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Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The legendarily devoted anthropologist John Peabody Harrington passed away in 1961 and left six tons of disorganized belongings in various warehouses, attics, basements, and even chicken coops. Most of the items were quixotic, inexplicable junk. However, according to a July 2004 Los Angeles Times report, there are also 1 million pages of valuable notes in nearly indecipherable code, which will require 20 years to organize and are strewn amongst, apparently, everything Harrington ever possessed, including dirty laundry, half-eaten food, and "a box of birds stored for 30 years without the benefit of taxidermy." According to anthropologists, Harrington's records are absolutely crucial because in some cases his work forms the only written evidence of certain Native American languages.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In our civilization, and under our republican form of government, intelligence is so highly honored that it is rewarded by exemption from the cares of office."

AMBROSE BIERCE
US AUTHOR & SATIRIST (1842-1914)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Could be a long night, Taurus 2

Local

Octoberfair in September 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 72° 3

Opinion

FAQs on the edge 4

Business

What's your company worth? 8

State

Californians love their cheese 9

Real Estate

Properties sold in Santa Monica 12

National

Bush vs. Kerry on morale 16

Crossword

Puzzling 19

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 20

Service Directory

Need a plumber? 23

Reelin' it in



Stewart O'Dell/Daily Press

Oscar Lima of Van Nuys lands himself a catch off the north side of the Santa Monica Pier on Wednesday. Warm weather and the Santa Ana winds have brought out many ocean and beach enthusiasts this week.

From the editor ...

Readers may have noticed that Wednesday's edition from page 6 through page 19 had Monday's content in it.

Due to an egregious error by staff at the printing press, owned and operated by Community Media Corp., old files were printed and inserted into Wednesday's edition. Because of failed procedures, the staff at the pressroom didn't check whether or not the pages inserted inside

Wednesday's front page wrap were the correct ones.

Community Media Corp. apologizes for the error. Hundreds of readers and customers who called the Daily Press offices on Wednesday wanting to read the continued stories from page 1 can do so today. The local articles that didn't run in their entirety are printed in full on page 6, as well as the real estate section, which begins on page 12.

Changes ensure ocean trust won't spur offshore drilling

But local water quality not addressed in report

By staff and wire reports

Local environmentalists aren't holding their breath that a recently modified proposal to safeguard oceans will have any positive effect on reducing pollution or preventing offshore drilling.

A presidential commission this

week modified its proposal for a trust fund that would use up to \$4 billion in annual offshore oil and gas royalties to safeguard oceans and coastal areas. The change was to answer governors' fears the idea might spur more drilling off their coasts.

In its final report, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy this week included language to clarify that the recommended Ocean Policy Trust Fund would not be

used to change current government policy on offshore drilling.

"The sole intent of the trust fund is to ensure a dedicated source of funding for improved ocean and coastal management, including the sustainability of renewable resources," the report said. "It is not intended to either promote or discourage offshore uses authorized under existing laws, and the fund itself would not drive

See OCEANS, page 7

Malibu school district effort suffers setback

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU — Weeks after hundreds of signatures collected in support of breaking Malibu away from the local school district were thrown out due to county problems with the petition, a group of parents say they can still collect the 3,000 required signatures by the self-imposed Nov. 2 deadline.

If the Malibu Unified School Team has its way, a new Malibu school district will be established with \$12 million of annual operating fees coming from a revenue base of roughly \$14 million.

But the group was dealt a blow three weeks ago when the county nixed the petition's wording and requested that a map be redesigned, deeming the collected signatures invalid. The petition had already been approved at the state level and had been in circulation for about five days.

"I'm very accepting about what is," said Tom Sorce, president of the team. "It's discouraging when the language is OK for one body but not the other, but who knew?"

The petition was quickly reworked, then sent back to Los Angeles county officials for review. It's expected to be returned in the next week, at which time supporters will begin a vigorous signing campaign that will include neighborhood canvassing.

"I'm very accepting about what is.

It's discouraging when the language is OK for one body but not the other, but who knew?"

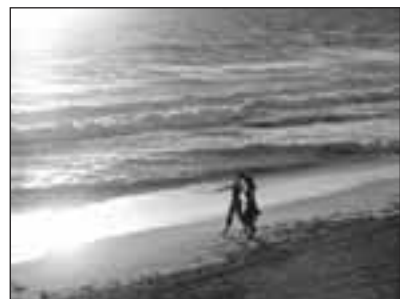
— TOM SORCE
Team president

"We're pressing the county everyday," Sorce said. "The day we get (the petition) back, we're going to be off getting signatures."

What the split would mean for Santa Monica is unclear. The plan would take an estimated \$20 million from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's \$102 million budget, but would also allow a \$6 million annual contribution from Santa Monica City Hall to pour directly into local schools. Currently, Malibu receives roughly 20 percent of that funding.

Last month, a majority of school board members voted to affix their signatures to the petition before it was sent to county officials, but most have remained impartial, saying that it's a matter

See SCHOOLS, page 6



Stewart O'Dell/Daily Press

The new ocean policy is intended to help protect the Santa Monica Bay.

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Could be a late night, Taurus

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)

★★★ What might have you grumbling in the morning will clear or will be forgotten by the afternoon. A spunky co-worker pitches in and lifts your mood. Don't overexamine the role of this friendship. Tonight: Go into weekend mode. Consider calling in tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Communication or a discussion could add to tension this morning. Be careful working mechanical items, as you could be distracted. Take your natural-born role as a leader this afternoon. Everyone appreciates your leadership and sense of direction. Tonight: Could be a late night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Deal with others on a personal level. You will gain more information and get a better sense of how to handle a particular situation. Stretch beyond your normal limits of thinking. Solutions will appear. Tonight: Where the music is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might not want to go to work. Discipline, my dear Crab. You will be in the swing of things before you know it. Good news or a special effort from a friend or loved one touches you. You might not even have the right words to say "thank you." Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Blow off any negativity. Your high energy anchors in on making money. A suggestion appears to be valid and could be very lucky. Just don't risk anything you can't afford to lose. Your popularity grows. Field calls if necessary. Tonight: Express your gregariousness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ What someone says is impossible isn't. You just might not have found the right path yet. Talk and brainstorm with others. Your determination helps hit a home run. Luck runs with you in the afternoon. Tonight: Try settling in a bit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might get a late start to your day, needing to handle certain personal matters. Once you clear your plate, you are a living dynamo. You might not be telling the whole story about a situation. You're right: Timing is everything. Tonight: You cannot help flirting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Keep discussions open, even if someone rains on your parade. This behavior might have very little to do with you, but instead with how locked and sad this person is. Meetings provide the impetus to get a project going. Tonight: Catch up on phone calls. Make weekend plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You might feel overloaded. A key person refuses to help you. This might be your perspective, but you do have a difficult associate or partner. Try a lighter approach. Add a touch of humor. Make a project fun, and everyone will pitch in. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Someone might buck your authority when you least expect it. This rebellion might have more to do with this person than with you. Stay on the same track. Find an expert, and you'll get positive news. Deal with money matters late in the day. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ How you think today will go might be very different once you get going. An associate or partner has a way of invigorating you. Brainstorm together, and ideas will flow. Don't jump in just yet. Give it a day or two. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Make the most of the morning hours, even if you feel that your creativity could use some brushing up. You will accomplish a lot more. Others pitch in with ideas and action. You could end the day early. How nice. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

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LOCAL



A fair to remember: Octoberfair this weekend

BY KATHLEEN BISHOP

Special to the Daily Press

St. Monica Catholic Church's Octoberfair is back, and the 41st year of the church's biggest fundraiser includes a carnival, contests, live music and a raffle with a 2004 PT Cruiser and a Palm Springs vacation up for grabs.

The parish's event begins Friday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. with Father Willie Raymond judging local recipes in the Chili Cook-off and naming the best chili in Santa Monica.

Saturday morning, Olympians Gary Visconti and Randy Gardner will kick off a 5k walk/run. Festivities continue Sunday with the fair running from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and the raffle drawing taking place that evening.

Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson has been pastor of St. Monica's for 17 years. He looks forward to Octoberfair every year and while it does make money for the church, he sees it as a time for his parish to open itself up to the Santa Monica community.

"We're one of the larger religious communities, and I think it's important for religious communities to engage in care and concern and larger issues," he said. "It's not just about us, it's about our city, our neighborhood, and listening to their needs and supporting the people around us."

Octoberfair is a social event, fundrais-



Photo courtesy of Icon Imaging PR
Lou Ferrigno TV's Hulk led the watermelon eating contest last year at St. Monica's Octoberfair. Mimi Kennedy (Abbey-Dharma & Greg) cooked in the chili cook-off. Both celebrities are back this year for Friday night's chili-cook off, as well as games on Saturday and Sunday with Ferrigno.

er, and outreach program all in one. Dan Oliva, church member and volunteer chair of the fair, wants to welcome the Santa Monica community to St. Monica's the way the church did him, even if just for the weekend.

"St. Monica's is dear to me. I am a single, gay male and the thing that I like is that everyone is welcome there," he said. "They were so welcoming when I was lost and searching."

Oliva has lived in Santa Monica for two years, and has been a member of St. Monica's for about four and a half years. In addition to giving his time back to the church that opened its arms to him, he wants to contribute to the community, even if "just in hospitality."

St. Monica's, however, contributes more than chili and music to its community. Proceeds from the fair benefit many of the more than 100 ministries the parish supports and local non-profit organizations.

"There is an orphanage in Mexico, ministry to the sick, ministry for youth, it goes on and on," said Sharon Jimenez, representative for the fair. "St. Monica's is just a real pillar for people with needs in the Santa Monica community."

Octoberfair will take place on Lincoln Boulevard at California Avenue. Information on entering the Chili Cook-off and 5k run is available at www.stmonica.net/octoberfair.

