

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

25, 24, 38, 3, 32

DAILY 3

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1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 05, California Classic

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race Time: 1:45.83



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In Kingsford, Australia, in May, Phyllis Newnham, vying for a larger portion of the estate of her late friend Florence Mather, claimed in court that Mather had made out a subsequent, more generous, superseding will but that one of Ms. Mather's dogs ate it (and she produced DNA testing to show that the dog had eaten a mangled document, but it was unclear if that was the will).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Cabbage: A ... vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head."

— Ambrose Bierce



INDEX



Horoscopes

Go home, cancer 2



Local

City Hall accepts cash 3



Opinion

Conspiracy on voting machines ... 4



State

Democrats start stumping 7



National

Utah readies for the 'big one' 11



People in the News

Madonna ready for a third 16

A smashing good time



Jenny Rasak/Special to the Daily Press

Maggie Velasquez, 6, of Los Angeles, mashes grapes on the Santa Monica Pier Saturday during the 'California Grown' event, which also featured avocado facials, virtual salmon fishing and cheese block carving. The event was designed to connect people with the state's agricultural industry, which is the nation's No. 1 producer and a dominate force behind California's economy.

Samohi settles into six new campuses

High school goes through growing pains

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Just eight days into the school year, teachers and students at Santa Monica High School are adjusting to a new design that splits the large campus into six small schools.

Faculty members said Friday they are surprisingly pleased with the new arrangement, and described the new "houses" as cozy and better tended to. But many students had a different view, saying the new design is a waste of time and money that limits class options.

As the school year gains momentum, Samohi principal Ilene Straus said the wrinkles will be ironed out in the ambitious project to make the massive campus more personal. Staff members already are assuming ownership of their new houses, designing T-shirts and putting up posters.

Under the new design, Samohi is separated into six schools, each one named differently — "S" "A" "M" "O" "H" and "I." Students are assigned to a house and each one has its own principal, two advisors and a teacher leader. The campus as a whole shares music, arts, sports and other non-academic resources. The idea is to have students taking most of their academic courses in their respective houses.

But getting there will take a while.

Straus said it's a three- to five-year process, and was started this year by physically setting up the houses and scheduling lower classmen in their new houses. Associate principal Mark Kelly said about 60 percent of freshmen and sophomores have four classes in their assigned house, and others have two or three.

While administrators work toward the ultimate goal of one day having six relatively distinct schools, Straus said the move has sparked energy at Samohi. Though the ultimate goal is to allow teachers to spend more time with students, she said it also has given staff the opportunity to throw away truckloads of trash and start fresh in their new houses.

And it may foster a bit of friendly competition, Straus said.

See SAMOHI, page 5

DMV suspends license of confused Promenade driver

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

State officials have determined that the woman who drove onto the Third Street Promenade last month isn't competent to drive.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has suspended the woman's drivers license indefinitely, police said. The 67-year-old woman, who hasn't been identified because she wasn't cited by police, drove her car down Santa Monica's pedestrian mall on Aug. 18 unaware that the street is closed to vehicles.

The Promenade, normally crowded with thousands of people during the day, was virtually empty at 10:05 a.m. when she traveled nearly an entire block driving on the sidewalk, weaving in and out of trash cans, outdoor vendors and cafe seats. She stopped just short of a sidewalk vendor.

The woman was let go, but Santa Monica



File photo

A woman is questioned by Santa Monica police in August after she drove her car onto the Third Street Promenade.

police submitted a request to the DMV to have her driving abilities re-examined. A police report was taken to the City Attorney's Office

where it's being determined whether the woman should be cited for violating Santa Monica law that prohibits driving on the Promenade.

The event is reminiscent of the farmers market tragedy that occurred on July 16 when Santa Monica resident Russell Weller, 86, reportedly hit the gas instead of the brake and drove through a crowded Arizona Avenue, killing 10 and injuring close to 80 people.

The DMV suspended Weller's drivers license just a few days after the accident, which is still being investigated by police.

And on Aug. 9, an 86-year-old man smashed his car into a gate that surrounds a home daycare center and then left the scene. No one was injured, partly because the incident occurred at 10:55 p.m. and the daycare was closed.

The unidentified man drove out of the Elks

See DMV, page 6

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, September 15, 2003:

Your ability to reach out to others develops to a new level this year. You will find that others respond strongly to your innuendoes and suggestions. Claim your power this year, when you begin a whole new life cycle. You will experience many highs and lows, but at the same time, you will be unusually lucky. Do be careful, as you could gain weight easily if you already have the propensity to do so. Travel and education could play significant roles in your life this year. If you are single, you could meet that special person! Be open to someone who might have a whole different style. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom, as you seem more upbeat and open. Plan on that special trip together. TAURUS presents different views.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Whereas some have been contentious lately, you will discover a new attitude. You might wonder just how much could be emanating from you. Others suddenly seem more than ready to do whatever they must to make you smile. Tonight: Follow a co-worker's lead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You're all smiles, especially at work. Somehow, a sudden change in your environment and co-workers' attitudes makes it easy. Keep driving for a home run, knowing exactly what you want. Tonight: Buy something new on the way home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Though you might want to play the recluse to some degree, a child or new friend seeks you out. You might love what he or she has in mind. Sometimes you give too many explanations. Try playing it mum right now. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be. Let your sunny side emerge with a friend or loved one. You could be considering an investment on the home front or perhaps just a gift for a family member. Tonight: Mosey on home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ How you say it, touched with your charm, can make all the difference in how someone receives your message. Finally, you can do no wrong. What a refreshing change, as you take the helm of your ship. You are finally in control. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Make calls when you get to the office. Explore your options with someone in the know. You could be surprised by what you hear if you just let go and relax. At lunchtime, stop and buy a card for a special associate who really does make your life easier. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Venus moves into your sign, adding to your desirability and your ability to realize what is on your mind. Associates close the door when you walk in. It appears you have everyone's attention. Use your skill to work as a team. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Examine what might be necessary to make what you want happen. Listen to your sixth sense with others, but recognize that you could be overly sensitive right now. Keep your goals in mind. Be careful with someone you meet today. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Groups, meetings and friends pave your path for the next few weeks. All you need to do is travel down it. Emphasize work, but also remain goal-driven. Your ability to get through work remains admirable. Tonight: Off to the gym to relieve stress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Use your imagination, and you'll please the boss. You might want to move on a heartfelt project, and now is the time! You find others highly responsive to your efforts. Still, be careful with that difficult neighbor or sibling. Tonight: Remember, life is about enjoying yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your ability to take a general overview might become highly desired in the next few weeks. The key might be detaching from emotional situations. You might not like what will happen if you push a family member too hard. Just don't! Tonight: Try relaxing to a good book.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A partner goes out of his or her way for you. How you deal with this excessive caring really reflects on you. Keep conversations flowing and return key calls. You might want to get feedback from a trusted associate. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

More sobriety checkpoints coming

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans can expect a stronger campaign against drunk driving in coming months.

