definite reduction in our insurance premium," Jay Donaghy said.

The Donaghys say they are also doing this as an example for their neighbors — help Gibson said he will gladly take.

"In the city, you need to go out and mow the lawn and clear your gutters," he said. "Here, you need to mow your trees to clear your gutters of pine needles."

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INTERNATIONAL



U.S. jets attack bridges near Syria to halt insurgent move

BY SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Marine jets Tuesday attacked two bridges across the Euphrates River near the Syrian border to prevent insurgents from moving foreign fighters and munitions toward Baghdad and other cities, the U.S. command said.

A Marine statement also said U.S. and Iraqi forces destroyed a "foreign fighter safe house," killed two foreigners and arrested three others during a Tuesday raid in the same area as the bridge attack.

Elsewhere, Iraqi civilians said they could see smoke rising Tuesday from the northern city of Tal Afar, where fighting has been raging for days between U.S.-Iraqi forces and insurgents said to include foreign fighters.

The U.S. command said two American soldiers were killed by separate bombs Monday and two were killed and two others wounded Tuesday by a roadside bomb. At least 1,893 members of the U.S. military have died since the war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Witnesses saw ambulances evacuating at least 10 injured civilians from the city Tuesday.

The fighting occurred after U.N. chief Kofi Annan said Iraq had become an even greater terrorist center than Afghanistan under the Taliban. Attacks attributed to al-Qaida's wing in Iraq have stepped up in the Baghdad area and western Iraq.

A Marine statement said F/A-18 jets dropped bombs shortly after midnight on two light bridges near Karabilah, about 185 miles west of Baghdad.

"The purpose of the strike was to prevent al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists from using the structures for vehicular traffic to conduct attacks," the U.S. statement said. "The munitions used in the strike were designed to crater the bridges, rendering them inoperable but not destroying them."

The clash at the safe house occurred when U.S. and Iraqi troops came under fire "by foreign fighters occupying" the building, the Marines said.

"Multinational forces personnel returned fire and assaulted the building, suffering one friendly casualty when a Multinational Force soldier was wounded," the statement said without citing the soldier's nationality.

Troops called in aircraft to destroy the building, "which was being used as an operational headquarters," the statement added.

Karabilah is one of a cluster of towns near the Syrian border, a major infiltration route for foreign fighters heading for Baghdad and other major cities. Iraqi officials say al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has taken over parts of the area after residents fled fighting between tribes supporting and opposing the insurgents.

Annan told the British Broadcasting Corp. on Monday that many young Muslims are angry, and the situation has been exacerbated by what is happening in Iraq.

"They feel victimized in their own society; they feel victimized in the West. And they feel there's profiling against them," he said. "And the Iraqi situation has not helped matters."

Annan added: "One used to be worried about Afghanistan being the center of terrorist activities. My

sense is that Iraq has become a major problem and in fact is worse than Afghanistan."

In statements posted on Islamic Web sites, al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for two attacks Monday — a roadside bombing that killed two British soldiers west of Basra and a daring daylight assault against the Interior Ministry in Baghdad in which two policemen died.

U.S. Marines said al-Qaida in Iraq launched multiple attacks Sunday against U.S. and Iraqi targets in Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad. Twelve people died in the Hit attacks.

Iraqi officials said al-Qaida-linked foreign fighters had taken control of large areas of a strategic city on the Syrian border after weeks of fighting between an Iraqi tribe that supports the insurgents and one that opposes them.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, said much of Qaim, 200 miles west of Baghdad, had been abandoned.

U.S. Marines operate around Qaim but have complained privately that they do not have enough American or Iraqi forces to secure the area properly.

The attacks in the Hit area began Sunday when two suicide car bombs exploded at security barricades on the northwest side of town, a Marine statement said.

A car bomb also exploded on the Hit bridge across the Euphrates River, rendering it impassable, the Marines said.

The Marine statement said three insurgents and one Iraqi soldier died in the attacks. The government in Baghdad said eight civilians also died.

In Doha, Qatar, the U.S. Central Command said U.S. jets launched airstrikes Sunday on insurgent positions near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, dropping two 500-pound bombs.

The statement also said an Air Force Predator aircraft fired two Hellfire missiles against a mortar firing position near Balad.

On Monday, gunmen seized a son of the governor of insurgent-infested Anbar province, Mamoun Sami Rashid al-Alwani, officials said on condition of anonymity for fear of insurgent reprisal. The abduction occurred in the provincial capital of Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

U.S. and Iraqi officials had hoped the new constitution, which goes to the voters in an Oct. 15 referendum, would help pacify the insurgency by luring Sunni Arabs away from it.

Sunni negotiators rejected the constitution and vowed to defeat it in the referendum. The bitter, protracted negotiations appeared to have raised tensions among Iraq's ethnic and religious communities.

Officials said last week they were considering some minor changes in the constitution to appease the Sunnis. But Shiite lawmaker Ali al-Dabagh said Tuesday the only change would be to add language affirming Iraq's status as a founding member of the Arab League to allay fears of Iraq's Arab neighbors.

The language at issue describes Iraq as an Islamic country, a concession to the non-Arab Kurds who form about 15 percent of the Iraqi population.

On Monday, President Jalal Talabani said he and the other top Kurdish leader, Massoud Barzani, had agreed to adding references to the Arab League.