Correction: In the Sept. 18-19 edition, American Red Cross workers from Santa Monica were misidentified in their photos and in the article about them helping victims in hurricane-torn Florida.

Toby Book is a writer and has volunteered at the Red Cross since 1994. She went to Florida as part of the Red Cross' Disaster Action Team. Jerry Washington is a Red Cross employee.

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SURF REPORT

Today the old SSW(185-200) swell continues to back slide. A strong storm spinning off the south end of South America last week pushes up steep, long period SSE(165-180) swell.

Good exposures get waist- to chest-high waves off it. Look for the SSW surf to fade through Friday. Most areas miss the steep angled swell but best exposed areas will see head-high plus sets off it. That fills in some more on Friday then gradually heads out over the weekend.

Expect 3 to 4 feet and fair to good conditions.

Today the
water is:

72°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:30	1.7	6:55	0.7	12:01	4.3	11:54	5.7
SUNDAY	5:58	2.2	8:12	0.8	1:06	3.6	12:36	5.6
MONDAY	6:27	2.8	9:51	0.6	2:53	3.2	1:34	5.4
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	11:23	0.3	N/A	N/A	3:00	5.3
WEDNESDAY	10:23	3.4	N/A	N/A	7:05	3.7	4:39	5.4
THURSDAY	12:29	-0.1	12:02	3.0	7:35	4.1	5:58	5.7
FRIDAY	1:19	-0.4	1:03	2.4	8:03	4.5	7:00	6.0

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The Line

Since the 1990s, Santa Monica City Hall has been closed to the public every other Friday. It's part of a statewide effort to reduce car trips — to cut down on pollution and traffic.

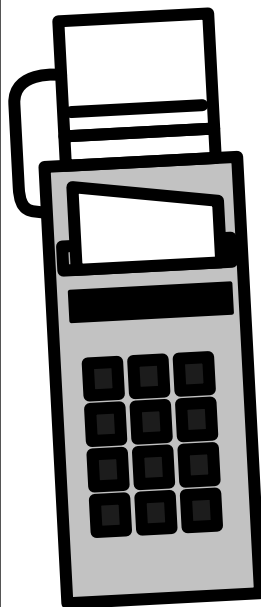
Several other cities also are part of the program, but practice it in different forms. In Santa Monica, employees are supposed to work 80 hours a week in nine days, with most taking the 10th day off. Other cities just reduce their staff levels and keep their services available on Fridays.

But staff are considering opening some

departments, like building and safety, to the public five days a week. The idea was proposed in a recent study looking at inefficiencies within City Hall, which also suggested customer service needs improvement.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think City Hall should be open five days a week? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in our weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help if you think about the wording of your response first.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put a muzzle on your dog

Editor:

In the Sept. 18-19 weekend edition of the SMDP, you once again fail to bring up pertinent facts regarding this so-called dog beach.

First, how can you do an article highlighting this group's leader, Georja Umano, while maintaining your objectivity without mentioning how Georja manages her own her own dog, Marcello? I live around Joslyn Park and have spoken to many neighbors that live around Georja. While Georja may be a nice person, she allows her dog to continually bark and make a nuisance all around Sixth Street as I have witnessed. Just ask the neighbors that live next door to her.

How can an individual who cannot even take care of her own animal be entrusted to take care of a so-called dog beach?

Your article also fails to mention that although the dog beach people helped clean the Santa Monica Bay, the fact remains that Heal the Bay and other environmental organizations have come out against this so-called dog beach.

Furthermore, your article also fails to mention the public safety issues surrounding urine in the sand, which cannot be cleaned up, as well as the fact that the Los Angeles Lifeguard Association and other emergency agencies have come out against this so-called dog beach for the obvious reasons of emergency response and human safety.

Perhaps your next article will highlight these issues.

Ben Jacobs
Save the Sand Committee

Incumbent states for the record

Editor:

Let me emphasize — as I did when I spoke to the Santa Monica Police Officers Association — that I believe the long-term solution to the regional problem of homelessness requires involvement of Los Angeles County, plus all cities in the area. Otherwise, the problem simply gets shuffled from one city to another, with no one committed to a real, long-term solution.

That said, I do believe there are shorter-term approaches Santa Monica can take in

the interim to make our local residents feel more secure, while providing clean and safe facilities for the homeless in designated areas at night — conditioned on their contributions of responsible public service to our city during the day. By providing these specific locations, we can assure cost-effective hygiene controls, including portable toilets and showers, that protect the health of our entire community.

And by making sure we have specific areas designated for the homeless to sleep, we reduce the scope and budget of the law enforcement task now required to address the homeless problem, as well as a reduction in the time and investment in paramedic services we currently spend on the homeless. At the same time, this approach can provide far more peace of mind for older residents, women and others who have the right to feel safe at any time of the day or night as they walk through their neighborhoods, without being forced to worry about potential threats from unknown people who are sleeping in doorways, on benches, under bushes, etc. Contrast this approach with the program advocated by the current council majority — an approach even they admit has not been successful.

On the issue of my energy level, let me say that having served four years under a 5-2 council majority has proven to me that working with a majority pushing a narrow political agenda on behalf of a political machine takes far more dedication and energy than having a diverse council of independent thinkers interested in real solutions to our city's problems.

I am delighted and excited that I continue to maintain the high level of energy necessary to perform this job. I will admit that it would be more fun to serve on a council where I was not often on the short end of a string of 5-2 votes. But the voters of Santa Monica can easily remedy that situation in November by electing a new and independent majority to serve with me on the council — rather than the current majority that represents the single-minded agenda of a long-standing political machine. That would certainly be a step in the direction of creating workable answers to our homeless problem as well as other challenges facing the city. We need to change the council majority, and I will focus my energies on making this happen so we can work together to realize the full potential and safety of this great city.

Herb Katz
Santa Monica City Council

Editor's note: Any letters to the editor submitted by candidates for local office that promote their respective platforms will not be accepted by the Daily Press during the campaign season. Candidates may submit letters that are rebuttals to direct criticism. Letters intended to correct the record will be considered.

Top 20 FAQ's about Ron's 'news on the edge'

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH

To help enhance and facilitate your page 4 experience, this space today will be used to present the most frequently asked questions that have come, or may come, in response to this column. It should be used as a quick reference point for future adversarial letter writers. Please refer to this list before pushing the "send" button and firing off your best shots. The answers are presented as concisely as possible in order to create a more user-friendly interface.

FAQ #1: Ron Scott, can't you see any good whatsoever coming from what you call the "great bottomless" war that you constantly rail against?
Answer: **No.**

FAQ #2: Can't you see any good whatsoever coming from our current national leadership, what you call "Bushamerica," that you constantly rail against?
Answer: **No.**

FAQ #3: Can't you see any good whatsoever coming from what you call "Right Radio," led by the fair Rush Limbaugh

and the balanced Bill O'Reilley, that you constantly rail against?
Answer: **No.**

FAQ #4: Can't you see any good whatsoever coming from what you call the "mindlessly jingoistic" songs of country mega-star Toby Keith, who you constantly rail against?
Answer: **No.**

FAQ #5: We're in that Iraq quagmire now, up to our eyeballs, so what do we do, wink, say "just kidding," and leave?
Answer: **Yes.**

FAQ #6: If not America, then exactly who would you dare allow to decide the future of Iraq?
Answer: **Iraqis.**

FAQ #7: Admit it, we really "put a boot up their butt," just like Toby Keith said we would, in that "major conflict" part of the thing, didn't we?
Answer: **Yes.**

FAQ #8: How would you describe what's been happening in the year-and-a-half since we really "put a boot up their butt," just like Toby Keith said we would, in that "major conflict" part of the thing?
Answer: **Hell.**

FAQ #9: What was that on the T-shirt

of Toby's nemesis, Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maynes, when she sang at an awards show not too long ago?
Answer: **FUTK.**

FAQ #10: What does FUTK mean?
Answer: **Editor won't let me tell you.**

FAQ #11: Was this the sly, evil despot, Saddam Hussein's plan all along — to let the invading forces conquer without resistance or reason, and then engage them in the deadly urban guerilla warfare we've seen all over Iraq?
Answer: **Yes.**

FAQ #12: What do you love most about the expiration of the 10-year ban on assault weapons last week, which occurred as our leader of the "war on terror" winked at his huge NRA voting bloc and conveniently looked the other way?
Answer: **My new Uzi.**

FAQ #13: What do you love second-most about it?
Answer: **My new AK-47.**

FAQ #14: What do you love most about your new toys?
Answer: **The 600 rounds-per-minute.**

FAQ #15: What do you love most about the 600 rounds-per-minute?
Answer: **I'll finally get a deer.**

FAQ #16: What exactly is the Department of Homeland Security doing?
Answer: **Uh, I'll get back to you.**

FAQ #17: Why does "blood" red seem to be the color you think we should permanently be on, in the highly-sophisticated terror-alert-color-code-warning-scale thing the Department of Homeland Security came up with?
Answer: **Matches my car.**

FAQ #18: Can you honestly sit there with a straight face and tell us we would be safer and better off under John Kerry's watch?
Answer: **Yes.**

FAQ #19: Why are there only two off-leash dog parks in Santa Monica, none on the beach, while there are more than 5,000 registered canines in the city?
Answer: **Two-legged creatures rule.**

FAQ #20: Why do you sacrifice your immense gravitas and write about Lakers, football and sports bars sometimes?
Answer: **I get a big headache trying to figure out the world every week, OK?**

(Send extra strength pain medication to Ron Scott Smith. E-mail him at edge-ofthewest@aol.com).



YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

OPINION

The political fight is in the wild, wild West



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D

Good news on the campaign trail — the candidates have finally begun to recognize that the real battleground is not the “rust belt,” but instead the western frontier.