City Hall accepted last week \$340,000 in grant money to be used in the fight against drunk drivers. The money comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

The money will go towards a multi-year program called the "Problem Solving Safety Team — Westside Law Enforcement Against Drunk Driving," or "PSST — WE LEADD."

Nearly \$189,000 will go into a fund set aside for overtime pay for police officers. Another \$90,344 will pay for new equipment and \$60,710 will go towards safety education programs.

The Santa Monica Police Department is the lead agency in the program, which will provide driving under the influence intervention programs and interdiction efforts.

A portion of the money also will be used to purchase a driving simulator and a safety instruction trailer that will be shared with Culver City, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood.

The grant money will be sent to City Hall on a receipt basis, meaning local officials spend it first and then ask the California Office of Traffic Safety for reimbursement.

Cops to watch for seatbelt violators

By Daily Press staff

A seatbelt enforcement campaign in Santa Monica will be held in November as part of a goal to boost seatbelt use by 94 percent in California by June of 2004.

City Hall last week accepted a grant of \$14,941 to participate in the campaign, which will run from Nov. 17 to Nov. 30. The money will be used to pay overtime wages to law enforcement officers during the 14-day campaign, in an effort to catch belt-less drivers.

The funding comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through the California Office of Traffic Safety. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state will take part in the seatbelt campaign.

The grant money will be sent to City Hall on a receipt basis, meaning local officials spend it first and then ask the California Office of Traffic Safety for reimbursement.

Wilshire Blvd. storm drains to get makeover

By Daily Press staff

City Hall will spend \$1 million to build a new water treatment system in the storm drains along Wilshire Boulevard.

Similar to the one already in place on Montana Avenue, the project is designed to filter water at various locations in the storm drains rather than all at once.

The idea is to reduce the amount of pollution that flows into Santa Monica Bay by treating it nearer to its source.

A grant of \$980,000 was recently accepted by City Hall from the State Water Resources Control Board. City Hall must produce \$147,000 in matching funds, most of which will be satisfied with in-kind design and engineering services, and \$25,000 from the city budget for stormwater system improvements.

Called the "Wilshire Boulevard Dry-Wet Weather Treatment System," the project consists of two standard structural treatment devices located within the storm drains.

The grant covers construction costs. Ongoing maintenance, operation and monitoring costs will be paid by City Hall's utilities and industrial waste budgets. Unanticipated costs will be covered by the Storm Water Fund, according to city documents.

The grant money, which comes from the State Water Resources Control Board, is receipt based, meaning City Hall must spend the money first and then ask for reimbursement.

surf report

The WSW peaked Friday evening and allowed for playful surf in the bay, however small it was — most of the shoreline looked as if the Pacific was more like a lake.

OUTLOOK: There are plenty of SW swells setting up soon. Expect one on the 19th and another on the 22nd. They're not huge but they are bringing us some surf.

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:

67°

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:11	1.0	5:39	1.2	11:25	5.2	11:39	4.5
SUNDAY	5:32	1.5	6:22	1.3	11:49	5.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	5:51	2.0	7:14	1.5	12:22	3.9	12:15	5.0
TUESDAY	6:04	2.5	8:29	1.6	1:19	3.4	12:47	4.8
WEDNESDAY	5:55	2.9	10:18	1.5	3:18	3.0	1:33	4.6
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	11:50	1.2	N/A	N/A	2:55	4.5
FRIDAY	10:26	3.5	N/A	N/A	8:18	3.6	4:40	4.6

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The Q Line

The 50-year-old Boathouse restaurant was booted off the Santa Monica Pier last year to make way for Bubba Gump Shrimp. Despite that the Santa Monica City Council and Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier, maintains that they prefer locally-owned, independent businesses, the movie-themed chain restaurant will enter the Santa Monica scene next summer.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Does the city's politicians do enough to keep locally-owned business here? What should be done?"

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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LETTERS

City should consider year-round shelters

Editor:

You will note that Santa Monica did not "opt in" to this year-round homeless shelter program, (SMDP, Sept. 9, page 1). Perhaps this will finally convince Santa Monica's homeless that they are not wanted. But perhaps it won't.

As Mitchell Netburn, executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority suggests in the article, the majority of the homeless would choose to get off the streets if enough shelters were available.

Too bad Santa Monica isn't taking part in this program — our current 365 beds for 1,400 homeless means that almost 75 percent of our homeless sleep on our streets every night instead of a county-run shelter.

Even when OPCC adds its 55 beds (only 35 of which are new) in two years, over 70 percent of our current homeless population will still have no place to go!

Kenneth McCrae
S.H.E.L.T.E.R.

Recall circus produces laughs

Editor:

Enjoyed your columnist Mr. Silverstein's funny, incisive take on the "Great Recalifornia Debate Show No. 1," (SMDP, Sept. 10, page 4) "... as she has demonstrated, Arianna is all for gays getting married, at least if their mate is a heterosexual," was particularly twisted comedy. However, Green Party candidate Peter Camejo got off the best line on Gray Davis in "Debate No. 2." About Davis' "joking around" about candidates needing to be able to pronounce "California," ostensibly mocking Arnie's and Arianna's accents. Camejo retorted how Davis has been mispronouncing correct California names for years: "Sacra-meynto ... Los Angeles ... San Francisco ..."

(And I hear all Camejo's humor is organically written.)

Back to absentee balloting.

Hank Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Palestinian couldn't have been an emigrant

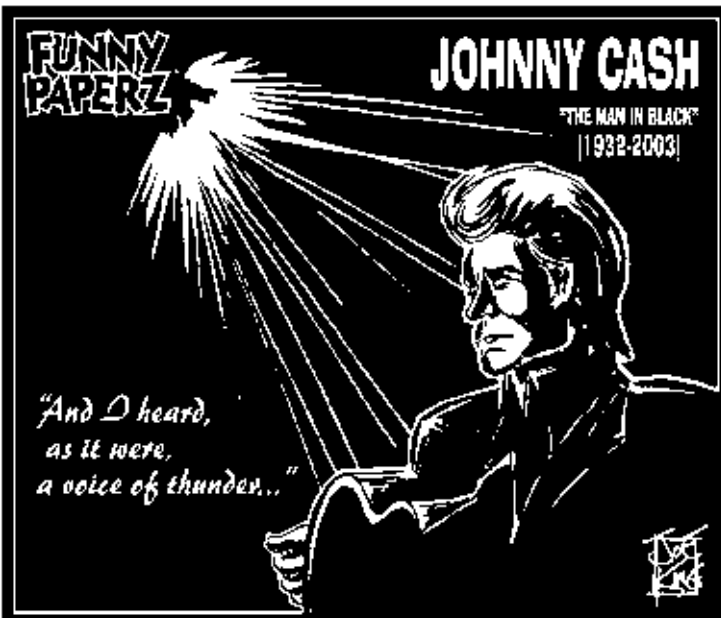
Editor:

As a native Angeleno I was intrigued by the various perspectives in our community on the Arab-Israeli conflict in Laura Wides' article, "Arab-Americans, Jews hope for Mideast peace," (SMDP, Sept. 12, page 10). Though the piece is insightful, I was dismayed to find a common factual error in regard to this volatile issue. Wides' describes Asem Abusir, a 40-year-old computer consultant, as an emigrant from Palestine. The fact is he could not have emigrated from Palestine as there is no offi-

cially recognized Palestinian state, nor has there been since before Abusir was born. Remember, even before Abusir was born there was an area of Palestine under British mandate which today includes the states of Israel, Jordan and the disputed territories.

These areas were not inhabited by a distinct culture, people or recognized country until recent history. So, saying Abusir emigrated from Palestine is much like saying that somebody moving from today's Jordan emigrated from Palestine. It would be accurate to say that Abusir emigrated from the disputed West Bank or Gaza territories, or even from Palestinian Authority controlled territories. Regardless of anyone's opinion on the Mideast situation, the truth must be told. Even in a simple description of a person's background, it is important that journalists accurately portray facts and should not arbitrarily apply terms that misrepresent the facts.

Jeff Peri
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC 1, NCS 2, SCS 1.

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Current administration has forgotten about 'we the people'



I guess ol' Georgie Porgie is running on stupid these days with the latest debacle in Ohio. He is presently courting a Republican business owner whose corporation manufactures, of all things, touch computer voting machines.

This person also has promised to give good ol' "king" George the state of Ohio. And if I am understanding it correctly, Ohio is one of the key states to winning the election in 2004. I also heard that this person is trying to get these paperless computer voting machines up and running all over the U.S. by the next election.

Using this type of voting system might be much faster, but it's also much easier to manipulate than the punch card system. Think about it, especially those of you who are computer programmers and hackers. When you vote now with the punch

card system there is a safeguard, your vote is basically on paper, there is a record. Yes, this type of voting takes much longer to do and to process, but the fact that there is a paper trail and is counted by hand with a certain amount of checks and balances is ensuring. It's not very easily manipulated — unless the vote ends up in Florida again. And I really don't think Ol' "emperor" Bush's boys are not as dumb as they have made "we the people" out to be for the last two years and some months. I might be wrong though.

With this touch screen voting system, all the votes would eventually have to go to one computer for the final tally, with no paper trail. Think long and hard about that my friends. You could be voting for the democrat and by the time the final electoral vote is "tallied," the republicans win. Or there could be software installed that takes so many votes for the democrats and then are changed to votes for Bush. This type of system could be manipulated in so many ways so that our democratic process is just an illusion like the many illusions this regime has pulled on "We the people" since this coupe in 2000.

I hope "we the people" can make enough of a clamor to stop this maneuver before it becomes a mainstream item in

voting all across the United States and "We the people" never have a legitimate election again. This latest scheme is worse than the W.M.D. lies "we the people" were told to get us into Vietnam's ..., oops ..., I mean Iraq's \$4 billion, plus a month occupation and rebuilding. Or, is our country supposedly running on close to a quarter of a trillion dollar deficit?

This present administration seems to think "we the people" are still blinded by the Sept. 11 anguish and still believe Georgie Jr. is God's gift to the American people. Or they just think "we the people" are just plain stupid.

I honestly think "we the people" should send our fearless leader a wake up call.

I think "we the people" should look at Ramsey Clark's Web site, www.votetoinpeach.org, and see how badly this present Neo-Conservative regime has blatantly violated the Constitution of the United States, which was written to keep our government from becoming like it is now, like the persecuting Oligarchy of England our forefathers came here to escape from. And how many U.N. treaties did Bush and his cronies break to go to war in Iraq? Now, we have this new attempt to blatantly disregard the voting process, which is the backbone of the democratic process as a whole.

"We the people" should be tired of this whole regime's "in your face" nepotism and lies, which are not only costing American lives, but making our whole country an incredible fiasco, and embarrassing us in front of people all over the world. Not to mention making the world a whole lot more dangerous for all.

"We the people" should be looking to clean house of politicians of this ilk as soon as possible in all levels of government. "We the people" should not just sit idle like bumps on logs and take this type of treatment from those who are/were elected to be public servants. And "we the people" should not let this despot, who now holds the highest executive office in America, win another election.

"We the people" should make it known that we are now very much aware of what is going on and will vote to impeach this whole regime for the violations it has committed against the Constitution and "we the people" of the United States of America. In 2004, we should vote all of them out of office.

(Charles Springer is a homeless resident of Santa Monica and a freelance writer and artist. He can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

LOCAL



Students criticize Samohi redesign; teachers pleased

SAMOHİ, from page 1

Teachers, most of whom signed onto a formal grievance earlier this year that challenged the legality of the redesign, seem pleased with the new arrangement and said the Sept. 3 school opening was one of the smoothest in their experience.

"I was not enthusiastic about this change," said French and composition teacher Helen Janka, a Santa Monica resident who has been teaching for 40 years. "I didn't feel that the concentration of students among 25 teachers would work ... but in spite of many of us not wanting to do this, it's a fresh start and there's an excitement to it."

Carol Jago, an English teacher who has taught at Samohi for nearly 30 years, spent 27 years in her old classroom before being asked to move. She said the her room required a little work but she likes the redesign so far because it makes her job manageable.

Jago showed off the girls' bathroom down the hall, where a Claude Monet poster hangs on the wall and a small bureau is set up to make the bathroom more comfortable. Bathrooms at Samohi have long been criticized by parents and students who say they are dirty and unattended to.

But while administrators are setting up their new offices in the houses and teachers are settling into their new rooms, many Samohi students said they miss the old arrangement where they could pick any teacher and share classes with whomever they chose.

"If you're stuck with bad teachers you have to deal with them for years," said Samohi sophomore Azad Naficy. "And it's the same way with friends."

Naficy is not alone.

"It's stupid," said sophomore Sam Allman, who said the point of the six houses has not been explained or shown to him. "I liked being able to have more teachers. This new plan, they constrict you to the same building and the same students for four years."