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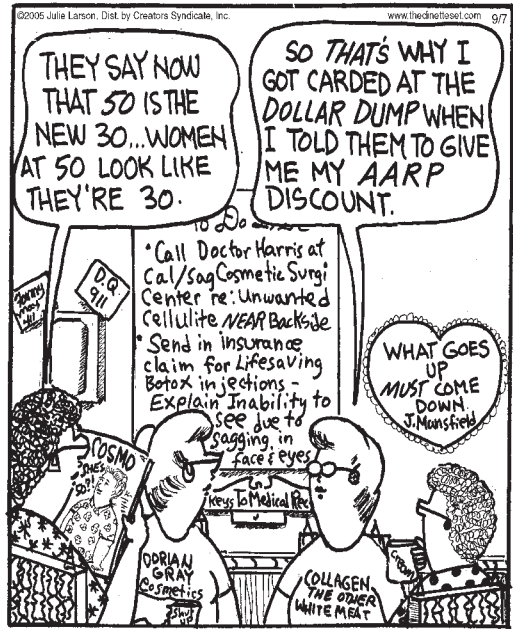
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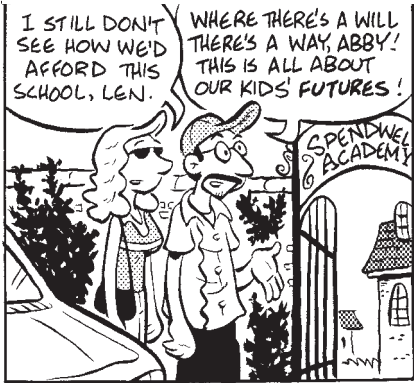


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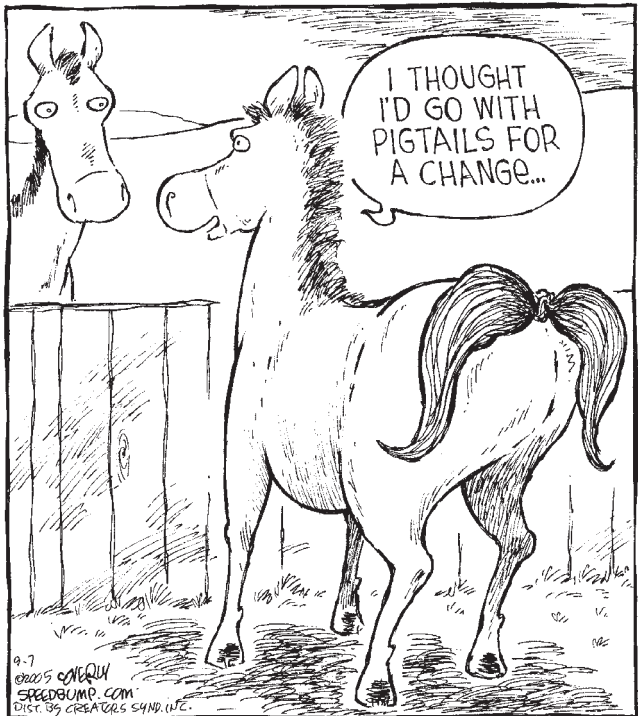
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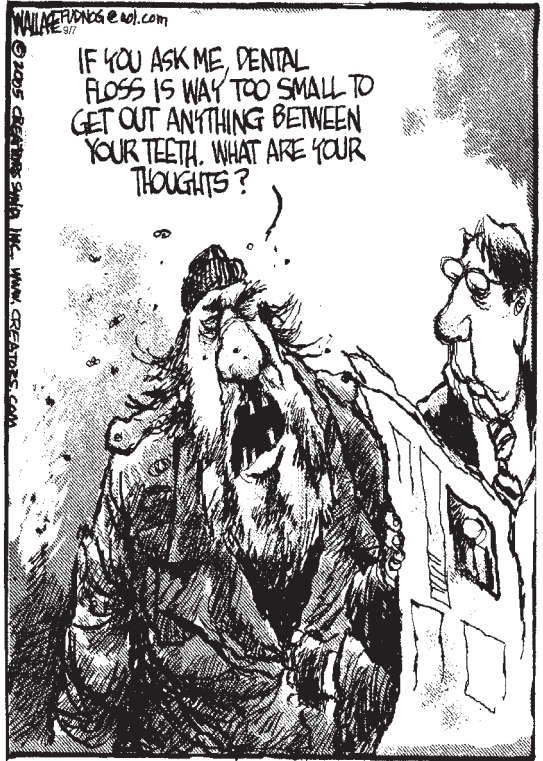


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ACROSS

- 1 Foolish
- 5 Outcast
- 11 Norway city
- 12 Home-coming group
- 13 Neeson of "Batman Begins"
- 14 Traction aids
- 15 Flight
- 16 Anchor's field
- 17 Piano piece
- 19 Nourished
- 22 West Point student
- 24 Feature of "señor"
- 26 Orchestra member
- 27 Wise one
- 28 Portly
- 30 Chopper rider
- 31 Nevertheless
- 32 Entertain
- 34 Brad Pitt movie
- 35 Lawn wetter
- 38 Horror director George
- 41 Day unit
- 42 Menlo Park name
- 43 Glow
- 44 Banquets

DOWN

- 1 Toy-store choice
- 2 Atlas section
- 3 Failed in a big way
- 4 Cruise on film
- 5 Showed nervousness
- 6 Plain wrong
- 7 Regrets
- 8 "— Believer"
- 9 Aardvark snack
- 10 Towel word
- 16 Bolt partner

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Yesterday's answer

- 18 Abound
- 19 Became ex-hausted
- 20 Border
- 21 Forest grazer
- 22 Dupli-cate
- 23 Fit
- 25 Horned goddess
- 29 Chatty bird
- 30 Purchase
- 33 Satellites
- 34 Hardy heroine
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- 37 Cover
- 38 Game official
- 39 Exalted poem
- 40 Soccer's Hamm
- 41 Owns

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