According to Nick Anderson’s report in the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday, both Kerry and Bush have continued spending money in New Mexico and started spending money in Nevada. Bush also has starting spending in Colorado and Arizona. Of course, each campaign is spending in more states across the country, but these changes reflect a new understanding of the race.

For most of this election, both candidates have been veritably entrenched in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan and Wisconsin. Both campaigns have held to a core belief that the entire presidential election hinged on the way these states would swing.

While they are probably right about the importance of these states from a numerical standpoint (Electoral College vote count), they are very likely wrong in believing that these states would swing much further beyond their recent electoral history.

Swinging requires the electorate to move from one party to another. It requires change. Electorates can only change in two ways: Either people change (individuals switch parties), or the demographic make-up of the electorate changes (groups change in relative proportion to each other).

In the five battleground states in the “rust belt,” the only change that has occurred has been a continued shrinking of the electorate as people leave these states for warmer climates. Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan and Wisconsin lost five Electoral College votes between them in the last reapportionment. For the individuals who have remained in those states, I’m doubtful that change of any kind is on their list of solutions to the increasing number of challenges that are facing them and their communities.

Yet, the campaigns believed that the conditions in these states — the poor economy, the high unemployment rates and the feelings of insecurity — would motivate the electorate to behave differently. They expected Ohioans and Pennsylvanians alike to vote opposite from their vote in the previous election. They expected the people to change.

Might as well ask them to move states. Change is a high-risk strategy. You must be a good salesman to be able to sell change. Neither candidate is that great of a salesman. Kerry is no Clinton and Bush is no Reagan. Probably wasn’t such a smart strategy.

Where should the campaigns have focused their attention? Where they are finally starting to look now, and where the 2000 census told them to focus all along — the West.

In the reapportionment,

Nevada, Arizona and Colorado gained four Electoral College votes, and their populations are still growing. According to a report by Texas A&M Professor Rogelio Saenz, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona are three of the 10 states in the U.S. that have the largest Latino population, and Nevada is one of 10 states with the fastest growing Latino population.

This is important because for many Latinos, partisanship is not yet firmly rooted. Many are new voters — some are even new citizens. If the parties are going to spend resources working to persuade voters, then they should be working in places of opportunity.

In Colorado alone, out of the 3.2 million citizens who are over 18, there are 435,000 Latinos. According to a recent poll, they prefer Kerry to Bush 54 percent to 31 percent. Kerry has an enormous opportunity in Colorado, yet he isn’t even spending money there. Granted, this likely has to do with their ballot proposition, which makes the effort futile because even if Kerry won the state, he might only win five of the nine Electoral College votes. Still, the Democratic Party should work to defeat the proposition and build a voting block in Colorado that would vote Democratic for years to come.

Currently, the candidates are tied within the margin of error in most state polls (Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico). There has been movement back and forth between the candidates all summer long. The only state that appears out of reach for Kerry at the moment is Arizona, where Bush is leading in most polls by about 10 points.

HERE'S THE THING:

You can’t spend your time fighting the last campaign. Gore lost West Virginia and Ohio, and Kerry seems convinced that if he just wins those states, the election is his. Meanwhile, Bush wants to repeat his wins, and add on some of the blue Midwest (Michigan and Wisconsin).

But like the debate about which candidate did what during Vietnam, it’s long since over. Move on. Fight the battle in front of you — whether it’s Iraq, the economy, or the western frontier and the changing American electorate. If you stay stuck in the past, you’ll soon be history.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

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LOCAL

Office seekers sign the 'CEPS' schools pledge

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVE. — Several City Council candidates pledged Monday to support a contract between City Hall and the school district that will secure at least \$6 million a year for local education.

All but two council candidates attended a candidate forum at Franklin Elementary School organized by "Community for Excellent Public Schools," also known as CEPS.

Only one candidate — Kathryn Morea — hedged on the pledge, declining to sign the document. Morea is backed by the Chamber of Commerce, which supports city funding to local schools.

"I didn't sign the pledge because I was concerned that if I signed it before I was on City Council and I had to hear from two sides on a school issue that I would be prejudiced," Morea explained. "Not that I don't support it. I admire what CEPS did. I just thought that I might have to recuse myself later on if something comes up."

CEPS viewed the forum as an opportunity for the public to evaluate both school board and City Council candidates on the

issue of education.

Earlier this year, CEPS brought forward a controversial charter amendment that would have forced City Hall to give the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District a minimum of \$6 million every year. It would have required voter approval in November.

But in May — six months prior to the election — City Hall and the school district entered into an agreement that was along the lines of CEPS' demands, a move that the organization's members applauded. Shortly before the deadline for submitting signatures that would have qualified the measure for the election, the school board and the City Council reached a voluntary, negotiated agreement. The compromise agreement mirrored the CEPS measure in many ways, providing predictable, long-term funding to public education from City Hall with increases tied to the city's revenue growth.

"The agreement was that the city would give \$6 million each fiscal year to the district, with increases as available funds increase," said Shari Davis, CEPS co-chair, who got involved in the organization in 1999.

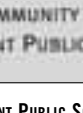
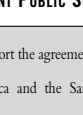
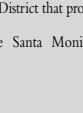
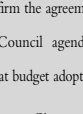
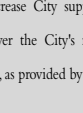
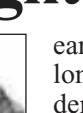
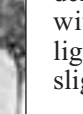
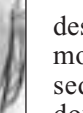
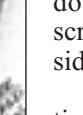
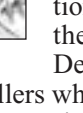
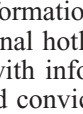
But, Davis said, an official contract has yet to be created.

"The city is working on the wording, so we're waiting to see the actual contract," she said. "Everybody is fairly confident that it will be as it was presented in May."

The terms of the agreement, which is not yet signed, requires City Hall to provide a minimum of \$6 million in annual revenues to the school district for five years. After that, the current city administration has indicated that the contract should be renewed for another five years. The proposed charter amendment would have required City Hall to fund schools indefinitely.

Last year's contribution to the school district from City Hall was \$5.25 million — its regular \$3 million annual contribution, plus \$2.25 million in one-time funds. City Hall also dolled out one-time funds above and beyond its annual contribution in previous years, despite its own budget problems.

The school district faced a \$13 million budget shortfall last year, but was able to close the gap through personnel cuts, and new revenue sources such as the parcel tax, which brings in \$6.5 million annually over the next five years.

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	X Linda Armstrong
	X Bill Bauer
	X Richard Bloom
	X David Cole
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	X Patricia Hoffman
	X Herb Katz
	X Maria Loya
	X Jonathan Mann
	X Kathryn J. Morea
	X Bobby Shriver

All but one City Council candidate signed a pledge promising future funding to local schools.

Shooting suspect sought by police

By Daily Press staff

POLICE HDQRTS.

Police have released a sketch of the man believed to have shot a woman while walking in her Sunset Park neighborhood this past weekend.

The woman was released from a local hospital after she was shot in the right arm while walking in the 800 block of Pacific Street at 3:45 a.m. Sunday.

She told police that a man pulled up in a car and stopped next to her. He tried to talk to her and when she looked toward him, she saw him pointing a gun at her. While she was running away, the victim heard a loud pop and she realized that she'd been shot.

The suspect is described as a white male, possible European, in his late 20s to



early 30s, having a thin, long neck and round shoulders, an oval shaped head with prominent features, light brown wavy hair and a slight accent.

The suspect's vehicle is described as a '90s Toyota model, perhaps a Camry sedan, with power windows, minor dents and scratches on the passenger side.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-

8491. Callers who wish to provide anonymous information also may call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME. Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

Malibu district gains momentum

SCHOOLS, from page 1

for voters to ultimately decide. Candidates for the school board also have said little about the idea other than that they support a split if it becomes apparent that it's in the best interest of students.

Organizers first unveiled their plans for the split at an invitation-only party for Malibu education leaders on Aug. 1. About 90 people attended the event, most of them expressing support for the plan.

Sorce said the signatures collected before the petitions were deemed invalid were the result of about five days, making him optimistic that the 3,000 signatures will be gathered without any problem. Still, Sorce said he does occasionally hear concerns from people worried that the split may not be the right choice for the city.

"The concern I hear the most often is, 'can we afford this and will our taxes increase?'" Sorce said. "Our research indicates we can support a separate district with existing revenue streams and no tax increase."

A study on the split indicates that with about \$12 million in daily attendance dollars and an estimated lump sum of \$8 million in other funds, the district could be self supporting, said Thomas M. Griffin, a Sacramento educator and former counsel for the State Board of Education, who was hired to complete a 27-page analysis of the proposal.

Sorce said he also hears concern from teachers who are worried that the terms of their existing contracts would no longer be valid should a split occur. The teachers, for example, are currently eligible for inter-district transfers. There also are questions surrounding students who are in Malibu by permit but live outside of the area.

"There are some concerns," said Susan Holley, a Malibu parent. "We're doing our best to address them."

The group also is anxious to begin collecting signatures — again.

"We're excited about the prospect," she said. "We already have a lot of support at different levels, both young and old."



LOCAL



Bush Administration says it will respond to report

OCEANS, from page 1

activities in offshore waters."

The change was one of a few minor modifications to a draft report the commission issued in April. It was included after several governors, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, expressed fears that drawing on federal royalties from offshore gas exploration could create incentives for more drilling and pumping.

"I support the establishment of an Ocean Policy Trust Fund as well as a thorough evaluation of all available funding sources and partnership opportunities," Schwarzenegger wrote to the commission. The letter insisted, however, that "no incentives for additional offshore oil and gas development be created through the use of funds from these revenue sources."

Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, a local non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Santa Monica Bay, said the draft report is weak on addressing storm water runoff and the pollution it carries to the Pacific Ocean. The report doesn't address water quality regulations or any associated funding, he added. However, Gold did say the report is comprehensive on how to deal with fisheries management.