Though much of the actual scheduling so far has been confined to lower classmen, juniors and seniors said they are not convinced that the new arrangement will be a positive change.

"It's weak," said junior Tito Molino. "I mean, I don't see what the purpose was. Last year they said it would help us not be tardy to our classes, but it's not true."

Not all Samohi students are against the

redesign. While some are experiencing growing pains, others said they are looking forward to a time when more of their courses can be taken in their respective houses.

"I think we're doing a good job and it's going to get better," said junior Gus Walsh. "I'm looking forward to getting to know my teachers. Right now my classes are in a few too many houses."

The six houses at Samohi

- S house

Building: Language
Principal: Gregory Runyon
Teacher leader: Meredith Louria, English
Advisors: Michelle Kenney (grades 9, 10)
Al Trundle (grades 10, 12)

- A house

Buildings: Business and downstairs of technology
Principal: Anuar Shalash
Teacher leader: Rosa Serratore, math
Advisors: Susan Dresher (grades 9, 11)
Wendi DeMorst (grades 10, 12)

- M house

Building: Downstairs of history
Principal: Mark Kelly
Teacher leader: Lasonya Roberts, English
Advisors: Amanda Audet (grades 9, 11)
Kelli Luddy (grades 10, 12)

- O house

Building: Upstairs of history
Principal: Patty Flynn
Teacher leader: Amy Beeman-Solano, English
Advisors: Laura Simone (grades 9, 11)
Lisa DeMirjian (grades 10, 12)

- H house

Building: English
Principal: Ruth Esseln
Teacher leader: Tassie Hadlock-Piltz, history
Advisors: Linh LeCassidy (grades 9, 11)
Wendy Wax-Gellis (grades 10, 12)

- I house

Building: Upstairs of technology
Principal: Kathleen Martin
Teacher leader: Eva Mayorial, science
Advisors: Frank Gatell (grades 9, 11)
Jami Orlowski (grades 10, 12)

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and met — in Baghdad, Hilla, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Tuesday, September 16

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Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

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LOCAL □ STATE



DMV gives tips on how to talk to seniors about driving

DMV, from page 1

Lodge parking lot off of Pico Boulevard into the alley and plowed straight into Perviz Esmail's iron gate that blocked the north side of her home. He then drove east down the alley and abandoned his car. SMPD officers found him at the Elks Lodge a few minutes later.

The man's white Cadillac plowed into the gate hard enough to break a nearby gas meter. The gate was pushed within feet of playground equipment where Esmail operates a private daycare facility for up to 12 kids. Her home is directly across the alley from the Elks Lodge parking lot.

Police aren't releasing the man's name, despite that he was cited for a misdemeanor hit and run. Police submitted a request to have his driving abilities re-examined by the DMV. That case is pending.

SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said it's common for police officers to submit requests to the DMV if they think a person's ability to drive is questionable. Fabrega, who has been with the SMPD for 27 years, has submitted several license review requests for people he's pulled over.

"(The practice has) been in existence since the DMV has given law enforcement that added tool to have those license re-examined," he said. "It's something (officers) look at on an individual basis."

DMV spokesman Steve Haskins said

once a police department submits the request, the person will be summoned to the closest DMV Driver's Safety Division Office for an interview. Based on the results of the interview, a driver's safety officer may require the person to submit medical records and will most likely have to undergo vision, written and behind-the-wheel driving tests.

Last year, the California DMV had 86,000 re-examination referrals from law enforcement agencies, and doctors, family and friends of individuals, Haskins said. As a result, 42,000 people had their license either suspended or revoked.

"The only way they can get it back is if they pass new tests and you have to pass them all," Haskins said. "If there has been any kind of lapse of consciousness, we'll review their license."

The DMV also has a three-tier testing process that puts individuals who are questionable drivers through a rigorous testing process. If people are concerned about a person's driving ability, there is a special section on the DMV's Web site for them to fill out a document requesting that their license be re-examined.

"They can request anonymity and we'll do the best we can," Haskins said. "But the best way is to work through a doctor because most older people tend to have a closer relationship with their doctors and their request to stop driving can be related to a medical condition instead of a daughter saying, 'mom I think it's time to stop driving.'"

Lawmakers fail to address access of sex offender list

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California legislators wrapped up their work for the year early Saturday morning by moving to provide health insurance for millions of workers but failing to extend public access to the state's registry of sex offenders.

Lawmakers closed the 2003 session when the Assembly adjourned at 3:46 a.m. hours of work on dozens of bills. The Senate had adjourned two hours earlier.

In one of their final acts before going home, lawmakers in both houses passed a bill by Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, to require employers with at least 20 employees to help pro-

vide their workers with health insurance.

The bill would make companies with more than 200 workers provide health insurance by 2006 and give smaller companies until 2007 to do so. Supporters of the bill say only Texas and New Mexico have a higher percentage of uninsured residents than California.

Opponents said the bill, worked out during the legislative session's final days, is another burden on businesses during an anemic economy.

Also on the final day, lawmakers failed to extend Megan's Law, which grants public access to the state's registry of sex offenders. A bill to extend the law died in the state Assembly.

Some college students turned away because of budget woes

By The Associated Press

BERKELEY — Community college student Anoop Kaur expected to have to work hard and make good grades to transfer to the prestigious University of California.

She didn't expect her future to depend on whether state officials have the smarts to handle California's money troubles.

This month, students like Kaur got a jolt when the UC system closed its doors on almost all mid-year community college transfers, saying they couldn't afford to take 1,500 students for the next term.

And it's likely to get much worse next fall. UC may have to cut enrollment growth by 5,000 students, and the

California State University system also expects to turn away thousands of students.

"We've just got some serious problems here," said UC Regent Ward Connerly. "This is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of number of students that we have to turn away."

The disappointed students were the latest casualties of a multibillion-dollar budget mess that set the stage for the raucous attempt to recall Gov. Gray Davis.

More than that, the rejections, made without even looking at the applications, were a blow to a longtime social contract, known as the Master Plan for Higher Education, that assures California's top students a place at the UC.

STATE



Democratic heavyweights plan to stump in the state

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — When former President Clinton arrived in California to campaign with Gov. Gray Davis on Sunday, he was the first in a long line of Democratic heavyweights scheduled to stump for the governor between now and the Oct. 7 recall election.

Support for Davis' ouster, strong when the recall campaign began, has been fading: A Los Angeles Times poll released late Thursday found 47 percent of likely voters are inclined to vote against the recall, compared with 50 percent who support it. The shift has sent several high-profile Democrats flocking to the state to align their political fortunes with the governor.

"This is a national effort to make sure Gray Davis stays in office," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe, who helped organize the visits. "I made a lot of the phone calls myself, and there was no hesitancy whatsoever from anyone."

Davis, who has long called the recall a Republican power grab, has enlisted another powerful symbol to help him make his case. Former Vice President Al Gore, who many Democrats feel was robbed of the 2000 presidential election because of the disputed ballot counting in Florida, will campaign with Davis next Friday in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Several 2004 Democratic presidential candidates are planning campaign visits with Davis in the next two weeks, including Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts, John Edwards of North Carolina, Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Bob Graham of Florida. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the nominal front-runner among the Democratic presidential candidates, campaigned with Davis last weekend.

"Clearly, there's a sense that Davis has a chance to survive," said Jack Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont-McKenna College. "And even if Davis should go down, they are hoping to have an energized Democratic base that will turn out and work hard in 2004."

Other visiting luminaries include civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, fellow Democratic governors Tom Vilsack of Iowa and Gary Locke of Washington; and two popular former governors, Mario Cuomo of New York and Ann Richards of Texas.

Clinton, arguably still the party's most popular figure, will campaign with Davis at a predominantly black church in south central Los Angeles on Sunday. On Monday, the two will attend the dedication of the William Jefferson Clinton Elementary School in Compton. The former president also will headline a fundraiser for Davis in Los Angeles at the home of financier Ron Burkle.

California Republican Party Chairman Duf Sundheim dismissed the visits from national Democrats, saying they revealed Davis' weaknesses more than any new strengths.

"It shows Davis needs to go outside the state to get Democrats to stand by his side," Sundheim said. "I can't see it benefiting him. The people of California know

"This is a national effort to make sure Gray Davis stays in office. I made a lot of the phone calls myself, and there was no hesitancy whatsoever from anyone."

— **TERRY MCAULIFFE**
Democratic National Committee Chairman

him, and they've made up their minds that they need change."

Most of the out-of-staters aren't yet sure how to handle Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante's recall campaign, in which he is urging voters to oppose Davis' removal while offering himself as a Democratic replacement in case the governor is recalled.

The national Democrats are expected to follow the lead of the California Democratic Party, which scheduled an emergency meeting Saturday to decide whether to endorse the "No on Recall, Yes on Bustamante" strategy. Lieberman, who chose Bustamante to be his California campaign co-chairman, already has endorsed the strategy.

Polls show Davis has some work to do to firm up his support among Democrats. Some polls indicate 20 to 25 percent of Democrats still support the recall. While Democrats have a registration edge over Republicans, 44 percent to 35 percent, Davis has alienated enough Democrats that he is looking to bring them back.

Last week, Davis signed a bill to allow undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses, a popular measure among Hispanic voters who are a key part of the party base. He has also held several events to remind voters of his record on abortion rights and environmental protection.

National Democratic operatives are also working in California to shore up Davis. On Friday, a group organized by Democratic National Committee official Ann Lewis criticized Republican candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger's positions on the budget, environment, health care and education.

Some analysts say bringing in so many national Democrats could backfire for Davis.

"The danger is that when you have national figures coming from outside, you actually rally people on both ends of the spectrum — your core supporters and your core enemies," Pitney said. "It's particularly true of Bill Clinton, who is a polarizing figure for so many people."

So far, the Davis campaign doesn't see the danger. Davis, who is speaking to the state Democratic gathering, will be introduced by one of the 11 Democratic Texas senators who left their state for more than six weeks to thwart a Republican plan to redraw the lines of the state's 32 congressional districts.

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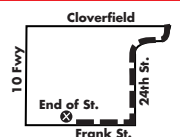
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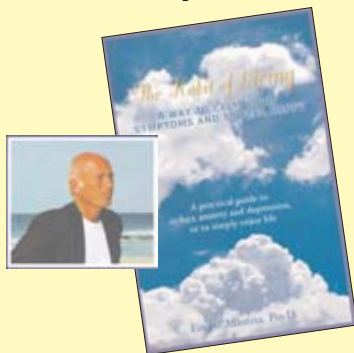
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agricultural successes****BY JEFF BARNARD**
Associated Press Writer**MEDFORD, Ore.** — Keith Emerson walked between rows of trees in the orchard he is converting to organic production, looking for a picture-perfect pear that would qualify for a Harry and David fruit basket.

"This one is pretty good," said the orchard operations chief for Bear Creek Corp., reaching into his pocket for a handkerchief to shine the rosy blush on the smooth green skin of a French variety called comice that is Harry and David's signature Royal Riviera Pear. "That's the one you would see on the cover of the catalog."

"But here we get into a little pressure from mites," he said, showing some nearby pears with dull brown stippling on the skin from tiny insects that attack the fruit like mosquitos sucking blood. "This is one of the challenges."

Harry and David parent company Bear Creek Corp., the big gorilla in the gift food market with sales of nearly \$550 million, is stepping into the world of compost and horse manure to see if it can profitably grow the kind of fruit that Wall Street brokerages will want to give their top customers at Christmas.

"We're getting close," said Bill Michel, senior vice president of marketing for Bear Creek Corp., a subsidiary of Yamanouchi Consumer Inc., which owns Harry and David and the Bear Creek Orchards that produce its pears and peaches.

With an eye on the bottom line, focus groups, and marketplace trends, Bear Creek wants to be ahead of the curve on organic. Organic certification for 80 acres of Bear Creek's 3,200 acres of orchards is still two years away. To see how organics will sell, the Harry and David Web site, which accounts for 30 percent of sales, will offer a mixed medley of organic fruits grown elsewhere in time for Christmas.

"It's big enough and growing fast enough that it makes sense we need to have that kind of offering," said Pete Kratz, Bear Creek senior vice president and general manager for product supply. "We're not sure how big it will be for us. It depends on where the markets go."

Organic markets are booming, growing 20 percent or more annually since 1990, and accounting for 2 percent of all fruits and vegetables in 1997, according to research compiled in a 2002 U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

Packaged Facts, a newsletter of MarketResearch.com, estimates organic foods hit \$9 billion in 2002, up from \$1 billion in 1990, and notes that Kellogg, Kraft, Heinz and General Mills all have a stake.

"It's much sexier than it used to be," said Larry Finkel, food and beverage research director for MarketResearch.com. in New York. "It's driven by the consumer awareness of the nexus between healthy eating and health."

Supermarkets are already well onto the trend, and in 2000 accounted for 49 percent of organic food sales, up from about 7 percent in 1995, according to the Department of Agriculture report. The report cited research indicating the typical consumer is a young, small family with higher income in which the woman does the food shopping. Education of the buyer

is not a factor, but price and appearance of the food both count.

Fresh produce is the top category, followed by beverages, breads and grains.