The Bush Administration is known for not being environmentally friendly and Gold doubts anything will be done soon regarding safeguarding oceans.

"Everyone is really hoping the Bush Administration would adopt the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy," he said. "My expectation is that obviously Bush's record on the environment is a definite Achilles heel ... it's so far off the radar and it's not like the environment is a big part of the campaign."

The proposal for an Ocean Policy Trust Fund is among 212 recommendations the commission made in its 610-page final report, the first federal review of ocean policy in 35 years. By law, President Bush now has 90 days to respond to the recommendations.

The 16-member commission's chairman, retired Navy admiral and former Energy Secretary James Watkins, held a press conference Monday with Sens. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, D-S.C., to urge the Bush administration to act.

"The oceans are saying, 'We've had it, human beings. Give us a break,'" Watkins said.

"We need to treat it today or in 2010 we aren't going to be able to recover," he said.

Watkins delivered the report earlier to

administration officials, who welcomed its recommendations in a conference call with reporters. James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said the administration strongly supports the commission and will move quickly to respond.

Asked about the trust fund proposal, Connaughton said, "There are numerous competing proposals for those revenues as well, so we'll have to take a close look at that."

Lawmakers have already introduced bills enshrining various commission recommendations. A Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the report was set Tuesday. Also on the agenda was legislation by Hollings that seeks to establish a new national ocean policy and turn the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration into an independent agency separate from the Commerce Department. The co-chairmen of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus also have introduced a broad bill to improve oceans management that includes many of the commission's recommendations.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy spent 2 1/2 years studying coastal areas, the Great Lakes and 4.4 million square miles of ocean. It issued a grim assessment, pointing to rising sea temperatures that spread viruses and kill reefs; contaminated seafood; and pollution from urban and farm runoffs that causes algae blooms harmful to ocean life.

Among recommendations were to create a new Cabinet-level National Ocean Council, reform the management of domestic fisheries, give coastal commissions and other local government bodies more authority over growth and double the budget for ocean research.

The commission estimated the cost of its recommendations at \$1.3 billion the first year, \$2.4 billion the second year and \$3.2 billion annually after that.

The proposed trust fund would draw on \$5 billion annually in royalties and leases that now goes to the Treasury from offshore oil and gas drilling. The commission wants to use \$4 billion of that; the other \$1 billion already is directed to specific purposes. The commission also recommended tapping revenues from any new offshore activities, such as wind energy projects.

Recommendations from the last ocean commission report in 1969 led to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970 and coastal zone and fishery management laws in 1976.

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Check out next week's Q-Line Question only on page 3!

The Q-Line

Business

Do you know what your business is worth today?



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Individual investors are used to keeping a close eye on the value of their portfolios. But as a small-business owner, are you also keeping careful watch over the value of what is probably your biggest investment of all — your business? Although you may regularly monitor sales and profit figures, doing so without knowing how much your business is worth in today's market is comparable to looking only at your portfolio's earnings without knowing your portfolio's overall worth. Just as investment decisions should be geared toward maximizing the value of your portfolio, the same criteria should apply to decisions that affect your small business.

Current valuations are important. Most small business owners realize the importance of knowing their company's worth during major transitional periods such as mergers and acquisitions, shareholder buyouts and initial public offerings. However, every major business decision

you make has the potential to affect the value of your company. Have you ever thought about relocating to more modern facilities, upgrading your technology, expanding your product line or changing your management team? If so, knowing the current value of your business will help you to more accurately predict what the impact of such actions is likely to be.

Professional valuations are necessary. When asked, small business owners regularly over- or under-estimate the value of their companies by as much as 50 percent, which is understandable given the complexity of the valuation process. Although no single formula can realistically estimate the value of your business, there are some basic variables that can be applied in most situations. They include current market conditions and the company's stock value, earnings history, financial condition and future earnings capacity. However, even those basic components may not be as simple as they appear since

they deal with numerous complicated factors, such as supply and distribution contracts, tangible and intangible assets, and pending legal and regulatory issues, among others. Professional valuation firms — some of which specialize in serving small- to medium-sized businesses — have the resources and experience to collect and interpret this essential information.

Different types of business valuations feature different levels of complexity. As a small business owner, the type that's best for you will probably depend on why you're having the valuation prepared.

If you're preparing a valuation for tax and estate planning purposes, a "59-60" appraisal may be your best choice. Based on IRS Revenue Ruling 59-60 — the IRS standard for estate and gift tax purposes — a "59-60" valuation compares a privately-held company to public companies in the same or a similar line of business and then applies a lack of marketability discount or a control premium.

If, however, you're preparing a valuation for a specific proposal such as a sale, merger or acquisition, you'll probably need a more detailed appraisal tailored specifically to the proposal. In general, transactional appraisals will require more time and money than "59-60" valuations

because of the additional factors, such as products, management and competitors that need to be examined.

Regardless of which type of valuation you need, it should be updated on a regular basis. If you review your business plan once a year, consider updating your business valuation at that time. Doing so will help you to evaluate the effectiveness of last year's business decisions and may even offer some insight into the year ahead. And remember, your business decisions — like the decisions that affect your portfolio — should always be geared toward maximizing the value of your investment.

(This article does not constitute tax or legal advice. Consult your tax or legal advisor before making any tax- or legally-related investment decisions. Any particular investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual circumstances and objectives. Morgan Stanley is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC. Morgan Stanley financial advisors Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown can be reached at their Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5210).

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STATE



Americans pounding more cheese than ever

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — Americans are eating more cheese than ever — more than 30 pounds a person per year — and their appetite for more variety is growing, a national survey says.

In 2003, Americans ate a record 8.8 billion pounds of cheese. That's two and a half pounds a month for every man, woman and child, according to a survey released Tuesday by the California Milk Advisory Board.

Most of the demand is being fed by domestic suppliers, and California's megadairies are growing so fast that analysts expect the state to overtake Wisconsin in cheese production within two years.

California is already the nation's leading milk producer, and with the help of cheese makers like Hilmar Cheese Company — the largest in North America — the state has doubled its cheese production in the last decade.

In 1995, California made 70 varieties of cheese. Now there are 250 types of cheese coming out of the state — 815 million pounds of specialty flavored, rinsed, aged or fresh cheese per year.

The vast majority is commodity cheese, but Americans are also consuming much more specialty cheeses. Blues, sharps, aged varieties and fresh ones have grown five times as fast in the last decade as the cheddars and mozzarellas, the research showed.

One out of every 10 pounds of cheese eaten is a higher-quality, value-added

cheese such as artisan or farmstead varieties. Ten years ago, only one in 15 pounds of cheese consumed was specialty.

"People are traveling more, experiencing some of the cheeses in Europe, then looking for those cheeses in the U.S.," said the board's spokeswoman, Nancy Fletcher. "They are more adventuresome."

It's good news for California dairies, said Chuck Ahlem, a third-generation dairyman who had a bright idea back in the 1980s, difficult years for dairy farmers.

Ahlem and 11 other farmers in the fertile Central Valley realized that the area had the world's largest Jersey cow population. By pooling their resources, they could turn some of the high-protein, high-fat milk coming from their brown cows into cheese, a value-added product that would bring in a little extra cash.

When they started the Hilmar Cheese Co. in 1984, the 12 families together brought in 250,000 pounds of milk a day — a drop in a bucket for a company that now processes 10 million pounds of milk a day from more than 270 producers — about 10 percent of all the milk produced in California.

All that milk goes into 450 tons of basic cheeses like Monterey Jack and Cheddar, every single day.

"We were just glad to be in business back then," said Ahlem, who says he was as surprised as anyone by the nation's immense and still-growing appetite for dairy products.

The state's increasing milk production has meant tons of cheese — and profit — for the once small operation, which has

grown an average of 21 percent more each year for the last 19 years, said John Jeter, president and CEO of Hilmar Cheese Co.

"Cows never take a vacation, they don't shut off, they don't take holidays," Jeter said.

Hilmar products also are used in frozen dinners, fast food and baked goods, and whey — the liquid byproduct of cheese-making — which is used for infant formulas and protein drinks.

"People are eating more pizza, going out to eat more, and the demand for cheese has increased significantly," said Michael Marsh, CEO of Western United Dairymen, whose members produce 60 percent of California's milk.

America's hunger for cheese was

dampened a bit when consumers traveled and ate out less following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now their appetite is back, which is good for the dairy business, but hard on already expanding waistlines.

Cheese has great nutritious value, and brings calcium back into diets that have substituted milk for sodas. But it also makes food taste better, making it easier to eat too much, said Judith S. Stern, vice president of the American Obesity Association.

"It's terrific that we're eating more cheese, but bottom line, all calories count," said Stern, who also teaches nutrition at the University of California, Davis. She suggests people should "try to eat cheese in slightly different ways, with pears or apple slices — expanding your diet."

Schwarzenegger smoking tent led to flooding in California Capitol

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A tent constructed so Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger could smoke his cigars at the state Capitol contributed to some of the water damage suffered during a sudden rainstorm Sunday, state officials said Tuesday.

The artificial lawn covering the Republican governor's smoking patio blocked at least one drain during the downpour, helping drench some offices, said Scott Edelen, a spokesman for the Department of General Services.

After taking office last year, Schwarzenegger, a cigar enthusiast, installed a small smoking tent in the middle of the ground-floor patio outside the governor's office. He also had a layer of artificial grass placed over existing concrete.

"At least one of the drains was covered," Edelen said. "The turf impeded the flow of water into it, for sure. But the main contributor was the 2 inches of rain in an hour. ... It was too much rain in an hour."

The artificial turf still remains in the Capitol courtyard, but has been moved away from the drains, Edelen said.

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STATE

Cheap rural land lures Californians with spirit

BY NICHOLAS YULICO
 Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND — Looking out at 500 acres of land is awe-inspiring. But for Danielle Fitzpatrick, it means something more. Sitting on the side of a hill in New Mexico, the view leaves the Oakland resident with a feeling of “total exhale.”