Organic cropland doubled from 1992 to 1997 to 1.3 million acres. And USDA standards for organic foods that went into effect last year are expected to keep the boom rolling, the report said.

"Not too many icons are left that aren't looking at organic production," said Bob Scowcroft, executive director of the Organic Farming Research Foundation in Santa Cruz, Calif. "My guess is a company like (Harry and David) has seen the nibble on the edges."

"When you are in this business, you have to really keep an eye on your edge. And companies like Diamond Organic are beginning to develop an overnight fresh delivery system."

Jasch (pronounced YAHSH) Hamilton, a former organic farmer, started Diamond Organics in Watsonville, Calif., in 1990, and expects to do \$4 million this year if he can get into a new facility in time for Christmas.

"With organic now, especially with the techniques for pest management, you can get perfect fruit," said Hamilton. "It's not a mystery anymore."

"They've seen the writing on the wall," Hamilton said of Harry and David. "The fact is, you can grow this stuff, probably for less money and the same if not higher quality. You can save money on the production end and keep your customers happy."

Since 1997, Bear Creek has been moving toward sustainable agricultural practices — not fully organic, but much less dependent on chemicals.

To combat codling moths, they hang scent strips in all the orchards, flooding the zone with a sex pheromone that confuses the males looking for mates. That reduces the need for pesticides.

All trees get sprayed with a clay mixture that qualifies as organic. The dull film confuses insects about which side is up on leaves, and cakes up on their legs, persuading most to go somewhere else to eat.

"We have changed our attitude toward organic because the success of our programs has made it much more reachable for us," Kratz said.

But it is tough to go large with organic. The biggest limiting factor is compost. Emerson would like to spread compost on all the orchards, because it restores depleted soils and naturally time-releases nitrogen.

But he can't get his hands on enough horse manure and fruit waste to produce compost for all 3,200 acres. So far, he can treat about 600 acres on a three-year rotation. Trying to go organic on any more means turning to fish oil, which is tough on the neighbors.

Ultimately, the decision on how far to take organic comes down to the fruit. Right now, about 60 percent of conventionally grown pears meet gift quality. One orchard is close to that, but the second is not, said Michel.

"If it can't be as good as the pear on the cover of this catalog, it's not good enough for Harry and David," said Michel.

NATIONAL



Alaskan villages get 'fire department in a box'

BY MARY PEMBERTON

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The fire truck of the village of Quinhagak had mechanical problems. But even when it worked, it was useless much of the year.

The truck was emptied of water in winter to keep it from freezing when temperatures in the Bering Sea coastal village dropped below zero. So when a fire call came in, volunteers had to rush to the school to get the water truck — and fill it from the village water tank.

"That took a lot of time," said Peter Foster, Quinhagak's tribal police officer. "We don't have to do that now."

In rural Alaska, where bucket brigades still exist, dozens of villages now have a "fire department in a box" — a new concept in firefighting. The equipment — contained in two shiny metal trailers that can be hooked up to small pickups, all-terrain vehicles or even snowmobiles — uses compressed air to produce firefighting foam from a small amount of water.

The equipment is more suitable to rural areas for several reasons. In cash-strapped villages, it is less expensive to maintain than a fire truck and needs no fire house. It is easier to operate than a fire truck and maneuvers easily on poor roads, even tundra. It can be used where water is scarce or mostly frozen. Where water is available, it comes with a pump.

"In a small compact package you have the ability to produce 1,200 gallons of firefighting foam in a very short period of time," said Tom Harris, president and chief executive of Alaska Village Initiatives, an Anchorage nonprofit that developed the Micro-Rural Fire Department, as it's formally called.

Quinhagak was one of five villages chosen in 2000 for the pilot program of the federally funded Project Code Red because it was considered fireprone. The project's goal is to provide 250 rural communities with the equipment in five years.

The trailers contain all the firefighting equipment, including a 30-gallon solution tank to make the foam, 400 feet of hose, a 100-foot hose reel and a water pump, as well as hand-held extinguishers, an ice auger, helmets, gloves, goggles and pick axes.

Two instructors and 28 hours of training are provided over three days to teach village residents how to use the equipment, said Steve Schreck, a state fire training spe-

"In a small compact package you have the ability to produce 1,200 gallons of firefighting foam in a very short period of time."

— TOM HARRIS

President and chief executive,
Alaska Village Initiatives

cialist for Project Code Red.

The equipment is a big improvement over bucket brigades or the "bulldozer method" of firefighting — where firefighters knock down the building on fire or try to remove the buildings next to it to keep the flames from spreading, Schreck said.

For the first time in those villages, firefighters have a real chance of beating the blaze, he said.

Two days after Quinhagak got its training in May 2002, there was a house fire that was extinguished in two minutes and contained to one room, he said.

"I personally believe it is the most important step taken to protect rural Alaska from fire," Schreck said of the program.

Project Code Red got its start in 1999 with \$482,000 in federal money secured by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. In June, Stevens got an additional \$3 million in program grants attached to a bill reauthorizing the U.S. Fire Administration.

Fighting fires in rural areas of Alaska can be daunting. Villages can't easily accommodate full-size fire trucks. There may be no piping or hydrant system to easily get water on a fire. Roads can be rough, usually dirt or gravel, with boardwalks instead of paved sidewalks. Even small fires easily get out of hand, leading to loss of life and property, Schreck said.

In the village of St. Paul, for example, shortly before Christmas in 1999, a fast-moving house fire killed a mother and her three children, said Carol Olson, a deputy

fire marshal who investigated the case. The victims were the family of the island's Russian Orthodox priest.

"When they responded, their fire truck was so old the tank had rusted out. As they tried to pour water on the fire, there was more water running out of the bottom of the truck," she said.

Kwethluk had a working fire truck, but the building it was housed in was so old the truck was stored empty so it wouldn't fall through the floor, Olson said. Sometimes, the one person in the village with the key to the fire truck can't be quickly located, she said.

"We get these stories all the time," Olson said.

Not surprisingly, the number of fire deaths in Alaska runs well above the national average. In 2002, the state had nine fire-related deaths per 1,000 fires, more than 50 percent above the national average, according to the state fire marshal's office.

Fifty-five Alaska communities now have the new equipment, and 12 units are being built. The units, at about \$70,000 including shipping and training, cost less than one-third the price of an average fire truck, Harris said.

Nicholas Lupsin, the village police officer in the Yup'ik village of St. Michael along Norton Sound, said the equipment was used June 17 to put out a beach fire started by children playing.

"As soon as we heard there was a fire, we grabbed the equipment and a four-wheeler," Lupsin said. "It was so easy. We brought the water pumps right to the beach."

"This new equipment is much better than the fire truck. It gets around a place where there are no roads and through tundra."