It’s an emotion that comes from owning a good chunk of American land, something that connects her to the homesteaders and pioneers of the past.

“I feel like something I’ve been looking for all those years has been fulfilled,” she said. “I had a feeling of completion after I bought that property — like I could stop looking for my spot on Earth now.”

Fitzpatrick, who is in her 50s and has made her living in the alternative health field as a masseuse and nutritional counselor, is among Californians who have realized their lifelong dreams of buying land in rural America, often at prices far lower than in California.

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It’s an emotion that comes from owning a good chunk of American land, something that connects her to the homesteaders and pioneers of the past.

cultural consultant or farm manager,” Gilliland said.

Appraisers can tell you what land is actually worth. But sometimes the process is cost prohibitive. Experts suggest you call local real estate agents and find out what similar property is going for in your area of interest.

Buyers also need to check the zoning of the land they’re considering. Some counties prohibit mobile homes on land, while other areas have no building codes, allowing people to just throw up a board and call it a house.

Another “must-have,” experts say, is title insurance, which insures that you own the property. During this process, you make sure you can access the property. Not every area has public roads. Some locations require you to go through “easements” or rights of way through a neighbor’s property.

Compared to California’s prices, the land can often be very inexpensive. But prices for rural land have been going up in the past several years, driven by low interest rates and a stock market that has failed to produce good returns on investment.

A primary driver in the national market has been people purchasing land for getaways or recreational purposes, such as hunting, fishing and bird watching.

In Texas, prices jumped 13 percent in 2003, driven largely by the recreational market, with hunting and fishing accounting for 68 percent of buyers’ motives, according to the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

Miller has been seeing demand particularly strong for land in Florida, Arizona and Colorado, and prices have been rising accordingly. He said that buying land in any of those areas would be a good investment.

Other buyers are couples nearing retirement age, looking to get a head start on their future homes.

For some people, the motivation is to “get off the grid” and cut off connection to power lines and phone lines, opting for solar power and cell phones instead.

In areas near Flagstaff, Ariz., people can buy land that has no water system and on which a well cannot be dug. Residents head miles outside their homes to “water haul

areas” where they fill up their water supply for the week. Forty-acre parcels in these areas used to sell for \$5,000 but are now selling for \$50,000, Miller said.

Because Arizona and Colorado are often the first destinations for Californians looking to buy rural land, places like New Mexico offer cheaper options.

Susan McCockran, a 50-year-old Oakland pre-school teacher, and her family purchased 30 acres of land near Magdalena, N.M. — outside Albuquerque — from New Mexico Land three years ago for \$38,000.

“The purchase of the land was less than what some cars cost,” she said.

Their “straw bale” house will rely on solar paneling for energy. The family also is initially opting not to drill a well, and will instead rely on hauling their water and storing it in a holding tank. A septic tank was installed at a cost of \$3,500.

The total cost to build a house on the land will probably be about \$50,000, she said, with the family’s labor helping cut down the price.

“We’re putting sweat equity in, which cuts the price down,” she said. “It shows ordinary people that you can do this.”

The family chose to avoid a large mortgage and instead draws funds from smaller lines of credit not secured by the property. Her husband is a registered nurse and can put in extra hours to help with their budget.

“I will never regret it,” she said. “I think it was a little scary to do in the beginning, but I’m glad that I took the deep breath and jumped in and did it.”

But while rural life might be the American Dream in action for some, it’s not for everyone.

“A lot of people living in the cities, they need to be within five miles of a Wal-Mart, of K-Mart or major shopping,” Miller said.

Then there’s the commuting factor.

“It’s very different from driving up to your summer cottage in Tomales Bay,” said Fitzpatrick, who either flies direct to Albuquerque or has a transfer in Denver, where summer thunderstorms and winter snow can delay flights.

Once she arrives in Albuquerque, she has about a 1 1/2-hour drive to her home on roads where the speed limit is 75 miles per hour.

And when she gets there, she camps in the wilderness and ponders whether she’ll eventually build a house to call her permanent home. But until then, she looks out on her 500 acres and takes comfort in the fact that her dream has come true.

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STATE



Group says Indians suffer from substandard housing

BY FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Housing on Indian reservations is plagued by substandard infrastructure and overcrowded conditions that can lead to a host of health problems, an advocacy group said Monday.

The National American Indian Housing Council's survey of Indian housing authorities, unveiled at a news conference, found that 83 percent reported "substandard" housing on their reservation, while 59 percent said housing was overcrowded.

The group used the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of overcrowding — more than one person per room.

The survey found that most housing authorities reported that the housing problems led to health and societal problems ranging from alcoholism to sleep deprivation.

"The federal government has not done its share," said the council's chairman, Chester Carl. He called on the White House to set up a working group of government agencies to address the problem.

The report was timed to come out on the eve of the opening of the Smithsonian's new National Museum of the American Indian.

"Tomorrow's opening of the National Museum of the American Indian is a

cause for celebration, but our story is not all celebratory," said Gary Gordon, the council's executive director.

Wealthy tribal leaders in town for the opening said Monday they are developing a plan to forge business relationships with more Indian-run companies to help boost the Indian economy around the country.

Dave Anderson, the head of the government's Bureau of Indian Affairs, didn't challenge the council's findings.

"The observations by this group are very accurate," Anderson, a Choctaw and Ojibwe Indian from Minnesota, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "As Indian people, we have been almost like a Third World developing nation. It's unfortunate that America's first people probably experience the bottom rung of every social dysfunction there is."

Anderson said he was working with federal housing officials to "cut red tape" in order to promote home ownership as a means to improve housing conditions.

"I am a firm believer that if we are going to have economically thriving communities, we have to have home ownership as a base," he said.

He said his department was exploring ways to work with the Housing and Urban Development Department to create innovative programs to help Indians buy their own homes.

Drones have role in border surveillance, officials say

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Unmanned aerial vehicles have a place as a Border Patrol surveillance tool in helping agents seeking to control illegal immigration and drug-smuggling, two Homeland Security undersecretaries said Tuesday.

But deciding exactly what capabilities the drones should have will be part of an analysis and evaluation of how two unmanned aircraft performed this summer in tests along the Arizona-Mexico border.

"Clearly they added value," said Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security. "Clearly they allowed us to apprehend more aliens that we would not have apprehended otherwise, allowed us to rescue and save a life, allowed us to do some additional drug seizures."

Two Israeli-built Hermes 450 unmanned aerial vehicles had flown more than 475 hours through mid-September and were credited for more than 780 apprehensions, 11 drug detections including one seizure of more than 500 pounds of marijuana, and assistance in several rescues.

The drones also were used in place of deploying agents to check on what set off various ground sensors.

The aircraft, which were included as part of a crackdown aimed at slowing illegal immigration and drug trafficking into Arizona from Mexico, cost DHS some \$2 million apiece.

Charles McQueary, DHS undersecretary for science and technology, said the Hermes aircraft were used in the pilot program because they were available and could be deployed quickly.

"And the issue was not one of, was that the UAV to be used, but rather in the context of, is the UAV useful?" he said.

There's no question that drones will help along the borders, according to McQueary.

He said his agency's role will be to sort out what features and abilities the aircraft to be used will need, from cameras and radar to infrared and radio, "and then we can work the issue of getting that capability down."

The use of less expensive drones also will be examined, McQueary said.

President Bush has requested \$10 million in fiscal 2005 for border security drones, and the department could shift more money to drones "based upon what we view as the success and potential," Hutchinson said.

Officials have said the Hermes aircraft also will be tested along the Canadian border.



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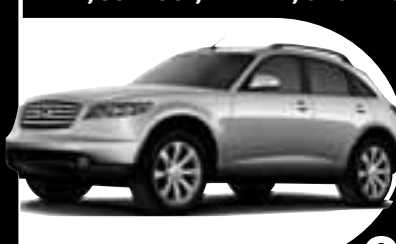
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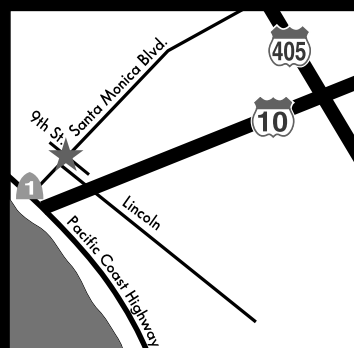
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**BUYING
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BY BRENT PARSONS

On the day when a home becomes yours officially, known as closing day, you will have to pay fees for the services of several parties.

In a typical real estate deal, closing costs total 2 to 5 percent of the purchase price of the property. You shouldn't ignore them in figuring the amount of money you need to close the deal. Here are some typical closing costs — listed from those which are usually largest to those which are typically the smallest. Exact fees vary by property cost and location:

Withholding tax: In 2002, the California State legislature added the withholding legislation as a measure to balance the state budget. The law requires the real property buyer to withhold from what would be paid to the seller an amount of 3.33 percent of the gross sale price. It does not take into account costs of the sale such as real estate commissions or other settlement costs.

If you are an individual selling real property, the buyer will not have to withhold from your proceeds if the sale price is less than \$100,000, if you are selling your principal residence or if you are selling at a loss.

The California Franchise Tax Board governs the withholding procedures through a division called the Withholding Services and Compliance Section. For more information on this process you can call (888) 792-4900 and at: <http://www.ftb.ca.gov/geninfo/wscs/index.html>. You may check the Franchise Tax Board Web site to see how the process currently works and for any updates.

Loan origination fees, also called "points," and other loan charges: The fees and charges range from nothing to 3 percent of the amount borrowed. Lenders

generally charge all sorts of fees for things such as appraising the property, pulling your credit report, preparing loan documents, and processing your application. You also may be charged a loan-origination fee, which may be 1 or 2 percent of the loan amount. If you're strapped for cash, you can get a loan that has few or no fees. However, such loans have substantially higher interest rates over time.