Lupsin said about 10 people in the western Alaska village of 390 are trained to use the equipment, and the village holds weekly training sessions.

Quinhagak dedicated its equipment to Suzie Mark, a 33-year-old woman who died in February 1999 after pulling her three children from their burning home. Once her children were safe, Mark ran back inside the home — no one is sure why — and was overcome by carbon monoxide. A small plaque with her Yup'ik Eskimo name is on the equipment, said Foster, who is Mark's first cousin.

So far this year, Quinhagak has used its equipment several times. The equipment helped contain a dump fire to 300 yards and kept a warehouse from being destroyed, Foster said.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Leaders defend Arafat's removal

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders defended their decision to "remove" Yasser Arafat despite international condemnation, saying he is an obstacle to peace and should have been cast aside years ago.

Statements of concern rolled in from country after country Friday a day after Israel made the vaguely worded announcement that it would act to remove Arafat. The threat set off pro-Arafat marches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and drew opposition from the European Union, the United Nations and Arab countries.

Israeli Education Minister Limor Livnat bristled at the U.S. government's insistence on letting Arafat be.

"Israel is an independent and sovereign state," she said. "It doesn't take orders from America."

A defiant Arafat emerged from his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah for a second straight night Friday and rallied hundreds of supporters, saying: "To Jerusalem we are going as martyrs in the millions."

Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned both the Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers to emphasize the United States' opposition to exiling Arafat.

Iran warns about nuke deadline

By The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran warned that an Oct. 31 deadline to prove its nuclear aims are peaceful could backfire, suggesting Tehran could become even more

secretive instead of opening its program for outside perusal.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors voted Friday to approve a U.S.-backed resolution imposing the deadline on Tehran to clear up questions about its nuclear program.

Chief Iranian delegate Ali Akbar Salehi then walked out in protest. Iranian officials had repeatedly warned that imposing a deadline and insisting on other tough language in the resolution would aggravate nuclear tensions.

"We will have no choice but to have a deep review of our existing level and extent of engagement with the agency," Salehi said, suggesting that Tehran might reduce or even break off links — moves that would doom inspection attempts.

If the next board meeting in November determines that Iran has not complied with the treaty banning the spread of nuclear arms, the noncompliance must reported to the U.N. Security Council, where reaction could range from formal criticism to economic sanctions.

No evidence found in supposed killings

By The Associated Press

DENVER — Authorities in two rural Colorado counties failed to find any human remains after a drifter jailed in a fatal shooting bragged of killing five prostitutes and dumping their bodies.

Richard White, 30, led authorities to two women buried in the yard of a Denver home where he used to live. But searches in Costilla and Otero counties for

other bodies on Friday came up empty.

The investigation began after an acquaintance of White, 27-year-old Jason Reichardt, was found shot to death at his Aurora home on Monday.

White was arrested two days later in a forest south of Denver. He has given authorities a map of where his other purported victims were dumped.

"The whole story is not out yet. There's more to the story than has been released publicly," said his public defender, Jim O'Connor. He declined to elaborate.

White told authorities he killed "five female prostitutes," Costilla County Sheriff Roger Benton said Friday.

University leader skirts no-confidence

By The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Robert Sloan survived a no-confidence vote brought on by questions about his leadership following the summer slaying of basketball player Patrick Dennehy.

The school's Board of Regents voted Friday to keep Sloan as head of the world's largest Baptist university after faculty members urged his ouster in a no-confidence vote.

Baylor has been shaken by the Dennehy murder, the arrest of former player Carlton Dotson on murder charges in the death, and the ensuing disclosure of major NCAA violations in the basketball program.

The 36-member Board of Regents reviewed a motion by the Baylor Faculty Senate urging Sloan's ouster and a letter from five regents seeking Sloan's dismissal. But the board overwhelmingly voted to keep Sloan during a closed meeting.

Sloan thanked the regents for their reaffirmation of his leadership.

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NATIONAL



Utah's Wasatch range waits for the next big earthquake

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Scientists are discovering more evidence that an ancient rhythm of immense earthquakes could strike northern Utah again. Their findings raise the danger of widespread destruction for the heavily populated 120-mile Wasatch corridor around Salt Lake City.

The geologists cannot say with certainty when the next devastating earthquake will hit the Wasatch Front. But they say the threat is real and constant and that a large quake could occur tomorrow or a century from now — a span that represents a mere blip in geologic time.

The geologists are doing field work with newfound urgency, most recently digging into a fault complex at Mapleton, Utah, where they are studying Utah's most recent devastating quake, which snapped about 600 years ago.

The Mapleton trench also revealed at least four previous temblors of 7-magnitude or greater going back 12,000 years or more. The digging gives an idea of the kind of violence that accompanies sudden releases of pent-up energy, said paleoseismologist Susan Olig of San Francisco consultants URS Corp.

Gary Christensen, hazards program manager for the Utah Geological Survey, said the risk is much greater one mountain basin to the north, in greater Salt Lake City, which has been virtually undisturbed since the arrival of Mormon settlers in 1847.

Simple timing underscores why geologists are putting a target on Salt Lake City: The Wasatch fault here last slipped with a violent shudder about 1,283 years ago — and the intervals between each of the four most recent prehistoric quakes ranged from 1,269 to 1,441 years.

All dates are qualified by different margins of error, but the implication is clear.

"The earthquake strain has been accumulating all this time and there is sufficient energy to release the big one," said Walter Arabasz, director of the University of Utah's Seismograph Stations.

"What's overdue is strong shaking. Since 1847 we've just been lucky," he said.

A magnitude 7.5 quake could kill 7,600 people in the Salt Lake basin, injure 44,000 others and cause \$12 billion in building damage alone, a pair of Stanford University engineers calculated in 1994.

The main Wasatch fault, which snakes along the base of the Wasatch Range, isn't the only threat to Utah's largest city. Out on the basin floor, the West Valley fault group also is poised to release a powerful quake.

Over the past 12,000 years, the West Valley complex produced a powerful jolt every 1,700 to 2,000 years — most recently about 2,000 years ago, geologist Jeffrey Keaton determined.

Keaton measured as much as 62 feet of drop on the zone's east side over the past 140,000 years — movement that would have been produced by 11 to 13 quakes of magnitude 6.5 to 6.7. At least six of those quakes

"The earthquake strain has been accumulating all this time and there is sufficient energy to release the big one."

— WALTER ARABASZ

Director,
University of Utah's Seismograph Stations

happened during the past 12,000 years.

To illustrate the dangers, URS Corp. produced a map of the Salt Lake basin that gives a block-by-block look at the shake hazards from a typical magnitude-7 quake originating 10 miles underground.

It isn't a pretty picture.