Closing fees: Closing fees range from several hundred to more than \$1,000, based on the purchase price of your home. The fees cover the cost of handling all the purchase-related documents and funds.

Homeowners insurance: This insurance typically costs from several hundred to more than \$1,000, depending on the value of your home and how much coverage you want. You can't get a mortgage unless you prove to the lender that you have adequate homeowners insurance coverage. Lenders usually insist that you pay the first year's premium on your insurance policy at the time of the closing. If a current survey indicates flood plain on the property, flood insurance may be required by the lender. Flood insurance can be several hundred dollars, depending on the location and type of property.

Title insurance: This insurance typically costs from several hundred to \$1,000, depending on your home's purchase price. Lenders require title insurance to make sure that they are lending funds on property with a clear, marketable title. You also may purchase title insurance to protect you against the remote possibility that the person selling you the home doesn't legally own it. You will pay a modest, one time premium for title insurance if you purchase it at the closing.

Property taxes: The taxes are based upon the home's purchase price and the date of closing. At closing, you may have to reimburse the sellers for any property taxes that they paid in advance.

For example, suppose that before they sold their home to you, the sellers had already paid their property taxes through June 30. If the sale closes on April 30, you owe the sellers two months' property taxes — the tax collector won't refund the

property taxes they have already paid for May and June.

Inspections: Inspection fees can run from \$200 to \$600. Because you're likely not a home-inspection expert, you'll surely benefit from hiring someone who inspects property as a full-time job. Typically, you pay these costs directly, when you receive the inspection report. Your lender may require additional inspections if the property is on a well, septic system or has other unusual concerns.

Private mortgage insurance (PMI): If you put less than 20 percent down on a home, many mortgage lenders require that you take out private mortgage insurance. This type of insurance protects the lender in the event that you default. At closing, you need to pay anywhere from a couple months' premiums to more than a year's premium in advance. If you can, avoid this cost by making a 20 percent down payment or by obtaining 80-10-10 financing.

Prepaid loan interest: Lenders charge up to 30 days' interest on your loan to cover the interest that accrues from the date your loan is funded — usually one business day before the closing — up to 30 days prior to your first regularly scheduled loan payment. How much interest you actually have to pay depends on the timing of your first loan payment.

Miscellaneous fees: When you review the final closing statement, you will likely find several miscellaneous charges, such as recording fees for the deed and mortgage, overnight/courier fees, notary fees and document preparation fees. These fees can be less than \$50 or over \$100. Your purchase agreement should state who is responsible for fees charged in addition to the closing costs for the transaction. Charges on the closing statement that have not been clearly covered in the purchase agreement can cause unnecessary negotiations at the closing table.

(For all your real estate needs contact Brent Parsons at Pacific Ocean Real Estate at (310) 392-9223 or email him at bparsons@pacificoceanrealestate.com).

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1140 CHELSEA AVE #D	\$769,000	2	2.50	8	2,075	\$850,000
2329 KANSAS AVE #6	\$379,000	1	1.00	9	0	\$350,000
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1437 PRINCETON ST #2	\$599,000	2	2.50	5	1,587	\$599,000
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833 21ST ST #3	\$545,000	2	2.00	7	1,136	\$530,000
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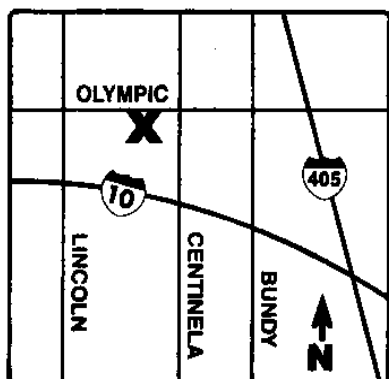
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City Council candidates vow to improve Santa Monica



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

The Santa Monica City Council dates back to March 28, 1906, when an election was held to approve the Santa Monica City Charter. Under the new charter, the City Council was comprised of one mayor with veto power, and one council member from each of its seven wards. The charter required weekly meetings. Council members received \$5 per meeting, which were not to exceed one per week.

In 1944, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce began a study of the problems confronting the city. It had become clear that Santa Monica was not flourishing under its system of divided authority in its city government, and by other repercussions from a charter adopted when Santa Monica had less than a 12,000 population. An elected board spent two years designing the current council-city manager form of government. Nearly half of the cities in the U.S. with populations of 2,500 or more operate under the council-city manager form of government with an elected governing body and a manager hired by that body to carry out the policies it establishes.

This year Santa Monica boasts an entertaining roster of candidates for this year's City Council election — healers, educators, politicians, service providers and the Governor's brother-in-law. We asked all candidates to answer the same question:

If you were elected to the Santa Monica City Council, will you explain how you will make a difference in 25 words or less.

Following, in alphabetical order are the responses we received. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. Support Santa Monica. Support Democracy. Vote.

"The front-burner issues of growth, traffic and open space, require my qualified commitment as a public servant. I look forward to the challenge."

Leticia Anderson
Nurse

andersontish@yahoo.com

"Santa Monica will be more 'user friendly.' I'll direct city resources to our citizens and implement common sense solutions to problems, especially vagrancy and traffic."

Bill Bauer
Advertising copy writer
bauer4council@aol.com

"I will continue being a voice for residents who want a livable Santa Monica: beautiful parks, safe streets, great schools and terrific neighborhoods."

Mayor Richard Bloom
richard@bloomlaw.net

"If elected I will represent the renters and homeowners. I am not part of the

good 'ol boy network that has run Santa Monica for decades."

David Cole
Health care administrator
Cole4Council@aol.com

"As a physician, I listen, evaluate data and make difficult decisions. I will prioritize city spending to give our citizens a better quality of life."

Matt Dinolfo
Physician/university teacher
dinolfom@aol.com

"As an independent and thoughtful problem solver, I listen to all voices in Santa Monica so that we can achieve the community we all desire."

Michael Feinstein
City Council member/author
mfeinstein@feinstein.org

"I will continue to emphasize the protection and improvement of residential neighborhoods, funding for education, resources to maintain public safety, and clean (and more) parks."

Ken Genser
City Council member
2004@genser.org

"I will protect our quality of life: Our first rates schools, neighborhood serving businesses, public safety, the arts, parks and beaches, clean air and water."

Patricia Hoffman
Community volunteer
phoffmansm@earthlink.net

"I will continue to serve as the voice of reason on the council to improve the quality of life for all residents of Santa Monica."

Herb Katz
City council member/architect
rtkarch@aol.com

"I will work to improve customer service in City Hall by advocating for a more responsive and accountable city process for property owners."

Maria Loya
Loyamaria@hotmail.com

"All candidates say they will be different. Most forget their promises when elected. I pledge to set up citizen oversight for accountability, to solicit and moderate input from residents, and provide feedback from polling the electronic plebiscite."

Jonathan Mann
Flight attendant
jonmann@adelphia.net

"All my life, I've organized and managed projects that have made people's lives better: I will apply the same dedication and resources to Santa Monica's problems: Homelessness, traffic, and lack of parkland."

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Paying capital gains taxes doesn't have to be painful



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

The volatile stock market, low interest rates and the thought of paying capital gains taxes are three of the major forces driving our commercial real estate market today.

As we all know, there are record setting prices being paid for commercial real estate, making it nearly impossible for some owners to resist selling their property. The problem is that when they sell, reaping tremendous profit, they are obligated to pay capital gains taxes, which is usually 20 percent to 25 percent.

There is a unique alternative to paying these taxes that does not put you at the mercy of the very tight commercial real estate market conditions.

A Private Annuity Trust could very well be the answer to the challenging, sometimes impossible, task of securing a property to complete a 1031 exchange in order to defer the payment of capital gains taxes.

A Private Annuity Trust allows the seller to defer the payment of capital gains taxes in the following way: The owner of the subject property (the annuitant) transfers ownership to a trustee prior to the sale of the property. The trustee then sells the property to the

buyer, getting cash for the property and holding it in a trust. The trust pays the seller with a special payment contract called a "private annuity," which stipulates that payments from the sale of the property go to the owner for the rest of his or her life. The trustee can invest the money held in trust.

The contract requires that the payments be made in installments. The amount of the payment is calculated by the life expectancy of the seller (how many years) divided into the amount of money in the trust, including any anticipated income from investment. The payment will be comprised of equal payments of the return of your basis in the property, the profit you made and any income from the investment of such proceeds. Out of this payment you will pay the capital gains taxes, recapture taxes (on previously taken depreciation) and income taxes owed for any return.

The best part of the private annuity trust is that you do not have to take the payments until you are 70 years old and there is great flexibility on how you can invest the money. The purpose of the investing is to insure the stream of payments to the annuitant for the rest of his/her life. Depending on your age at the time of setting up the annuity, the investment could very possibly make enough to pay the capital gains and recapture taxes before you even start taking the payments from the trust.

It is important to note that no matter how much the trust earns, the annuitant cannot receive more than the fixed payments. This

could be looked at as a negative but I think the important point here is that the annuitant will be receiving all of the accumulated interest on the unpaid balance of the principal, over time and the taxes will be paid in depreciated dollars (inflation) but the principal will be increasing.

The annuitant cannot be the trustee of the trust. The trustee can be any adult beneficiary or any adult, who is independent of the annuitant, for example, an attorney or an accountant. The amount of money in the trust is removed from the annuitant's

taxable estate making the tax obligation when the annuitant dies. Anything left over in the trust upon the annuitant's death goes to the beneficiaries, tax free.