Most of the Salt Lake metropolis sits on unconsolidated sediments washed down from the mountains. Those sediments will amplify instead of dampen the shock waves of a quake. The map shows few safe zones, with most areas rated for strong or violent shaking.

Utah's earthquake hazard is being driven by forces deep in the earth that scientists have yet to fully explain. But they know the Wasatch Front is at the ripping edge of the Great Basin, an immense mile-high desert extending nearly 500 miles to Reno, Nev.

The Great Basin has been subject to millions of years of stretching, an almost continuous creep measured at nearly a half-inch a year westward that is widening the continent, said University of Utah geophysicist James Pechmann, an expert on the basin's crustal structure.

This upsets the basin's angular crustal blocks, making for slips that can raise mountains and lower basins. Southern California has a different earthquake problem at the San Andreas fault, which is ripping the coastline along a horizontal plane, but in Utah the action is nearly vertical.

The return of an ancient, lumbering earthquake that violently shakes the ground for hundreds of miles could originate under Brigham City in northern Utah first.

Brigham City is sitting on ground that hasn't seen such a quake for 2,125 years — but the average interval for prehistoric quakes on that fault line is only 1,750 years.

Anyway geologists look at it, northern Utah is due for a big one. Pechmann puts the odds that Salt Lake will suffer a large quake at 1-in-3 over the next 50 years.

"We know these earthquakes have been going on for millions of years," Pechmann said. "There's no reason to think they're going to stop just because people moved into the valley."

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- 46 Stage comment
- 47 T-bone, for example
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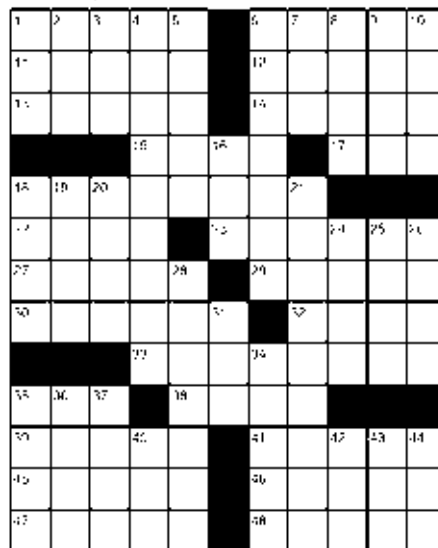
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Madonna ready to get pregnant for third time

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Madonna wants to have another child.

The 45-year-old singer and pop icon, who has two children, told Britain's Times newspaper she was consulting doctors about having another baby.

"Because of my exercising and this that and the other, I've kind of screwed up my cycle a bit," Madonna was quoted as saying by the newspaper's weekend magazine that came out Saturday.

"And I'm going to the doctors to make sure I'm OK to have a baby, so wish me luck," she said.

Madonna has a daughter Lourdes, 6, from her relationship with ex-boyfriend Carlos Leon; and a son Rocco, 3, with her film-director husband, Guy Ritchie.

NEW YORK — Two more new ladies will keep John Stamos company in the Broadway production of "Nine," which undergoes major cast changes Oct. 7.

Singer Eartha Kitt will replace Chita Rivera as Parisian producer Liliane La Fleur, and Marni Nixon will play the mother of Guido Contini, the womanizing film director at the center of the Tony-winning musical revival.

Stamos, now in rehearsal to portray Contini, also joins the cast next month, replacing Antonio Banderas whose last performance is Oct. 5.

Kitt, best-known for her kittenish renditions of "C'est Si Bon" and "Santa Baby," was last seen on Broadway in the musical "The Wild Party."

Nixon was the singing voice for Hollywood stars in several screen versions of classic Broadway musicals. She sang for Deborah Kerr in "The King and I," Natalie Wood in "West Side Story" and Audrey Hepburn in "My Fair Lady." She replaces Mary Beth Peil.

Already announced for the replacement cast was Jenna Elfman, who takes over from Jane Krakowski as an actress smitten with Contini.

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. — At 41, Lou Diamond Phillips gets a little sentimental when he looks back on a career that includes roles in 40 movies and a Tony nomination for "The King and I." "Talk about a career retrospective — I look at my resume and start to feel suddenly old," Phillips said last week at the Breckenridge film festival.

His first film was "Angel Alley," a Christian youth film made in Dallas when he was 19, but he became a star with his portrayal of Richie Valens in 1987's "La Bamba."

Since then, Phillips has earned a Golden Globe nomination for his performance in "Stand and Deliver" and become an official member of the brat pack for his role in "Young Guns."

He was in town to support his friend Tom Hodges, director of an eight-minute comedy being shown at the festival. Phillips makes a cameo appear-

ance in the short about two men who use their sexual dysfunction to turn the adult film industry into a business filled with family, friendship and love.

Phillips said he is working on a film about his native Philippines. He plans to star, direct and produce the film about a Filipino singer with American blood who never knew his father, and hopes to begin filming in January, he said.

Filipino causes are dear to Phillips, who also has been working to pass a benefits bill for Filipino soldiers who fought along American troops in World War II.

LOS ANGELES — A guitar played by the late George Harrison during the Beatles' last public performance was sold for \$434,750 in a public auction.

Harrison played the custom-made Fender Rosewood Telecaster during the filming of the movie "Let It Be," said Bill Miller, president of Odyssey Auctions, the California auction house that conducted the sale Saturday. The Jan. 30, 1969, performance on the roof of London's Apple Records was the last time the band performed together in public, Miller said.

The winning bidder was an "anonymous West Coast collector," the auction house said.

Harrison, 58, died of cancer Nov. 29, 2001.

The sale was part of a two-day auction of entertainment and pop culture memorabilia.

HUNTINGTON BEACH — To his fans, he's a pioneering rap artist, to authorities who have tangled with him, he's a felon. But to players and parents in the Orange County Junior All America Football League, he's just coach Dogg.

"Teaching kids is something fun," said Snoop Dogg, who watched Saturday night as his son's Rowland Heights Raiders defeated the Huntington Beach Dolphins 18-0.

"I give them a lot of strength and vision," added the rapper, who is a former football player and who attended a clinic to become certified as a coach.

"I am falling in love with these kids," he added.

Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, made a name for himself rapping about street violence, gangs, sex and marijuana, and in 1990 he was convicted of possessing cocaine for sale. Earlier this year, someone shot at a convoy he was traveling in, and he arrived at Saturday's game surrounded by six bodyguards.

But parents and players alike said they were impressed with Snoop's dedication to his 8- to 10-year-old charges.

Dolphins team mom Jennifer Gutierrez won't let her son listen to Snoop's music, but is happy to see him at the games.

"I think it's great that he does this for his kid," she said.

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