(As always it is extremely important that you consult with your tax/legal professional regarding this subject. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings. You can reach her at (310) 806-6104 or cporter@naicapital.com)

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Location	Type	Date Leased	Sq. Ft.	Price
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1334 3rd St	Office	9/14/2004	1,200	\$2.60/fs
1519 6th St	Office	9/17/2004	2,001	\$1.99/mg
1750 14th St	Office	9/13/2004	3,500	\$1.95/mg
1750 14th St	Office	9/13/2004	3,500	\$1.95/mg
2658-2664 29th St	Retail	9/17/2004	2,920	\$2.45/fs
1811-1855 Centinela Ave	Office	9/15/2004	16,000	\$1.85/nnn *
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,900	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,850	\$2.00/mg *
3000 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	2,340	\$2.35/fs
3340 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	2,843	\$2.35/fs
3420 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	1,806	\$2.35/fs
501 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	9/20/2004	776	\$2.45/fs
233 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	1,040	\$3.10/fs
1821 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	1,450	\$2.95/fs
2716-2720 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/9/2004	5353	\$2.75/mg
2716-2720 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/17/2004	1,350	\$2.89/mg
2811 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/7/2004	2,443	\$2.60/fs *

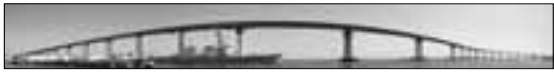
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Check out next week's Q-Line Question only on page 3!

The Q-Line

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NATIONAL

Bush accuses Kerry of 'mixed signals' that threaten troop morale

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. — President Bush on Wednesday accused Sen. John Kerry of sending “mixed signals” on the Iraq war that threaten U.S. troops’ morale and undermine Iraqis’ determination to face down insurgents.

“You cannot lead the war against terror if you wilt or waver when times get tough,” Bush said at a re-election rally.

“My opponent is sending mixed signals,” Bush said. “You cannot expect the Iraqi people to stand up and do the hard work of democracy if you’re pessimistic about their ability to govern themselves. You cannot expect our troops to continue to do the hard work if they hear mixed messages from Washington, D.C.”

Mocking what he called Kerry’s “many different positions on Iraq,” Bush said: “I’ll continue to speak clearly. I’ll continue to lead, and I’m confident we will achieve our objectives.”

Bush stepped up his criticism of Kerry as he juggled the demands of diplomacy and re-election politics.

In New York City, the president thanked Pakistan Gen. Pervez Musharraf for help in hunting down terrorists along Afghanistan’s border, but he sidestepped thorny issues. Then he flew to the battleground state of Pennsylvania for rallies and a tour of storm-damage areas.

The trip Wednesday was Bush’s 37th visit to the state he lost in 2000 and where four polls show the race a statistical tie. He surveyed flood damage in Allegheny County, where the remnants of Hurricane Ivan left heavy flooding.

“Our government is ready to help,” Bush said. The administration has declared 26 counties in Pennsylvania disaster areas.

The line between politics and diplomacy frequently blurred during Bush’s visit to the United Nations. The U.S. election was a topic in virtually every meeting Bush had with a foreign leader Tuesday

and Wednesday, said a senior administration official who attended the meetings and briefed reporters on condition he not be identified.

Bush told Indian Prime Minister Mammohan Singh “how important continuity in U.S. foreign policy is.”

Bush also met for just under an hour Wednesday with Pakistan’s Musharraf, a crucial ally in the war against terrorism but one with whom there are strains. The two men held a long handshake at a photo session but said nothing to reporters.

Musharraf, a general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and draws his political strength from the military, has given mixed signals in the past week as to whether he would fulfill a pledge to relinquish his separate role as army chief by year’s end.

Bush tried to nudge Pakistan into “moving forward with democratic institutions,” but did not press Musharraf to keep his promise, the U.S. official said.

As always with the delicate U.S.-Pakistan relationship, the administration highlighted areas of agreement. Islamabad’s efforts to combat al-Qaida and Taliban elements along Afghanistan’s border dominated their discussion, the official said.

Some 200 Pakistani forces have been killed in an offensive that started about a year ago and was reinvigorated over the summer. At least one Pakistani paramilitary member was killed by suspected militants in an attack on a convoy Wednesday.

Osama bin Laden is “very possibly” in the region, said the official who attended the Bush-Musharraf meeting.

The two leaders also talked about how to stamp out the remnants of the network of Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced founder of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons program who admitted in February to passing nuclear technology to other countries.

Bush did not press Musharraf to allow U.S. agents to interview Khan, a point of contention.

Widow of man killed by grizzlies sues state, federal agencies

By The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — The widow of a hunter mauled by a grizzly bear while he was gutting an elk he had shot is suing state and federal wildlife officials, saying negligent management practices led to her husband’s death.

Mary Ann Hilston contends the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks knew there was an aggressive grizzly bear with two cubs prowling the Clearwater Wildlife Management Area northeast of Missoula during the fall of 2001.

“The defendants knew that bears were becoming accustomed to gunshots and that bears were using the sound of gunshots as a ‘dinner bell,’” the women’s suit contends.

The agencies, which manage the

wildlife area, learned on Oct. 27, 2001, that an aggressive bear had taken over a hunter’s elk carcass in the area, but did nothing to warn hunters, the suit says. Hilston was attacked three days later.

The bears apparently surprised Hilston and bit him repeatedly. The 50-year-old hunter bled to death, the FWS’s investigation determined.

A search party found Hilston’s body the day after the attack, along with adult and juvenile grizzly bear tracks.

A trap was set for the bears, which returned to the scene three times. The bears were captured and killed by game wardens, who said the animals had acted aggressively toward a human. The sow weighed nearly 400 pounds.

The suit, filed in federal court in Helena, seeks a jury trial and unspecified damages.

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NATIONAL



Las Vegas renters caught in tight housing squeeze

BY J.M. KALIL
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas seeking new digs or out-of-towners relocating here have called upon apartment hunter Pat Stanley since 1989.

Stanley and her employees at Apartment Finding Service typically had little trouble placing people in a community in which constant building kept rent prices low and supply steady despite a booming population.

Then, last spring, that trend came to a halt.

"It's a different world than it has been for the last 15 years," Stanley said. "We're having just a terrible time trying to accommodate people, and when we can, they're looking at serious rent increases."

A confluence of factors has gripped the Las Vegas apartment market and, in an echo of the red-hot housing market, sent supply plummeting and rents soaring.

Escalating costs for land, materials and permits have all but stopped apartment construction in favor of more lucrative home building.

Simultaneously, thousands of existing apartments are being turned into condos to accommodate buyers who can't afford rapidly rising housing costs.

With the apartment market shrinking, locals displaced by condo conversion are competing for a place to live with thousands of people moving here each month.

Not surprisingly, apartment complexes have seen their occupancy rates swell from about 92 percent six months ago to 98 percent. It's suddenly a landlord's market.

The monthly rent on the average Las Vegas apartment increased from \$739 in early 2000 to \$768 in late 2003, according to market research firm CB Richard Ellis. That's an average rent increase of only \$7.25 a year, or less than 1 percent annually.

Rents this year have been rising at more than four times that pace, increasing 2 percent in the first six months of 2004 alone, to an average \$784.

Landlords and property managers are almost giddy about demand that will allow some to raise rents at double-digit percentages.

"I have never seen anything like it. I'm just ecstatic," said Karen Mordue, regional marketing director for Camden, which has about 10,000 units in 17 complexes. "We're trying to take advantage of it, but obviously we don't want to gouge our residents."

Complex operators foresee rent increases from 8 percent to 12 percent this year and in 2005, said Bruce Monzulla, president of Realty Management Inc., which manages more than 18,000 apartments in Las Vegas, about 10 percent of the market.

As for incentives such as a free month's rent, forget about it.

"Six months ago, 90 percent of properties were giving discounts or incentives, and now it's about 10 percent and you're dealing with waiting lists," said Apartment Finding Service's Stanley. "There are far fewer apartments out there and a lot more people looking for them."

Clark County issued permits for more than 4,500 apartments last year, up from an average of 3,100 each of the four previous years.

So far this year, only 168 apartment permits have been issued — a more than 94 percent decline in apartment construction, despite about 5,000 people relocating here each month.

Dozens of complexes have evicted their residents and

converted rentals into condominiums to cash in on enormous demand for entry-level housing.

More than 3,000 former apartments are for sale as condos, and 11,000 more are under conversion, according to CB Richard Ellis. Some 25,000 other apartments have been mapped with the county for possible conversion.

"There are a lot more going through the mapping process now," said Spencer Ballif, who analyzes the apartment market for CB Richard Ellis.

Market experts expect at least 20,000 conversions over the next two years as an affordable alternative to detached single-family homes, which are continuing a steady march toward \$300,000 on average.

"Is that affordable for the multitude of Las Vegas? Probably not, so condos are the answer right now," Realty Management's Monzulla said.

So why isn't anyone building to meet the massive demand for apartments?

According to interviews with two dozen builders and construction financiers, the numbers just don't add up. Land and building materials are too expensive, and rents are too low.

"In Summerlin, you've seen property values go up 30 to 50 percent, but rents certainly haven't gone up by 30 to 50 percent," said GFD Investments' Leo Davenport, who has been underwriting apartment construction loans for 30 years.

"It's really simple: Why build apartments when you can build condos and make a lot more?" said Vestin Group's Mike Shustek, chairman of the mortgage brokerage.

Several lenders said the costs of land and construction materials have risen to the point that monthly rents would have to increase to about \$1.50 per square foot, or \$1,500 a month for a 1,000-square-foot apartment, for building projects to work financially.

"Demand would indicate it's a great time to build apartments, but the challenge is land and construction costs," said Wells Fargo Senior Vice President Mal

Ercanbrack, who manages the bank's commercial real estate portfolio in Nevada.

Intense international demand for construction materials, driven by China's surging growth and economy, have sent prices soaring nationwide.

Locally, concrete prices have jumped from 65 percent to 80 percent since the beginning of the year to nearly \$100 a cubic yard, and projects frequently are delayed by shortages. During the same period, lumber prices have increased 25 percent to 30 percent, and steel prices rose nearly 90 percent.

Even when an apartment project might pencil out, it can be impossible to procure land for it.

Most available southern Nevada land zoned for apartments gets snapped up by developers who persuade city and county planning commissions to rezone it for more lucrative single-family homes.

"They're simply willing to pay more for land than apartment developers, and city planning commissions hate apartment complexes, so they're completely willing to down-zone," said Doug French, vice president of Silver State Bank. "That's taking future apartments off the market."

Banks that have for years underwritten apartment construction in Las Vegas are expecting a big swing in business in coming years, especially as anticipated mortgage rate increases put home ownership out of reach for thousands more people.

"We're going to see the need for apartments become greater with the interest rate increases that are expected," said Ed Jamison, president and CEO of Community Bank.

That's probably going to drive apartment rents up even higher, lenders say.

"When we get interest rates rising making single-family home payments higher, that's when you're going to see rent prices competing more effectively," Silver State's French said. "As interest rates for single-family homes go to 8 or 9 percent, then all of a sudden, \$1,400 a month for a 1,000-square-foot (apartment), maybe that's not so crazy anymore."

Alaskan residents to get \$919 each this year in oil dividend checks

BY MATT VOLZ
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nearly every Alaska resident will receive a \$919.84 check this year as their share of the state's oil riches — a \$187.72 drop from last year's payout.

The dividend checks are distributed every year from an oil royalty account called the Alaska Permanent Fund, created in 1976 after oil was discovered on the North Slope. Some 600,760 Alaskans are expected to receive dividends this year.

The payouts are calculated based on a five-year average of investment income derived from bonds, stock dividends and sales, and other investments. Anyone who has lived in the state for over a year is eligible.

Alaska's residents pay no state income tax and no state sales tax, and in the state's two largest cities, Anchorage and

Fairbanks, not even a municipal sales tax. Dividends, paid since 1982, have ranged from \$331.29 to a high of \$1,963.86 in 2000.

The 2004 dividend was announced Monday in Fairbanks at the annual meeting of the Permanent Fund Corp., which manages the investment fund. Direct deposit of dividends is scheduled for Oct. 13; checks by mail will be sent starting Oct. 20.

The fund was valued at \$27.4 billion at the end of the 2004 fiscal year.

Alaska faces chronic deficits because it relies on oil for about 80 percent of its revenue, but the Legislature is restricted by law from touching the fund's principal and the dividends are all but untouchable politically.

The fund has paid \$12.5 billion in dividends to Alaskans from 1982 through 2003, according to the Permanent Fund Corp.

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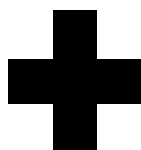
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NATIONAL

Spy raises concerns Seoul could influence election

BY JOHN SOLOMON AND SHARON THEIMER
 Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — A South Korean embassy official who met with John Kerry fund-raisers to talk about creating a political group for Korean-Americans was in fact a spy for his country, raising concerns among U.S. officials that he or Seoul may have tried to influence the fall presidential election.

South Korean and U.S. officials told The Associated Press that Chung Byung-Man, a consular officer in Los Angeles, worked for South Korea's National Intelligence Service at the time he was meeting with Kerry fund-raisers.

A spokesman for the South Korean consulate office said Chung was sent home in May amid "speculation" he became involved with the Kerry campaign and Democratic Party through contacts with fund-raiser Rick Yi and that his identity couldn't be discussed further.

"According to international tradition, we cannot iden-

tify, we cannot say who he is, because he is intelligence people," spokesman Min Ryu said.

The State Department said it has discussed Chung's reported activities with the South Korean government and has no reason to doubt Seoul's representations he was an intelligence agent.

The department believes Chung's contacts with donors and fund-raisers, if accurately described in reports, were "inconsistent" with the 1963 Vienna Convention that prohibits visiting foreign officials from interfering in the internal politics and affairs of host countries, a spokesman for its legal affairs office said.

Kerry campaign spokesman Chad Clanton said the campaign did not know Chung was an intelligence agent or that Yi, one of the campaign's key fund-raisers in the Asian-American community, was meeting with him until it was brought to light by the AP.

The AP first reported this spring that Yi and other Kerry fund-raisers and donors had met with Chung, but

at the time Chung was only identified as a diplomat. Yi resigned from the Kerry campaign after the AP story appeared, and Kerry returned \$4,000 in donations he had solicited because of concerns about their origins.

Democratic donors and fund-raisers who said they were uncomfortable with the activities alerted the AP to the meetings and Chung's identity as an intelligence agent.

A South Korean government official in Seoul and two longtime U.S. officials in Washington, both speaking on condition of anonymity because Chung's intelligence work is classified, told the AP that Chung worked for South Korea's NIS, the country's CIA equivalent.

The U.S. officials said Chung had registered with the Justice Department as a friendly foreign intelligence agent on U.S. soil, and that his activities had raised concern he or his government had tried to influence the fall presidential election through "extracurricular activities."

The FBI has not begun a formal counterintelligence investigation because Chung left the United States in May, the officials said.

The NIS dismissed any suggestion the South Korean government tried to influence American politics as a "totally groundless rumor and all fiction."

South Korea has been frustrated over the deadlock in talks on North Korea's nuclear activities, while at the same facing the Bush administration's planned withdrawal of thousands of U.S. troops from the tense region. One expert said Chung's actions were consistent with Seoul's concerns with the Bush administration even if he didn't get a direct order.

"It is certainly possible that these actions would not reflect an order from the top but rather point to the unaccountability of a rather high-ranking officer to pursue their own agenda or what they perceive to be the agenda of their superiors," said Nicholas Eberstadt, a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute.

"But, nonetheless, this sort of intervention certainly provides a faithful reflection of the general attitude of Roh Moo-hyun's administration toward the presidential race," Eberstadt said. "There's an awful lot of people in this (South Korean) government who can't stand the Bush administration and would love to see Bush lose."

South Korean officials said Yi and Chung had known each other for some time. Before moving to Los Angeles, Chung worked in South Korea's consular offices in Atlanta, where Yi was working for a high-tech company.

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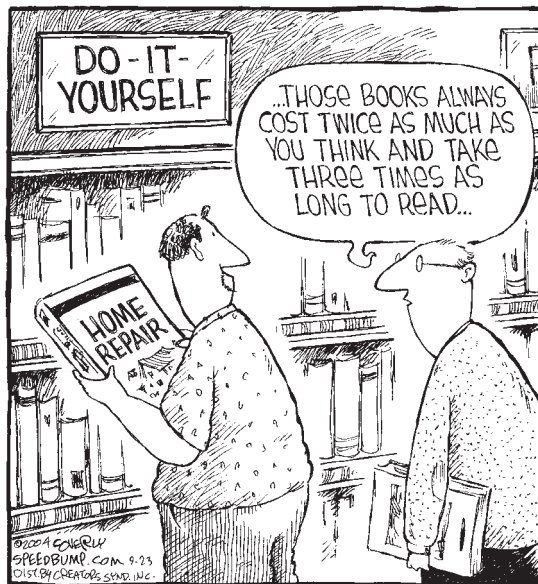
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- 5 Roadside stop
- 10 Silly
- 12 Suppose
- 13 Car buying choice
- 14 Reporter Ellerbee
- 15 Pull on
- 16 Narnia's creator
- 18 Harpoons
- 20 St. kin
- 21 Tale of the gods
- 23 Roulette bet
- 24 Poker bet
- 26 Has a mortgage
- 28 Runner Sebastian
- 29 Yarn
- 31 One or more
- 32 Potpourri bits
- 36 "A Mind to Murder" author
- 39 War room feature
- 40 Over-charge
- 41 New York city
- 43 Beneath
- 44 Called to the phone

45 Wants

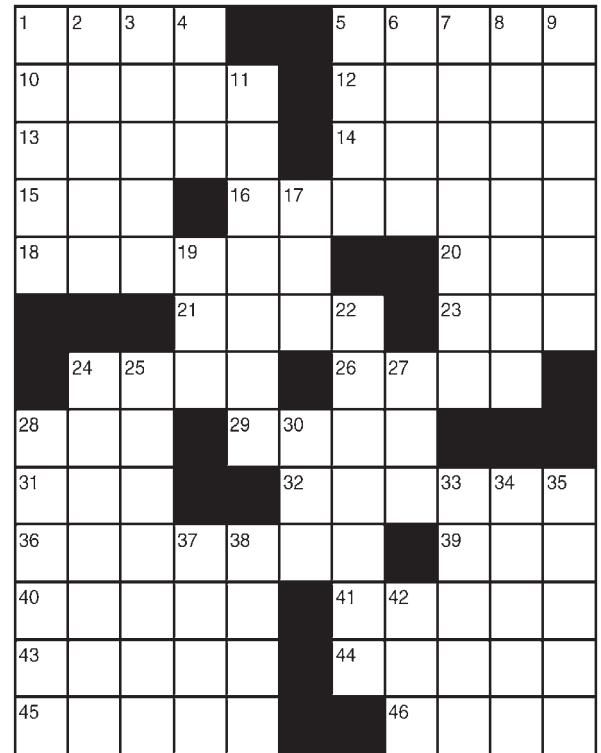
46 Token of love

DOWN

- 1 Shopping aids
- 2 Best
- 3 Scout's reward
- 4 — roll
- 5 Gangster's gal
- 6 Andy's son
- 7 Metal dishes
- 8 Salad greens
- 9 Rented
- 11 Put into code
- 17 Fast flier
- 19 French friend
- 22 Stays in hiding
- 24 Sanction
- 25 1968 Beatles hit
- 27 Sopping
- 28 Kid's shooter
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- 33 Spanish friend
- 34 Oxford parts
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